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Tragedy has struck the community of Winchester: 17-year old Patrick Gill, who attended Winchester High School and served as the captain of its football team, was killed in a car crash on Saturday. The incident happened that morning where Gill's car went off-road and struck a tree. Gill was transported to a hospital where he later was pronounced dead. While there has been no official word yet on what caused the accident, the Boston suburb has quickly poured its support to the Gill family.

Beloved by his fellow classmates, faculty members, friends and family, a quiet vigil was held at the high school on Sunday where hundreds attended to remember Gill and pay their condolences to his family.

"He was a shining star in the wall of many shining stars in this building," a faculty member remarked about Gill. Gill, who was also a three-sport star and multi-letter winner, leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments never to be forgotten by his classmates.

Undoubtedly, Gills most recognized achievement was his role as the high school's football captain. Coach Dembowski says that the sudden death of their star captain has hit the team very hard. Despite the deep emotions of shock and sadness felt visibly by Gill's teammates, Dembowski says: "We're gonna try to keep/maintain a semblance of normalcy."

After speaking with the members of the team and rival captains, the coach wants to ensure that their upcoming practice run (not to be postponed on Monday after school) and games are still held as scheduled, with the thought of Gill being in their spirits. Collectively, they would feel that moving forward would be the right thing to do as Patrick would have wanted the same instead of everyone holding back. Gill's death also has shocked the team that they will be facing: Woburn. The coach has said that the seniors who knew Gill started in Woburn Pop Warner, hence the ironic tie.

More on Gill, Dembowski adds that he was a very strong leader and worked well with his teammates and held them together: "Patrick was the glue to all the kids...immensely popular with everyone on the team."

Dembowski also commented on the Gill family's receiving of support: "They are being as strong as they possibly can in this awful situation. The community has been fantastic." This is in reference to the very large turnout at the Gill's home and vigils.

To help alleviate the sadness and sorrow felt by students at Winchester High, grief counselors are set to be available on Monday.

As for now, lit candles and flowers have been set up at the high school field where the 17-year old has had the opportunity to play football and dominate his presence and strong personality. A makeshift memorial has also been created at the crash site as Gill's classmates surround the scene with deep emotion. A funeral service is expected to be held on Friday as Winchester mourns the loss of a life gone too soon.