

90-day Sentence For Cowboys' Accuser

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The woman who falsely accused Dallas Cowboys stars Erik Williams and Michael Irvin of sexual assault was sentenced yesterday to 90 days in jail.

Nina Shahravan, a 24-year-old former topless dancer who recanted her accusations, apologized to the players "for putting them through the stuff that I've put them through."

Shahravan also must pay a \$1,500 fine. She could have received probation or up to a year in jail and a \$4,000 fine.

"She's an arsonist watching the fire burn," said prosecutor Clark Birdsall, who sought the maximum punishment. "She's someone who throws the fire alarm to watch everybody run."

Dallas County Criminal Court-at-Law Judge Dan Wyde decided Shahravan's punishment after she pleaded guilty Monday to misdemeanor perjury.

Earlier, Irvin and Williams testified they believe Shahravan was persuaded to make the allegations and needs counseling.

Irvin, who was on the stand about 20 minutes, told Birdsall he thinks someone encouraged her to make up the story about his involvement in an incident that took place at Williams's house Dec. 29 when Irvin wasn't present.

Asked who would do that, he said, "I don't know."

When Williams testified, he pointed to KXAS, the Dallas-Fort Worth television station that first reported Shahravan's allegations, and the Dallas Police Department.

Williams and Irvin have sued KXAS-TV for defamation and settled for at least \$2 million. They also are suing the Dallas Police Department, accusing it of violating their civil rights.

Reminded that Shahravan told the court Monday that she alone was responsible for the story, the offensive tackle said, "I don't believe that."

"I think the defendant needs help, psychological help," Williams said. "When you have a problem making up lies about somebody, I think you need help."

Said Irvin: "I think Nina [does] need some form of help mentally. I think she's easily persuaded."

G. David Smith, Shahravan's lawyer, praised his client.

"She has more guts than anyone involved in the Dallas Cowboys organization," Smith said. "She made a mistake . . . but she corrected it. She had the ability and fortitude to correct her wrong."

Shahravan's psychologist, Dr. Abby Meyering, testified that her client "has a long history of being exploited sexually."

She said Shahravan "felt she needed to do something, as ineffective as it was, to put herself out of these relationships and probably to lash back."

Williams previously was accused of sexual assault in April 1994, by a 17-year-old topless dancer. A grand jury took no action against Williams two months later after she refused to cooperate with prosecutors following an out-of-court settlement.

"I'm upset," he said of the Shahravan case. "Anybody would be upset if they were falsely accused of something they did not do."

In other news:

PANTHERS: RE-SIGN CARRIER The Carolina Panthers re-signed Mark Carrier to help fill the void created by the loss of wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad to a broken wrist. Carrier, who will be 32 next month, was not offered a new contract by the Panthers in the offseason after leading Carolina's wide receivers last year with 58 receptions for 808 yards.

To clear a roster spot and room under the salary cap for Carrier, the Panthers released third-string quarterback Shane Matthews.

GIANTS: Hilliard has surgery

Doctors fused the sixth and seventh vertebrae in Ike Hilliard's spine, and said the Giants' rookie wide receiver should be able to play next year. "Surgically, everything went well," team physician Russell Warren said. "Ike will be in a collar for three months."

CHIEFS: Waive '95 1st-rounder

The Kansas City Chiefs waived offensive tackle Trezelle Jenkins, their first-round draft choice out of Michigan in 1995.

Jenkins played poorly in the season-opening, 19-3 loss at Denver, lost his starting job to Glenn Parker for the second game at Oakland and was inactive for Sunday's game against Buffalo

http://articles.philly.com/1997-09-17/sports/25551773_1_irvin-and-williams-nina-shahravan-sexual-assault