East area rapist blamed for attack

A rape in the Contra Costa County community of San Ramon last weekend is "probably going to be listed as No. 40 by Sacramento's east area rapist, sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller said Wednesday.

"Based on what Contra Costa sheriff's investigators have told us," Miller said, "we feel very strongly it's the same guy. We're assuming it is, and just waiting to read copies of their reports to confirm it."

The rapist entered a home in San Ramon in the early morning hours Saturday. It is unknown how he gained entry, sheriff's deputies there said, but he followed the east area intruder's typical method of awaking the sleeping husband and wife by shining a flashlight in their eyes.

The couple said it was dark and could not determine if the masked attacker was armed with a gun or knife. They were tied and blindfolded.

The rapist stayed in the home about two hours, investigators said. The couple's children were not awakened.

Racial fight erupts at Folsom Prison

Five white inmates attacked two black inmates in an exercise yard at Folsom Prison Wednesday morning in the second racial fight this week, prison officials said.

Guards fired six "bean bag" crowd-control rounds to break up the 9:30 a.m. fight in which no weapons were used, a spokesman said. However, one white inmate suffered a fractured jaw and possible fractured skull and was being treated at the prison hospital.

The fight in the lower exercise yard of the maximum security unit involved only seven prisoners, officials said, and more than a dozen Mexican inmates also in the yard did not get involved.

The prison operations remained routine, the spokesman said, and only the prisoners involved were locked up.

Wrongful death lawsuit reinstated by appeal court