

'Plukey' Duke's 20-year-old son faces 25-year prison sentence

Ralph Nunn, found guilty of cocaine trafficking despite pleading that his father made him do it, faces at least 25 years in prison following his conviction Thursday.

Nunn, 20, son of Ralph (Plukey) Duke, was convicted in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis of cocaine conspiracy, attempting to possess 20 kilograms of cocaine with the intent to distribute it, and a racketeering charge.

Duke, 44, who was reputed to be Minnesota's biggest drug dealer, was convicted of 11 crimes in December and is awaiting sentencing.

He faces another trial in April on money-laundering charges.

The jury in the Nunn case returned its verdict after 2½ hours and convicted him despite an "impassioned plea that his father made him do it,"

said Assistant U.S. Attorney Denise Reilly, who prosecuted the case.

Nunn was arrested in a Minneapolis parking lot last May as he and several others were trying to work out a 20-kilogram drug deal with a federal informant.

Reilly said Nunn "is looking at at least 25 years" under federal sentencing guidelines.

Sentencing by Judge David Doty is expected in six to eight weeks.

Nunn went on trial with his father and five others in St. Paul in November but he was given a separate trial after allegedly trying to hang himself in a federal holding cell.

The other five are awaiting sentencing.