

PONY DOWN LEADER GETS JAIL

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Larry Buttrom, a **leader** in the notorious **Pony Down** drug organization known for selling heroin and cocaine on city streets, was sentenced Friday to 6 1/2 years in federal prison.

Buttrom, 30, of Detroit, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Horace Gilmore to charges of distributing heroin and cocaine. Gilmore recommended Buttrom be sent to a correctional institution with drug counseling facilities, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Wally Piszczatowski.

As a chief lieutenant in the **Pony Down** ring, Buttrom was responsible for obtaining heroin and cocaine and supervising distribution of the drugs, said Piszczatowski.

"He definitely helped call the shots," Piszczatowski said.

Buttrom was arrested in Detroit in May. He was one of 32 **Pony Down** members arrested since November, said Piszczatowski.

Buttrom's half-brother, Leroy Buttrom Willis Jr., who organized and managed **Pony Down**, was sentenced in May to 12 years in prison and fined \$100,000, said Piszczatowski.

Piszczatowski and sources within the Drug Enforcement Administration said the arrests eliminated the major structure of the **Pony Down** ring, which he said was active from 1983 to 1985.

Pony Down's alleged second in command, Robert Latine, of Detroit, remains at large, according to a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney.

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