

THE COURTS

Young baseball star gets \$155,000 for injuries received in crash

A young man attending university on a baseball scholarship who aspires to play professionally was awarded \$155,000 for injuries he received in a 2003 car accident.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Josephson reduced that amount by

22.5 per cent because Kevin Atkinson was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident, lowering the total award to \$120,125. Atkinson, 22, is still considered a gifted athlete and is in his senior year of a baseball scholarship at the University of New Mexico. But the

accident has diminished his chances of playing professionally, the judge said.

On May 12, 2003, then 16, he was a passenger in the front seat of a vehicle driven by his brother when another driver suddenly turned into their path. There was a significant impact, with lia-

bility admitted by the other party.

Atkinson's head struck the windshield, causing lacerations and bleeding to his face and head. His left knee struck the dash board. He was taken to hospital, where his lacerations were treated. There was no visible injury to the knee.

At trial, the judge heard Atkinson suffered a permanent injury to his left knee. He will suffer early onset of osteoarthritis and require knee replacement surgery, likely in his 40s.

Neal Hall, Vancouver Sun