

Juror says majority believed plaintiff

SEATTLE (AP) — One of the six federal-court jurors whose verdict bars Victoria C. from suing over an alleged gang-rape by Cincinnati Bengals players says the majority believed she was raped.

The rape was not at issue in the U.S. District Court trial that ended Friday, and testimony about the alleged assault in October 1990 — generally referred to during the trial as "the incident" — was barred for the most part.

Jurors were only considering the validity of a release agreement signed by the plaintiff for \$30,000 a year after the alleged assault. Their verdict that the release was valid and binding means the plaintiff is bound by its terms. The release frees all parties from liability and bars Victoria C. from seeking further damages.

Juror Cindy Curtright said she and at least three other jurors believed the plaintiff, identified in court records as Victoria C., had been raped.

Curtright said she was sick-

ened by the "victory shuffle" performed after the verdict on the courthouse steps by former Bengal Elbert "Ickey" Woods, who made the touchdown-celebration dance his signature before a knee injury ended his NFL career in 1991.

"My impression was he felt, 'I got away with it.' That really bothered me. I thought that was totally inappropriate," Curtright said in an interview with *The Seattle Times* published Sunday.

Friday, attorney Spencer Hall, whose six clients contend they had consensual sex with the plaintiff, told the newspaper that "if the rape took place, it would have been bad for him to dance in the street."

The 19 defendants in a lawsuit filed last year by the plaintiff vehemently deny she was raped. No criminal charges were ever filed in the case.

Some of the defendants expressed concern after the verdict that they had not been vindicated.



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