

IU junior killed in single-car collision

Friends remember Shears as leader

BY BAILEY LOOSEMORE
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Junior Tyler Koss lived in Wright Quad with Jared Shears during their freshman year and worked out with Shears beginning in the spring semester and continuing through their sophomore year.

"He was just an all-around amazing guy," Koss said. "He



Jared Shears

was always there to hang out, never busy for anything. He was a really good motivator because when I started working out with him, I wasn't really into it. He would motivate me and was just a really good leader in that sense."

Shears, a junior from LaFontaine, Ind., died Friday in a single-car collision on Old State

Road 15. The Wabash County Sheriff's Department received a call about the accident at 1:58 a.m. Friday morning and responded to the scene.

According to a news release, "initial facts show that Shears was southbound on Old State Road 15 at a high rate of speed as he crossed the northbound lane and left the roadway before impacting two telephone poles and a cement post."

Currently, sheriff's department personnel and Wabash County Police Crash Reconstructionists continue to investi-

gate what might have caused the vehicle to exit the roadway. Toxicology results are pending.

When the two boys were in the sixth grade, Shears and Jared Harnish rode dirt bikes over a jump that Harnish's dad built.

"I got there late and was getting used to it," Harnish said. "And he said, 'Oh, it's nothing, go for it.' I ended up crashing and broke my collarbone. I don't blame him, but he definitely had his word in there. He liked to push you to do things you wouldn't normally try. He was good at motivating

you that way."

Harnish said he met Shears in fourth grade and was good friends with him since. He also roomed with Shears during their sophomore year at IU.

"He's definitely 'live life to the fullest,'" Harnish said. "He used to ride dirt bikes and crazy stuff like that, anything to get adrenaline pumping."

Shears majored in physical therapy, Harnish said, because he liked the human body and helping people.

"He was an honest guy," he said. "He'd tell you straight up

how he felt and wouldn't lie about it."

Koss said he remembers one specific time when he was working out with Shears but was not in the mood because he had previously pulled a muscle in his arm.

"I said, 'Jared, I'm done. My arm's bothering me,'" Koss said. "And he said being injured is something serious, but being hurt isn't. You have to work through being hurt."

"He's going to be missed, and I know he's not going to be forgotten."

Walking for Africa



ALEX FARRIS | IDS

Eric Beba talks Monday in the home of college friends Teresa Lynch and Nicholas Matthews. Beba left Bloomington on Tuesday to continue his journey on foot from Savannah, Ga., to Chicago to raise awareness of his efforts in support of Africa and, more specifically, his home country of Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso native Beba takes steps toward peace, hope for home nation

BY ALYSSA GOLDMAN
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One foot forward, and Eric Beba's mind goes back in time.

With each step 29-year-old Beba takes on his approximately 1,000-mile journey from Savannah, Ga., to Chicago, he recalls his earlier years living in Burkina Faso.

When Beba was 7 years old, his father died while fighting in the Burkina Faso military.

After his father's death, Beba's life became even more difficult.

Living within the walls of a three-bedroom house in the village of Bobo-Dioulasso were more than 15 family members from his mother's side.

Though Beba said his family was better off than many others, they were still poor.

Still, Beba admitted he was lucky:

He had two meals a day, simple holiday celebrations, a pair of shoes and clothes to wear.

"I was really poor," Beba said, "but I was happy. But it was not an easy life."

It is not his strength or stamina that keeps him walking.

It is Africa.

"It is my heart bringing me there, not my feet," Beba said.

With only 200 miles left after a stop in Bloomington until Tuesday, Beba has averaged about 35 miles a day since June 7, trudging from 5 a.m. to midnight — making it evident that heat and a bad ankle have yet to slow Beba down.

"It is my heart bringing me there, not my feet."

Eric Beba

backpack, walking sticks, water, an iPod playing K'naan's song "Waving Flag," his favorite meal (the Whopper) and a piece of cloth reading "Peace and Hope in Africa" pinned to his backpack shoulder straps, Beba is making his way to the Windy City.

The journey might not always be easy — he has been exposed to threats of gunshot and bears — but to Beba it is well worth it.

Once a gun was pointed toward Beba because of a misunderstanding.

What Beba thought was a 24-hour store was actually a house, and the owner thought Beba was attempting to break in.

And while in Tennessee, Beba had to walk through mountains, and when a local told him bears were around, he became frightened for his safety as he made his way through late at night.

