

Patriots' Moss denies lady's battery allegation

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) - Randy Moss joined the Patriots this season determined to avoid off-field problems. Now he's in the middle of one, just days before Sunday's AFC championship game.

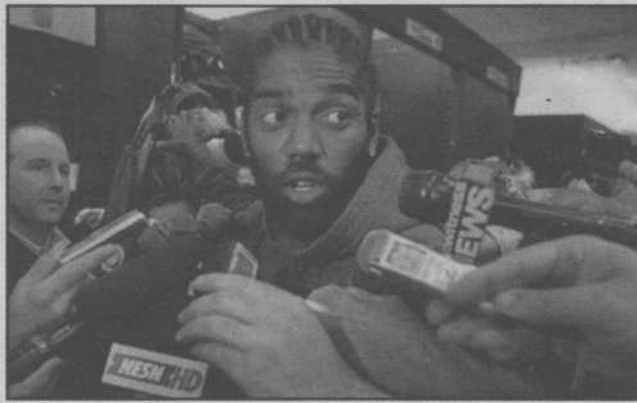
A temporary restraining order was issued Monday requiring the star wide receiver to stay at least 500 feet from a woman who alleged he committed "battery causing serious injury" to her at her Florida home on recently.

Moss denied the allegation by Rachele Washington, which he called "this situation of extortion," and said he was "furious" about it. The restraining order was issued in the Broward County 17th Judicial Circuit of Florida. No criminal charge has been brought.

A hearing on whether to issue a permanent restraining order is scheduled for 3 p.m. Jan. 28, six days before the Super Bowl.

Moss broke his usual mid-week silence as he was surrounded by two dozen reporters and 10 video cameras at his locker on Wednesday. He didn't identify the woman but said she has been a friend for 11 years and that she asked for "six figures" for what he said was an accident in which she was hurt.

"I want to make something clear," Moss said. "In my whole entire life of living 30 years, I've never put my hand on one woman, physically or in an angry manner."



New England Patriots wide receiver Randy Moss answers reporter's questions concerning allegations that he committed battery on a woman he has known for 11 years during a media availability in front of his locker at the NFL team's facility in Foxborough, Mass., on Wednesday.

David McGill, the attorney for Washington, had no comment, according to his legal assistant, Melissa Miller. A telephone message left with Moss' attorney, Jim DiPiero, was not immediately returned.

In his previous nine seasons — seven with Minnesota and two with Oakland — Moss was involved in several off-field incidents.

"They're false allegations, something I've been battling for like the last couple of days of threats going public if I didn't pay X amount of dollars," Moss said. "So before people rush quick to judgment, I think you need to find out the facts about, really, what's going on."

"This young lady by no means is hurt. I didn't hurt her. ...This is a negative," he said of the latest allegation, "a black cloud hanging over my head..."

With the Vikings, he was

criticized by quarterback Daunte Culpepper and others for leaving the field with 2 seconds left in a regular-season loss to Washington. He bumped a traffic control officer with his car in 2002, verbally abused corporate sponsors on a team bus in 2001 and squirted an official with a water bottle in 1999.

Moss faced misdemeanor charges after a 1996 fight with the mother of his daughter, but they were dropped after both agreed to undergo counseling sessions.

Washington alleged Moss

refused to allow her to seek medical treatment.

"She has her own house. She has her own car," Moss said. "So how am I going to deny someone medical attention when you live by yourself and have your own vehicle?"

He said the allegation will not distract him in Sunday's game against the San Diego Chargers.

"Last Friday, this man wanted to come out with it," Moss said, apparently referring to someone siding with Washington, "just to try to

distract the team and distract me," he added.

"There was much more said, a lot of verbal, a lot of cuss words, a lot of things that I should be doing. You better do this or else. ...Well, I thought it was bad because now you're threatening me, so I brought it to coach."

"He was asked if he thought people would believe his current denial.

"I think the best thing is to check my resume, ask around," Moss said. "I've never hit a woman. I do not hit women."

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Complaint withdrawn against 'Pacman' Jones

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Authorities in Georgia say a woman who accused suspended Tennessee Titans cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones of hitting her has withdrawn her petition to have him arrested.

A clerk in the Warrants Division reports that the petition of Wanda S. Jackson has been withdrawn.

Neither Jackson nor Jones' attorneys immediately returned calls seeking comment. Jackson, an attorney, said in her filing that she was in the Body Tap strip club's office recently when an angry Jones accused managers of stealing his money and bracelet.

Jackson said she was watching the confrontation when Jones "sucker punched" her.

Last month, Jones pleaded no contest to a disorderly conduct charge related to a strip club shooting in Las Vegas that left club manager Tommy Urbanski paralyzed.

Jones has been arrested six times since being drafted sixth overall in 2005, including two arrests in Georgia in 2006 that the Titans did not learn about until 2007. Jones was suspended for the 2007 season by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell in April.

Jones was allowed to go to the Titans' headquarters once their season ended with an AFC wild-card loss in San Diego on Jan. 6. The NFL plans to review his status following the Pro Bowl.

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