

Friend of Junior Manon watched Toronto police beat teen, inquest told

Feb 16 2012



Junior Manon, 18, died after officers attempted to arrest him in May 2010.

FACEBOOK PHOTO

Patty Winsa Staff Reporter

A childhood friend of Junior Manon told the inquest into his death Thursday that he watched officers beat the teen while he was face down on the ground.

Kevin Faudar, 19, says he was standing on Steeles Ave. W. looking south down Founders Rd. in May 2010, to where Manon was laying “flat out” on the ground with four officers on top of him. “They were hitting him. It looked like one powered his knee into his back,” said Faudar.

Minutes earlier, the two friends were in a car driving west on Steeles on their way to another friend’s house to write lyrics. Faudar says they were stopped at a red light at Keele St. when two cruisers pulled up on either side of them.

Faudar testified that Manon looked over at the cruiser with two males in it and said, "I know him. And he knows me." Faudar, in the passenger seat, says he recognized a female constable who was driving the other police car. She "waves at me through the cruiser," testified Faudar.

In previous testimony, Const. Michael Adams and Sgt. Stuart Blower told the inquest they were in a cruiser a couple of car lengths behind Manon when they noticed a car with a "T" on the licence sticker, which signified that it was temporary.

Adams pulled the car over because the temporary sticker had expired. Although he knew Manon from two previous encounters, Adams testified he couldn't see him driving because the windows were tinted.

On Thursday, Faudar said that was impossible. "It's because that one guy knew Junior and that one girl knew me. There was no way they could look over and see that tiny T," he said referring to the sticker. Faudar says as soon as they were through the green light, the cruiser got in behind Manon and pulled the car over.

Faudar says he was standing on the side of the road when Manon started running when Adams tried to arrest him. "He didn't want to go to jail," said Faudar. "From the look of it, it looked like I was going to jail too."

He was reaching in to the back of the car to get his knapsack, which Blower said he could do, when Adams grabbed him out of the car and pinned him to the ground for a minute. He remained there for up to five minutes while the two officers chased Manon.

Blower and Adams testified they caught up to Manon on the east side of Founders Rd. and tackled him to the ground. The teen struggled violently while they tried to arrest him.

Faudar, who lived 10 minutes away, started to walk home until he was picked up by police, who cuffed and searched him, before they let him go.

"I was in shock. I just started walking," testified Faudar. The two saw each other five or six days a week and had been friends since Faudar was 12. They often played basketball outdoors during good weather or wrote music and lyrics together.

