

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

December 22, 2006

## Braves player is named in local suit

By Mark Fazlollah  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

A Montgomery County man has filed a lawsuit against Atlanta Braves star Chipper Jones, alleging that he was hurt and suffered emotional distress in a brief scuffle that began when he reportedly taunted the ballplayer.

Stephen M. Cohen of East Norriton contends that Jones inflicted an "illegal, outrageous and violent assault" on him at the Hyatt Regency hotel at Penn's Landing at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 3. He seeks more than \$50,000 in damages.

The suit, filed in Philadelphia last week, says Cohen asked to be taken to a hospital and was released the same day. It does not identify any injury that he suffered.

It says Cohen, a construction foreman, and his friends saw Jones at the hotel and "yelled to get Chipper Jones' attention. Chipper Jones ignored them."

Later, it says, Cohen saw Jones inside the hotel and yelled at him again.

"To Cohen's shock, Chipper Jones turned, looked at him in a hostile, volatile manner," the suit says. It says Jones then "threw Cohen down on the marble floor, and began to physically assault Cohen."

Hotel workers, in depositions, and a police report paint a different picture. One employee testified that he was told that

Cohen was "taunting" Jones. "Mr. Jones didn't like what it was that he was saying to him, and they got in a scuffle," the employee said.

The police report makes no mention of a struggle. "Larry Jones and unidentified male were involved in a verbal altercation," the report says, using Jones' legal first name.

The officer said he was told that two people separated Jones and Cohen, but could not find the witnesses.

The report, labeled as a "disturbance at a business," makes no mention of any injuries. Police said no action was taken against Jones.

Cohen's lawyer, David T. Shulick of Philadelphia, said Cohen disputes the police version of events. Cohen is still suffering from anxiety, Shulick said.

Philadelphia lawyer Theodore Simon, representing Jones, said his client "has faith in the judicial system and as such, expects and is confident that there will be a just and proper result."

The Phillies and Braves split a double-hitter after the reported incident. Jones, a third baseman, got a hit and a walk in the first game. He went 0 for 4 in the second.

---

Contact staff writer Mark Fazlollah  
at 215-854-5831 or  
mfazlollah@phillynews.com

Copyright The Philadelphia Inquirer Reprinted by Permission