

MAN GETS PRISON IN RACING DEATHS

By Matt Gryta

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A Lackawanna truck driver today received the maximum prison term of one to four years for a Route 5 car race last year that killed three people in the other car and a woman in an oncoming car.

On April 22, a jury found Henry Muhlbauer, 48, guilty of four counts of criminally negligent homicide in the deaths on May 4, 1990. Victims were Dominic Cretacci, 21; his brother, John Cretacci, 16, and their cousin, Nicholas Starr, 8, all of 14th Street; and Barbara Izzo, 55, of Lake View.

In imposing the maximum possible sentence on the conviction, Erie County Judge Joseph P. McCarthy said the prison term "solves nothing," but does punish the defendant and might prompt other drivers to obey the "rules of the road."

Muhlbauer, a former Erie County Holding Center guard, told the judge he was sorry for the crash but insisted he still doesn't know why the crash occurred. "I think I got a fair trial, but I, myself, still do not know what happened," he said.

Witnesses testified that they saw Muhlbauer's car and the car driven by Dominic Cretacci speeding along rain-slicked Route 5 at about 9:30 p.m.

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