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TWO ACQUITTED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER

BY [Matt Gryta \(mailto:mgryta@buffnews.com\)](mailto:mgryta@buffnews.com) - NEWS STAFF REPORTER

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DeMario Boler and Andre M. Vernon were acquitted Monday of trying to kill Willie Roseboro, a drug dealer, on March 25, 2000.

However, both men face prison for intimidating a witness, breaking beer bottles over his face June 15.

The verdict came at the conclusion of a weeklong jury trial in State Supreme Court before Justice Russell P. Buscaglia.

Roseboro, 25, had testified both men shot him on March 25, 2000, and attacked him again June 15.

The jury found Boler, 23, of 15th Street, and Vernon, 21, of Marigold Street, innocent of attempted murder, assault, attempted robbery and weapons charges.

However, they were found guilty of the felony charge of intimidating a victim or witness in the second-degree. Both face mandatory prison terms of two to seven years. They will be sentenced May 31.

Both men have other legal problems. Vernon still faces assault charges and Boler drug charges.

Defense attorneys Alan S. Hoffman and Paul Gordon Dell had attacked the credibility of Roseboro, who, they noted, failed to tell a grand jury that Boler was one of the men who allegedly shot him.

On Thursday, Roseboro testified he was an ex-convict, had "dealt" illegal drugs on Buffalo streets, drank too much and has child-support problems.

But he said Boler and Vernon shot him for unknown reasons, at Rhode Island and Brayton streets at about 11 p.m. March 25, 2000.

Roseboro also said Boler and Vernon told him not to go before the grand jury and attacked him with beer bottles.

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