

Panel Discussion:

Collapse on the Playing Field

Robert Sallis, MD – moderator

Aaron Baggish, MD

Jon Finnoff, DO

Jim MacDonald, MD

Allen Sills, MD



Collapse in a Basketball Player

- Hank Gathers was a 23-year-old collegiate basketball player who collapsed in a game on March 4, 1990.
- Had previous syncopal episode in a game several months earlier.
- Had extensive work up and was allowed to return to play.
- Diagnosis: Cardiomyopathy



Collapse in a Volleyball Player

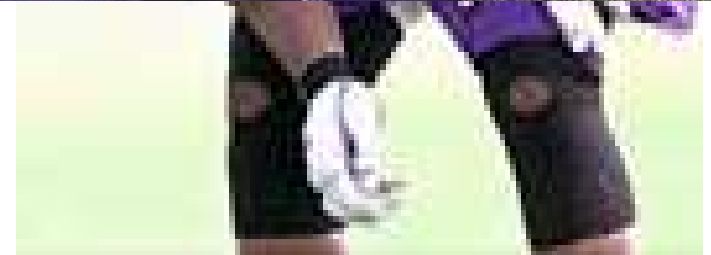
- Flo Hymen was a 31-year-old Olympic Volleyball player who collapsed during a game in Japan on January 24, 1986.
- She had just come out of the game and suddenly keeled over on the bench.
- She had a history of previous syncopal episodes.
- Diagnosis: Aortic Rupture related to Marfan's Syndrome.

