

Bloody fight results in Class C felony charges against suspect

Written by Marty Randall

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A bloody altercation which allegedly occurred between two local men on March 11 resulted in the arrest of a suspect.

Scottsburg Patrolman Steven Herald, Patrolman Troy Ford and Sheriff's Deputy Don Campbell were dispatched to a residence on Third Street in Scottsburg that Thursday to investigate what was reported to be a stabbing.

As Ptl. Herald approached the residence, he said he saw four men outside on the street, which had what appeared to be blood on it. One was holding a sword. He was disarmed and all four were asked for statements by the officers.

According to a statement from the victim, Joe Spencer, Ian S. Hantz, 22, rural Austin, reportedly attacked Spencer. The victim said Hantz hit him with brass knuckles and then stabbed him.

Hantz, the officer noted, had suffered a serious cut on his left hand. Hantz told the officer that he had come to Spencer's home to talk to him. He said Spencer answered his door armed with a baseball bat but laid the bat down when Hantz told him he wanted to talk.

The talk apparently escalated to an argument. Hantz said Spencer "...got him on the ground, and he defended himself by opening his knife and stabbing Spencer two or three times," according to the probable cause affidavit.

Hantz also reportedly told Herald that he had cut himself on his hand during the altercation.

Hantz's version of the argument was different than the one Spencer provided. Spencer said as soon as he stepped outside without his baseball bat, Hantz "...punched him with brass knuckles....managed to get Hantz on the ground, and Hantz then stabbed Spencer," the court document related.

One of Spencer's friends then grabbed the sword to help Spencer. He and another friend pinned Hantz against a car and took his car keys and held him until police arrived.

A bloody pair of brass knuckles were located in a ditch line near the property, and officers also located a folding knife. Those items were held as evidence.

Hantz and Spencer were both taken to Scott Memorial Hospital for treatment. Spencer was later air-lifted by medical helicopter to University of Louisville. According to Ptl. Herald, he appeared to have suffered at least two stab wounds, one of which may have pierced a lung. No information was available on his condition.

Hantz appeared for an initial court hearing on Friday, March 12, in Scott Circuit Court before Judge Roger Duvall. A not guilty plea to three counts of Class C felony battery was entered for him, and a jury trial date of July 6 was assigned to the case.

Hantz remains incarcerated in lieu of a \$75,000 full cash bond.