

# Off-Duty Officer Finds Umpiring a Hazardous Activity

By Michael Cooper

Sept. 28, 1999

See the article in its original context from September 28, 1999, Section B, Page 4 [Buy Reprints](#)

[VIEW ON TIMESMACHINE](#)

TimesMachine is an exclusive benefit for home delivery and digital subscribers.

It would seem that an umpire's lot is not a happy one, either.

An off-duty police detective who was acting as an umpire at a softball game in Queens on Sunday afternoon was punched in the nose after the game by a member of the losing team who took issue with some of his calls, the police said yesterday.

The accused puncher was not only benched, the police said, but arrested.

The contested calls and the subsequent arrest took place around 3:30 P.M. on Sunday in the yard of Public School 68 at 59-02 St. Felix Avenue in the Ridgewood section of Queens, said Detective John Giammarino, a police spokesman.

The off-duty detective, Basilio Simons, was the game's umpire, the police said. When the doubleheader ended, the police said, members of the losing team began complaining to him about some of his calls.

"I've never seen a team lose so badly," Detective Simons, who is assigned to the Brooklyn Special Victims Squad, which investigates rape and child abuse cases, said yesterday. "They lost one game by something like 15 to 2, another was 20 to 2.

There was a lot of drinking, a lot of alcohol involved."

As angry members of the losing team and their fans surrounded Detective Simons, one team member, Eamon McGinn, 22, punched him in the nose, Detective Giammarino said. At that point, the police said, Detective Simons called 911 on his cell phone, took out his gun, identified himself as a police officer and held Mr. McGinn at bay until more officers arrived.

Detective Simons said that he never expected his off-duty work as an umpire to be dangerous.

"When you play ball, the umpire is the law," he said. "He runs the game. He shouldn't be a factor in the game one way or another. And I wasn't."

Mr. McGinn was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and harassment, the police said. A complaint filed in Queens Criminal Court accuses him of punching Detective Simons in the face, causing him to "suffer swelling to his nose, substantial pain, annoyance and alarm."

Mr. McGinn did not respond to a telephone message seeking comment yesterday.

"What I would really like to see is for this young man to take a course in anger management and sportsmanship," Detective Simons said.

A version of this article appears in print on , Section B, Page 4 of the National edition with the headline: Off-Duty Officer Finds Umpiring a Hazardous Activity