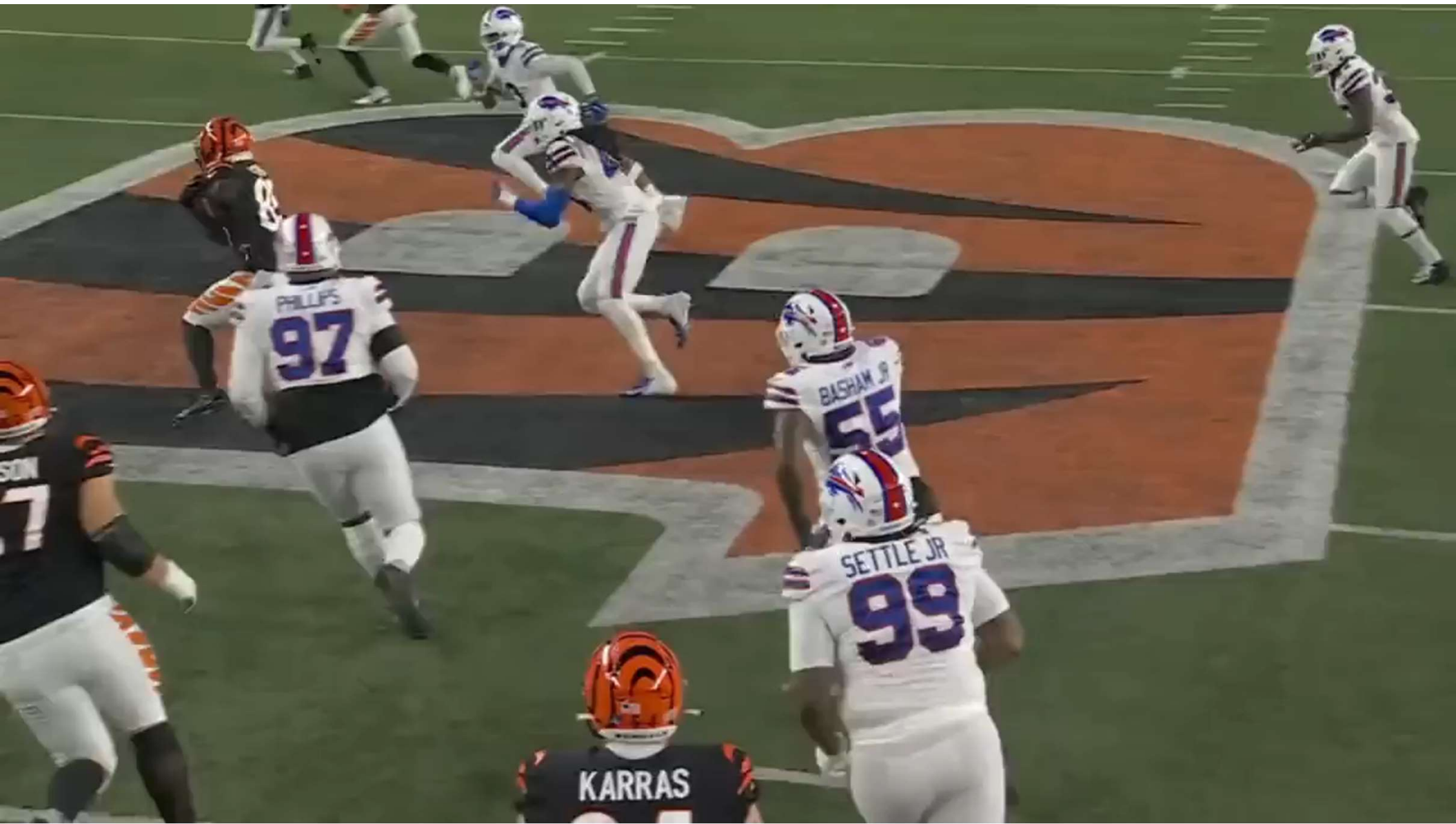




Collapse in a NFL Football Player

- Kory Stringer was a 27-year-old 336 lb. tackle for the Minnesota Vikings, who died during training camp on July 31, 2001.
- It was the 2nd day of 2-a-day practices in Mankato, MN.
- Heat index was 110° (hottest day in a decade).
- Stringer had a hx problems tolerating heat and vomited during practice the day before.
- Diagnosis: Heat Stroke





Collapse in an NFL Football Player

- Damar Hamlin was a 25-year-old safety playing for the Buffalo Bills who collapsed on January 2, 2023 in a Monday Night Football game.
- He was hit in the chest while making a tackle, stood up and then collapsed.
- CPR and AED were administered quickly, followed by transport to local hospital.
- Discharged after 9 days.
- Diagnosis: Commotio Cordis



Collapse in a High School Football Player

- Freddy Mendoza was a 17-year-old high school football player who collapsed on the sideline during a game on October 1, 1991.
- He came off the field after a hard hit, suddenly collapsed and was unresponsive; Transported to hospital where he died.
- In a game the week before he complained of a headache following a hard hit that persisted during the week preceding his death.
- Diagnosis: Second Impact Syndrome



Freddy Mendoza, fatally injured in football game

School liable for death

District must pay \$809,000 for fatal football injury

By MARC BENJAMIN
Calhoun staff writer

McFarland Unified School District must pay \$809,000 to the family of prep football player Freddy Mendoza who died of a head injury suffered in a game, a Kern County Superior Court jury ruled Friday.

The verdict, confirmed by Judge Clarence Westra Jr., comes a day after what would have been Mendoza's 19th birthday and almost two years from the Friday night when Mendoza, a McFarland High player, blocked an Immanuel High player on Oct. 4, 1991.

Mendoza later collapsed on the sidelines and died in Kern Medical Center two days later. It was the force of the hit he took in the game that was blamed for his death, Kern County coroner's reports state.

"The jury came back finding the school district and the coach, Robert Hadfield, negligent of failure to supervise and care for Freddy Mendoza," said attorney Steve Nichols of the law firm of Young, Woodridge, Padden, Self & Farr. "The jury found that Freddy was one-third negligent and found the school district was two-thirds."

The suit was filed in March 1993 against McFarland Unified, McFarland High School, football coach Robert Hadfield, athletic director Gary Adams and principal Larry Yeghobian. Adams and Yeghobian were not found liable.

The suit did not specify an amount for damages. The trial took 10 days and the jury needed five hours Friday to come to its verdict.

A key piece of evidence, Nichols said, was McFarland High was one of only five high schools of 64 in Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties that did not have a doctor on the sidelines for its games.

