

Former Husker jailed for possessing firearm

BY JILL CONNER

Former Nebraska football player Abdul Muhammad remained in jail Tuesday after being charged with felony possession of a firearm March 20.

Muhammad, 28, turned himself into police March 18 after Robert Paylor IV was shot in southwest Omaha the same evening.

Muhammad was booked around noon on Sunday but was not charged.

Muhammad remained in custody Tuesday when he was charged.

Chief Deputy Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine said Muhammad's bond was set at \$750,000 with a 10 percent provision by a judge at a bond hearing.

Kleine did not comment about whether Muhammad was still under investigation for the murder but did say the investigation was ongoing.

Meg Fricke, spokeswoman for the Omaha Police Department, said Paylor was involved with gangs and served time in prison before he changed his ways.

Muhammad played wingback for NU from 1991 to 1994 and later worked for the football team as an undergraduate assistant coach.

Fricke said in 1997 Muhammad paid a fine for carrying a concealed weapon.

Muhammad was placed on probation the same year after he was convicted on a separate drug charge. His probation ended in 1998, she said.

Bill could establish quarter committee

■ The group of seven would be in charge of designing the back of the Nebraska coin.

BY GEORGE GREEN

Sen. Chris Beutler has to decide the state has to face the facts: "In the year 2006, we must display our tail to the nation."

And now, Beutler said, Nebraskans need to consider "whether we will do it with dignity."

The Lincoln senator wasn't referring to bare behinds. Rather, he was opening discussion on LB706, a bill that would establish the Nebraska State Quarter Design Committee.

This committee, Beutler said, would be charged with getting input from the community on the design that will

adorn the Nebraska edition of commemorative quarter collection.

Under a federal plan, each state gets to design a quarter's tail to represent it.

Lawmakers voted to advance the bill to the second round of debate.

If the bill passes two more rounds of debate, the state will form the coin committee, which will be made up of seven Nebraskans.

The bill mandates that these people be experts in the field of history, art, culture, coin collecting and design.

Sen. George Coordsen of Hebron explained an amendment that puts the committee under the watchful eye of the Secretary of State.

The state secretary would chair the committee and his or her office would serve as the

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Sen. Chris Beutler
Lincoln

group's hub of activity, he said.

Beutler said he hoped the committee would reach out to all Nebraskans.

In particular, he said, he wanted the group to venture into classrooms to get feedback from students, while also teaching them a little bit about their state.

These discussions will assure a "high quality design to represent the state," he said.

Once the group surveys the state it will choose five designs to forward on to the governor, who will then send the designs

to the Federal Mint.

If the Federal Mint approves the designs, it will send the ideas back, leaving the governor with the final call on the coin.

Chris Peterson, a spokesman for Gov. Mike Johanns, said the governor welcomed the extra help.

In fact, Peterson said, the governor envisioned some type of a community panel that would pull the design together.

"The governor wants a very open and inclusive process," he said.

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*1999 Ominibus study.

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