Joe Scales - one who ‘got away’

By JAY GRELIN
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Joe Scales was the one that got away.
Of the more than 20 police officers who had the chance to arrest him, only about four said they would have.

His cheeks were rosy. He smiled a lot. He smelled of alcohol. But he walked nine steps down a line and back, counted backwards from 67 to 54, and stood on one leg with his other leg extended while he said one-thousand-thirty.

Scales fooled most of the officers who tested him Monday. Even he said he didn’t feel drunk.

But the breath analysis test pegged him at .12. The legal is .10. Scales was intoxicated.

Two other men — who both registered .14 — didn’t fool anybody.
Then there were two men who registered below .10 who showed more signs of inebriation than Scales.

Scales — a Morning Advocate reporter — and the four other men were volunteers in the first day of a two-day seminar designed to teach police officers a battery of three field sobriety tests.

The seminar is being sponsored in Baton Rouge by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration because the city is one of 10 federally funded DWI Targets of Opportunity.

(See JOE, 48)