

# Name of extra witness emerges in O.J.'s heist

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The name of another possible witness has surfaced in the O.J. Simpson armed robbery case — a limousine driver who took a picture of the former football star with a key witness hours before a confrontation over Simpson memorabilia.

Lawyers for Simpson and co-defendants Charles Ehrlich and Clarence "C.J." Stewart complained they hadn't received copies of reports of police interviews with the previously undisclosed witness, Lowell

Collectibles broker Thomas Riccio, who arranged O.J. Simpson's ill-fated Sept. 13 meeting with two sports memorabilia dealers in a Las Vegas hotel room, mentioned Katz in a book released recently.

The book also includes a photo Katz snapped of Riccio and Simpson that day in Simpson's hotel room at the Palms Hotel and Casino.

"I was just there to meet with [Simpson] and take a picture," Katz, 44, said Tuesday when asked during a brief telephone interview about the meeting.

"That was really the only time I ever met him."

Katz was not present several hours later, when Simpson, Riccio and five other men confronted the sports memorabilia dealers at the Palace Station casino hotel in an encounter that spawned felony charges, including kidnapping and armed robbery against Simpson, Ehrlich and Stewart.

Each of the three men has pleaded not

guilty. A conviction on the most serious charge — kidnapping — carries a possible sentence of life in prison with parole. A robbery conviction would carry mandatory prison time.

Simpson maintains he was retrieving items that belonged to him and that no guns were involved.

But Riccio, who got immunity from prosecution, and three former co-defendants who took plea deals and testified for the prosecution and said there was at least one gun in the room.

Katz said he didn't have much to tell Las Vegas police detectives who interviewed him some time after a three-day preliminary hearing in November.

Police became interested after Riccio, one of eight witnesses to testify at the hearing, appeared to avoid providing Katz's name despite questioning by defense attorneys.

Defense attorneys told Clark County District Court Judge Jackie Glass they want to know more about Katz, details of what he told police and why Riccio wouldn't say Katz's name during the preliminary hearing.

"We don't have anything about Mr. Katz," said John Moran Jr., who represents Ehrlich.

The judge told prosecutor Chris Owens to provide relevant materials to the defense.

She also set a May 22 status check in the case, and said she intends to stick with a Sept. 8 trial date.

# Congress will hold new talks about NFL retirees

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee intends to hold more hearings on the benefits programs for retired NFL players.

In releasing a 144-page report from the Congressional Research Service, chairman John Conyers said Wednesday that additional government intervention was needed. The committee requested the study after last summer's congressional hearing.

The report does not make specific recommendations how the league and the NFL Players Association should change their benefits programs for retirees. Citing a lack of scientific information available on the health effects of playing pro football on players' health, the study encourages the NFL and union to fund independent research, invite evaluations from neutral parties and collect more data.

"I commend the NFL and NFLPA for having taken some affirmative steps since our last hearing, but in my view they still fall short of the goal line," Conyers said in a news release. "This report identifies major concerns about the long-term health of NFL players that demand further attention. The committee intends to hold hearings and explore possible legislation to address this matter."

The NFL said in a statement, "We appreciate chairman Conyers' recognition of the positive steps that we have already taken with the NFLPA to address the medical needs of our players. Earlier this month, additional significant improve-

## Symposium

(Continued from Page 9) the AIDS virus and takes full blame for contracting the disease.

"I have the AIDS virus and it's nobody's fault but my own — you have to put trust in you first," Davis said. "I was looking for love in everybody else but I should have been looking for it in me and that's one of our biggest problems." The Hip-Hop and Higher Education Symposium is an annual event that Howard University sponsors along with a host of other contributors.

Marcus A. Williams writes for the Afro-American Newspapers.



The House Judiciary Committee intends to hold more hearings on the benefits programs for retired NFL players.

ments in our medical and disability benefits took effect. We look forward to reviewing the report and to continuing our efforts to identify additional opportunities to enhance the health and safety of our players and the benefits available to our retirees and their families." An NFLPA spokesman said executive director Gene Upshaw was in the process of reviewing the report.

# Baseball

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up from a C last year. Its overall grade remained at B.

Lapchick said 28 percent of employees at baseball's central offices were non-White, including 20 percent among senior executives.

Women were 42 percent of employees, but 26 percent of the senior executives.

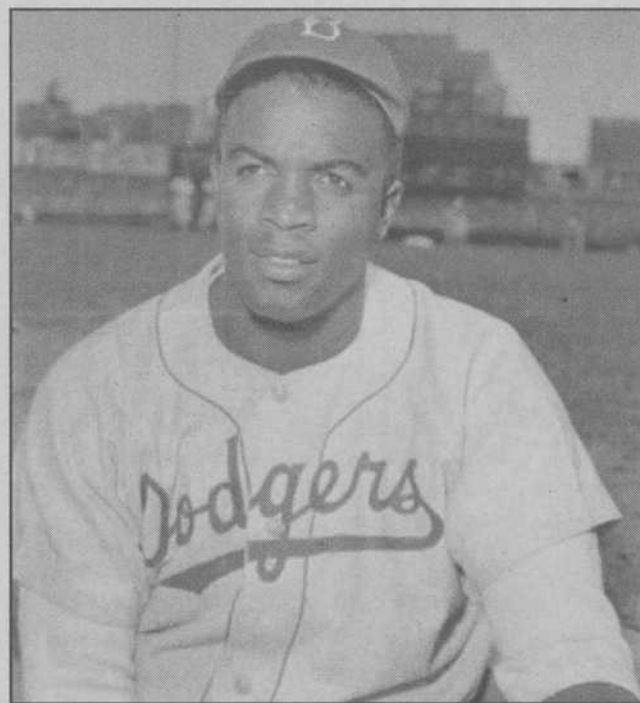
He suggested baseball commissioner Bud Selig pressure clubs more to consider minority candidates. He also said MLB should institute a rule that a woman be considered for all senior job openings, similar to the rule that minority candidates must be interviewed.

Lapchick would make an exception for general manager — there has never been a woman GM, and there are relatively few high-ranking women in baseball opera-

Kim Ng of the Dodgers and Jean Afterman of the Yankees have been the ex-

"They would have token interviews until we have that one case that a woman is successful," he said.

He gave baseball a B+ for



This is an April 18, 1948, photo of Brooklyn Dodgers baseball player Jackie Robinson. Pro baseball celebrates Jackie Robinson Day Tuesday, April 15, 2008, marking the 61st anniversary of the end of the game's racial barrier.

race and a C for gender for its senior administration hiring, the same as last year.

For team vice presidents, the grade was B for race — the same as last year — and D- for gender, up from an F.

General managers were given a C for 2007, and Lapchick noted the Los Angeles Angels promoted Tony

Reagins to GM, where he joins Kenny Williams of the Chicago White Sox and Omar Minaya of the New York Mets as the only minorities.

Managers received an A, with six minority managers last year. The total increased to eight at the start of this season.

## Maryland Parkway Bus Rapid Transit

Learn more about bus rapid transit and share your transportation suggestions.

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is conducting a transportation study of Maryland Parkway. The study's objective is to examine transit improvement options and the feasibility of a dedicated travel lane for Bus Rapid Transit (a dedicated lane for public transit vehicles providing express service).

**Public Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 23, 2008

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
William E. Orr Middle School  
1562 E. Katie Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
(Behind the Boulevard Mall)

**Questions:**

(702) 676-1606 or rtcnv.com  
TDD: (702) 676-1834

Spanish interpreters will be available.

