

REPUTED DRUG ASSASSIN GUILTY

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, April 30, 1988

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Reputed drug -gang assassin Reginald (Rockin' Reggie) Brown was convicted Friday of murdering a close associate of Richard Wershe Jr. and wounding another man last year on Detroit's east side.

A Recorder's Court jury deliberated 2 1/2 hours before convicting Brown of second-degree murder in September's fatal shooting of Steve Roussell in a house in the 13600 block of Glenwood. Brown, the alleged leader of Best Friends, a **reputed** murder-for-hire gang, also was convicted of assault with intent to murder for wounding Patrick McCloud, 17.

Brown, awaiting trial in two other homicides and two assaults, faces a maximum life sentence at his May 20 sentencing before Judge George Crockett III.

McCloud testified he and Roussell were sleeping in the living room when he was awakened by gunfire and saw Brown shooting. McCloud said he tried to run but was shot in the back.

Defense witnesses testified Brown was in Royal Oak at the time of the shootings.

Two weeks before the killing, Brown was placed on probation for assaulting Roussell in what investigators characterized as a dispute over cocaine.

Wershe -- widely known as White Boy Rick and now serving a life sentence for cocaine possession -- figured in Brown's trial when officers testified he showed up at the scene soon after the shooting. Roussell, according to authorities, listed Rick's Video, owned by the Wershe family, as his employer.

A safe with about \$30,000 in cash was found on the second floor of the house. The money was forfeited in a separate hearing as **drug** proceeds, although defense attorneys argued the money was from the video shop.

A few weeks before the shooting, Wershe was charged with possession of cocaine when police arrested him during a raid on another east-side house rented by Roussell. He was acquitted of that charge.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 4A;

Index Terms: DRUG; HOMICIDE ; SHOOTING ; COURT

Record Number: 8801200290

Copyright (c) 1988 Detroit Free Press