

Witness admits lie to court

Friend's statements conflict

By **TOBY WALKER**
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A HIGH school friend of murdered teenager Sonny Baker claimed his mate was stabbed in the back as he tried to walk away from a fight sparked by road rage.

Elihu Skiller, 18, alleged Deon Paul Langworthy, 30, had wrestled a hunting knife from his friend during a struggle outside Mr Baker's Sunrise Beach home around 1am on August 27 in 2006.

Getting to his feet first and with knife in hand, Langworthy then allegedly plunged the entire length of the blade into the 17-year-old's back.

The deep wound caused Mr Baker's lungs to fill up with 1.4 litres of blood. He died within minutes after the attack.

Mr Skiller's version of events given in Brisbane's Supreme Court yesterday was markedly different from Langworthy's.

Langworthy claimed the six stab wounds inflicted on Mr Baker had come as both flailed on the ground, wrestling each other for control of the knife that Mr Baker had originally pulled from a work van parked in his driveway.

Langworthy's barrister Damian Walsh seized on aspects of Mr Skiller's evidence in a bid to attack his credibility as a witness.

Mr Skiller had claimed in earlier statements to have seen Langworthy remove the knife from a sheath after the struggle and say "you want to play with knives, I'll show you knives" before stabbing Mr Baker.

But under pressure and visibly distressed by Mr Walsh's barrage, he admitted to the court he had lied under oath about some details.

"I'm suggesting to you that your evidence is more about vengeance for Sonny Baker than it is about the truth," Mr Walsh said.

The trial continues on Monday.



NEW WAVE: The Board Meeting organiser Josh Griffiths with Jose Morales and his mother Sue Merrotsky.

PHOTO: MICHAELA O'NEILL/MO172491C

Board Meeting continues to give



FIRST they fundraised for a van with wheelchair access, now the Board Meeting Corporate Surf Event is filling it with petrol – many times over.

The recipient of \$1500 from the annual charity surf competition is Currimundi teenager Jose Morales.

Jose, 17, a sportsman left with irreparable brain damage following a heart attack in 2005, received the cheque yesterday from Board Meeting organiser Josh Griffiths.

Jose's mother Sue Merrotsky said the help was invaluable.

"Without Board Meeting we wouldn't have been able to afford the car and without their support this time it would have been very difficult to pay for the petrol to get Jose around," she said.

The Board Meeting event, which involved a fun team surfing challenge, allocated money to worthy groups and families. To become involved call Josh on 0439 731 695.

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