

Pay-out for crushing blow

Cleveland

A US jury has awarded \$US786,760 (\$A953,700) to an Ohio man who said he endured years of pain and had been forced to walk bowlegged after his left testicle was struck by a broken weight machine at an athletic club.

"I can barely walk, let alone run. There's a constant throbbing of pain. I mean, it's my testicle. That's a very uncomfortable spot to feel pain," Jason Houston, 25, said, adding that sex had become tenuous after the February 2004 injury at a local gym, the *Akron Beacon Journal* reported.

Mr Houston, who won the award on Monday, was lifting about 68kg on a leg

extension machine when a cable broke. That caused a steel rod with an adjusting ball to swing 180 degrees into his groin.

Robert Meeker, the lawyer who represented Mr Houston during a week-long civil trial, said the machine had broken twice before while in use. According to court papers, duct tape covered part of the rod.

Mr Houston has been receiving treatment for pain ever since. A nerve pain blocker was installed but that has not corrected all the pain.

Mr Houston has fathered a daughter and plans to marry next month. He was forced to leave college and some jobs because his injury has left him unable to walk at a normal pace, Mr Meeker said.

— AP

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