

SUSPECT IN 4 SLAYINGS IS CONVICTED OF ARMED ROBBERY

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An Oakland County jury took just 17 minutes Friday to find **Damien Dorris** guilty of three counts of armed robbery, a conviction that will keep him in jail as Wayne County officials prepare to try him in four slayings.

Dorris , dressed in a white T-shirt and blue jeans, shrugged, yawned and looked at his nails as the verdict was read.

After a daylong trial in which **Dorris** sat slumped in his chair drawing crude pictures of houses and cars on a yellow legal pad, jurors found him guilty of robbing the 7-Eleven store on 12 Mile in Berkley on Sept. 14. He was accused of pointing a handgun at the cashier and two customers, taking their money and forcing them to lie facedown on the floor.

Dorris , 26, and Andre Stallworth, 26, both of Detroit, were arrested when **Dorris** , fleeing police after the holdup, crashed his car on Woodward Avenue in Pleasant Ridge.

His arrest was a break for police across southeast Michigan who had been searching for **Dorris** , the suspect in a triple homicide in April, the July 4 shooting death of a Detroit man and armed robberies in several communities.

Police say **Dorris** , armed with an AK47 assault rifle, fired into a car parked outside a party in Detroit in April, killing Dendra Dillard, 23; Chamise Washington, 21, and Vernon Baggette, 22.

Three months later, they say, he shot and killed Glenn Scott, 20, because **Dorris** believed Scott had been talking to **Dorris** ' former girlfriend.

He is to go on trial in the slayings in the spring. Stallworth pleaded guilty to the 7-Eleven robbery but has not yet been sentenced and may testify against **Dorris** in future trials.

Dorris made national headlines in 1993 when, at age 15, he walked up to a pregnant woman using an ATM in Detroit and shot her in the head. He escaped with \$80, which he divvied up with neighborhood children.

He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, was sent to a juvenile facility and was released by law at age 21.

Oakland County's armed robbery case against **Dorris** was overwhelming. Four surveillance cameras in the 7-Eleven caught him and Stallworth sticking up the store, and he confessed -- on camera -- to a local TV crew as he was being led in handcuffs to his arraignment.

He said he was sorry for the robbery but needed the money to finance his life on the run.

In addition to the armed robbery counts, jurors also found him guilty of three counts of using a gun during a felony, fleeing and eluding police and possession of marijuana.

Friday's conviction was no surprise to prosecutors but still came as a relief.

"It's good to know that he is going to be behind bars for a very, very long time," said Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Ken Frazee.

Dorris ' reaction to the verdict -- he laughed as he was led out of court in shackles -- dismayed his attorney.

"The facts were overwhelming, and the videotape from television didn't help," said attorney Howard Arnkoff, "but he doesn't seem to understand that his life, as he now knows it, is over."

Dorris will be sentenced to up to life in prison when he appears before Judge Fred Mester on Feb. 2.

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Caption: Photo

Jurors took only 17 minutes to convict **DamienDorris** , 26, in the September robbery of a 7-Eleven.

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Correction: * An article in Friday's Local News section about Damien Dorris , who was recently convicted of armed robbery, incorrectly said he was 15 when he committed the murder of a pregnant woman. He was 14.

Index Terms: Damien Dorris; verdict ; guilty ; repeat offender ; armed robbery ; suspect ; Detroit ; multiple homicide ; summary

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