

# Speed is questioned in crash trial

By Sheila McLaughlin

*The Cincinnati Enquirer*

**LEBANON** - Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers improperly rushed to judgment in a June 4 crash that nearly wiped out a Georgia family, a defense attorney told jurors as Jerad Rushlow's trial opened Tuesday in Lebanon Municipal Court.

A trooper acknowledged he had no evidence that Mr. Rushlow was traveling too fast in a rainstorm when the trooper filed three vehicular homicide charges against the 19-year-old cosmetology student.

Trooper Kevin Bryant of the Lebanon post said speed calculations were not completed until later in the investigation.

"What criminal act did Jerad Rushlow commit?" defense attorney Jay Clark asked.

"He slid through the median and killed three people," Trooper Bryant answered.



The Cincinnati Enquirer/MICHAEL SNYDER

**Jerad Rushlow (right)** confers with his attorney, Jay Clark, in Lebanon Municipal Court as his trial opened Tuesday.

The credibility of the investigation of the crash that injured Gary Hinkle of Peachtree City, and killed his 48-year-old wife, Nancy, and their daughters, Elizabeth and Emily, is central to the defense.

Mr. Rushlow, of Newport, Mich., contends that troopers miscalculated his speed at the time his 1996 Ford Explorer went out of control on northbound Interstate 75 and struck the Hinkles' Buick Park Avenue.

Mr. Rushlow faces up to six months in jail on each misdemeanor charge if convicted.