

Suspect acquitted in Christmas Eve killing

BY SHARON COOLIDGE, The Enquirer

A judge Tuesday acquitted a 20-year-old Springfield Township man accused of fatally shooting a bystander outside a 2005 Christmas Eve teen dance in Roselawn.

Quinn Edwards was so elated he turned to his attorney, Hal Arenstein, and kissed him on the cheek.

Chanel Jordan's family was stunned. "There's only one thing to say: He got away with Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Fred Nelson found Edwards not guilty on two charges of murder. Nelson also dismissed charges of attempted murder and felonious assault related to the shooting of 16-year-old Arlette Denson, who also was standing outside the dance.

Denson left town and prosecutors were unable to call her to testify.

"This is a horribly sad case, but on the evidence the state didn't prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt," Nelson said.

Edwards was expected to be released Tuesday night.

"He feels like he had his life given back to him," Arenstein said.

Edwards had the option of pleading guilty to lesser charges, but refused, saying he would not admit to killing someone when he didn't fire the fatal shots, Arenstein said.

The case came down to eyewitness identification - made at night, two years ago, while shots were being fired, Arenstein said.

During the trial, Assistant Hamilton County Prosecutor Gus Leon and Arenstein described the dance at Club Legacy as chaotic, so crowded that the owners shut it down, forcing hundreds of teens onto the street.

Leon said Edwards meant to shoot another teen, but accidentally hit Jordan, 19, of Colerain Township. She was chaperoning her brother.

Arenstein admitted his client was at the dance, but said he was nowhere near Jordan or Denson at the time of the shooting.

Edwards' friends and family whooped with joy at the verdict.

Dominique Engram, 36, was so noisy, Hamilton County sheriff's deputies cited him for disorderly conduct.