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## Former Fontainebleau, Delgado baseball star Chandler Laurent killed in car accident

chandler laurent.jpg

Chandler Laurent, right, points upward as he crosses home plate after hitting a three-run homer for Fontainebleau High School during a game against Covington in 2004. (NOLA.com / The Times-Picayune archive)

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A 26-year-old Lacombe man who played professional baseball in the Colorado Rockies' organization died Wednesday night (Oct. 8) when the car he was driving slammed into the back of an 18-wheeler that had slowed down in traffic on Interstate 12 south of **Covington, State Police** said. The victim was identified as Chandler Laurent, who had played baseball for Fontainebleau High School near Mandeville and Delgado Community College in New Orleans.



In a separate incident Wednesday night, a Bush man was booked with negligent homicide and other charges after a fatal head-on collision near Bogalusa, police said.

Laurent was driving east near the Pinnacle Parkway exit at about 8:30 p.m. when he failed to slow down with traffic and rear-ended the truck, Master Trooper Greg Marchand said in a news release. He died at the scene.

Due to the damage to the car, investigators do not know whether Laurent was wearing a seatbelt, Marchand said.

Troopers do not believe Laurent was impaired, but a blood sample will be tested, he said.

The truck driver, Maykel Fernandez, 35, was not injured. A breath test revealed no signs of alcohol, Marchand said.

Laurent played baseball for Fontainebleau High and later landed at Delgado Community College after stints at two other schools.

At Delgado, he batted .431 with eight home runs and 56 RBI's. Laurent earned National Junior College Athletic Association honorable mention status for his outstanding defensive performance as a right-fielder for Delgado during the 2009 season.

He was drafted as an outfielder in the 21st round of the 2009 Major League Baseball draft by the Colorado Rockies. Records show that he played with various minor league teams within the organization over five seasons.

The incident on I-12 was the first of two fatal accidents investigated by troopers from State Police Troop L on Wednesday night.

Shortly before 9 p.m., an accident on Louisiana 21 near Bogalusa claimed the life of Howard Woodward, 69, of Franklinton.

Woodward was driving north in a Dodge truck when he collided head-on with a southbound Ford truck driven by Donald Richardson, 40, of Bush. Richardson's vehicle, for unknown reasons, had crossed the center line and entered the northbound lane, Marchand said.

Woodward, who was not wearing a seatbelt, died at the scene, police said. Two passengers in his truck received moderate injuries and were taken to St. Tammany Parish Hospital.

Richardson, who was wearing a seatbelt, was taken to Our Lady of Angels Hospital in Bogalusa where he was treated and released. He was booked at the Washington Parish Jail with negligent homicide, two counts of negligent injuring and a lane violation, police said.

Impairment is not suspected on the part of Richardson or Woodward, Marchand said. Blood samples were collected for testing.

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