

# O.J. gets tossed from eatery over presence

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) - The owner of an upscale steakhouse in Louisville said he asked O.J. Simpson to leave his restaurant the night before the Kentucky Derby because he is sickened by the attention Simpson still attracts.

"I didn't want to serve him because of my convictions of what he's done to those families," Jeff Ruby said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

"The way he continues to torture the lives of those families ...with his behavior, attitude and conduct."

Simpson, an NFL Hall of Famer and Heisman Trophy winner, was found innocent in 1995 of killing his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ron Goldman but was found liable in a civil trial that followed.

Ruby — who owns restaurants in Cincinnati, Louisville and Belterra, Ind. — said Simpson, who was in town for the Derby on Saturday, came in with a group of about 12 Friday night and was seated at a table in the

back. A customer came up to Ruby and was "giddy" about seeing Simpson, Ruby said.

"I didn't want that experience in my restaurant," Ruby said, later adding that seeing Simpson get so much attention "makes me sick to my stomach."

He said he went to Simpson's table and said, "I'm not serving you." Ruby said when Simpson didn't respond, he repeated himself and left the room.

Ruby said Simpson soon came up to him and said he understood and would gather the rest of his party to leave.

Simpson's attorney, Yale Galanter, said the incident was about race, and he intended to pursue the matter and possibly go after the restaurant's liquor license.

"He screwed with the wrong guy, he really did," Galanter said by telephone Tuesday night.

Ruby said the incident had to do with Simpson's past.

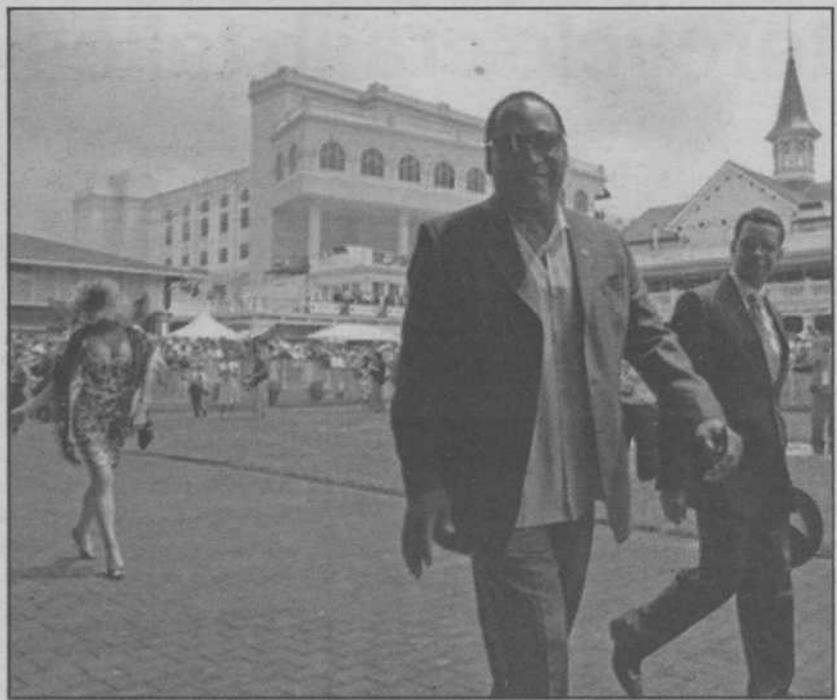
"It was the first time since 1994 he has ever shown any class," Ruby said.

"He showed it that night

in the restaurant" by leaving quietly.

Ruby said after Simpson left, people in the restaurant started applauding him. He said he has received about 100 positive emails since the incident.

The walls of Ruby's restaurants are decorated with celebrity photos. A photo of Simpson and Ruby used to be on display, but Ruby said he took it down after the killings.



Former NFL great O.J. Simpson is seen at the 133rd Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky on Saturday. Simpson remains one of the most polarizing figure in America.

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## Poll: Bonds draws mix of emotions from fans

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Only about four in 10 baseball fans are rooting for Barry Bonds to break the career home run record, and most think he knowingly took steroids, according to a poll showing stark racial divisions in how the Giants slugger is viewed. Still, most fans think Bonds should end up in the Hall of Fame.

Bonds has 10 homers this season and 744 lifetime — 11 shy of Hank Aaron's record, one of the most revered in sports.

In the poll by ABC News and ESPN, 37 percent said they are rooting for Bonds to break Aaron's record, while 52 percent said they hope he falls short and 11 percent had no opinion.

Twenty-eight percent of Whites and nearly 75 percent of African-Americans said they were hoping Bonds succeeds. Nearly three-quarters said they think Bonds knowingly took the performance-enhancing drugs, which he has long denied. Just more than a third of Blacks — and three-fourths of Whites — shared that view.

Of those who think he used steroids, two-thirds said that makes him a cheater — even though Major League Baseball was not testing for the drugs at the time. There was no racial breakdown for that question.

Nearly six in 10 said Bonds should be elected to the Hall of Fame, including majorities of both races. About as many said they believe he has been treated fairly, including a third of Blacks and six in 10 Whites.

Of those who think his treatment has been unfair, more Blacks and Whites say it is because of his alleged steroid use than his race. The ABC-ESPN poll involved telephone interviews with 799 adult baseball fans from March 29 to April 22. Its margin of sampling error was plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Those surveyed included 203 Blacks, for whom the margin of sampling error was 7 percentage points.

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