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Fate of convicted killer pondered

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BRYAN (AP) — Prosecutors have described David Wayne Spence as a hired killer who brutally murdered three teenagers at Lake Waco in a case of mistaken identity.

On Friday, a state district court jury continued to consider whether Spence should receive a second death sentence after finding him guilty of capital murder Thursday.

Jurors deliberated five hours before convicting Spence in the death of Kenneth Franks — the second capital murder conviction against Spence in the Lake Waco killings.

Franks was one of three teenagers found bound, gagged and stabbed to death in a park at the lake in 1982.

When Judge W.T. McDonald Jr. read the guilty verdict, Spence hung his head and stared at floor.

In July 1984, Spence was sentenced to death by injection for the slaying of Jill Montgomery. The 26-year-old is also accused in the death of Raylene Rice.

Prosecutors said they tried Spence on a second capital murder charge despite already having a death sentence to en-

sure the first case would not be overturned and allow Spence to escape the most severe punishment.

Authorities found the bodies of the two women, both 17, and Franks, 18, at Lake Waco's Speegleville Park on July 14, 1982. Both women had been sexually assaulted.

Darvin Pack, 21, of Waco was the first witness to testify in the punishment phase. He said he was beaten and sexually assaulted by Spence and Gilbert Melendez, a co-defendant in the Lake Waco murders, in September 1982.