

Rodney King's Death Investigated

L.A. beating victim found at bottom of home pool

(AP) Investigators conducted an autopsy Monday on Rodney King's body, but it was expected to take several weeks for toxicology tests to determine what killed him, officials said. King's body was pulled from the deep end of his Los Angeles area pool on early Sunday by police who were called to his home by his fiancée. The death was thought to be an apparent

drowning with no signs of foul play.

King, 47, became famous after he was severely beaten by Los Angeles police in 1991. The beating was captured on videotape and broadcast worldwide, as were photos of King's bloodied and bruised face. The more than 50 baton blows and kicks inflicted by officers left King with 11 skull fractures, a broken eye socket and facial nerve damage.

"The Riot Within: From Rebellion to Redemption", said King was proud of the book and hoped it signaled a new chapter in his life where he wouldn't just be remembered as a beating victim.

"Rodney was tired of being the Rodney who was always



Rodney King

The trial of four officers charged with felony assault in the beating ended after a jury with no black members acquitted three of the officers on state charges; a mistrial was declared for a fourth.

The verdict sparked one of the most costly and deadly race riots in the nation's history.

Toxicology results will show whether King, who struggled with addiction throughout his life, had any alcohol or drugs in his system.

Lawrence Spagnola, who helped King write his memoir

asked about the beating and if he'd forgiven the cops," Spagnola said.

He said King had plenty to look forward to, including setting a wedding date and the upcoming birth of another grandchild, he said.

Spagnola said King didn't expect he would be remembered, but hoped that his infamous words spoken as the riots still flared, "Can we all get along?" would long outlive him.

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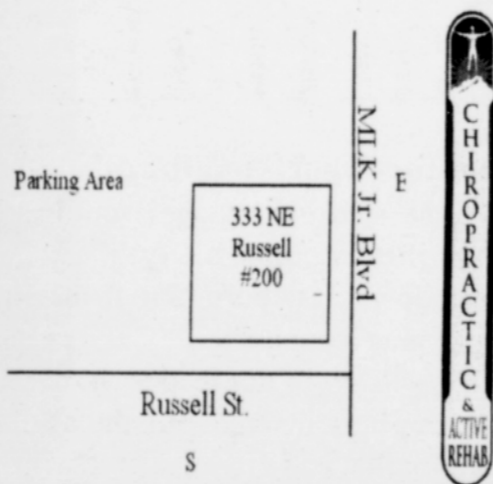
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