

THE OAKLAND PRESS LOCAL NEWS

Overcast, 25°
5 day forecast

Subscribe

Search

JOBS

AUTOS

HOMES

SITE MENU...

▶ [Home](#) > [Local News](#) > [Another Pacer pleads no contest](#)

Saturday, October 1, 2005

[E-mail](#) [Print](#)

Another Pacer pleads no contest

Web-posted Oct 1, 2005

By **ANN ZANIEWSKI**
Of The Oakland Press

ROCHESTER HILLS - Indiana Pacers center David Harrison pleaded no contest Friday to an assault and battery charge stemming from the brawl at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Judge Nancy Tolwin Carniak of 52-3 District Court sentenced Harrison, 23, to a year of probation and ordered that he pay \$250 in fines. He must also participate in an anger management program and do 50 hours of community service split between Michigan and his hometown.

Advertisement

"I'm just happy to get this part of it over and move on," Harrison said before the sentencing.

Harrison is the last of the Pacers players to claim responsibility for their actions during the Nov. 19, 2004, incident that some media outlets dubbed "basketbrawl." A fight that broke out near the end of the Detroit Pistons-Indiana Pacers game escalated to involve players, spectators and flying food and beverages.

Pacers Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson have already pleaded no contest to assault charges. They also were sentenced to community service, probation and anger management courses.

Pacer Anthony Johnson has pleaded no contest to an assault charge and will be sentenced Oct. 7.

Harrison was seen on videotape shoving spectator John Ackerman Jr. as he was leaving the court.

"It's an unfortunate set of circumstances, that's all," said Harrison's attorney, Wally Piszczatowski. "He got caught up in it ... it's too bad."

Piszczatowski said a civil suit filed by John Ackerman Sr. against Harrison alleging assault is pending.

Harrison did not comment during sentencing. Carniak said young people look up to him, saying even her 10-year-old son had wanted his autograph.

She told him to take advantage of the privilege of being a role model.

TOP JOBS

- ▶ **IT COORDINATOR**
Allied Human Services, Inc., a Health Care Mgmt. Consulting Agency is seeking a full-time IT Coordinator.....
- ▶ **ASI Leasing is** seeking Project Managers with job cost analysis, project set up, and scheduling exp. Contact Douglas Howe.....
- ▶ **Looking for 1** Used Car Sales/ Asst. Used Car Mgr. Great atmosphere, great benefits and 401k. Exp. only apply. Call Al H.....

[View all TopJobs](#)

TOP AUTOS

- ▶ **SOLARA 2006, black,** leather & heated seats, fully loaded, 6 disc CD, moon roof, 50k miles, \$17,500. 248-394-1406...

[View all TopAutos](#)

TOP HOMES

- ▶ **ROYAL OAK a** 1 bdrm., close to I-75 near Downtown. Cable & house privileges. \$350/mo. + dep. 248-399-9339...
- ▶ **HAZEL PARK Nice,** comfortable, affordable, 2 bdrm. \$635/mo., heat included. 248-547-0492...
- ▶ **PONTIAC 2 bdrm.,** apt., all appliances & water incl, totally updated, this is a must see. \$625 810-348-3141...

[View all TopHomes](#)

"They want to be like you. They want to shoot baskets like you," she said. "They want to be exactly like you ...

"And you may still not believe you're a role model, but I'm telling you, you truly are a role model to all these students, these boys and girls."

Prosecuting attorney John Pietrofesa said the penalty was appropriate.

"We're very satisfied with this resolution," he said.

In Michigan, a plea of no contest is not considered an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing purposes.

Sitting in a nearly empty courtroom waiting to be sentenced, a relaxed Harrison talked with his lawyer and quietly sang verses of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" while listening to his I-Pod, which is stocked with 4,212 songs.

Harrison, originally from Nashville, Tenn., is beginning his second year with the Pacers.

Training camp for Pacers players starts Tuesday.

Staff writer Stephen Frye contributed to this report.

 [E-mail](#)  [Print](#)

[Feedback](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Place A Classified Ad](#) | [Copyright © 2007 The Oakland Press, All Rights Reserved](#) | [Interested in a career at Journal Register Company, click here](#)