

Former AVHS student acquitted of rape

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April 02, 2010 5:53 PM

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VICTORVILLE • [Alonzo Higuera](#), a former Apple Valley High School student who was accused of sexually assaulting two women at a drinking party, was acquitted of all charges on Friday.

Higuera and his attorney hugged in the hallway outside the courtroom, celebrating their victory.

"I cried when the verdict came," said Deputy Public Defender Maggie Eisenberg, who had worked with Higuera for four years. "I've never been happier about not guilty verdict in my life, and I would have been disenchanted with the entire legal system, I think, if Alonzo had been convicted of this. I was positive the entire time that he was completely innocent."

The jury went into deliberation in the morning and came back to the courtroom with a verdict at 4:30 p.m. Higuera, who had spent his entire day waiting in the hallway, was breathing heavily in his seat, waiting to hear the court clerk read the verdict.

As the clerk read out "not guilty" on each of three charges, Higuera showed a smile — but with tears in his eyes.

For the full story, read Saturday's Daily Press. To subscribe to the Daily Press in print or online, call (760) 241-7755 or click [here](#).