

EDIA RELEASE

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

**Contact: Hancy Jones III
Assistant United States Attorney
(502) 582-5911**

**LOUISVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 37 YEARS ON FEDERAL DRUG AND
FIREARM CHARGES**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **MATCH DEON GUDGER**, age 26, of 1011 South 32nd Street, Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, **was sentenced** 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.

Chief Judge John G. Heyburn II, United States District Court, sentenced **Gudger** to 37 years imprisonment, plus 8 years supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Gudger, a three-time convicted felon, was found guilty on March 1, 2005, after a two-day trial 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-

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automatic pistol, and a 22 caliber revolver.

In March 2004, **Gudger** was being sought by police because of an outstanding arrest warrant. On March 11, 2004 a detective of the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) received a tip that **Gudger** was in the Park Hill Housing Project area where the detective, along with other officers, went to locate and arrest **Gudger**.

When the detectives observed **Gudger** getting into a car and driving south on 13th Street through Park Hill, they followed him in two separate vehicles. **Gudger** turned onto Patton Court in the public housing area, stopped his car, and fled on foot to avoid being arrested. As he ran, he removed a black leather jacket he was wearing and threw it on the ground. Two of the detectives and a uniformed officer chased **Gudger** through the housing project in an attempt to capture him. Meanwhile, a detective retrieved **Gudger's** black leather jacket which contained a baggie of crack cocaine and a .22 caliber revolver.

Gudger eventually stopped running and turned to face the detectives who had pursued him. The officers observed that **Gudger** was still armed with what appeared to be two semi-automatic pistols, one in each pocket of his jeans. **Gudger** told the officers that he had two guns and that they would have to shoot him. **Gudger** continued to walk and to threaten the officers who had their service weapons drawn and trained him.

Another detective arrived on the scene to see **Gudger** in this armed confrontation with the other officers, and this detective drew her service weapon and yelled at **Gudger** in order to distract his attention from the other two officers. **Gudger** turned and walked towards the detective who had yelled at him, pulled the weapons out of his pockets far enough to show them to her, and told her that she'd better shoot him because he was going to shoot her.

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She could see that **Gudger** had one hand on each of the semi-automatic pistols in his pockets.

A crowd gathered around the officers and **Gudger**. One of the detectives who had originally pursued **Gudger** noticed that **Gudger** had turned his attention towards the detective who had yelled at him and was advancing towards her. In spite of the dangerous situation, this detective holstered his weapon, tackled **Gudger** from behind, placed him in handcuffs, and arrested him. A pat-down search by one of the LMPD officers revealed two more baggies of crack cocaine wrapped for sale concealed in **Gudger's** underwear. **Gudger** struggled with the officers and attempted to head-butt one of the detectives, but, ultimately, **Gudger** was taken from the scene without injury to himself or any of the officers.

Gudger was initially charged in Jefferson Circuit Court with a variety of criminal offenses, but he was charged later in a federal indictment with possession of cocaine base with the intent to distribute, using or carrying a firearm during and in relation to a federal drug trafficking crime and possession of a handgun by a convicted felon.

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

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

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