

Ex-Zambia U20 football player denies rape in cathedral alley

Defendant claiming sex was consensual

By Peter Walker

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A FORMER takeaway worker has denied raping and punching a teenage girl in a Chelmsford Cathedral alleyway.

Loveday Mumbuluma, 21, also claims the girl had consensual sex with him again immediately after the alleged rape under an overhanging tree in the cathedral grounds.

The ex-Zambian U20 footballer entered the witness box on Tuesday at his Chelmsford Crown Court trial to deny rape.

Confused

He also claims he was so confused when police raided his bedroom, and arrested him, that he did not ask for a solicitor during an interview.

"I'm not telling any lies, it was



SITE: Mumbuluma claims the pair had sex again under trees in Chelmsford Cathedral grounds

consensual sex," said former Chelmsford and Norwich resident Mr Mumbuluma, who now lives in Bexleyheath, Kent.

"No I didn't punch her, no I didn't threaten to punch her, no I didn't tell her to shut up and no I didn't say 'you like it like this' or anything."

Mumbuluma allegedly raped the girl shortly after 3.30am on Sunday, September 8, 2013, after the two were dancing and kissing

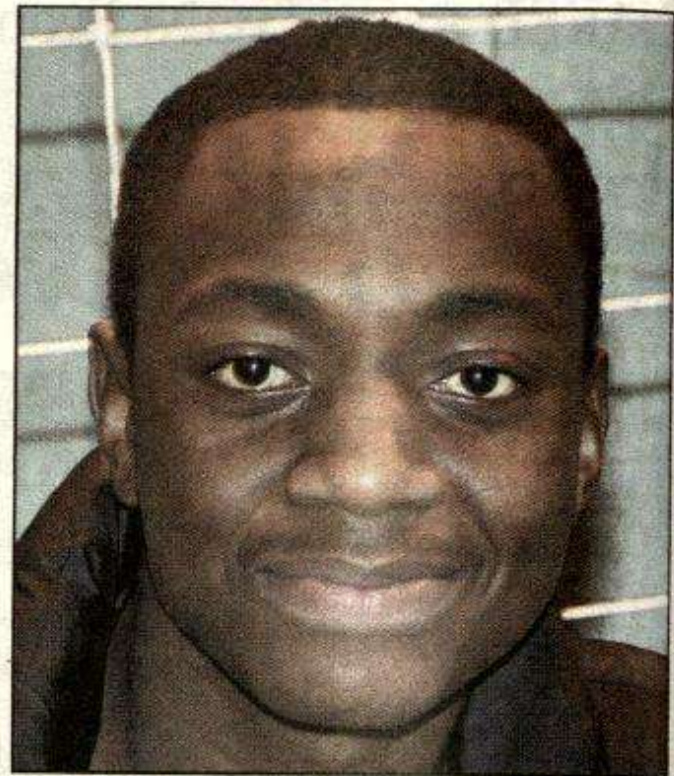
in The Loop bar in Tindal Square.

The pair, both 19 at the time, were texting that evening and had sex the previous week, supposedly on a toilet floor and in his manager's two-door Mercedes Benz, after meeting in the now closed-down Candy Club in Barrack Square.

But on that night the woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, claims she was forced to the ground and punched when she refused to shut up after telling him she wanted to go home.

The next day police said the girl had a 2cm purple red-cheek bruise, 5cm-long purple cheek swelling, a lip abrasion, a 5cm right elbow bruise, a 5cm back abrasion stretching to her right buttock and a 7cm-long right knee abrasion.

But Mumbuluma said he never



CHARGES REFUTED: Loveday Mumbuluma denies raping woman

saw bruising on the girl and that instead they went under a tree to continue, before he left her arm in arm with another man on a cathedral bench.

He says he went to a friend's in Kings Road, Melbourne, but left when his brother rang to say police were searching his room.

The court heard he tried texting the girl, who did not reply, before frantically meeting up with the girl's friend.

"Her friend said 'did you force it just a little bit?' and she was smiling at me and I said 'no, I didn't'," said Mumbuluma.

The court heard Mumbuluma

didn't bring a solicitor when he was interviewed three times on Monday, September 9.

"I didn't think this was that serious, I was so confused about what was going on," he said.

The jury also heard Mumbuluma's DNA was found on the girl's face and that an inconclusive urine sample was the only forensic evidence examined.

The court also heard Mumbuluma's Asian colleague at Crispy Chicken takeaway in Trent Road, Chelmsford, who was clubbing with him on the night, cannot be traced.

The trial continues.

Accused weeps in the dock after jury clears him of alleyway attack

Zambian soccer star cleared of raping teenager near cathedral

By Chris Dyer

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A FORMER Chelmsford City youth footballer wept in the dock after being cleared of raping a woman in an alleyway near Chelmsford Cathedral.

Loveday Mumbuluma was also accused of punching the teenage woman in the face to shut her up during the alleged attack.

The 21-year-old, of Halcot Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent, but formerly of Chelmsford, was cleared of attacking the woman after a night out in September 2013 at Chelmsford Crown Court on Monday.

The victim, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said she had consensual sex with Mr Mumbuluma at the takeaway restaurant where he worked, Krispy Chicken, in Trent Road, a week before the alleged incident.

Chelmsford Crown Court heard the pair, both 19 at the time, were texting each other and bumped into each other in The Loop bar, in Tindal Square, at about 2.30am before dancing together, kissing and chatting.

It was alleged that the defendant wanted the woman to come back to his place, but she refused.

Consensual

Mr Mumbuluma, a former Zambian under 20s player, said they had consensual sex in the alleyway and then again in the cathedral grounds.

She was discovered by two men at about 3am walking near Riverside Leisure Centre with bruises, a torn black dress and leaves in her hair.

The victim was helped to the police station, but left halfway through the interview and was

tracked down again by CCTV operators, as she walked down Moulsham Street.

The court heard how texts sent between the victim, her friends and Mr Mumbuluma were deleted after her phone was given back to her by the police.

Graham Brown, defending, said: "There's so much information the complainant could have given to police officers, such as all those text messages. But in a quite extraordinary situation from the police, her phone was given back to the complainant.

"I suggest things are not as straightforward as they are made to appear."

The victim denied having sex with Mr Mumbuluma, who she knew as Junior or G, on the floor in the alleyway.

CCTV showed the pair heading to the alleyway, but did not show anything after they disappeared



CLEARED: A jury found Loveday Mumbuluma not guilty of rape around a corner.

Mr Mumbuluma, who played for the Zambian under-20 national team, said he noticed she was using her phone during intercourse, but she claimed she was texting her former boyfriend for help.

Judge John Dodd QC said: "Perhaps one of the curious elements of this case is the use of mobile phones when other things should have been the focus, but maybe

this is the modern age.

"It's unfortunate that these messages are not accessible and they could have been hugely significant in this investigation."

The jury took just over three hours to return a verdict of not guilty.

Mr Mumbuluma's family, who had supported him throughout the 11-day trial, also wept with joy as the verdict was returned by the jury foreman.