Another issue involved Hadfield's knowledge of an injury suffered by Mendoza in a previous game on Sept. 27, 1991. "The problem was that the coach was aware that Freddy was injured in the earlier game against Fowler and during the game he complained of

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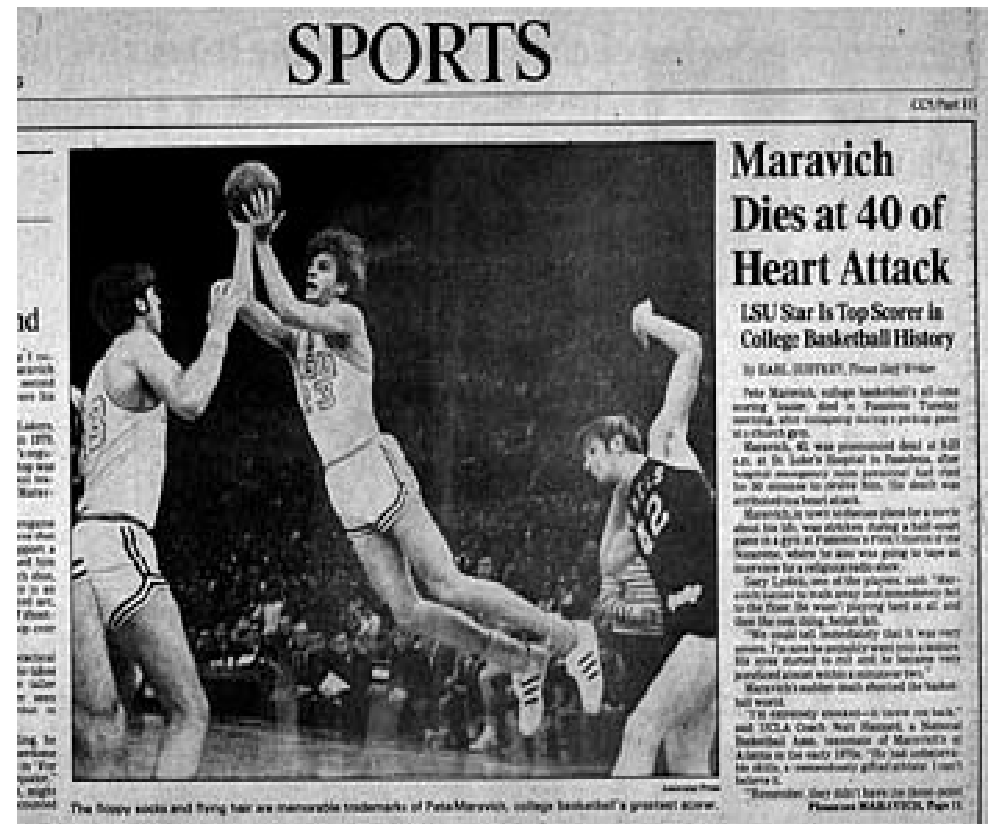
Collapse in an Amateur Marathon Runner

- Cynthia Lucero was a 28-year-old psychologist who died running the 2002 Boston Marathon.
- She was said to be looking strong only 6 miles from the finish.
- Started to feel bad and was said to have increased her drinking.
- Collapsed 4 miles from finish.
 - Taken to local hospital comatose.
 - Life support removed next day.
- Diagnosis: Hyponatremia



Collapse in a Retired Basketball Player

- Pete Maravich was a 40-year-old retired professional basketball player who collapsed during a pickup game in the gym at First Church of the Nazarene in Pasadena, Calif on January 5, 1988.
- He was 7 years retired from the NBA.
- After 2 pickup games, he suddenly collapsed to the floor face-first and died.
- Diagnosis: Coronary Artery Anomaly

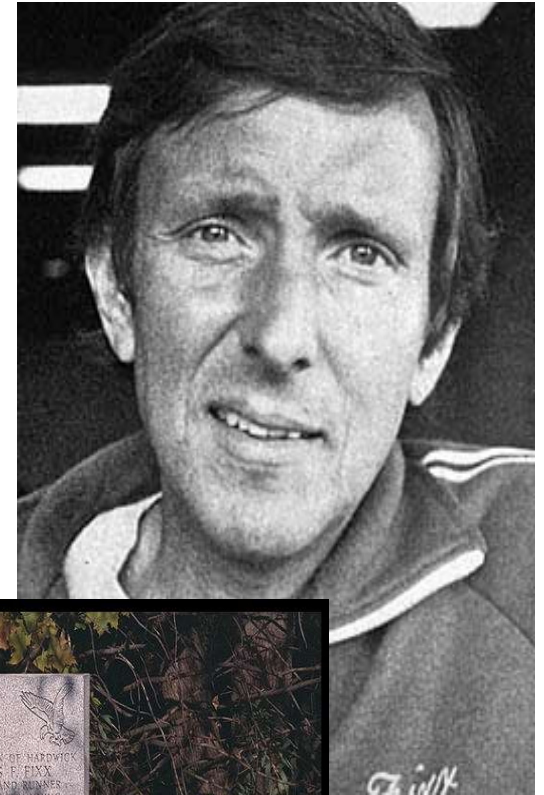


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Collapse in a Marathon Runner

