DA may charge Team Jacko over mom's 'kidnap'

By JOHN LEHMANN

The district attorney prosecuting Michael Jackson on child-molestation charges is considering bringing obstruction and witness-tampering charges against two of Jacko's handlers, sources told The Post.

Jackson was arrested in November and charged the next month with molesting a 12-year-old cancer victim at his Neverland Ranch.

Santa Barbara County DA Tom Sneddon may seek to arrest Jackson insiders Frank Tyson and Vinnie Amen on charges they tried to hold the alleged victim's mother at Neverland after her son appeared last year with Jacko on a British TV documentary — holding The Gloved One's hand.

After the show was aired, a Los Angeles schoolteacher called a child-abuse hotline, sparking an investigation of Jackson by the Sensitive Case Unit of the L.A. Department of Children & Family Services.

st, Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Tyson and Amen may be charged with detaining the woman against her will while they tried to obtain passports for her, the boy and the rest of their family — purportedly to whisk them away to Brazil to prevent them talking to authorities, the sources said.

When that ploy failed, the pair allegedly duped — or forced — the boy's mother to sign a document saying Jacko never abused the child.

The statement is said to have scuttled the child-abuse investiga-

tion — the child-welfare agency and the LAPD-Wilshire Division found allegations that the child's mother neglected him and Jackson had sexually abused him to be unfounded.

Sources said Tyson and Amen have hired prominent New York lawyer Joseph Tacopina, who defended Abner Louima cop Thomas Wiese, to represent them.

Tacopina confirmed he's been retained and said Tyson and Amen "believe in Michael Jackson's innocence as they do in their own."

nypost.com

22