

UFC's 'Rampage' arrested after cop auto chase

Special to Sentinel-Voice
Former UFC light heavy-weight champion Quinton "Rampage" Jackson was arrested and held on \$25,000 bail following a traffic accident Tuesday afternoon in Costa Mesa, Calif.

According to Costa Mesa police Lt. Paul Dondero, an officer observed the 30-year old Jackson driving with a flat tire on his 2008 Ford F-350 pickup truck and talking on his cell phone (which recently became illegal while driving in Calif.) and attempted to pull him over.

Dondero said Jackson, a resident of Irvine, Calif., ignored the officer and continued driving with the officer in pursuit.

Police had received a report of a vehicle involved in a collision on the 55 Freeway in Costa Mesa, which struck other vehicles and fled the scene, Dondero said.

The chase continued with the vehicle weaving in and out of traffic, including at one point driving on the wrong side of the road and even on a sidewalk, scaring pedestrians.

Dondero said Jackson hit two cars at 19th Street and

Newport Boulevard at 1:13 p.m., but failed to stop. He said a Costa Mesa police officer saw the truck near 17th Street and attempted to pull it over.

Jackson fled and hit at least one more car before the five-minute chase ended with his arrest, the lieutenant said.

The officer saw the vehicle in a second collision. It is believed nobody was injured.

The car continued to Newport Beach, where the tire blew out and came off the rim and he was taken into the Orange County Central jail, where he is being held on \$25,000 bail. The fighter was charged with hit-and-run driving, felony evading and reckless driving.

UFC president Dana White flew to Orange County upon learning of the arrest and said he was driving to the county jail to post bail for Jackson.

The story was initially reported by the website TMZ.com, which has photos of Jackson lying face down on the street behind his truck, a 2008 Ford F-350 turbo diesel, as a police officer has his gun drawn and is pointing it

at him.

Jackson won the UFC light heavyweight title by knocking out Chuck Liddell

NBA

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First-time summer league players Aaron Affalo of the Detroit Pistons and Alando Tucker of the Phoenix Suns, along with veteran players Spencer Hayward and Kiki Vandeweghe assembled in the multi-purpose room at Hoggard to read and socialize with students during lunch.

One hundred and seventy seven students from across the school district are attending the extended summer year program for special education.

Each of the players read to the students and solicited individuals to come forward and participate in the program sponsored by NBA Cares. The students listened attentively as two books were read to them by the players. Afterward, the players and students discussed the books.

Belinda Duncan, Magnet Theme coordinator at Hoggard, said NBA Cares plays an important role in the

school.

"Today's event allowed members of the NBA to come and read to our students, play basketball with them, along with eating lunch with them," she said.

Maureen Coyle, the NBA's vice president of basketball communications, said the league is committed to being a good corporate citizen.

"NBA Cares is our main community outreach program, and here in Las Vegas, we are a part of the community. In 2007, we did our reading and learning center during the refurbishing of the school, and our summer league program keeps us active in Las Vegas."

The players get as much out of the interaction as the young people.

"The NBA and every city that they are involved in always gives back and invests in the community," Vandeweghe said.

Hayward added: "I was

to Forrest Griffin on a controversial decision at UFC 86 on July 5 at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas.

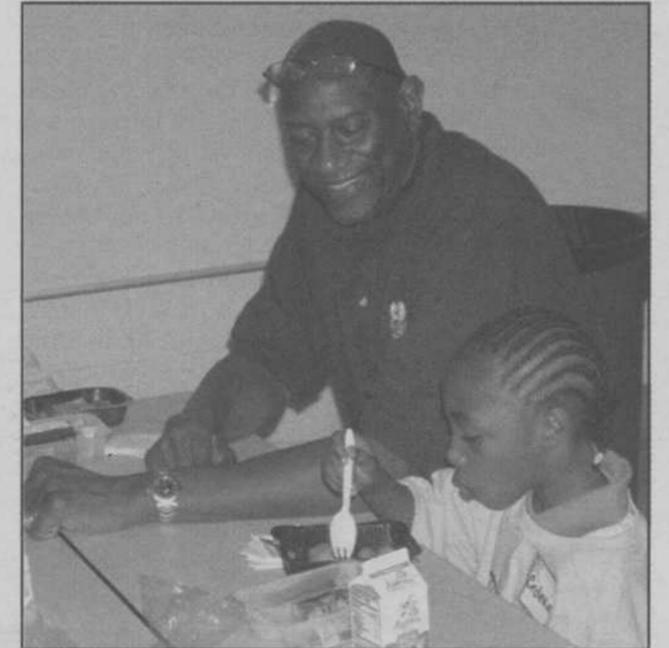
here before with the program when we painted the school and dedicated the learning center. Now we're here today reading to the students."

"Anytime that you are in a position to give back, for me, it warms my heart, and is encouraging to be with the

Jackson's manager/trainer, Juanito Ibarra, did not immediately return phone calls.

kids. To be a role model and see the kids' faces light up when you enter the room is exciting," Tucker said.

"It's a lot of fun," Affalo said. "The summer league is great. It's an opportunity to get out there, show off my skills and do events like this."



Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierres Streater
Spencer Hayward spends lunchtime with a young student.



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