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Street racer a 'sinner' Apologizes for truck driver's death

By TRACY MCLAUGHLIN, SPECIAL TO SUN MEDIA

BARRIE -- An Etobicoke man who once called himself the "Cut King" and bragged about his skills as a street racer hung his head in shame in the prisoner's box yesterday as he apologized for killing another man during a wild highway race.

Nauman Nusrat, 20, begged for mercy and forgiveness after pleading guilty to street racing causing the death of David Virgoe, 48, of Innisfil, during a frantic 44-km race against two buddies on Hwy. 400 last June 17.

He'll be sentenced May 18.

"I am a sinner, a murderer," Nusrat said to the Virgoe family, who sat weeping in the courtroom. "It was stupid ... I did not know it would end in a nightmare."

As he spoke, his mother sat alone, silently weeping, in the front row of the court.

Court heard that Nusrat reached speeds of about 170 km/h as he raced in his Pontiac Grand Am against two friends who drove a Mustang convertible and a Honda Civic. Laughing as they zigzagged in and out of lanes, cutting people off, they gleefully gestured to one another while calling each other on cellphones for a total of 66 calls.

"It was a speed I don't think I ever saw before -- it was like in a movie," witness Jim Lawrence said in a police statement. Several other witnesses told police the three drivers "drove like lunatics," causing other vehicles to slam the breaks or pull over.

Nusrat's Grand Am eventually hit the tire of Virgoe's transport truck trailer, causing Virgoe to swerve into a steep ditch to avoid hitting other traffic. The truck flipped and Virgoe was killed instantly, leaving a mother, father, wife, four brothers, a sister and a host of grandchildren behind.

"His driving skill spared other drivers from inevitable collisions," said Crown attorney Karen McCleave, who applauded Virgoe's bravery.

McCleave is asking that Nusrat be sentenced to 44 months in jail -- minus the 302 days he has already spent behind bars -- and a lifetime driving prohibition.

"This was no accident," McCleave said. She submitted photos from a webpage called Hi-5 where Nusrat is shown beside his car with captions such as "Cut King," and "me after a victorious race."

Defence lawyer Angela McLeod has asked for a conditional sentence along with a life-time driving prohibition.

"Mr. Nusrat is consumed with grief and guilt," she said.

The two other accused men, Prabhjit Multani, 20, of Etobicoke and Ravi Badwhar, 21, of Mississauga are still before the courts.