



**Bag of 'muddy, bloody, wet' clothing found in murder suspect's home**

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GREENVILLE, Ky. (AP) - Police found a bag of "muddy, bloody and wet" clothes under the bed during a second household search of the man charged in the kidnapping, rape and murder of a popular high school cheerleader, a detective testified Wednesday.

Police also found bloody shoeprints inside the abandoned mini-van that the victim was driving and on the frost-covered pier at the small lake where her body was found, according to testimony and court documents unsealed Wednesday.

The shoeprints matched the size and type of sneakers that the suspect was wearing when he was arrested. His fingerprints were found both inside and outside the mini-van.

After the brief preliminary hearing in Muhlenberg District Court, Judge Charles Ehlschide agreed to hand the criminal case to a grand jury for indictment. No date was set for the next grand jury to meet.

Wednesday's hearing was the first time that precise details surfaced in the Jan. 25 killing of 16-year-old Sarah Hansen. The slaying horrified this western Kentucky community of about 5,000 people.

Miss Hansen disappeared while driving to rent a movie for her family and boyfriend. Her parents called police after two hours, and searchers found her body in the nearby lake a short time later.

Police on Wednesday described a horrific scene, saying the popular honors student apparently was attacked inside the mini-van then carried and dragged with a slit throat about 700 feet to the lake. A blood trail marked the killer's path. An autopsy found water in her lungs, meaning she drowned.

During the hearing, the suspect, Robert Keith Woodall, 22, sat quietly in handcuffs, surrounded by a half-dozen armed officers. He refused to look up, even to glance at his father seated in the front row of the courtroom.

Police haven't said what led them to suspect Woodall, except to say that witnesses saw him at the movie rental store that evening.

Defense lawyers quickly pointed out Wednesday that the bag of clothes under Woodall's bed wasn't found when Kentucky State Police originally searched his apartment just after midnight on Jan. 28 - three days after the slaying. During that search, they found a single blood stain on the front door.

Police found the plastic bag with bloodstained blue jeans and gray hooded sweatshirt nearly 20 hours later during a second search. Woodall wasn't arrested until five hours after that second search.

The defense appeared to suggest that the bloody clothes might have been planted in Woodall's apartment.

State police Detective Mike Drake insisted that he had looked under the bed during the first search but found nothing, and testified that only Woodall and his girlfriend had access to the apartment.

Drake said he asked Woodall's girlfriend about the plastic bag of clothes, and said: "It was a surprise to her."

Defense lawyer Michael Williams also noted that preliminary tests found no blood stains on Woodall's sneakers, the ones he was wearing when originally interviewed by police. Drake said the shoes matched the size and pattern of those bloody shoeprints at the crime scene.

State police spokesman Bryan Pitney said later that blood stains are "almost impossible" to remove completely so that lab tests can't detect them. Additional tests on Woodall's sneakers are expected.

Court documents showed that police extracted hair samples, pubic hair, blood and saliva from Woodall. Those will be used to find whether his DNA matches semen found on Miss Hansen's body.

Pitney said it was unreasonable to expect that all tests on evidence be completed yet, saying some will take months.

Under cross-examination, Drake admitted that police can't find any witness who saw Woodall and Miss Hansen at the video store together, or anyone who saw Woodall leaving the store in the mini-van.

The judge also ruled on three requests by defense lawyers. He refused to impose a gag order to prevent police, prosecutors and others to talk

with reporters. He agreed to order police to preserve any evidence, and he agreed to pay up to \$1,000 from a local indigent-defense fund to hire private investigators to work on Woodall's behalf.

Williams asked for the gag order, saying he was worried about leaks to reporters.

"There haven't been any that I'm aware of," the judge said.

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