

Final arguments today in Horton tobacco suit

The Associated Press

OXFORD — Jurors in Nathan Henry Horton's \$17 million lawsuit against the American Tobacco Co. and a Greenwood distributor are scheduled to get their final instructions today before reaching a verdict.

After attorneys for the Horton family rested their case Thursday, Lafayette County Circuit Judge Eugene Boden said attorneys for both sides will make final arguments by noon Friday. Defense attorneys had rested Wednesday.

Horton, a two-pack-a-day smoker for more than 30 years, brought the lawsuit against the American Tobacco Co. and the

distributor New Deal Tobacco and Candy Co. in 1986 after he was diagnosed with lung cancer.

Horton died Jan. 27, 1987, at age 50, but his suit on charges that cigarette smoking caused his terminal cancer and emphysema is being continued as a wrongful-death action by his widow, Ella Mae Horton, and other family members.

The American Tobacco Co., makers of the unfiltered Pall Mall cigarettes Horton smoked, argues that it is blameless in Horton's death because he freely made an informed choice to smoke.

Defense attorneys made a motion Thursday to have punitive damages reduced to \$2 million, but Boden ruled against the motion.

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