

SPORTS

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Washington State football player had brain damage at time of suicide

Associated Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — The family of the Washington State football player who died of suicide in January said the 21-year-old quarterback had extensive brain damage that's been linked to concussions from playing the sport.

Tyler Hilinski was found dead in his apartment with a gunshot wound and a suicide note on Jan. 16.

Mark and Kym Hilinski told NBC's "Today" show today that the Mayo Clinic requested to do an autopsy of their son's brain. The interview comes alongside the debut of a new Sports Illustrated documentary about the family's search for answers.

The family in those interviews said the autopsy results indicated that their son had signs of extensive brain damage known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, which has been found in hundreds of former NFL players.

The sophomore quarterback was last seen alive the same day, when he dropped a teammate off on campus for morning class. Police said the rifle belonged to a teammate and that Hilinski took it without the teammate's knowledge on or before Jan. 12.

Kym Hilinski said they were shocked and numb after finding out that he had shot himself. She said he'd never shot a gun until the day before he died.

There were no verbal signs that the young football player was suffering. His mother said he was quiet, reserved but



AP Photo/Young Kwak

Washington State quarterback Tyler Hilinski runs onto the field with his teammates before a September 2016 NCAA college football game against Idaho, in Pullman, Wash.

always happy.

"Did football kill Tyler?...I don't think so. Did he get CTE from football? Probably. Was that the only thing that attributed to his death? I don't know," Kym Hilinski said in the documentary.

The player's other son also appeared in the documentary. Ryan Hilinski was noted as a star quarterback at his high school in California and is set to play at the University of South Carolina with the support of his parents.

Ryan Hilinski said his brother's brain damage diagnosis scared him and made him worried he may suffer what his brother went through,

but that he's still committed to playing football.

"I think Tyler would want me to do the same thing. I don't think he'd want me to stop," Ryan Hilinski said.

Tyler Hilinski appeared in eight games during his sophomore season, throwing for 1,176 yards and seven touchdowns. His most memorable outing came in the second week of the season, when he led Washington State from a 21-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Boise State 47-44 in triple overtime. Hilinski threw for 240 yards and three touchdowns coming off the bench and was carried off the field after the victory.

His only start came in the Holiday Bowl against Michigan State, although he played extensively in a loss to Arizona. He was expected to be the starting quarterback this coming fall during his junior year.

Washington State said it's adding more safeguards to help students, including a second formal mental health screening for all football players and meetings with all varsity sports athletes to consider mental health risks.

The family has started the Hilinski's Hope Foundation to raise awareness about mental health wellness for student-athletes.

Junior golfers in competition this week

The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — Three divisions of golfers finished stroke play qualifying Monday in the 88th Bob Norquist Oregon Junior Amateur Championship, held this week at the Astoria Golf & Country Club.

The junior boys (age 16-18), girls (15-18) and boys (14-15) divisions will begin match play Tuesday. The winners of this week's championship in the junior divisions are crowned Oregon Junior Amateur champions.

Nate Stember of Portland earned medalist honors in the boys' age 16-18 division, firing a 2-under par 69 to medal by two shots. Just last week, Stember earned medalist honors at 2018 U.S. Junior Amateur qualifying, advancing to this year's championship in the process. A rising senior at Lincoln High School, Stember won the individual Class 6A state championship last month.

Two players — Johnny Ward of Lake Oswego and Peter Grossbacher of Eaton, Colorado — tied for second, both firing even-par rounds of 71. Carter Lee of Tillamook earned fourth place, shooting a 1-over par 72. Recent Seaside High School graduate Jackson Kunde of Gearhart tied for 19th with a 79.

In the girls' division, Olivia Loberg of Bend finished at even par to earn medalist honors. Loberg, a senior-to-be at Bend High School, recently won her second consecutive Class 5A individual state title, helping her team win the state championship for the first time since 2008.

Three players tied for second during stroke play qualifying — Victoria Gailey (Tigard), Mary Scott Wolfe (Beaverton) and Ashley Zhu (Salem). All three finished at 2-over par.

