

Sean William Kyle Obituary

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PITTSBURG, Kan. — A Pittsburg State University football player who was working for Crossland Construction Co. was killed on the job site Tuesday in Moore, Okla., according to Crossland officials. The Edmond Sun reported that Sean Kyle, 19, died in an apparent construction accident. Kyle reportedly fell off some scaffolding while working.

Dennis Burns, director of marketing for Crossland, told the Globe that the company was releasing little information until an investigation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is complete.

Burns said OSHA was on the job site investigating the death along with Crossland safety officials.

“This is a tragic day for all of us; it’s just so sad,” Burns said of the death.

The Globe’s efforts to obtain information from the Edmond Police Department were unsuccessful Wednesday.

Dan Wilkes, sports information director for PSU, told the Globe that Kyle was a red-shirt freshman who played defensive line. Kyle was a 2006 graduate of Edmond Memorial High School.

The Edmond Sun reported that Kyle was on a football scholarship to PSU and was a standout wrestler in high school, earning All-Edmond Wrestler of the Year honors.

PSU’s Web site lists Kyle as a two-time All-Metro and a three-year All-City performer while in high school. He was born July 10, 1987, and was the son of Joe and Carole Kyle. He was an undeclared major at PSU.

Crossland is based in Columbus. According to its Web site, it employs more than 800 craftsmen, operators, steel erectors and managers. The company has offices in Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. Among its current projects are the Joplin (Mo.) Regional Airport’s new terminal and the Crossroads Chevrolet Dealership just off of Interstate 44 in Joplin.

Accident claims life of Pitt State football player

M. Scott Carter

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MOORE — A Pittsburg (Kan.) State University football player was killed earlier this week when he fell off the roof of a building where he was working, a spokesman for the Moore Police Department said

Thursday. Moore police say Sean Kyle, a 19-year-old defensive linebacker for the Pittsburg State Gorillas, died around 4 p.m. Tuesday after he fell off the roof at a construction site located at 1001 S. I-35 Service Road in Moore. Kyle was employed by Crossland Construction. "Mr. Kyle was laying out some roof decking about 35 to 40 feet up in the air," police spokesman Todd Strickland said. "He was walking backward, stumbled, and fell off the beam on the concrete below." Strickland said Kyle was taken to the Moore Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. While Kyle was wearing a safety harness at the time of the accident, Strickland said the harness was not hooked onto a safety line. "The harness would have broken his fall," he said, "and could have saved his life." Strickland said the accident was witnessed by two other Crossland employees who were interviewed by Moore police. "We talked with the two employees who were working with Mr. Kyle and saw the accident," he said. While police have concluded their investigation, officials with Crossland Construction say they are currently reviewing the accident. "We are still investigating," Doug Westervelt, Crossland's safety director said in a newspaper story published by the Edmond Sun. "We're trying to figure out what went wrong." A 2006 graduate of Edmond's Memorial High School, Kyle was attending college at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kan., on a football scholarship. The redshirt freshman was also a standout wrestler in high school, where he gained All-Edmond Wrestler of the Year honors. "He was an ambassador," Gorilla head coach Chuck Broyles said. "He bought into everything we teach our athletes. Every time he went back home, he would tell other athletes, that if they wanted to compete on the Division II level, Pittsburg State was where they needed to come." University officials said Kyle's death was "a tremendous loss." "It's tragic," said Dan Wilkes, Pittsburg State's sports information director. "There was a candle light vigil on campus. Head coach Broyles and several members of the team and the community were there to remember Sean." Wilkes said the Gorillas had a team meeting Wednesday, involving 40-50 athletes and the team captains. "Kyle had just completed his first year in our

program," Wilkes said. "It's tragic. We haven't dealt with situations like this very often." Funeral services are pending.

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The athlete attended Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kan., on a football scholarship, where he was a defensive lineman. "He was an ambassador to (Pittsburg State). He bought into everything we teach our athletes," said Gorillas head football coach Chuck Broyles. For some, Kyle will be remembered as a great athlete on both the football field and the wrestling mat, but for others he will be remembered as the "gentle giant." Kyle's death sent shockwaves around Edmond. "Everyone loved him," said Memorial wrestling coach Darren Huff. "He was just a gentle giant, he really was. Everybody loved him, no one ever said a bad thing about him. He was it. He was the leader. I'm supposed to be the coach, but I learned more from him than he ever could have learned from me. He's the type of guy you would want your son to grow up and be." Kyle achieved greatness in both sports, earning All-Edmond Player of the Year honors in wrestling, during his senior year. He also overcame a number of obstacles along the way, which included several injuries as he finished runner-up at the state wrestling tournament. "He had a lot of problems in his life. He stepped up and overcame every obstacle that he faced. A lot of guys would have given up, but not Sean. He always battled and never quit," Huff said. The redshirt-freshman defensive lineman went 35-1 his senior year in wrestling, losing only in the state finals to Justin Glenn of Enid. Though at Pitt State for only one season, he was a projected starter for the upcoming season. "Kids think that they are immortal, like a superman or something," said Memorial head football coach Mark Walker. "Here he was about to start on for Pitt State as a freshman, and then a freak accident like this happens and it hits you pretty hard." "He was like a son to me. Everybody looked up to him, including my 5-year-old girl. When I told her, she was just crushed, because he was a big brother to her." Memorial service are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday 23 Jun 2007 at New Covenant United Methodist Church in Edmond.