

Man found innocent in crash death

Nicholas Glosser was riding in a car that crashed in '94.

By TOM QUIGLEY
The Express-Times

BELVIDERE — A 20-year-old Washington man charged with inciting a fatal 1994 car crash hugged his father Wednesday morning after he heard jurors deliver a not guilty verdict at the Warren County Courthouse.

Jury deliberations lasted only 25 minutes.

Nicholas Glosser — formerly of Belvidere — was charged with urging the driver of the car to go faster and causing the death of his friend, 16-year-old Jason D. Lindner.

"I had a feeling that I was going to be found 'not guilty,'" Glosser said later.

During the early morning hours of March 5, 1994, Glosser was sitting in the back seat of a car driven by Washington Township resident Glenn A. Howell Jr. that careered through a stop sign, became airborne and crashed into a stand of trees. Lindner, also of Washington Township, was thrown from the car and killed.

Witnesses said Glosser urged Howell to go faster just before the accident.

Authorities later charged Howell and Glosser with death-by-auto. Howell was admitted to a pretrial program, but Glosser opted to go to trial.

Glosser said the acquittal came as good news, but added Lindner's death still bothers him.

"He was my friend," he said. "He used to come to my house a lot. I think about it every day."

Glosser said he was drunk that night and didn't even remember getting into the car.

Warren County Prosecutor John J. O'Reilly prosecuted the highly unusual case. He said he never questions a jury's verdict.

"Some cases have to be tried," O'Reilly said. "It takes 12 people to make a decision. I have

Please see **ACQUITTED/A-2**

A-2/ THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1996

ACQUITTED

Continued from A-1

never argued with a jury's verdict."

The prosecutor said he hopes Lindner's death sends a message to other young people.

"Every person who has children hopes that they would have the sense to step back and act responsibly," O'Reilly said.

He said many youngsters think they're invincible.

"If there's any message that comes out of this, it's that young children are not immortal," the

prosecutor said. Glosser's family was on hand for the jury's verdict Wednesday.

"He should never have been charged with this," said his father, Rick Glosser, of Phillipsburg. "We all knew he wouldn't be found guilty."

Superior Court Judge John F. Kingfield found Glosser guilty of the lesser charge of possessing an alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle.

Had he been convicted, Glosser faced a maximum sentence of three to five years in prison.