The age 14-15 boys' division featured some of the lowest scores of the day. Scotty Kennon (Bandon) finished as medalist, shooting a scorching 4-under par 67 to lead the way. Brody Marconi (Portland) earned second place at 3-under par, while Brandon Eyre (Salem), Mateo Fuenmayor (Beaverton) and Ethan Tseng (Portland) all tied for third, finishing stroke play qualifying at 1-under par.

Carson Kawasoe of Gearhart tied for 10th with a 77, and Gearhart's Curtis Kunde tied for 21st at 85.

The other two 18-hole divisions (intermediate boys and intermediate girls), finished 18 holes Monday and will play another 18 holes of stroke play qualifying Tuesday. Pee Wee boys and Pee Wee girls will play 9-hole stroke play qualifying Tuesday. Match play starts Wednesday for these divisions.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Gordon's 2 RBIs, key bunt carry M's past Orioles

BALTIMORE — Instead of using the long ball to win, the Seattle Mariners took a different approach.

Take a walk, drop down a bunt, make a play in the field. Employing those basic skills, the Mariners beat the Baltimore Orioles 5-3 Monday night for just their second victory in eight games.

Texas hires Oregon softball coach White

AUSTIN, Texas — The University of Texas hired Oregon softball coach Mike White on Monday to lead a program that has been a steady presence in the post-season without becoming a powerhouse.

In White, the Longhorns get a coach who led the Ducks to five Women's College World Series in nine seasons, and earned the overall No. 1 seed this past season before being eliminated by eventual national champion Florida State. White's Oregon teams won at least 50 games five times.

— Associated Press

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SPORTS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY
Junior state baseball — Neah-Kah-Nie at Warrenton (2), 4 p.m.

THURSDAY
Junior state baseball — Knappa at Clatskanie, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY
Baseball — Warrenton Alumni day, noon

Game 1 of College World Series finals postponed by rain

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Game 1 of the College World Series finals between Arkansas and Oregon State was postponed until tonight because of rain — just the latest in a line of delays caused by the weather this year.

"In my 16 years of being involved with this championship, this has been the most challenging College World Series as it relates to inclement weather," NCAA director of championships and alliances Randy Buhr said.

Rain fell most of the day Monday, and officials announced late in the afternoon that the game would be

UP NEXT: CWS

- Arkansas Razorbacks (3-0) vs Oregon State Beavers (3-1)
- Today, 4 p.m. TV: ESPN

delayed. The decision to postpone came 90 minutes after the scheduled first pitch.

Arkansas (47-19) will start Blaine Knight (13-0) against Luke Heimlich (16-2) of Oregon State (53-11-1).

Game 2 of the best-of-three finals is set for Wednesday and, if necessary, Game 3 would be Thursday.

More than 4 inches of rain have fallen in Omaha since the start of the CWS on June 16.

Houston's Harden wins NBA MVP over James and Davis

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Third time was the charm for James Harden.

The Houston Rockets star was voted the NBA's Most Valuable Player after twice being runner-up, beating out four-time winner LeBron James and Anthony Davis of the Pelicans at the NBA Awards on Monday night.

Harden joined Michael Jordan as the only players to average at least 20 points, eight assists, five rebounds and 1.7 steals in a season.

He led the league in scoring, 3-pointers and 50-point games with four while helping the Rockets to an NBA-leading 65 wins.

"The last four years have been like knocking on the

door, knocking on the door. Now the moment is finally here," Harden said backstage. "Just every single year you try to come back and be better than you were the year before, and just to be holding that trophy finally, it means a lot."

James didn't attend the show in Barker Hangar at the Santa Monica Airport amid frenzied speculation about his future. He has until Friday to tell the Cavaliers if he will pick up his \$35.6 million option for next season or opt for free agency.

Harden, who is from Los Angeles, led his mother on stage before he accepted the trophy from Commissioner Adam Silver.

"I'm not going to get emotional," he said from behind dark sunglasses. "She's my backbone in good times and bad times."

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Tickets are limited. Up to 4 tickets per household. Tickets are available until July 6, 2018 or while supplies last.