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LOCAL NEWS



Michael McIlveen

Tuesday 11 November 2008 17:34

Mickey-Bo trial reopens

The trial of six young men facing charges arising out of the murder of a Ballymena schoolboy has heard claims that two of the accused admitted kicking the victim as he lay on the ground.

The jury of 9 women and 3 men at Antrim Crown Court also heard claims from Prosecuting QC John Orr that one defendant admitted arming himself with a baseball bat before the attack on Michael McIIveen.

His comments came as he opened the prosecution case against the accused, five of whom are charged with the murder of the teenager.

Mickey-bo McIlveen died from head injuries the day after he was attacked in an alleyway at Granville Drive in the town in the early hours of May 7th 2006.

Mr Orr claimed that the schoolboy, who had earlier been chased, was struck in the head with a baseball bat by 19-year-old Mervyn Wilson Moon, of Douglas Terrace in Ballymena, who is in custody awaiting sentence having pleaded guilty to murder.

The lawyer further claimed the bat had been brought to the scene by 22-year-old Christopher Francis Kerr, Carnduff Drive, who denies murder, and that it was taken away by 18-year-old Paul Edward David Henson of Condiere Avenue, Ballymena, who faces charges of affray and criminal damage.

Mr Orr said that after the baseball attack, Mickey-Bo was kicked as he lay on the ground by 19-year-old Jeff Colin Lewis of Rossdale, and 18 year-old Christopher Andrew McLeister from Knock Crescent, also Ballymena.

The court heard that another murder accused 20 year old Aaron Cavana Wallace from Moat Road, Ballymena admitted chasing Mickey-bo, but denies fighting with him. While a 17-year-old youth, who cannot be named because of his age can be placed at the scene by forensic and CCTV evidence.

Mr Orr concluded his opening by telling the jury that the "crucial" evidence of Mickey-Bo`s teenage friend, which was "capable of belief", taken along with the rest of the evidence, would mean they would be "left in no doubt as to the guilt of all of the accused in this case".

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