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DA: Teens accused in ballplayer's slaying won't be charged with hate crimes

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Duncan Police Chief Danny Ford and Stephens Country District Attorney Jason Hicks believe that Chris Lane's alleged murderers had no gang affiliations.

By Simon Moya-Smith, NBC News

Three juveniles allegedly involved with the Aug. 16 shooting death of Australian college athlete Christopher Lane will not be charged with a hate crime, the Duncan, Okla., district attorney said Friday.

"At this point, the evidence does not support the theory that Christopher Lane was targeted based

upon his race or nationality," said District Attorney Jason Hicks. "The evidence is insufficient to establish that race was the primary motive in the murder of Christopher Lane."

Two teens, James Edwards, Jr., 15, and Chancey Luna, 16, have been charged with murder in the first degree of Lane, 22, a baseball player with Oklahoma's East Central University.

The third juvenile, Michael Jones, 17, is charged with using a vehicle to facilitate the discharge of a firearm and accessory after the fact to murder, according to a press release by the district attorney's office. All were charged as adults.



Essendon Baseball Club

Christopher Lane, an Australian baseball player, was shot and killed while out for a jog in an Oklahoma neighborhood, police said.

Lane was reportedly out for a jog when the three suspects, two of whom are black, randomly targeted Lane and shot him in the back, fatally wounding the student. One of three teens charged in the attack told police that they shot Lane because they "were bored" and decided to kill somebody.

If convicted, Edwards Jr. and Luna face up to life without parole. Jones faces a maximum of 45 years in prison.



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