



Manon's death 'worst-case scenario:' police officer

BY *KEVIN CONNOR*, TORONTO SUN
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Toronto Police Const. Michael Adams is testifying at a coroner's inquest about his role in the death of Junior Manon in 2010. (ALEX CONSIGLIO/Toronto Sun)

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer was asked at a coroner's inquest why witnesses didn't see the push by Junior Manon that started a struggle that led to the teenager's death.

"Witnesses didn't see him shoving you. They never saw anything," said Julian Falconer, the lawyer for the Manon family.

Const. Michael Adams and his partner Sgt. Stuart Blower pulled over a car on May 5, 2010, with an expired temporary tag.

Adams said he and his partner tried to arrest Manon because he was sitting in the front seat of the car which was a breach of a court order.

Manon, 18, ran and Adams followed. After a struggle, Adams put handcuffs on Manon.

Other officers took over so Adams could catch his breath.

When he looked back, Adams noticed other officers trying to find Manon's pulse, but he had died.

"His violence is the reason I used the force I did. He continued to struggle and fight and we couldn't control him. He was fighting me since the time we fell on the ground until I got the cuffs on him," said Adams, who has been cleared of any wrongdoing by the Special Investigations Unit.

"I was constantly assessing and reassessing his behaviour. He had assaultive behaviour. He was throwing practice punches so at that point I know he is not responding. I wanted to get him down on the ground so I could arrest him. In the events that followed throughout the case I planned what I would do next."

Falconer told the inquest that Adams had met with a lawyer before writing up his notes on the case.

"You had plenty of support at the police station. You were brought pizza and given legal advice," Falconer said.

Falconer also asked Adams why he only received a minor shoulder injury if Manon had been so violent.

Adam's lawyer, Kalli Chapman, showed the jury the ripped and dirty uniform that he was wearing during the struggle with Manon.

"There is dirt and his slacks and shirt which got there by interacting with Manon," Chapman said.

Adams told the inquest he had never experienced anything like his ordeal with Manon — before or since.

"I was very overwhelmed afterwards. The last time I saw him I heard other officers say he was breathing and had a pulse. The last time I saw him he wasn't being held down," Adams said.

"He died. It is the worst-case scenario."