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# Teen dies on snowmobile

## Vehicle plunges into lake; Grayslake high schools in mourning

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One day after a Grayslake teen died when his snowmobile plunged through thin ice on Fourth Lake near Lake Villa, friends tearfully recalled his passion for football and his sense of humor.

Alex Richardson, 16, a junior at Grayslake Central High School, was a starting running back for the football team, the Rams. He was about to begin the new baseball season, and his teammates spent one of their first practices grieving.

"He was greatly loved by his friends and family," his aunt, Diana Kiederlen, 56, of Lake Villa said. "His friends were there [at the hospital] to the last minute."

Richardson left his house about 2:30 p.m. Sunday to ride his snowmobile, his aunt said.

He met some other teens who snowmobiled, but went off on his own at some point, said Sgt. Christopher Thompson of the Lake County Sheriff's Department. His friends realized he had been missing for 30 to 40 minutes and called police about 6 p.m., Thompson said.

"They looked around for him, and it became kind of clear he might have disappeared in the lake," Thompson said. "So they became concerned and rightfully called authorities."

Fox Lake Fire and Rescue found Richardson in the water near the Fourth Lake Resort, 36670 N. Corona Drive, around 8 p.m., Thompson said. Richardson was taken to Condell Medical Center in Libertyville in critical condition, he said.

He was pronounced dead at Condell at 11:43 p.m., Lake County Chief Deputy Coroner Steve Newton said.

An autopsy Monday showed Richardson had drowned and hypothermia was a contributing factor, Coroner Richard Keller said.

Counselors and social workers met with students Monday at both Grayslake Community High School District 127 campuses. Richardson attended Grayslake North as a freshman and went to Grayslake Central as a sophomore and junior.

About a dozen friends visited Fourth Lake after school Monday, carrying roses and searching for the spot where Richardson's snowmobile went under. Several teens said Richardson had a great sense of

humor and he was fiercely devoted to Central and loved playing football against rival Grayslake North.

Amber Yamin, 17, a junior at Grayslake North, said she dated Richardson for about nine months when they were freshmen. "He's probably the best person I've ever known," she said.

Jackie Schiralli, 16, a junior at Grayslake Central, said Richardson enjoyed country music.

"He was obviously a rebel," she said.

Richardson grew up in Grayslake with his parents, Carol and Pat, and an older brother, Patrick, who is in college.

He had hoped to earn a football scholarship to a small college, where he planned to study criminal justice, Kiederlen said. His other interests were four-wheeling and spending time on the Internet e-mailing his friends.

Richardson's guidance counselor attended each of the teen's classes Monday to talk with students, Grayslake Central Principal Randy Davis said.

"We're heartsick over the tragic loss," Davis said. "Our hearts go out to the Richardson family as a school."

Davis described Richardson as a popular student and athlete with a great work ethic.

"The baseball team met this morning to talk about the situation, and I am told it was very helpful," said Laurie Kimbrel, associate superintendent. "I understand that quite a few students have already taken advantage of grief counseling. We have offered our support to the Richardson family as well."

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