

VERDICT IN THE O.J. SIMPSON TRIAL

...AND CONTINUES FOR 266 DAYS

Timeline

Continued from 10A

21: Jurors wear black to court and refuse to hear testimony for a day after three deputies who guarded the panel are reassigned amid charges of giving preferential treatment to white jurors.

■ May 1995

1: Juror Tracy Hampton dismissed.

4: Goldman's father and sister file wrongful death lawsuit against Simpson.

10: Testimony about DNA blood analysis begins. Scientist Robin Cotton is first witness to link Simpson to the murders through genetic tests. The chances of matching characteristics in blood at the murder scene and anyone other than O.J. Simpson are less than 1 in 170 million.

26: Juror Francine Florio-Bunten dismissed.

■ June 1995

5: Jurors Farron Chavarria and Willie Cravin are dismissed. Cravin for intimidating the panel and Chavarria for passing a note to a fellow juror. Juror makeup is now nine blacks, two Anglos and one Hispanic; 10 women, two men.

12: Estate of Nicole Simpson files a lawsuit accusing O.J. Simpson of "brutally and with malice aforethought stalked, attacked and repeatedly stabbed and beat" his ex-wife.

15: THEY DON'T FIT – Simpson struggles to pull on the "bloody gloves," one found at the murder scene and its mate found at his estate. He tells the jury, "They're too small." Prosecutors suggest the gloves had shrunk, and six days later they have Simpson try on a new pair of gloves. They fit.

■ July 1995

6: Prosecution rests. It had called 58 witnesses.

10: Defense calls its first witness: Simpson's grown daughter, Arnelle.

■ August 1995

Elsewhere in the news: America celebrates the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II

15: Clark says she'll ask Ito to remove himself from the trial because of an appearance of conflict of interest stemming from tapes Fuhrman made with scriptwriter Laura Hart McKinny as part of a movie project on the Los Angeles Police Department. In the tapes, Fuhrman makes derogatory comments about Ito's police-captain wife and about minorities.

16: Clark backs down from her threat. Ito says he'll rule on the admissibility of the Fuhrman tapes but allows another judge to determine whether his wife is a relevant witness.

18: Superior Court Judge John Reid rules Ito's wife has nothing relevant to add to the trial.

23: Defense witness Henry Lee, a forensic scientist, testifies on blood-drop patterns and his theory on an unexplained set of bloody footprints. These later turn out to be marks in the concrete.

29: Excerpts of recorded interviews between Fuhrman and screenwriter McKinny are played with the jury out of the courtroom.

31: Ito rules that jurors will hear only two of 61 excerpts that the defense



Comparing notes

Prosecutor Marcia Clark looks over the shoulders of defense attorneys Johnnie Cochran Jr., (center), and Robert Shapiro as they review the records relating to the shoe prints found in the Ford Bronco and at the murder scene, before closing arguments Sept. 26, 1995.

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

wants to present. Cochran calls Ito's ruling cruel and unfair. Lawyer Robert Tourtelot says he will no longer act as Fuhrman's spokesman or represent him in civil matters.

■ September 1995

5: Jurors hear Fuhrman on tape using racial epithets.

6: Fuhrman returns to the witness stand, out of the jury's presence, and invokes his Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination. Black witness Roderic Hodge tells jurors that when Fuhrman arrested him in 1987, he used a racial slur.

7: Defense ends months of speculation by saying Simpson won't testify. Judge Ito agrees to defense request that jurors be told Fuhrman had become "unavailable," and they could consider that in weighing his credibility. Prosecutors appeal.

8: Appeals court rejects Ito's jury instruction about Fuhrman.

11: Defense refuses to rest case pending appeal of Fuhrman issue. Ito orders

prosecutors to begin rebuttal.

13: Cochran announces he wants FBI agent Frederic Whitehurst to testify about problems in the FBI crime lab.

14: Appeals court rejects defense request to recall Fuhrman so he can be cross-examined in front of jurors about racist statements in taped interviews.

18: Prosecution conditionally rests.

