

Hopkins found guilty in murder of teen-age girl

FROM THE REGISTER'S CEDAR RAPIDS BUREAU

Cedar Rapids, Ia. — Joseph Hopkins Jr., 22, was found guilty Tuesday of first-degree murder in the stabbing death last July of 17-year-old Destiny Wright of Cedar Rapids.

Hopkins, who had moved here from Chicago about two months before the stabbing, didn't deny killing Wright. However, his lawyer tried to show that Hopkins didn't intended to kill Wright and was impaired by the use of cocaine.

Wright's death became a rallying point for neighbors who were concerned with escalating drug-related violence.

Jurors deliberated about five hours before returning the verdict. Hopkins will be sentenced May 14 to a mandatory term of life in prison.