

MAN CONVICTED OF 2 ASSAULTS ON EAST SIDE

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Samson Koger, a suspect in dozens of sexual assaults in the Lafayette Park area, was found guilty Wednesday of two rapes on Detroit's near east side.

Koger, 19, was convicted by Recorder's Court Judge Leonard Townsend, who heard the trials without a jury. On Tuesday, Townsend convicted Koger of two other attacks.

Koger -- whose guilty plea with a 20-to-40-year sentence in the four cases was rejected as too lenient -- faces up to life in prison at his Aug. 5 sentencing on first-degree criminal sexual conduct charges.

In the first trial Wednesday, a 40-year-old doctor testified Koger pulled a gun on her in a parking lot in the 1000 block of Trevor Place in the morning of Dec. 12. She testified Koger robbed and sexually assaulted her.

In the second trial Wednesday, Koger was convicted of assaulting and robbing a 42-year-old woman in a parking lot in the 2900 block of E. Lafayette the night of Nov. 6.

On Tuesday, he was convicted of raping and robbing a 21-year-old woman, attacked Jan. 11 in the same parking lot, and convicted of attacking a 34-year-old woman the night of Jan. 17.

Koger was arrested in February by off-duty police officer Gerald Thomas. Thomas, who had seen composite sketches of the suspect, became suspicious of Koger, who he saw near a parking lot on E. Lafayette.

Investigators believe that Koger may be responsible for as many as 30 attacks in the east-side neighborhood.

Police took confessions from Koger after his arrest. He later claimed the confessions were coerced.

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