

Jury deadlocks in assault case

By Eve Sullivan
Staff Writer

STAMFORD — After two days of deliberations, a six-member jury came back deadlocked yesterday in the assault trial of a Stamford man.

John Green, 21, was charged with first-degree assault in the July 30 beating of a man in the South End.

At 3 p.m. at state Superior Court in Stamford, the jury foreman announced a verdict could not be reached. Judge Richard Comerford sent them back to the jury room, where they deliberated for another 90 minutes to no avail.

Comerford declared a mistrial and continued the case until June 26.

The victim, a 44-year-old Stamford man, was second to take the stand when the trial started last Wednesday. The victim, a native of El Salvador, spoke through a translator at times as he described the night of the attack. He said he left a downtown bar at about 11:30 p.m. with two friends.

The victim said he was returning home in a car with his friends when two males blocked Henry Street with their bicycles. The driver asked the men to move because he could not get around them, and an argument ensued, he said.

The victim said one of the males grabbed the driver's shirt

and pulled him from the car. The other friend moved the car, while the victim got out and removed his belt, according to testimony.

"I got my cell phone to call the police, and that's all I remember," he said.

The victim woke up in Stamford Hospital with a broken jaw. His jaw was wired shut for the next eight weeks and he lost some teeth, he said.

Several police officers testified in the trial, as did a woman who heard the commotion.

Officer Rafael Barquero said he responded to Henry Street at 11:56 p.m. and stopped two people, one of whom was Green. He said five arrests were made in the case.

Monday and yesterday, the jury asked to hear several tapes of previous testimony from police officers and witnesses.

Green was on probation for a possession of narcotics with intent to sell and reckless endangerment, according to Assistant State's Attorney Paul Ferencek, who prosecuted the case.

After the jury's departure, Green pled guilty on the violation of probation charge and guilty to another pending charge of breach of peace and received an 18-month sentence.

Comerford said the sentence will be imposed in two weeks, when Green returns to face the first-degree assault charge.

Man pleads guilty in South End assault

By Eve Sullivan
Staff Writer

STAMFORD — Two weeks after a jury came back deadlocked in his assault trial, a city man pleaded guilty to the charge.

John Green, 21, was sentenced to five years in prison, suspended after two, at state Superior Court in Stamford yesterday for the July 30, 2000, beating of a man in the South End.

Green pleaded guilty to first-degree assault under the Alford doctrine, which means he did not admit guilt but conceded that the state has enough evidence to convict him.

"If he was found guilty at a trial, he would have gotten 12 to 15 years with the seriousness of the incident," said Lindy Urso, Green's attorney. "He maintains his innocence, and I believe him."

Assistant State's Attorney Paul Ferencek, who prosecuted the case, told Judge Richard Comerford that an altercation took place between several people near Henry and Atlantic streets.

Ferencek said the victim was assaulted by Green and another man, who repeatedly kicked him in the head.

The victim, a 44-year-old native of El Salvador, received a broken jaw and lost some teeth in the beating, Ferencek said.

After his release from prison, Green will be placed on a special three-year probation, which

includes paying restitution to the victim for his out-of-pocket expenses and having no contact with the victim or his friend.

During the trial, the victim testified that two men blocked Henry Street with their bicycles July 30 at about 11:30 p.m., preventing his friend from driving around them in his vehicle.

When the driver asked the victim to move, the victim said an argument ensued. The driver was pulled from the car.

The victim said he got out of the car, removed his belt and took out his cellular phone to call the police. He said the next thing he remembers is waking up in hospital.

A six-member jury deliberated for two days, listening to tapes of the previous testimony from police officers and witnesses, but could not come up with a verdict.

Comerford gave Green an 18-month sentence for two violations of probation charges on a breach of peace charge, which will run concurrently with a two-year sentence. He also dropped a previous threatened charge.

Urso said his client was on probation for a drug charge at the time of his arrest and could have been imprisoned for that alone.

Ferencek said Green's accuser, Henson Blanc of Stamford, pleaded guilty to assault before Green's trial and received a five-year sentence, suspended after 18 months.