

Beating: Defense says woman lying

Continued from Page B1

Siock is lying.

"I can demonstrate she's being less than honest on the stand," Knight said.

"This is nothing more than a fishing expedition," Gaetano replied.

Judge Bruce Thompson later allowed the jury to hear Knight's attack on Siock's credibility.

Police said Niemeyer beat Siock Feb. 11, 1996, and kept her captive in their apartment for 24 hours, refusing to let her seek medical treatment.

He was charged with first-degree assault and kidnapping.

The first trial ended after one day of testimony when Niemeyer allegedly kidnapped Siock and drove her and her sister to Westchester County, N.Y.

A police officer stopped Niemeyer in Larchmont, N.Y., Feb. 8 when he noticed Niemeyer's car had a broken headlight. The officer noticed the two women in the car and ran a check on his computer, police said. The officer discovered Niemeyer was supposed to be on trial in Connecticut and had been declared a fugitive.

Separate kidnapping charges stemming from the New York incident are pending.

LOCAL NEWS

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1997 PAGE B1

Woman testifies of beating

SECTION B

"You went to see him where he worked and then you called police on him for violating a protective order?"

Attorney Tara Knight

By Michael Foley
Milford Bureau Chief

MILFORD — The punches to her head landed so hard and furiously that Dawn Siock feared she would die at the hands of Tony Niemeyer of Derby, Siock testified Wednesday in Superior Court.

Niemeyer, 27, is on the trial for the second time as a result of the same assault charges. The first trial ended in February with a mistrial, following a bizarre incident in

which Niemeyer allegedly kidnapped Siock to keep her from testifying.

On Wednesday, during the first day of testimony, Siock wiped tears from her eyes as she relived the alleged beating that left her with a torn liver and internal bleeding that nearly killed her.

"He told me if I ever testified, I'd never make it to court," Siock said.

Niemeyer, a large, stocky man with a crew cut, had no visible

reaction to Siock's testimony.

Siock is Assistant State's Attorney Paul Gaetano's star witness. Doctors at Griffin Hospital in Derby have testified that she suffered life-threatening injuries that required surgery.

Niemeyer's lawyer, Tara Knight of New Haven, cross-examined Siock and zeroed in on what she called Siock's "lack of credibility." Knight said Siock continued to contact Niemeyer and even moved in with him after the al-

leged beating.

"You went to see him where he worked and then you called police on him for violating a protective order?" Knight asked.

"I think so," Siock replied. Siock insisted she was terrified of Niemeyer and was afraid to not do what he said, for fear of another beating.

Later, with the six-person jury out of the courtroom, Knight said

Please see Beating, Page B2