

## **WOMAN DESCRIBES NEAR-FATAL BEATING - JURORS HEAR HER TESTIMONY AGAINST SLAYING SUSPECT**

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With a violent grip around her neck, the woman gagged and grabbed at her attacker's hands before he bashed her head with a brick.

"I knew I was going to die," she told a Wayne County jury Wednesday during the trial of a suspect in a series of killings.

The woman, 46, was the prostitute who prosecutors say broke open the case of a serial killer stalking prostitutes on the east side of Detroit. Between 1999 and 2005, they say, the man killed at least seven women.

**Shelly Brooks** is on trial before Wayne County Circuit Judge Vonda Evans on a charge of first-degree murder in connection with the killing of 32-year-old Pamela Greer. She was found bludgeoned to death in a vacant apartment building in February 2002.

He is accused of killing six other women, but has yet to go to trial on those charges. He also is charged with raping the woman who testified Wednesday. The Free Press generally does not identify rape victims.

On June 26, the woman said, she knew **Brooks** by the nickname "E." She said she smoked a \$5 rock of crack cocaine with him in exchange for oral sex.

About 10 minutes later, she said, they entered a vacant house at Hickory and Linhurst to smoke more crack.

"He grabbed and threw me down and started strangling me," she testified.

She said **Brooks** then grabbed a brick and repeatedly struck her in the forehead before dragging her into another room, stripping off her clothes and raping her.

Barely conscious, she said, she told **Brooks** she heard someone coming. He took off and she stumbled out half-dressed and received help from a nearby resident.

"He beat me so bad that I had to have a blood transfusion," she said.

She testified that she later picked **Brooks** out of a lineup.

**Brooks** was jailed July 30 and a prosecutor said he made 10 confessions to police in the killings. **Brooks** has said police beat him to make him confess. A scientist also testified Wednesday that **Brooks**' DNA matched samples taken from several women, including Greer.

"He grabbed and threw me down and started strangling me." Testimony from a prostitute in the trial of **Shelly Brooks**, who is accused of killing Pamela Greer

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: **Shelly Brooks** says he was forced into confessions.

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