Girl wounded at rock concert

Police shooting of fan probed

By Grace Yoder News Staff Writer

Detroit police officials today continued their investigation of the wounding of a 15-year-old girl by a police reservist at a rock concert in Joe Louis Arena Saturday night.

Gwendolyn Conquest was shot in the left leg while she and three sisters, residents of Detroit's east side, were attending a performance of the Jacksons singing group. She is in stable condition after surgery yesterday in Children's Hospital.

The reservist is Officer J.B. Turner, 25, of the 12th (Palmer Park) Precinct. He was not held.

Gwendolyn's sister, Darthelia, 16, said the girls had gone to the concert to celebrate Gwen's 15th birthday. When the lights went out at 9:40 p.m., they rushed toward the stage with hundreds of other fans trying to get a closer look at star singer Michael Jackson.

"We passed by two policemen and then we heard a shot," Darthelia said. "Gwen shouted, 'I've been shot ... I've been shot.' She was staggering and fell back on us."

Darthelia said the two officers came over and the one whose gun had fired carried Gwen from the hall to the arena's first aid room.

Gwen later told her mother that the policeman had been showing his gun, a privately owned .357 magnum revolver, to his partner when the shot went off.

Darthelia said she could not recall seeing the gun drawn.

Another witness told Sgt. Ray Trautz that the crowd pushing around the two officers had dislodged Turner's gun from its holster. The gun hit the floor and discharged into Gwen's leg, Trautz said he was told.

Trautz said he did not know whether any legal or departmental disciplinary action would be taken against Turner.

Police reservists are volunteers who receive an abbreviated training course and work once or twice a week when extra officers are needed, Trautz said.

Gwendolyn is scheduled to enter the ninth grade at Detroit's Kettering High School next week.