

SLAIN DRUG FIGURE FORETOLD A FAST END

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The odds finally caught up with **Demetrius Holloway** .

He had dodged indictments and rivals for five years before dying a gangster's death Monday afternoon, gunned down in the Broadway clothing store with \$14,000 and a .32-caliber pistol in his pocket.

A reputed drug lord who federal agents once said ran 80 percent of Detroit's cocaine trade, **Holloway** had described himself as a newspaper carrier, a postal clerk, a landlord, sports shop entrepreneur and a pool hall manager.

And for a while, he was a survivor, evading killers and convictions that dogged his boyhood pals and later associates such as Richard (Maserati Rick) Carter, Timothy Peoples and Richard (White Boy Rick) Wersche Jr.

Another childhood friend, Thomas Hearn, collected boxing titles instead of a rap sheet.

Brian Sullivan, Hearn's lawyer, said, "Some of those kids went bad and some went good."

Most often, **Holloway** , 32, said he was a gambler.

Holloway evidently had been in a fast game since he left federal prison in 1985. Steven Fishman, his lawyer at a federal hearing last month, said, "We would all be naive to not be aware that Mr. **Holloway** . . . has been under investigation by federal authorities for some time."

In 1980, **Holloway** , after a brief career as a postal clerk, went into federal prison as a thief and burglar. He picked up a drug conviction there, and met William Van Lewis, who made him manager of his Chalk & Cue pool hall on West 7 Mile Road. Eventually Lewis passed the whole operation to **Holloway** .

Holloway told federal authorities he parlayed part of a \$50,000 legacy from his grandfather Charles Ferdinand Hyman into three sport shops.

Holloway also bought land in Alabama and set up Renters Paradise, a company to oversee several Detroit apartment buildings he owned that brought in about \$17,000 a month. He testified he couldn't keep track of every venture his inheritance fueled.

Then there was the gambling.

"I mean when you talk about gambling," he said, "I'm, you know, like a boxer. I'm punch-drunk."

He said he was flush with winnings from local race tracks, cards and rolling dice in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, where one session ended with him up by \$125,000.

Authorities had another version of **Holloway** 's success story.

In one affidavit, Mark German, an agent with the Detroit office of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, said **Holloway** was "responsible for approximately 80 percent of the cocaine distributed in Detroit."

Eventually, his shops, apartments, several cars and a house were seized by federal officials as proceeds of drug trafficking. When he died, **Holloway** was fighting another federal seizure, for more than \$90,000.

In 1986, **Holloway** was carrying more than \$35,000 cash when he was arrested in Detroit in connection with disorderly conduct. That year, two alleged juvenile drug couriers identified him as their boss. Also in 1986, Detroit police arrested **Holloway** outside a dope house and found more than \$92,000 in his car.

Meanwhile, U.S. Customs agents in the Bahamas were arresting women traveling in groups with kilo packages of cocaine bound for Detroit.

The smugglers were recruited largely in Detroit and paid \$1,500 a trip by **Holloway** 's organization, according to court records of the 1986 and 1987 Customs investigation.

In federal hearings, **Holloway** acknowledged knowing Wersche, now serving life without parole for cocaine possession; the Chambers Brothers, who ran a crack cocaine trade in Detroit until federal court convictions; the Curry Brothers, a major drug organization of the early 1980s, and Frank Usher, a convicted drug dealer.

But **Holloway** took the Fifth Amendment against self- incrimination when asked about them and insisted he was just a gambler. He said he did not own a car, a bank account or anything much beyond his apartments.

In 1988, after his friend Carter was killed, **Holloway** staged his own kidnapping and went into hiding. He returned to Detroit after several months and lived in his wife's home near Palmer Park.

When **Holloway** was killed, it was rumored that a federal grand jury drug indictment against him was imminent.

Holloway told federal officials that gamblers often check out fast: "When you leave, you just leave and say, 'OK, I'm gone.' "

Caption: Photo JOHN LUKE

: The Broadway clothing store on Broadway downtown, where reputed drug figure **Demetrius Holloway** was shot to death Monday. rime; Detroit; Drugs; **DemetriusHolloway** ; analysis

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