

LOCAL & STATE

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Jury to decide fatal goading case

Nicholas Glosser is charged with urging a driver to speed, causing a teen's death.

By TOM QUIGLEY
The Express-Times

BELVIDERE — Jury deliberations in the unusual case of a back-seat passenger charged with inciting a fatal car crash are scheduled to begin today at the Warren County Courthouse.

Attorneys offered jurors their closing arguments Tuesday, exactly two years after the March 5, 1994, crash took the life of 16-

year-old Washington Township resident Jason D. Lindner.

Twenty-year-old Nicholas Glosser of Belvidere is charged with urging the driver of the car to go faster. Glosser was sitting in the back seat on the passenger side of the car.

"Did that young man cause the death of Jason Lindner?" asked defense attorney Leonard Artigliere during his summation.

The Phillipsburg attorney asked jurors to trust their own instincts.

"You do not have to leave your common sense at the door," he said. "He is asking you to make some huge leaps in this case."

Authorities say the 2 a.m. crash happened after the car careened through a stop sign, became airborne and crashed into a stand of trees near the intersection of Asbury-Anderson and Bryans roads in Washington Township.

Artigliere reminded jurors

about conflicting statements given by the driver of the car, Washington Township resident Glenn A. Howell Jr.

Testimony showed Howell originally told investigators he did not recall Glosser saying anything before the crash. He later came up with a "nice new statement" implicating Glosser, the attorney added.

A Warren County grand jury indicted Glosser and Howell last year on death-by-auto charges. Howell was admitted to a pretrial intervention program and the charges against him will

be dismissed if he successfully completes the program.

Glosser turned down a similar offer and decided to go to trial.

Warren County Prosecutor John J. O'Reilly took on the case, described by some attorneys as unique and without precedent.

During his closing argument, O'Reilly reminded jurors of the statements and testimony of another back-seat passenger in the car, Washington Township resident Kari Hackett.

Hackett told jurors Howell in-

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