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GULFPORT MAN GETS 20 YEARS FOR FATAL DUI POLICE SAY HOLLOWAY HAS 3 OTHER DUI CONVICTIONS

*SHARON FITZHUGH
THE SUN HERALD*

A Gulfport man convicted Thursday of driving drunk and causing an April 1993 accident that killed a teen-ager has been convicted three other times for DUI, at least once for driving drunk after the fatal wreck.

Circuit Court Judge Robert H. Walker sentenced Stephen Edward Holloway to 20 years in prison Thursday after a jury took one hour to find him guilty. Holloway, 42, was charged in Gulfport with driving under the influence of alcohol and driving without a license in February 1994, less than a year after the Tegarden Road accident that left Roy James Fiveash Jr., 17, of Gulfport dead. He was convicted in June 1994 and fined \$615, which he didn't pay.

In Louisiana, Holloway was convicted of DUI on April 26, 1994, and March 22, 1993, according to a spokesman at Louisiana State Police headquarters in Baton Rouge. The dates of arrests were not available.

Assistant District Attorney Stephen B. Simpson, who prosecuted the case, called Holloway a "bad drunk" during closing arguments Thursday and urged jury members to use their "God-given good common sense" when deciding the verdict.

"It's as strong as evidence that I've ever seen, that I've ever presented as a prosecutor in a DUI case," Simpson told the jury.

Defense attorney R. **Wayne Woodall** argued that prosecutors' case was "woefully inadequate," and said no one could have known what Holloway's blood-alcohol level was because of a several-hour lapse between the accident and the blood test.

Holloway, who had left the accident and gone to his apartment, had refused a breath test and other sobriety tests when officers came to his door within two hours after the accident.

After a search warrant was issued, Holloway's blood alcohol level was tested. Seven hours and 15 minutes after the accident, he tested at .19 percent, nearly twice the legal limit.

Woodall refused to comment after the verdict other than to say that he plans to ask for a new trial.

For the teen's mother, Gwen Scarborough, Thursday's verdict brought some closure. "It's over," she said while leaving the courthouse. "Now my son can rest in peace."

Staff Writer Margaret Baker contributed to this report.

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