



Deidra Lane released from Raleigh prison

By: Aaron Mesmer

RALEIGH -- Deidra Lane, the woman convicted in 2003 of killing her husband, former Carolina Panther Fred Lane, was released from a Raleigh prison Tuesday.

She served about eight years for killing the 24-year-old running back.

"I think for Panther fans, it's a time to reflect if you were following this team back then about how good this guy was, how a guy who came out of nowhere became a pretty good success with this football team," former Panthers broadcaster Bill Rosinski said.

Rosinski was the voice of the Panthers in 2000 when the shooting happened. He says he remembers how it affected some of the players.

"I think there was really an outcry from these players, very upset at the initial reports of what had happened," Rosinski said.

Investigators said Lane waited at the couple's south Charlotte home for her husband to return. When he did, she shot him once in the chest then once in the head. Prosecutors say she wanted to cash in on his \$5 million life insurance policy but her attorney said she was abused and feared for her life and for the safety of her newborn daughter.

Rosinski says his teammates testified it was the other way around.

"They came out in the press and later in the trial and said this was the guy who was abused," he said.

Although she was charged with first-degree murder, Lane ended up pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter. The maximum sentence was 10 years.

"The sentencing can be controversial because people might view that as injustice, but in fact if that's the range, that range has been set by the legislature," said Sandra Jordan, a professor at the Charlotte School of Law.

Lane will now be on supervised probation in South Carolina.

Deidra Lane also served time after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit bank robbery. She has to pay back the \$41,000 that she took from the bank.

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