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PRINTS SCANDAL MAY HELP JACKO

Star's defence team cite controversial Scots case

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANDREA VANCE

MICHAEL Jackson's defence team have unveiled a secret weapon in their bid to clear the fallen star — evidence from a Scots fingerprint scandal.

In court this week, the pop idol's lawyer referred to the case of Strathclyde WPC Shirley McKie.

She was wrongly accused of perjury after experts mistakenly insisted one of her prints had been left at a murder scene.

The 42-year-old, from Troon, Ayrshire, was exonerated after it was proved they'd incorrectly identified the mark.

And her experience was cited by Jacko's defence lawyer Robert Sanger as he battled to discredit damaging fingerprint evidence found on the star's hardcore porn magazines.

Last night Shirley's dad Iain, 65, said: *"This is fascinating."*

"Shirley's case has had huge implications all over the world."

Jacko, 46, is facing ten child-sex charges in court in Santa Barbara, California.

Prosecution lawyers claim dabs found on a mag found in the master bedroom of the star's Neverland ranch, belong to 15-year-old Gavin Arvizo.

Briefs

The lad claims Jacko showed him porn and abused him when he stayed at Neverland two years ago.

But Jacko's defence briefs, who on Friday asked the judge to declare a mistrial on a separate technicality, refuted the fingerprint testimony.

Sanger raised the issue of so-called false positives citing: *"A botched 1999 murder investigation in Scotland."*

He was referring to the probe into the killing of 51-year-old Marion Ross in Kilmarnock.

A report by the Scottish Criminal Records Office claimed dabs found on a door frame at Marion's home belonged to Shirley.

She denied ever having been in the house and was accused of perjury. But US fingerprint experts backed her claims.

Ex-cop Iain, from Ayr, added: *"I've great respect for fingerprinting but we do need an international standard."*