

Jet ski accident ‘could’ve been worse’

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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2012 GHS grad injured in boating mishap

Trey Kolbo, a 2012 graduate of Gothenburg High School, is recovering from injuries from a jet ski accident that could have been much worse, according to law enforcement officials.

Another GHS graduate and current students were also involved and some were slightly injured.

Kolbo, 18, was airlifted to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney Monday night after a boating accident at Jeffrey Lake.

Lincoln County Sheriff Office lieutenant Dan Newton said Kolbo suffered a possible concussion and dislocated his left knee after a jet ski landed on top of him.

The Gothenburg rescue squad was called about 7:50 p.m. after a jet ski, driven by 16-year-old Regan Geiken, landed on Kolbo who was in a boat.

Geiken was uninjured, Newton said, as were her passengers—Jacey Wiggins, 17; and Leah Schwanz, 19.

Newton said witnesses reported that 18-year-old Brett Dockweiler was sitting on a jet ski and talking to Kolbo and 17-year-old Brittyn Munster. Both were in a boat that was floating in the lake.

“They said the jet ski was coming toward them to splash them and Brittyn and Trey waved to slow down,” Newton said. “The jet ski hit the jet ski next to the boat and landed in the boat.”

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Newton said Dockweiler reportedly was hit in the back and Kolbo was struck in the head.

When the youths lifted the jet ski off the boat, he said Kolbo was unconscious.

Kolbo was placed in a private vehicle, Newton said, and met by the Gothenburg rescue squad between Gothenburg and Brady for transport to Gothenburg Memorial Hospital.

"Someone called for an ambulance," he said.

Local doctors recommended that Kolbo be transported to Good Samaritan as a precaution, the lieutenant said.

Newton said Munster complained of back pain, as did Dockweiler. Both were checked by emergency room personnel, he said.

A Good Samaritan Hospital official said Tuesday that Kolbo was in fair condition.

Newton said there was no indication that alcohol was involved in the accident.

"The accident could've been a lot worse," he said. "If you get that close to another vehicle, whether it's on the road or water, there's not a lot of control to turn quickly."

Gothenburg rescue captain Jason Wagner said it's a good idea for young people, who plan to spend time on the water, to take a boater/water safety course.

Damage to the boat, owned by Jim Haver of Gothenburg, was estimated at \$50, Newton said,

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noting that there was about \$150 in damage to the jet ski operated by Dockweiler and \$75 to the watercraft driven by Geiken.

Shane Geiken owns both of the 2012 Yamaha cruisers that were involved in the accident, he said.