

DNA helps convict man in 1992 rape

Denver Post Staff and Wire Reports

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A nearly 14-year-old rape case, solved with the help of DNA testing, resulted in the conviction Thursday of John Allen Ricks for second-degree sexual assault. Ricks, who denied involvement in the sexual assault in the 3900 block of West 10th Avenue, faces a possible maximum sentence of 16 years for the July 10, 1992, attack. He will be sentenced in April.

The victim, who was 17 at the time, came back to Denver and testified during the trial. Prosecutor Bonnie Benedetti called the victim the "hero" of the case.

In 2005, Denver authorities were looking at cold cases and were able to match DNA left by the rapist with Ricks' DNA. The DNA obtained from the rape kit taken in 1992 was entered into a national databank and matched Ricks, who was on parole for robbery.