

Williams gets house arrest

By Jorge Milian, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Saturday, February 14, 2004

FORT LAUDERDALE -- After being jailed for three days in Broward County for a probation violation, University of Miami football recruit Willie Williams was released on \$2,500 bail following a bond hearing Friday afternoon.

But Williams, 19, didn't walk away entirely free.

Williams will remain under house arrest in his Carol City home and will be monitored electronically. He also must undergo random drug tests and was cautioned by Broward Circuit Judge Michael Kaplan not to appear again in his courtroom at the risk of serious jail time.

Williams, who entered court wearing a green jumpsuit with his arms cuffed behind him, spoke only once, responding with a "Yes, sir" to Kaplan's warning.

"We're extremely happy," said Paul Lazarus, who defended Williams on Friday along with co-counsel Bradford Cohen. "I think this is the best we could hope for. I've said all along this was a very difficult call. I'm always apprehensive regarding somebody getting a bond for probation violation.


"We hope (Williams) progresses from here and shows the judge that he is worthy of the faith and trust that the judge placed in him."

Next on Williams' legal docket is a trip to Gainesville, where he will face felony and misdemeanor charges stemming from a recruiting trip to the University of Florida two weeks ago. Williams is accused of preventing or obstructing fire extinguishment, a felony, as well as battery and criminal mischief, both misdemeanors.

Lazarus said Williams could appear in a Gainesville court within the next two weeks and said he would continue talks with Alachua County State Attorney Bill Cervone to reach an "appropriate resolution" on the charges. Cervone has hinted that the felony charge could be reduced.

Gainesville is one of only two places Williams will be able to venture

Recruiting 2004 **Who's going where**

 [Signing day photo gallery](#)

Top Recruits:
[Area](#) | [State](#) | [Nation](#)

Signings by School:
[UM](#) | [UF](#) | [FSU](#) | [FAU](#) | [FIU](#)
[UCF](#) | [USF](#) | [B-CC](#) | [FAMU](#)

By Conference:
[ACC](#) | [Big East](#) | [Big 10](#) | [SEC](#)

Team Coverage:
[UF](#) | [UM](#) | [FAU](#) | [FSU](#)

Ask the Expert:
[Send a question to Post](#)
football writers.