

GALL-STAR IN A FANTASY LEAGUE



REAL DEAL: It's easy to see why a con man wanted to be former Yankee pitcher Steve Karsay (left), with girlfriend Liana Feltrin.

Yankee impostor lived high life for years

By DAREH GREGORIAN

The con man who's been posing as former Yankees pitcher Steve Karsay was in a fantasy league of his own, authorities said yesterday.

Shortly after being nabbed for skipping out on a restaurant bill while pretending to be the former reliever, the 6-foot-6 Jonathan Henry told detectives, "I go by 'Steve Karsay' to get into bars and clubs," the criminal complaint says.

"I sometimes get free drinks," cops quoted Henry as saying. Law-enforcement sources said many of those drinks weren't meant to be free — Henry would simply run out on the tab.

That's what he allegedly did in June at the Bryant Park Grill — where staffers remembered him when he returned earlier this week and called the cops.

At Henry's arraignment on misdemeanor criminal-impersonation and theft-of-services charges, prosecutor Megan Hast said investigators are probing a number of similar cases.

Law-enforcement sources said they believe Henry, who has a lengthy criminal record in Florida and New York, has been scamming his way through city hot spots as Karsay for two years.

Henry, who allegedly told cops he'd "been drinking heavily and

using cocaine," was ordered held on \$5,000 bail for running out on the \$31 bill.

Dressed in a dark pinstripe suit with a T-shirt underneath, the slim 42-year-old with the slicked-back hair was silent during the proceeding. He did bear a slight resemblance to Queens native Karsay, who pitched for the Yankees between 2002 and 2005 and is now retired.

Barry Meyerson, the head of the high-end security firm Meyerson Associates, said he believes Henry is the same Karsay impersonator who's been on his company's "watch list" for the past year.

He said the man talked his way

past publicists at numerous big-ticket charity events, often with a blond, on his arm. "He said he was Steve Karsay and would even sign autographs under that name," Meyerson said.

He discovered the man was an impersonator while chatting with a current Yankees player at one event, and asked him if he wanted to say hi to his old teammate Karsay. "The guy said, 'That's not Steve Karsay,'" Meyerson recalled.

Meyerson said his company has blocked him from crashing about a dozen events since, most recently a party at the Guggenheim on July 6.

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