

Life sentence given in Olathe homicide

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An Olathe man who claimed he was acting out of fear when he shot, stabbed and drowned a drug dealer was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison.

Michael P. Davidson will have to serve 25 years of the sentence handed down in Johnson County District Court before he can seek parole.

A jury in October found Davidson, 27, guilty of first-degree murder in the death last February of Al Dee Harris.

Davidson told the judge Wednesday that Harris wouldn't leave the

defendant's house.

"He was very violent," Davidson said. "I begged the man to stay away from my house."

A co-defendant, Tracy Maddox, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced earlier this week to five years in prison.

According to testimony at Davidson's trial, Harris was sitting on a couch inside Davidson's house in Olathe smoking crack cocaine when Davidson walked behind him and shot him in the head.

Harris and Davidson then began struggling over the gun, and Maddox, who was asleep in another room, came in and struck Harris in the head with an automobile jack.

Davidson then used a knife to stab and cut Harris. Harris' body was put into a bathtub.

Davidson later told a friend that when Harris started moving, he filled the tub with water and held Harris under until he stopped struggling.

Davidson and Maddox dumped the body in a Miami County farm field, where it was discovered in April.

Davidson did not testify at trial. But jurors watched the taped statement he gave to police in which he claimed that Harris threatened him and said he was going to have sex with Davidson's wife.

On Wednesday, Davidson told

District Judge Thomas Bornholdt that Harris was always at his house smoking and dealing drugs, sometimes with "gangbangers."

"You do things when you're scared," he told the judge.

Defense attorney Kevin Loeffler told the judge that Harris' actions should be taken into account.

"Had the victim simply left when he was told to, none of this would have ever happened," he said.

But Assistant District Attorney Mike Warner told the judge Wednesday that the crime was a "brutal, premeditated murder committed in an atrocious way."

"It stereotypes first-degree murder," Warner said.