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Posted 3/23/2004 9:26 PM

### Miami recruit Williams goes free on bond

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Miami's top football recruit turned himself in to police Tuesday on a felony charge of illegally setting off fire extinguishers and was released on \$5,000 bond, his lawyer said.

Willie Williams, a high school All-American linebacker, was in custody for several hours before bonding out on the charge from a January recruiting visit to Florida, attorney Paul Cohen told The Associated Press.

Williams also faces two misdemeanor charges from the same visit, for hitting a man at a bar and grabbing a woman against her will. No bond was required for those charges.

Wearing a monitoring device for violating his probation, Williams has a status conference set with Circuit Judge Michael Kaplan in Miami on Wednesday to update the judge on the Gainesville case and his probation.

Earlier this month, Miami coach Larry Coker said he was partly aware of Williams's criminal past. The school has suspended the processing of Williams' admissions application.

"We've heard nothing (from Miami)," Cohen said. "We're taking one hurdle at a time, the next hurdle is resolving the case in Gainesville."

Cohen said he hopes an arraignment date will be set for the Gainesville charges in the next 30 to 45 days. Williams faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

"He's concerned and worried about the charges and what's going on," Cohen said of Williams. "He's hoping things are turning out of for the best."

After the Gainesville charges, Williams was arrested in Broward County in February for violating his probation. He had been sentenced to 18 months probation in 2002 after he pleaded no

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