

Judge sentences Adams

YOUNGSTOWN — Sitting motionless and unemotional, Benny Lee Adams was convicted and sentenced for the kidnapping, raping and robbing of a Boardman woman in August 1985.

Last January Adams was considered a prime suspect in the death of 19-year-old YSU student Gina Tenney which is still under investigation.

For the three charges Adams received a verdict of guilty from the seven-man, five-woman jury. Mahoning County Common Pleas Judge William G. Houser imposed the maximum term on all three counts, then added an additional three years on accompanying gun specifications.

Adams was sentenced 33 to 75 years in prison for the kidnapping, raping and robbing of the Boardman woman. The 29-year-old won't be eligible for parole for more than 18 years, unless planned appeals of his conviction and sentence are successful.

Early this year the Mahoning County grand jury failed to indict Adams, who was accused of having in his possession Tenney's automatic bank teller card and her television set.

After Adams received attention due to Tenney's death, the Boardman woman came forward and identified him as the man who kidnapped, raped and robbed her in August 1985.

The Boardman woman was kidnapped, raped and robbed by Adams and co-defendant, Sam Smith, a 17-year-old who has pleaded guilty to identical charges in juvenile court and is awaiting sentencing.

During the trial, police said Adams, Smith and another accomplice bumped into the victim's car at the corner of Overhill and Glenwood Avenues the night of Aug. 14, 1985.

The three approached the car and put a gun to the victim's head and, along with Adams, kidnapped her.

At the West Warren Avenue home of Adams' mother, police said Adams and Smith repeatedly raped the victim who was at times blindfolded and tied in the basement.