



UPDATED: 07 :29 a.m. EDT, February 10, 2007

Syracuse, Mostly Cloudy with Flurries 21° F • Complete Forecast



SEARCH: Enter Keyword(s) GO!

NEWS SPORTS FORUMS BLOGS MULTIMEDIA ENTERTAINMENT MORE TOPICS JO

Syracuse.com - Articles - News

The Post-Standard

• Subscribe
• Today's Paper & More



Sixth DWI conviction may bring life term

Ronald C. Daggett Jr.'s first conviction, in 1982, involved the death of Camillus man.

Saturday, February 10, 2007

By Jim O'Hara
Staff writer

Since 1982, Clifford Goodspeed has mourned his best friend and cousin who died because another motorist was drunk.

Friday morning, he watched in Onondaga County Court as that motorist was convicted for the sixth time of driving drunk.

"It's been 25 years coming," said Goodspeed after Ronald C. Daggett Jr. was convicted of felony counts of driving while intoxicated and driving while his ability was impaired by drugs plus charges of passing a red light and failing to signal a turn.

Advertisement

[CONTINUE STORY](#)

RELATED PHOTOS

- Photos of the Day:02.09.07
- Love for Children with Special Needs
- CNY Snow
- [More Photos](#)

TOP HEADLINES

- Death of community bridge builder leaves void
- Group to wing it in hopes of record
- Ready for the Demands
- [More Stories](#)
- [14-Day Archive](#)

BLOGS

Breaking News

- Firefighters put out fire at Earlville home, again 7:42 p.m. ET
- Beaten baby remains in critical condition 5:35 p.m. ET
- More than 40 fender benders in Syracuse 5:33 p.m. ET
- [More Blog](#)

FORUMS

Talk about this story and more in the forum.

GreenHomes™
by **EnTherm**

A more comfortable, energy-efficient home.
Guaranteed.

Get Paid to Improve Your Home.

[CLICK TO SAVE TODAY](#)

ENERGY STAR
BPI
ACCREDITED CONTRACTOR

Daggett's first drunken-driving conviction involved the crash that killed David Goodspeed, 21,

- [NewsWatch Forum](#)

NewsWatch

- [probably an interesting...](#)
by *iamgw* 02/09/2007
5:42 p.m. ET
- [Climate Skeptics Are by](#)
sahm 02/09/2007
5:22 p.m. ET
- [Remain in Denial by](#)
robgetsreal 02/09/2007
10:06 p.m. ET
- [More Posts](#)

More Hot Topics

- [Crime & Safety Forum](#)
- [CNY Politics Forum](#)
- [Business Forum](#)
- [SU Basketball Forum](#)
- [TV & Radio Forum](#)
- [All Forums](#)

or Camillus. Daggett pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter and misdemeanor DWI and was sentenced to one year in the county penitentiary in Jamesville in that case.

At Daggett's sentencing March 9 in the latest case, Assistant District Attorney Brian Lauri said he intends to ask that Daggett spend the rest of his life in jail. Judge Joseph Fahey threatenec after Daggett's fifth DWI that he could face life in prison as a persistent felony offender if he got into trouble again.

"Obviously, the only thing that will stop him from re-offending is to keep him behind bars," Lauri said.

Defense lawyer Paul Carey said he will ask Fahey to reconsider his threat of a harsh penalty in light of trial evidence that included a jail booking tape where he didn't appear intoxicated after his arrest.

Carey said he will appeal the conviction because Fahey allowed jury deliberations to continue Thursday after one juror reported hearing a radio report about Daggett's criminal record on her way to court that morning.

He also pointed out an earlier trial in the case ended in a mistrial last summer when a police officer testified about an Alco-sensor test that was inadmissible in court.

In the latest case, a jury of eight men and four women

deliberated several hours Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday and several hours Friday morning before finding Daggett, 43, guilty.

The charges stemmed from an incident Sept. 2, 2005, when Daggett was riding a motorcycle drunk and impaired by drugs, and his vehicle nearly collided with a minivan at Erie Boulevard East and Westmoreland Avenue in Syracuse.

David Goodspeed's two sisters were with their cousin in court Friday as that verdict was delivered. The sisters and members of Daggett's family declined comment.

Daggett is in jail until his sentencing.

Jim O'Hara can be reached at johara@syracuse.com or 470-2260.



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Forums](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Complete Forecast](#) | [Site Index](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [RSS Terms & Conditions](#) | [About Us](#) | [Con](#)



• [Subscribe to The Post-Standard](#)

© 2007 Syracuse Online, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Use of this site constitutes acceptan