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UM FOOTBALL

Recruit Williams gets continuance

BY SUSAN MILLER DEGNAN
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Willie Williams' probation case has been extended another seven weeks.

Broward County Circuit Court Judge Michael Kaplan, presiding Wednesday over the alleged violation of probation charge against the University of Miami football recruit, scheduled another status hearing for 8:30 a.m. on May 19.

Williams, a senior at Carol City High, was accompanied in court by his two lawyers, stepfather, mother and family friend. He didn't speak, but stood before the judge as defense attorneys Paul Lazarus and Bradford Cohen requested more time to resolve charges related to Williams' recruiting visit to Gainesville Jan. 30 through Feb. 1.

The lawyers also talked about possibly working out a situation that would allow Williams to be sentenced in Broward County instead of Gainesville.

"Then we could package everything in front of one judge down here," Lazarus said.

Williams was charged with one misdemeanor and one felony for allegedly setting off fire extinguishers during the recruiting trip, but a court date has not been set for that case.

He was given a summons to appear in the Alachua County court April 7 for another misdemeanor charge -- allegedly hugging a woman against her will during the same trip.

Lazarus said he will file written pleas of not guilty for all the charges.

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