



Thursday, February 27

Patriots' Kelly acquitted of DUI charges

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MIAMI (AP) _ New England Patriots cornerback Ben Kelly was acquitted Thursday that he was drunk when his vehicle rolled into a parked police cruiser.

The jury took less than an hour to clear him on misdemeanor charges of DUI and D damages, ending a four-day trial. The judge dismissed three related tickets.

"I'm very relieved to have this over with, not to have it hanging over my head, as it nearly two years, for something that never happened," Kelly said.

Kelly testified that he bumped the police car by accident when his foot slipped off the pedal. Kelly said he had stopped at an accident scene to ask a police officer for directions.

The arresting officer testified that he found Kelly asleep at the wheel at about 6 a.m. 2001, and that the SUV rolled forward after Kelly suddenly waking up.

Prosecutors said Kelly, who was then with the Miami Dolphins, failed roadside sobriety tests while Kelly told the jury he passed them. He said he'd had only two drinks during a game.

He refused to take a breath test and later surrendered his driver's license for six months.

Two weeks ago, San Francisco 49ers cornerback Mike Rumph was acquitted of driving after a night out in Miami Beach last year.

Rumph had the same defense team used by Kelly, opposing the same set of prosecutors at Dade County Court.

Note: The following stories are the most recent wire transmissions from SportsTicker and other sources. Versions of some of these stories appear elsewhere on the service.