Ryan White remembered for his positive influence

ARCADIA, Ind. (AP) — Ryan White was remembered Monday as a courageous young man who inspired understanding about AIDS and as a dedicated student who was a positive influence on his schoolmates.

The flag flew at half-staff outside Hamilton Heights High School, where the 18-year-old AIDS victim had found friendship and acceptance after a long legal battle to attend public school. White, a junior, had attended classes as recently as two weeks ago, said Principal Steve Dillon.

"I think one of the most important lessons my students and myself can learn from Ryan is the fact that he never gave up — a very courageous young man," he said.

"He very much wanted to be at school. He was very much a fighter. And I think every one of our lives is going to be a lot better for knowing Ryan and participating in his last three years." the principal said during an impromptu news conference outside the

school before the start of classes.

White died Sunday at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. 10 days after he was admitted with an AIDS-related respiratory infection. He was diagnosed with acquired immune deficiency syndrome 5½ years ago, having contracted the disease from blood products to treat his hemophilia.

The teen-ager attracted national attention during his successful fight to attend school in his hometown of Kokomo and emerged as an international spokesman for children suffering from AIDS. He is credited with furthering understanding of the disease, its devastating effects and the rights of its sufferers.

His contribution to AIDS awareness was remembered Monday night with a candlelight vigil on Monument Circle in downtown. Indianapolis attended by about 50 people.

"I think Ryan made a big difference." said Kevin Johnson, an AIDS organization volunteer who attended the vigil and whose best friend has the disease.

A funeral was planned for Wednesday and was likely to be attended by Michael Jackson, who had befriended White, and other celebrities.

At the Whites' lakefront home about 20 miles north of Indianapolis, a Ford Mustang that Jackson had given White was parked on the lawn with a floral arrangement in front of it. Police provided security.

Jackson and developer Donald Trump traveled to the home on Sunday to console Jeanne White, the teen-ager's mother, and sister. Andrea. White's father. Wayne, and his mother are divorced.

Carrie Van Dyke, a spokeswoman for Mrs. White said Monday: "She's grieving. She wanted to try to get some sleep last night. Judging by the way I can't get through this morning (on the phone), that might not have happened."

At the school a few miles away, the 550 students returned Monday after a weeklong spring break and were confronted by news reporters and photogra-

phers. The media were not allowed onto school property. Hamilton County sheriff's deputies escorted some students into the building.

At an assembly at the start of the school day, Dillon told students they were welcome to attend the funeral. The convocation concluded with a moment of silence, he said.

"Ryan wanted it very low-key, and we're going to keep it low-key and have school as normal as possible today," Dillon said.

After White won his court battle to attend school in Kokomo, he and his family felt uncomfortable in that city and moved to Cicero. 20 miles away, in 1987. His death elicited sympathy in his former hometown.

"It's a terrible thing. I'd hoped from the beginning he could have been the first to whip it," said Dan Carter, who was board president at Western School Corp. when Ryan was banned from classes there.

New HIV diagnosis research

PORTLAND (AP) — Epitope Inc. has secured a U.S. patent for a diagnostic process which would determine in weeks, rather than months, if a person is infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS, the company announced Monday.

The process, using substances called monoclonal antibodies, will be offered for clinical research sometime next year, said Michael Hubbard, president of the 10-year-old biotechnology compa-

He said he did not know how long required testing and approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration would take. The process would not be generally available soon, he said.

The company has a greater priority in developing a diagnosis product that would detect the HIV virus in saliva, which would eliminate the need for blood sampling. Hubbard said.

That product is "close to submission," he said.

To diagnose the presence of the virus, tests are conducted for the presence of antibodies which fight its presence. The methods require that a person develop sufficient antibodies for detection, and that often takes two to three months after infection. Hubbard said.

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