

Ex- Police recruit asks to return.

Terri Sanginiti Staff reporter

Jamie J. Campbell's dream of becoming a Wilmington police officer ended abruptly in January when he read in a newspaper he was being indicted for allegedly beating up a handcuffed prisoner while he was a prison guard. Campbell was forced to resign from the Wilmington Police Academy. Now, he hopes he can return.

On Thursday, the former police recruit was acquitted of all charges following a two-week trial in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia. Campbell was the youngest of nine Delaware County (Pa) Prison guards charged with violating prisoners' rights in separate incidents in 1994.

Five of the former guards pleaded guilty in February and testified against the other four in the recent trial. All but Campbell were convicted. "I feel good I was acquitted," he said Saturday. "But I don't like to see the other guys go to jail. I worked with them. We all wore the same uniform. Now they're going to prison."

Campbell, 23, of Folsom, Pa., worked at the prison for four years before leaving in September 1996 to join the Wilmington Police Department's 84th academy class.