

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

# METRO

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 18, 1998

## Man sentenced to 2 years in bar owner's killing

The Cincinnati Enquirer

A South Cumminsville man who was with his cousin when the older man allegedly shot and killed a bar owner was sentenced Tuesday to two years in prison.

James Lamont Walker, 26, dodged a much heavier sentence when jurors acquitted him of two of the three felonious assault charges against him. Had he been convicted of all three charges, he faced up to 24 years in prison. On the one charge, he faced a maximum penalty of eight years.

Mr. Walker was charged with assaults that occurred the September night that popular west-side coach

James Hebert Sr. was fatally shot at the Northside bar he owned. Mr. Walker's cousin, Anthony Walker, 39, of South Fairmount, is the accused gunman and faces a murder charge.

The shooting capped an argument at the bar; witnesses have said Mr. Hebert was trying to throw the two men out.

Clyde Bennett II, defense attorney for James Walker, said his client was not the aggressor.

"He could have been interpreted as a peacemaker or someone trying to break up the incident," Mr. Bennett said. "He was trying to break up the fight, essentially."

Based on James Walker's conduct, Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge David Davis opted not to impose the maximum sentence. He also gave James Walker credit for more than 150 days served in jail.