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DOTHAN EAGLE

Man found guilty in third murder trial

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OZARK — A Dale County jury found an Ozark man guilty of murder on Thursday at the conclusion of his third trial in the death of another man.

Antavis Mills, 24, was convicted of felony murder, attempted murder and first-degree kidnapping in relation to the death of Trent Clark and kidnapping of Dimitri Brown. Authorities said Clark was killed by Brown while Clark was attempting to kill Brown on June

25, 2009, at Beaver Pond near Skipperville.

Although Mills did not physically kill Clark, authorities said Mills was charged because of his involvement with the crimes surrounding Clark's death.

Mills was taken into custody Thursday and placed under no bond. He is expected to be sentenced later, when he could face 10 years to life in prison for each Class A felony conviction.

Dale County Circuit Judge P.B. McLaughlin had declared a mistrial in May and September 2011 after two different juries said

they couldn't reach a verdict after days of deliberation.

Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams said the jury deliberated about 30 minutes Wednesday and about three hours Thursday before reaching a verdict.

Mills maintained through court testimony that he told Clark he did not want to be involved after learning Clark had kidnapped Brown. Mills said Clark had a gun and insisted that Mills participate.

Dale County District Attorney Supernumerary David Emery

said Mills' story relating to details in the case changed throughout each trial, and that Mills had a cell phone during the crimes that he could have used to call for help for himself or Brown on multiple occasions.

Mills' attorney, Bill Kominos, said the case was the first in which he defended a client three times in the same case, though he said it was not uncommon for a mistrial to be declared at least once in a case.

It was not immediately clear whether Kominos planned to appeal.