

# Victim can't remember

## Teen on trial for 'pizza delivery' assault and robbery hears accomplice describe what they did

By Bob Watson

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Alan McCullough has no memory of last year's late-night June 9 assault that severely damaged his brain and changed his life forever.

But, he told a nine-woman, three-man Cole County jury Thursday afternoon, he soon may be released from a rehabilitation program in Sedalia, where, prosecutors said, he's been re-learning how to walk, talk and live for himself.

"My doctor says he's going to allow me to



Ronald Bell  
other attacker

work 16 hours a week," McCullough told Assistant Prosecutor Randy England. "I work at Domino's Pizza."

McCullough, now 36, was a 13-year veteran delivery driver for the Domino's at 900 Missouri Blvd. when he was attacked last summer while delivering two pizzas, a side order of chicken wings and a 2-liter bottle of soda to 1219 St. Mary's Blvd. — a house whose occupants were not home at the time.

McCullough was one of nine prosecution witnesses who testified Thursday at the trial of Patrick Middaugh, now 18, who —

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*Friday  
March 31, 2006*



Julie Smith/News Tribune

Patrick Middaugh, who is charged with assault, sits with his head down as he listens to testimony during his trial.

## Trial: Closing arguments due on Friday

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along with Ronald E. Bell — was charged with first-degree assault, first-degree robbery and armed criminal action in the attack.

Bell, who pleaded guilty last year and was sentenced in September to life in prison for the assault, was the first defense witness to testify Thursday.

In his 10-minute court appearance, McCullough testified his last memory from before the assault was a family barbecue the previous Saturday.

His first clear memory after the attack was from "July — we had a picnic at the rehab center."

But, surgeon Jerry B. Rogers testified, doctors were concerned McCullough might not live when he first arrived at the University of Missouri-Columbia's trauma center.

"I would classify his as a severe head injury," Rogers said. "This type of injury ... is very serious, because there is always underlying brain damage."

McCullough told jurors he had suf-

fered from slurred speech and double vision.

"My cognitive skills are a little bit slower — problem-solving, reasoning and all that," he said. "I've got (a headache) right now. ... My family says that I'm a little bit more angry and snap a little bit quicker."

Public Defender Keith Halcomb told jurors "there is no disputing (Middaugh) was there" when McCullough was attacked, but Middaugh "never touched Alan McCullough."

Bell, 26, testified Middaugh helped plan the robbery, and stood next to Bell as he placed the pizza order over the pay phone next to the Break Time Convenience Store, 1200 Missouri Blvd.

"I couldn't think what to order and he (Middaugh) popped off with some pizza names, so that's what I ordered," Bell said.

Jonathan Rideout, the Domino's manager who took that phone call and wrote up the order, testified he could hear two voices during the phone call.

Bell testified both he and Middaugh

hit McCullough repeatedly during the night-time assault, using a board and a pipe.

"It wasn't like I had to force him into this or nothing," Bell said. "He kicked the guy a few times. He hit him with a board. I'm not sure if he hit him with the pipe, or not ... because in something like that, time flies by real fast."

Bell acknowledged his own role.

"I hit him in the back of the knees to drop him down to my level, because he was, quite obviously, bigger than me and Pat were," Bell testified. "After that, I ended up hitting him — I don't know who hit him with what, first. ...

"I know I hit him in his back. I hit him in his head with my fists. I asked Pat if he was going to help, because the dude was making a bunch of noise."

Closing arguments were expected Friday morning, followed by the jury's deliberations on guilt or innocence.

If Middaugh is found guilty, a second, penalty-phase hearing was planned Friday for the jurors to recommend sentencing in the case.