

One Dead, 5 Injured In Bellevue Crash

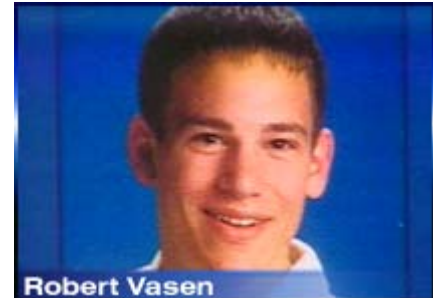
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By Molly Shen

BELLEVUE - A two-car crash over the weekend involved 11 people, and six of them were hurt.

Now, one of the injured has died.

Robert Vasen was a University of Washington student and a graduate of Bellevue High School. He's being remembered as a "phenomenal kid" with a rare enthusiasm for life.



Eric McDowell was Vasen's tennis coach at Bellevue High. He says Vasen nearly died of a staph infection in his leg a few years ago.

Despite being told he might not be able to play sports again, Vasen came back and scored a goal in his first return soccer game.

"To come all the way back to someone telling you 'you can't do it' to scoring a goal, I just remember feelings of such joy for him and really inspired everyone to know you can overcome just about anything," McDowell says.

Vasen died over the weekend, when a Jeep Cherokee T-boned a car he was riding in, in the middle of an intersection.

Officer Greg Gannis was one of the first police officers on the scene.

"The BMW had five on board, and there were six in the Jeep," Gannis describes. "Almost everyone on board had some injury."

Most of those injuries were minor but two people sitting in the back of the BMW were badly hurt.

A server at the Melting Pot restaurant was just finishing his shift when the accident happened, and he ran the half block down to help. The restaurant is a second job for him. His first job is as an EMT.

"You kinda run up, it's hectic. You just go for the worst hurt first," Ryan Peach says.

And it was clear to Peach, the worst hurt was Vasen.

"There was a guy laying in the backseat. We extricated him," Peach says of himself and another server. "He was pinned a little bit so we had to move the seat around to get him out. We got him out and started CPR on him."

Jarrold Bandy was also hurt, but not as badly.

Police say he was behind the wheel of the Cherokee and that he ran a red light and admitted he'd been drinking. He faces one charge of vehicular homicide and two

charges of vehicular assault.

A judge set his bail at \$350,000.

At 21 years old, Bandy now faces vehicular homicide charges as the parents of 20 year old Robert Vasen get ready to bury their son.

Another young man, Steve Regener, was seriously hurt. He was sitting next to Vasen and suffered a small fracture in his neck.

He was treated and released from Harborview Medical Center.