

ONE KILLED, TWO SERIOUSLY INJURED

Argument turns deadly at arcade

Police believe the shootings were related to a robbery that took place last April.

By TOM ALEX
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

One man was killed and two people were seriously injured early Sunday as gunfire erupted in a Des Moines video arcade.

Terrance Jackson, 21, of 1341 Forest Ave., lay dead with a bullet wound in the forehead just inside the doorway of F & J's Video Arcade, 1751 E. University Ave., when police arrived at 3:05 a.m. Lamont Ballentine, 23, of Des Moines, was taken to Iowa Methodist Medical Center for treatment of bullet wounds to the head and chest.

Des Moines police filed murder and attempted murder charges against another gunshot victim, Richard Evans, 19, of Des Moines, who was being treated at University Hospitals in Iowa City for a bullet wound in the right hand and the left buttocks.

Still at large on Sunday was the other suspect in the shootings, Bobby Woodberry, 18, of Des Moines, who also was wanted on charges of murder and attempted murder. Authorities said Woodberry drove Evans to the home of a friend following the shootings and then disappeared. A woman then drove Evans to Broadlawn Medical Center and he later was sent to Iowa City.

Blood-Soaked Shirt

A man who was standing just outside the doorway of the arcade when the shooting began said he looked inside after the shooting stopped and saw one man motionless on the floor, his shirt soaked in blood. The witness, who refused to give his name, said a window was broken out by gunfire not far from where he was standing.

The death of Jackson on Sunday brings to 13 the number of homicides in Des Moines this year. "We've had about five here lately," said Police Sgt. Robert Ervin. "It's been bad."

The suspects in the shooting reportedly are members of a group called Black Mob, Ervin said. The Mob is new and has too few members to be considered a gang by police.

Some officers say several spin-off "groups" have formed recently, including The West Side Villains, the Folks, and the Surf Playboys. In recent years the Vice Lords or the Black Gangster Disciples commonly were associated with Des Moines crime.

Linked to Robbery

A preliminary investigation indicated that Sunday morning's shootings at the video arcade stemmed from a robbery in April. Jackson and Ballentine apparently were victims in that crime as well, Sgt. Ervin said. They did not report the robbery to police, but even their silence apparently did not appease their enemies.

Des Moines police Sgt. Judy Bradshaw said Jackson and Evans were arguing over a gun when Evans sustained his injuries. Evans was able to gain control of the gun and shot Jackson in the head, Bradshaw said.

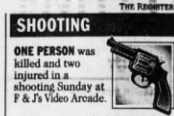
In any case, Evans reportedly handed a gun to someone who was standing in the parking lot, and disappeared in the car driven by Woodberry. Neither of the guns



Jackson Slain Ballentine Injured



Evans Charged Woodberry At large



used in the shootings was located by Sunday afternoon.

"Running in All Directions"

Officers were not sure how many people were in the video arcade at 3 a.m. Sunday. Crowd estimates ranged from 20 to 50. When Officer Charles Guhl arrived, "people were running in all directions," from the arcade, Guhl said in a report. Jackson's body was on the floor just inside the front door. Ballentine was on the floor next to him, about 4 feet away.

Home addresses for Ballentine, Evans and Woodberry were given as "last known addresses," and officers said they did not know where they had been staying recently. Police said Ballentine originally was listed in critical condition, but by Sunday afternoon, hospital officials listed him as "serious."

In an unrelated shooting, Ahn Xayrath, 20, of 3200 Kingman Blvd., was treated at Broadlawn Medical Center after he was shot in the cheek. His injuries were described as minor, as were injuries to at least one other unidentified victim.

Xayrath apparently was shot as he and others were gathered at a soccer field early Sunday near North High School in Des Moines.

Police were investigating the shooting Sunday.

AWAITS LIFE SENTENCE

Woodberry guilty of killing man in D.M. gunfight

By **DAN EGGEN**

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Bobby Ray Woodberry will spend his life in prison for firing a bullet into the head of a rival at a Des Moines video arcade.

A 12-member Polk County jury, which began deliberations a day earlier, found Woodberry guilty Thursday of first-degree murder. The jury reduced another charge of attempted murder to misdemeanor assault. Woodberry, 20, will be given a mandatory life sentence July 27 by District Judge Joel Novak.

Polk County Attorney John Sarcone said it was a difficult case — particularly given conflicting statements from witnesses on both sides.

"The jury sorted through all of that and came to the right conclusion," Sarcone said. "The bottom line is that Woodberry shot Terrance Jackson right in the head, and that was the shot that killed him. It was cold, calculating and worthy of the verdict that he got."

John Wellman, the chief Polk County public defender who represented Woodberry, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

The charges stemmed from a shootout Sept. 4 at F & J Video Arcade, 1751 E. University Ave. Jackson, 21, was killed and his friend, Lamont Ballentine, 22, was paralyzed. Witnesses and attorneys from both sides described a confusing, violent melee involving several struggles and a flurry of gunshots.

In the end, prosecutors said, Woodberry coolly strode back into the crowded arcade and fired at Jackson's head as he lay bleeding on the floor.

Wellman repeatedly tore into eyewitness testimony, which often conflicted with previous statements. He implicated another man, Richard "Rico" Evans, as the killer. Evans pleaded guilty in February to being an accessory after the crime. He had previously been charged with murder along with Woodberry.

Maggi Moss, the attorney for Evans, said Thursday's verdict proved that her client — who was also wounded in the fracas — was

innocent of serious wrongdoing.

"I never had any question in my mind that my client did not shoot and kill him," Moss said. "It's always been my position that Evans was a victim, too."

Others who testified included Ballentine, an amputee who now uses a wheelchair because of the shooting, and Tiffany Dawson, Jackson's girlfriend who was in the arcade when the gunplay began.

The animosity between the two



Bobby Ray Woodberry
Shootout at arcade

pairs of men — Woodberry and Evans vs. Ballentine and Jackson — apparently stemmed from a robbery several months earlier, police said.

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