

## **“Boxer” Beats Charges; Prosecutor Cries Foul**

**By Dave Racher**

*Daily News Staff Writer*

An angry prosecutor, upset over the acquittal of a defendant on rape charges, confronted the jurors outside the courtroom and upbraided them for their verdict

Assistant District Attorney Thomas Johnson told the jurors it was the third time the defendant, Kevin C. Bajor, 21, had gone free after being charged with rape.

Startled, one of the jurors turned to defense lawyer A. Charles Peruto, Jr. and said “You looked so sincere up there. I can’t believe you lied to us.”

“I didn’t lie,” Peruto replied. “I just presented the evidence.”

Jurors are not told of a defendant’s past record during a trial.

The jury, which had deliberated two days, cleared Bajor of charges of rape, indecent assault and aggravated assault, but convicted him of single assault last Friday in the June 10, 1981, incident, involving a 23 year-old secretary.

The young woman wept hysterically when the verdict was announced.

Common Pleas Judge William Porter, who presided, reduced Bajor’s bail from \$50,000 to \$1,500 and he walked out of the courtroom. The maximum penalty for single assault is a year in jail, and Bajor has spent 14 months in jail awaiting trial. He will be sentenced later.

Bajor originally had pleaded guilty to raping and beating the woman but, after Peruto took over his defense, changed his plea.

Bajor, of Elkhart Street near Emerald in Kensington, was accused of raping the woman after he told her he was Sean O’Grady, former World Boxing Association welterweight champion. Johnson said Bajor also has posed as a member of the Irish Republican Army in approaching women.

Bajor took the stand in this own behalf and testified that the woman had sex with him voluntarily.

The woman testified that she met Bajor the night of the attack in a Northeast Philadelphia bar, where he started a conversation by saying “You know who I am? I’m Sean O’Grady, the champ.”

She said he had an Irish brogue and claimed to be the lightweight champion of the world at that time. She said he asked her for a ride to his manager’s home in Kensington, saying his chauffeur had dropped him off at the bar.

After a stop at the woman’s house, where Bajor convinced her mother who he was by flexing his muscles, they went in the woman’s car.

On their way to his “manager’s” house, the woman said Bajor forced her out of the car near the Juniata Park Golf Course, ripped off her clothes, raped her and punched her in the face repeatedly.

She said he warned her, “Don’t go to the press. You’ll ruin my career.”

Peruto said Bajor is in fact an amateur boxer who had some success in the 1979 Golden Gloves tournament and boxed with the Holmesburg Prison team while awaiting trial.

Bajor was arrested last September for another alleged rape, in which the victim said he claimed to be an IRA member. That case was thrown out of court when the victim failed to show up for a hearing

Johnson did not know the particulars of Bajor’s third previous rape arrest. He said Bajor has a prior conviction for assaulting a prison guard.