19: Detective Philip Vannatter is grilled in court about statements he allegedly made to mob informants. Ito blacks out trial for the first time in the case so informants can testify. Craig and Larry Fiato and FBI Agent Michael Wacks testify that

Vannatter said he suspected "the husband" from the start.

20: Ito bars Whitehurst's testimony. LAPD Commander Keith Bushey testifies that he gave the orders for investigators to go to Simpson's estate and notify him of his ex-wife's slaying.

21: Ito gives jurors the option of finding Simpson guilty of second-degree murder.

22: Defense and prosecution rest. Simpson tells the judge, "I did not, could not and would not have committed this crime." Ito reads the jury its instructions.

26: Prosecution starts its closing arguments with Clark explaining the terms "reasonable doubt," "presumption of innocence" and "burden of proof." She also uses a chart entitled, "Where was the defendant?"

27: Defense starts its closing arguments. Cochran reminds the jury of the gloves saying, "if it doesn't fit, you must



New gloves fit

On June 21, 1995, O.J. Simpson holds his hands before the jury after putting on a new pair of Aris Leather Light gloves similar to the infamous bloody gloves.

The evidence

The evidence discussed in closing arguments of the O.J. Simpson trial means vastly different things to the prosecution and the defense.

■ TIMELINE

Prosecution: Simpson lacked an alibi or even a plausible story for what he was doing between 10:15 p.m. and 10:40 p.m., when the murders most likely occurred.

Defense: Simpson couldn't possibly have driven to Ms. Simpson's home, killed two people, hid bloody clothes and a murder weapon, driven home, dropped the glove, cleaned up and changed his clothes before greeting a limousine driver at 11 p.m.

■ VIOLENT PAST

Prosecution: Gave Simpson a motive. He was prone to jealous rages and had beaten Ms. Simpson before.

Defense: Beatings were irrelevant, isolated events that the prosecution lacked evidence to support.

■ CRIME SCENE BLOOD

Prosecution: O.J. Simpson dripped blood after wounding his finger with a knife during the murders.

Defense: Tests that showed the blood matched Simpson's genetic markers were faulty or corrupt.

■ BLOODY SHOE PRINTS

Prosecution: The size 12 Bruno Maglis were rare enough to tie to Simpson, who shopped in Bloomingdale's, where the shoes were purchased.

Defense: The shoes were never recovered, and the prosecution couldn't prove Simpson had ever owned them.

■ BLOODY GLOVES

Prosecution: Simpson lost one extra large leather glove at the murder scene. In his rush to hide the other one, he dropped it behind his guest house.

Defense: The gloves didn't fit Simpson. The one found at Simpson's home was planted by racist cop Mark Fuhrman.

■ BLOODY SOCKS

Prosecution: The genetic markers of Nicole Brown Simpson, on socks found at the foot of Simpson's bed, link him directly to a victim.

Defense: Police planted the socks, then the lab put Ms. Simpson's blood on them to frame Simpson. The blood had soaked all the way through, which it wouldn't have done if a foot was inside.

■ BLOODY BRONCO

Prosecution: Blood found on the door handle, console, door and steering wheel shows Simpson drove to and from the murder scene.

Defense: The Bronco was entered at least twice by unauthorized people while it sat in a police impound yard.

■ HAIRS AND FIBERS

Prosecution: Hairs found in a knit cap are similar to Simpson's; fibers match the carpeting of Simpson's Ford Bronco.

Defense: The hairs could have come from any black person. Hair samples taken from Simpson in prison appeared to have dandruff; the crime scene hairs did not.

acquit."

28: Cochran outrages some Los Angeles Jewish groups by his closing argument that compared Fuhrman with Hitler.

29: After prosecution's closing rebuttal, the case goes to the jury.

■ October 1995

2: Jury begins deliberation. It requests to hear testimony from limousine driver Allan Park. In under four hours, it notifies a surprised court that it has reached a verdict. Ito announces that the verdict will be held until 10 a.m. Pacific time the next day.

3: O.J. Simpson is found not guilty on all counts. At a press conference, Simpson's son Jason reads a statement from his father in which O.J. Simpson says he will devote his energies to finding the real culprit behind the murders.

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