

## BUST 4 IN BRUTAL BEATING

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As four suspects were collared in a weekend mob attack that left a 16-year-old Staten Island boy in a coma, the victim's parents cursed the thugs and prayed for a miracle.

"Bastards!" whispered a tearful Graceanna Monforte yesterday as she kept a vigil for her son, Salvatore Monforte, at Staten Island University Hospital.

"I can't believe how vicious they are," she said. "I can't imagine all those kids on one helpless boy. It doesn't make sense how they could be so mean."

Up to 20 young men may have been involved in the attack at the Annadale train station on Staten Island, police said.

Detectives believe the attack stemmed from a beef that Salvatore's friends got into at a First Communion party in New Jersey.

Police rounded up four suspects from Staten Island yesterday, including two 15-year-olds, Joseph Codd and James Doherty, who will be prosecuted as adults. Also arrested on charges of gang assault were David Roldan, 17, and Jonathan Gardell, 16.

"My son is like a peacemaker. He's not a troublemaker," said Monforte, 35, as she showed the Daily News photographs of her badly bruised son, whom doctors put in a drug-induced coma to control swelling in his brain. "The doctor said he's a very lucky boy to be alive today. He said one more blow to the head, and that could have been it."

### Caring friends

More than 40 of the teen's friends have sat each day with his mother and father, Salvatore Monforte Jr., at the hospital as they wait for news on the New Dorp High School sophomore's fate.

The attack occurred at 1 a.m. Sunday, as Salvatore and two pals headed home after dropping off his girlfriend.

Just as Salvatore and his buddies reached the Annadale Staten Island Rapid Transit station, two carloads of teens piled out and began chasing the three on foot, police said.

Monforte said her son's friends, who suffered minor injuries in the attack, told her Salvatore was beaten as he tried to reason with the mob.

His friends told her that Salvatore was hit on the head with a Snapple bottle when he turned to walk away. He then fell back and hit his head on the steps leading up to the station platform.

Before the attack, his mother said, "He called me and left me a message on my machine saying, 'I'll be home at 1, Mom. I love you.' "