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Published: May 13, 2011

Updated: May 16, 2011 - 2:17 PM

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Dothan man convicted of capital murder

By Staff Reports



A jury convicted Everett Morton on Friday of capital murder in a 2006 Dothan shooting, then unanimously recommended life imprisonment without parole instead of death.

Circuit Judge Mike Conaway set a sentencing hearing for June 29.

Morton, 24, was convicted in the shooting death of Patrick Dixon on April 29, 2006. The jury also convicted Morton of attempted murder for injuries suffered by Tyrance Byrd during the same shooting.

District Attorney Doug Valeska argued Morton was the mastermind in the shooting that left Dixon dead during the drug-related robbery. Dixon died from the injuries he suffered in the shooting that happened near the intersection of Hamilton Street and Third Avenue.

Dothan police also charged Michael James, 22, and Marcus Rivers, 24, each with capital murder and attempted murder. James already pleaded guilty to a lesser murder charge along with the attempted murder charge. He received a 30-year prison term as part of the plea agreement.

Morton testified Thursday he called Dixon to make a marijuana purchase, but only after both James and Rivers had discussed robbing him. Morton said he knew Dixon because he'd bought marijuana from him on at least 20 occasions prior to the murder.

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