A walk that turned into a mountain climb was no simple physical task: His right ankle was weaker during the earlier parts of the walk.

It was walking sticks that carried him for some of the time.

"It is more mental than physical," Beba said. "Mentally, I just forget about how bad it is."

Even though Beba had these unpleasant experiences, he said they were isolated incidents. As



ALEX FARRIS | IDS

Eric Beba sports his walking attire Monday in Lynch and Matthews' home. Beba, who has downed Burger King Whoppers during much of his trip, left Savannah on June 7 and stayed with Lynch and Matthews during his two-day stay in Bloomington.

Bill addresses textbook costs

Sen. Durbin spearheaded legislation

FROM IDS REPORTS

While financial and health care reform has been in the forefront of Washington's agenda, Assistant Senate Majority Leader Richard Durbin, D-Ill., still has students on the brain.

"I've visited campuses and started talking to parents and others, heard a lot of talk about textbooks and that this was a growing expense," Durbin said.

Two years after the Senate enacted the Higher Education Opportunity Act, Durbin's provision of the bill has finally gone into effect to help save college students hundreds of dollars.

It's titled "Durbin's College Textbook Affordability Act" and is aimed at lowering textbook costs by regulating and working directly with publishers and colleges.

The act went into effect July 1.

In August 2008, the California Bureau of State Audits released a report summarizing college textbook affordability. The research, which focused on the University of California, California State University and California Community Colleges, showed the increase of prices "outpaced median household income."

Other research through advocate groups report similar facts.

Durbin said it was data such as these that inspired the textbook affordability act, which will work to address costs in three steps starting this fall.

"Professors don't know the prices of textbooks, which is hard to believe, but it's true," Durbin said. "Professors don't know. Now, there is no excuse."

First, publishers will be required to disclose prices to professors, making the marketing process more transparent.

Second, the act will require publishers to offer items in a textbook bundle to be sold separately. All the extra study guides, CDs and more will not have to be purchased together.

Finally, colleges must provide textbook information for all courses before and during registration, not afterward. This lets students plan ahead to save money.

"Publishers have to comply with it, and universities have to take it seriously," Durbin said. "They will understand the rights under the law and make them work for them."

Durbin also called upon student groups on campuses to advocate for the law, and for all students use other, low-cost means of obtaining textbooks such as rentals, online shopping and more.

The IU Bookstore, for example, will begin its new textbook rental program this fall. After coming to an agreement with Barnes & Noble, many popular books will be available for rent, and new textbook prices will be lowered.

—Margaret Ely

Head-on crash kills Yellow Cab driver

FROM IDS REPORTS

Police are continuing to investigate an accident that left a Yellow Cab Co. driver dead and a Bloomington man hospitalized.

The cab driver, Gwendolyn Marie Sanders, 31, of Bedford, was struck head-on by a silver Grand Prix just before 7 a.m. Tuesday on the 2700 block of South Leonard Springs Road. Sanders died after sustaining head and chest injuries in the accident.

The driver of the Grand Prix, Bryce Michael Leighton, 21, of Bloomington, received head injuries and was transported to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. He remained hospitalized Wednesday.

No passengers were in either car.

Lt. David Drake of the Bloomington Police Department said witnesses told police that Leighton had been at a party in the 2600 block of Leonard Springs in the early hours of the morning.

The residents of the home said Leighton had been drinking and was told to leave after causing a disturbance.

They said Leighton then returned to their residence af-

ter they had fallen asleep and stole their car. The residents did not realize that the vehicle was missing until the police arrived, they said.

According to the probable cause affidavit, a witness stated that the silver vehicle passed her on a double yellow line at speeds estimated at 50 to 60 mph.

The car then struck Sanders' cab. Sanders was wearing her seat belt, and both airbags in the vehicle deployed, Drake said. Leighton, however, was not wearing his seat belt and was ejected out of the rear passenger window of the car.

"Officers on the scene noticed the odor of an alcoholic beverage about Leighton's person," Drake said, and according to the probable cause affidavit, a preliminary reading of Leighton's blood alcohol was .23.

Yellow Cab Co. manager Les Dyer described Sanders as both a good driver and overall nice person.

"She was a sweet girl — a single mom getting up every day doing what she had to do," Dyer said. "Everybody liked her, and then some idiot hit her head-on."

—Jake New

MENTAL STRENGTH

With nothing more than a

SEE BEBA, PAGE 5