- Jim Fixx was a 52-year-old amateur marathon runner when he died while out for a run in 1984.
- Previously overweight and 2-pack per day smoker.
- Hx high cholesterol.
- Strong family history of CAD – father died at 42 of MI.
- Complained of exertional CP in weeks before he died – was scheduled for TM test.
- Diagnosis: Coronary Artery Disease.



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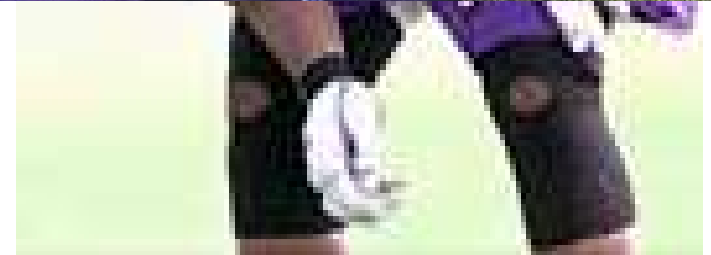
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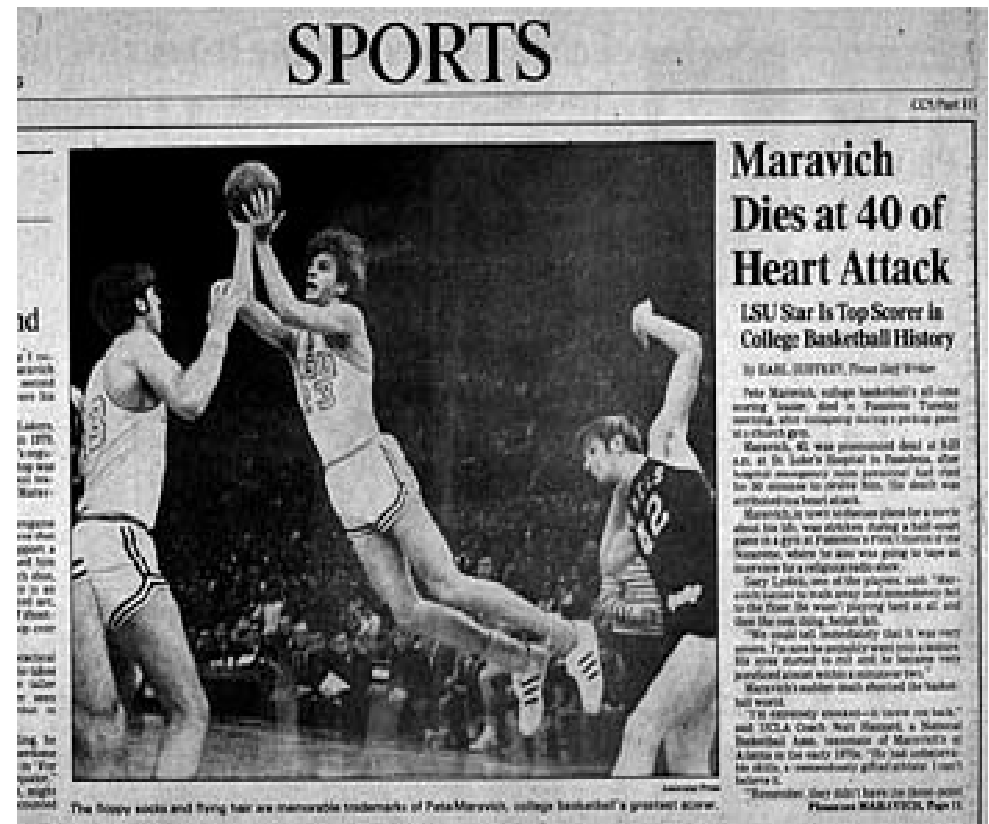
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