

Gabel awaits trial, other cases pending

The prime suspect for the 1995 slaying of UNL student Martina McMenamin is one step closer to a trial.

Gregory Gabel waived his right to a preliminary hearing in county court last Tuesday, elevating his case to Lancaster District Court.

Gabel is accused of first-degree murder and use of a weapon to commit a felony. When Gabel appeared in court to enter a plea, he stood mute, the equivalent of a not guilty plea, deputy county attorney Joe Kelly said.

Gabel was arrested on June 26 after investigators matched DNA from his blood to a DNA analysis done on a strand of blond hair found in McMenamin's left hand at the crime scene.

After being sexually assaulted and beaten, McMenamin was stabbed to death in her Amberwood apartment, 4600 Briarpark Drive, on July 25.

Gabel will be arraigned in District Court on Sept. 11.

Peter serving 10-day sentence

Former NU defensive tackle Christian Peter is currently serving a 10-day jail sentence for a disturbing the peace charge related to an incident in March.

Peter was sentenced to jail time and a \$300 fine on May 21 for allegedly grabbing a woman around the neck in a bar in Kearney, Buffalo County deputy attorney Don Miller said.

Peter appealed the sentence and was

scheduled to have a hearing today, Miller said. His jail sentence was suspended until the appeal was completed.

Last Tuesday he reported to the Buffalo County Attorney and opted to serve his jail time immediately, Miller said. He will be released Aug. 29.

His appeal, which is still pending, may reduce the \$300 fine, Miller said.

Originally, Peter also was charged with third-degree assault. That charge was dropped because Amy Jacobson, Buffalo County attorney at that time, said it would be difficult to prove.

Washington case continues Sept. 12

A motion to suppress evidence in the case of former NU football player Riley Washington was denied in district court over the summer.

Defense attorneys for Washington asked the court to dismiss as evidence a set of photographs. Lincoln police showed the photographs to witnesses, some of whom identified Washington as the gunman in the 1995 shooting of Jermaine Cole.

On July 1, District Judge Bernard McGinn ruled that the photograph lineup was not unnecessarily suggestive of guilt, as the defense had claimed.

Last August, Washington pleaded not guilty to second-degree attempted murder for the shooting.

Witnesses in the case have been subpoenaed to appear in court again on Sept. 12.

-- Chad Lorenz



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