

GOINS CONVICTED IN KILLING OF OFFICER

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, November 12, 1982

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A Recorder's Court jury, **in** a compromise verdict, convicted Cary Goins Thursday of two lesser charges **in** the March 28 shooting death of undercover Detroit policeman William Green and the critical wounding of his partner.

The jury took two hours and 40 minutes before convicting Goins, 17, an alleged member of Young Boys Inc., of involuntary manslaughter, assault with intent to commit great bodily harm less than **murder** and using a firearm during a felony.

Goins, who said he shot the officers because he thought they were robbers "trying to hurt my friends," faces a maximum 15- year prison sentence on the manslaughter charge, after a mandatory two-year term on the firearm violation.

"I'VE GOT to be pleased with this," said a happy Paul Curtis, Goins' defense attorney. "I consider it a victory. If it (the jury) had come back second-degree **murder**, Mr. Goins could be looking at some real basketball scores (long prison sentences)."

Charged with first -degree **murder** and assault with intent to **murder**, Goins faced a mandatory life prison sentence with no parole on the **murder** charge and up to life on the assault count.

Recorder's Court Judge Richard Hathaway, who presided at the six-day trial, set Nov. 23 for sentencing.

Green's partner, Eric Byers, who survived when Goins' bullet missed his heart by inches, looked stricken when told of the verdict.

"They did what?" he asked. "I need to think a while."

GANG SQUAD officers Byers and Green -- who was killed with a single bullet **in** the middle of his forehead -- were making a curfew check of a group of youths walking on Woodward at Leicester when they were shot. Goins testified he ran up **in** "a hop, skip and a jump" and started firing.

Saying he did not recognize the Plymouth sedan as an unmarked police car, Goins said he reacted to **men's** guns. "I didn't give them a chance to (explain)," he told the jury.

Assistant Prosecutor Timothy Kenny would not comment on the verdict , but he had told the jurors that if Goins' story were true, the killing was still manslaughter because he acted so rashly.

Jury foreman Virgil Massie, 46, called the verdict a compromise and said : "There was a lot of doubt **in** our minds about his intent."

Juror Christopher Lawson, 23, said he was unsure whether Goins recognized the unmarked scout car: "I might recognize it, but that's not to say for sure that someone else did . . . Yesterday we were deciding what clothes to wear, and today we're deciding the rest of someone's life. You want to be sure."

Caption: Pix

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: TRIAL ; END

Record Number: 8301200282

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