

1
2
3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
4 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
5

6 J&J SPORTS PRODUCTIONS, INC.,

7 Plaintiff(s),

No. C 12-1704 PJH

8 v.

**ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE
JUDGE'S REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION**

9 MICHAEL D. PARAYNO,

10 Defendant(s).
11 _____/

12 The court has reviewed Magistrate Judge Spero's Report and Recommendation
13 ("report") re plaintiff's motion for default judgment, as well as plaintiff's objections to the
14 report. In its objections, plaintiff J&J Sports Productions, Inc. ("plaintiff") objects to three
15 specific findings of Judge Spero's report: (1) the award of damages being made under 47
16 U.S.C. § 553, rather than 47 U.S.C. § 605; (2) the \$4,000 award of statutory damages; and
17 (3) the denial of enhanced damages.

18 As to the first issue, the court notes that the report provides extensive support for the
19 idea that, where the method of interception is unknown, section 553 should be applied
20 rather than section 605 because "cable boxes are more easily hidden and more likely to be
21 the source of transmission. J&J Sports Productions, Inc. v. Basto, 2011 WL 2197756 at *3
22 (N.D. Cal. June 6, 2011). The report also noted that at least one other case has found that,
23 if plaintiff wanted to prove a violation of section 605, it could have filed a third-party
24 subpoena or requested an order for inspection. In short, plaintiff does not provide any
25 arguments that were not already considered by Judge Spero, and because the court
26 agrees with the reasoning of the report, plaintiff's objection to the recommendation to
27 award damages under section 553 is OVERRULED.

28 As to both issues (2) and (3), plaintiff argues that the recommended damages
awards do not adequately address deterrence, which plaintiff argues is the "primary goal" of


1 damage awards for piracy. And specifically as to issue (3), plaintiff argues that Judge
2 Spero did not adequately consider the effect of the cover charge in this case, which plaintiff
3 argues is the “hallmark consideration of enhanced damages.”

4 Plaintiff is correct that a number of the cases cited in the report did not involve a
5 cover charge. However, the report does cite to a case involving the same defendant, who
6 charged a higher cover charge than was charged in this case, had more patrons in
7 attendance than were in attendance in this case, and who evaded paying a higher licensing
8 fee than the licensing fee in this case. J&J Sports Productions, Inc. v. Parayno, 2012 WL
9 3277279 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 10, 2012). In that case, no enhanced damages were awarded.
10 And even more crucially, the interception at issue in this case actually occurred before the
11 interception at issue in the already-decided Parayno case. Thus, if enhanced damages
12 were not warranted in that case, they are even less warranted in this case, because any
13 arguments that defendant is a repeat offender who needs to be deterred are inapplicable in
14 this specific case. And given the lower cover charge, number of patrons, and licensing fee
15 in this case, the court finds no justification for awarding enhanced damages after such
16 damages had already been denied in the other Parayno case.

17 Accordingly, the court OVERRULES plaintiff’s objections to Judge Spero’s report
18 and ADOPTS it in every respect. The court finds the report correct, well-reasoned, and
19 thorough, and adopts it in every respect. Accordingly, plaintiff’s motion for default judgment
20 is GRANTED as to plaintiff’s claim under 47 U.S.C. § 553 and its claim for conversion.
21 Plaintiff is awarded \$4,000 in statutory damages under section 553, and \$1,200 for his
22 conversion claim. Plaintiff’s claims under 47 U.S.C. § 605 and Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §
23 17200 are DISMISSED with prejudice.

24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25 Dated: February 19, 2013

26 
27 _____
28 PHYLLIS J. HAMILTON
United States District Judge