



September 30, 2005

### 3 pit bulls attack first-grader

Montgomery County boy's injuries are not thought to be life-threatening, officer says.

**Associated Press**

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ind. -- A first-grader was attacked by three pit bulls as he got off a school bus along a Montgomery County road near his home Thursday, authorities said.

John Masaricks, a pupil at Sugar Creek Elementary School, was taken to St. Clare Medical Center and was reported in stable condition Thursday night. Montgomery County Police Officer Ritch Gray said John's injuries were not believed to be life-threatening.

Bus driver Brenda Stumph, who ran to help the boy after the attack, said two dogs "were just playing tug of war with him," and a third dog joined the attack once she tried to pull him free.

"I don't know where I got the energy to pick up the kid with the dog still on him," said Stumph, who was bitten by one of the dogs.

She said that after she freed the boy, one of the dogs tried to get onto the bus, which was carrying two other pupils. Stumph kicked that dog to block its entry.

"She had to be a hero, but she had to care for the other kids, and it sounds like she did both flawlessly," said Assistant Superintendent Colleen Moran of North Montgomery Community Schools.

Family friend Jared Mills said one of the pit bulls, named Coco, belonged to the boy's family and didn't attack until the bus driver approached the boy.

The two other dogs fled to a neighbor's trailer, where they were later seized by the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County. It was not clear Thursday night what would happen to the dogs, Gray said.