Shoe photos coming up in O.J. trial

By Michael Miller REUTERS

SANTA MONICA, Calif. - O.J. Simpson's civil trial will resume tomorrow, with plaintiffs' lawyers expected to question an expert witness who said a picture of the former football star wearing expensive Italian shoes was probably a fake.

A source familiar with the case of the plaintiffs said they would probably introduce a second picture showing Simpson wearing Bruno Magli shoes identical to those that left bloody footprints leading from the murder scene where Simpson's former wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman were killed.

Robert Groden, a photographic technician, testified for the defense last month before a two-week holiday break that a photograph of Simpson taken in Buffalo during a football game in 1993 had been doctored to show him wearing Bruno Maglis. That photograph, taken by a freelance photographer, appeared in the National Enquirer.

Recently a second photograph, taken during the same game by a different photographer and also showing Simpson wearing what appear to be Bruno Maglis, surfaced in a Buffalo Bills fan magazine.

"It is probable that this [second] photograph will also be introduced in evidence by the plaintiffs," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Legal analysts say that could

prove to be a difficult problem for Simpson's defense team, which would then have to convince the jury that both photographs were doctored.

Simpson, who told lawyers in his deposition in the civil case that he would never wear such "ugly" shoes as Bruno Maglis, was acquitted in October 1995 of the murders of Nicole Simpson and Goldman on June 12, 1994.

He is now battling a civil wrongful-death lawsuit brought by the victims' families, who are seeking substantial financial damages.

According to a list supplied by Simpson's lawyers, Groden will be followed by four Los Angeles police officers who had marginal roles in the murder investigation. Then Brian "Kato" Kaelin, Simpson's house guest at the time of the murders, will take the witness stand for the second time in the civil case.

The defense intends to call 19 more witnesses before closing its case, according to the list. Among them are Henry Lee, a prominent forensic expert who testified for Simpson at his criminal trial. Lee's testimony this time around will be seen by the jury on videotape.

Simpson, who was earlier called by the plaintiffs' lawyers and spent two days testifying, will be called to the stand by his own lawyers as their second-to-last witness. His daughter Arnelle, from his first marriage to Marquerite Simpson, will be the emotional last witness.

Simpson is expected to testify Thursday, followed by his daughter

Rebuttal witnesses will then be called by both sides, followed by closing arguments. The jury is expected to get the case for consideration by the end of the next week.

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