

SPORTS ★ FINAL

Sunday, October 26, 2008

SAVE \$²⁶
INSIDE

DAILY NEWS



\$1.00

2.7 MILLION READERS EVERY SUNDAY

NYDailyNews.com



COP SAYS ISIAH'S A LIAR





Michael Mineo holds hand of the Rev. Al Sharpton and weeps in Brooklyn Hospital as he describes alleged attack by cops. Pool photo

Sharpton prays with alleged cop vic

BY ANDREW GARIB,
ALISON GENDAR
and TINA MOORE
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

THE BROOKLYN MAN who says police sadistically sodomized him with a walkie-talkie wept yesterday in his hospital bed as he held hands and prayed with the Rev. Al Sharpton.

"I was violated," Michael Mineo, 24, told Sharpton in the emotional meeting in Brooklyn Hospital.

Asked how he's holding up, Mineo, his hand gripping his head, tearfully replied, "How do you think I'm supposed to feel?"

The NYPD continued to strongly deny the allegations yesterday, even as Mineo's two lawyers, who also attended the hospital meeting, revealed their client smeared blood on a patrol car window after he was allegedly violated.

Mineo made the same statement to the NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau, which checked and found no blood, police sources said.

The car did not appear to have been washed, the sources said.

Sources who have unofficially spoken with Alex Cruz, the 26-year-old officer identified by Mineo as an assailant, said he was ad-

amant that no one abused Mineo.

Cruz, on the force for less than three years, "was the one who pointed out all the cameras, and described witnesses who were watching," a source said.

The young officer insists that Mineo was in sight of civilians at all times "during the entire chase and arrest," the source said.

"[Cruz] said he was glad there were so many people around."

Cruz's locker was searched and his radio and other items were taken for testing. A man and a 12-year-old disputed Mineo's account to police, the source said.

Mineo, a tattoo parlor worker, said the cops assaulted him on the platform of a Brooklyn subway

station, after grabbing him for smoking marijuana, 10 days ago.

He spent four days in Brookdale University Medical Center and was admitted to Brooklyn Hospital less than a week later because he was bleed-

ing, said his lawyer Stephen Jackson.

After the hospital meeting, Sharpton said he found Mineo's story "compelling."

"I find it hard to believe he could inflict this kind of pain on

himself," Sharpton said. Mineo, who wept often, wore a hospital gown and his tattooed arms were bare. Sharpton pointed out a drain in Mineo's side.

"I was at the same hospital 11 years ago with Abner Louima, whom no one believed," Sharp-

ton said, referring to the Haitian immigrant sodomized by Brooklyn cops in 1997.

Sharpton called for a full investigation and "not a dismissal from police that nothing happened."

"Obviously, something happened," he said.

Sharpton said Mineo, who is white, asked for Sharpton's involvement in the case.

"I don't care if the cops were blacks and he was white or vice versa," Sharpton said.

Jackson and Sharpton share a past. The lawyer represented one of the activist's co-defendants in a slander case that grew out of the Tawana Brawley case.

"Even police witnesses acknowledge seeing the pants pulled down," said Mineo's other lawyer, Kevin Mosely. "There's a lot to it. And the man didn't make up an injury to his rectal area."

The Brooklyn district attorney's office is investigating.

tmoore@nydailynews.com

In his words
Read the Daily News
exclusive bedside interview
with Michael Mineo
NYDailyNews.com/
nycrime