

**DETROIT JURY: BROTHERS ARE DRUG KINGS; [NORTH SPORTS FINAL, C Edition]**

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Four brothers accused of running a cocaine ring that controlled half of Detroit's crack houses were convicted Friday on drug and related charges.

Larry, Billy Joe, Otis and Willie Chambers were among eight people convicted by a U.S. District Court jury that had spent three days reviewing weeks of testimony.

Prosecutors said the Chambers brothers reigned over Detroit's largest crack cocaine operation, supplying up to half of the city's 1,000 crack houses with the drug.

"They controlled the cocaine, they controlled the houses, they controlled the workers who handled cocaine," Assistant U.S. Atty. Lawrence Bunting said in closing arguments.

No sentencing date was set by Judge Richard Suhrheinrich, who revoked bond for the defendants.

Several former gang members testified during the trial that the Chamberses used promises of excitement and big money to lure people-many from the brothers' hometown of Marianna, Ark.-to Detroit. Gang members said they were paid up to \$1,500 a week, but also said they were kept in line with threats of physical punishment and even death.

Defense attorneys throughout the trial had criticized prosecution witnesses, saying they had been paid and promised immunity for testifying against the gang.

Larry and Billy Joe Chambers could face up to life in prison for their convictions on operating a continuing criminal enterprise. Larry Chambers also was convicted of illegal firearms possession, cocaine possession and conspiracy. Billy Joe Chambers also was convicted of cocaine possession and conspiracy. Both pleaded guilty earlier to income-tax evasion.

Willie Chambers, whose case was heard by Suhrheinrich instead of the jury, was convicted of conspiracy and tax evasion.

Otis Chambers, Belinda Lumpkin, Jerry Lee Gant, Marshall Glenn and Eric Lamar Wilkins were convicted of conspiracy. Elaine Coleman Lucas was convicted of cocaine possession. They could face up to 20 years each in prison.