

Toronto policeman testifies at Manon inquest

Const. Michael Adams says Manon was 'ready to fight'

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The coroner's inquest into the death of Junior Manon heard testimony from a Toronto police officer who tried to arrest the 18-year-old shortly before he died.

The inquest under Dr. Dan Cass is looking at the death of Manon, 18, of Toronto, who suffocated after Const. Michael Adams and a second officer arrested him following a traffic stop on May 5, 2010.

Adams testified he had done a computer check on Manon and discovered he was violating a curfew and driving with a suspended licence, near York University. He expected an easy arrest, he said.

Adams's testimony on Friday mirrored a taped interview with SIU investigators that has [already been entered](#) as evidence at the inquest.

The constable said Friday that he informed Manon he was under arrest and tried to handcuff him, but that Manon broke free, pushed him and started to run.

Adams said at one point Manon turned around in a boxer's stance.

"He was ready to fight. There's no doubt in my mind," Adams said.

Eyewitnesses said earlier this week they saw two officers slap and hit Manon with a police radio while he was on the ground.

The lawyer for Manon's family, Julian Falconer, had wanted the jury to consider a report that called for Adams to be disciplined for using excessive force during a separate arrest at the G20 seven weeks later, but the coroner ruled against it.

Adams will be cross-examined Monday at the inquest, which will not find fault or blame.