

## 14-YEAR-OLD WON'T FIGHT SCHOOL RAPE CASE - 2 OTHER TEEN SUSPECTS REJECT PROPOSED PLEA BARGAIN

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Author: JACK KRESNAK FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

In an agreement with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, a 14-year-old Detroit boy pleaded no contest as a juvenile Thursday for his role in the alleged sexual assault of a 12-year-old Hutchins Middle School seventh-grader in May.

The boy appeared at a brief hearing before Wayne County Juvenile Court Judge Frances Pitts. He pleaded no contest to fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, a misdemeanor, and will be sentenced on Jan. 31.

Under the agreement, the boy will not receive an adult sentence. He will be placed under the supervision of the Wayne County Department of Community Justice for two years. The department provides a variety of services to thousands of delinquent youths through a network of private agencies.

Also Thursday, Wayne County Circuit Judge Patricia Fresard said the trial of two older teens accused in the case will begin on Monday.

The two 15-year-olds, **Audi Dawson** and Dominique Brown, are charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct, which carries upon conviction a maximum penalty of life in prison.

**Dawson** and Brown declined offers from the prosecutor's office to plead guilty to lesser charges.

The proposed deal for Brown was not disclosed in court. But **Dawson's** lawyer, Todd Russell Perkins, placed the terms of the prosecutor's offer on the record Thursday.

Perkins told Fresard that, in exchange for pleading guilty to third-degree criminal sexual conduct, **Dawson** would expect a 3-to-15-year prison sentence.

After **Dawson** finished parole, the prosecutor's office would then ask the court to reduce the charge to a misdemeanor, fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, and expunge **Dawson's** criminal record. **Dawson** and his mother declined the offer, Perkins said.

A jury was selected on Wednesday to hear **Dawson's** case. On Thursday, a jury to hear Brown's case had not been selected because of the plea negotiations.

The 12-year-old girl told police she was lured out of her classroom on May 1 by the 14-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl and taken to a fourth-floor hallway -- where she was surprised to find **Dawson** and Brown.

The girl said **Dawson** carried her to an attic area in the school and raped her while Brown and the 13-year-old girl held her. The girl said the boy who pleaded guilty Thursday held her briefly but fled after saying he wanted nothing to do with it.

The seventh-grader told a teacher what happened after other children teased her at lunch.

The 13-year-old girl pleaded guilty Monday in juvenile court to a misdemeanor sex charge.

All of the children now attend other schools.

Contact JACK KRESNAK at 313-223-4544 or [kresnak@freepress.com](mailto:kresnak@freepress.com).

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