

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
March 1, 2005**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

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LOUISVILLE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DRUGS AND FIREARMS CHARGES

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **MATCH DEON GUDGER**, age 26, of Louisville, Kentucky, was **found guilty** by a federal jury in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, of knowingly and intentionally possessing with the intent to distribute five grams or more of a mixture or substance which contained cocaine base, commonly known as "crack;" brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime; and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The jury's verdict of guilty was returned following a two-day trial before John G. Heyburn II, Chief Judge, United States District Court.

Gudger, a three-time convicted felon, was found guilty for having approximately 20 grams of "crack" cocaine and three firearms in his possession. The firearms included a 9 millimeter semi-automatic pistol, a .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol, and a .22 caliber revolver.

Louisville Metropolitan Police Department officials attempted to serve an arrest warrant on **Gudger** on March 11, 2004. **Gudger** ran from the police through the Park Hill Housing

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Development. He discarded a jacket containing a .22 caliber revolver and a large quantity of crack cocaine. While attempting to escape from the police, **Gudger** raised his shirt and showed two handguns in the front pockets of his pants. He told the officers they would have to shoot him while gesturing toward his own weapons. The officers, however, distracted **Gudger** long enough for one officer to tackle **Gudger**. After subduing him, the officers arrested **Gudger** and while searching him following the arrest, they found a large quantity of crack cocaine concealed in his underwear. The crack cocaine recovered from **Gudger**'s jacket and underwear was in a quantity and packaged in a fashion that is consistent with drug distribution.

The maximum potential penalties are life imprisonment, a \$4,500,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of eight years.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of local and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Thomas W. Dyke and Madison Sewell. It was investigated by the Louisville Metro Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Gudger is scheduled to be sentenced before Chief Judge John G. Heyburn II on May 26, 2005, at 1:30 p.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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