



Senseless Tragedy

Ashlyn Dyer had her whole life in front of her. The 27-year-old Dyer, who starred at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, Calif., and later went on to play at USC, had recently taken a job at Red Envelope, a catalog-only order company in San Francisco that appeals to women. Her work travels took her to places like London, Paris and Madrid.

Shortly after that overseas trip, Dyer was training for the L.A. Marathon one spring morning earlier this year by running in the historic Presidio in San Francisco when the unthinkable occurred.

Dyer was struck by a car and left unconscious by the side of the road. The driver did not stop. A park maintenance worker found her and called for help. The police had to use her iPod (via the serial number which she registered with Apple) to determine her identity. Dyer sustained numerous injuries

to her head, spine, ribs and lungs and passed away March 12—some 10 days later—after life support was withdrawn.

The person who struck Dyer remains at large.

“There hasn’t been any progress. They keep telling us they are following up on leads, but it’s been six months,” said Dyer’s mother, Marsha. “Right now there are no leads. We’re devastated. People say with time it gets better. It actually gets worse because reality sets in. This is senseless the way this thing happened. Here is a girl out for a run and she gets taken out by a car.”

Dyer’s memorial service at Mira Costa packed the gym, drawing over 1,000 people. Mira Costa girls coach DaeLea Aldrich gave the eulogy at the memorial. Dyer was the captain and setter of the Mira Costa team that won the state championship her senior year.

“Ashlyn was a remarkable young woman,” said Aldrich, who is retiring as Mira Costa’s coach at the end of the season. “We all benefited greatly by knowing her and being with her. She was an angel. Her life was very, very full. This is an absolute devastating tragedy. She touched a lot of lives. She was unbelievable. She was an inspiration. She filled the air with laughter and with a good, positive vibe. Everybody that knew her loved her.”

Dyer’s memory still burns brightly on a number of fronts. Her teammates on her Manhattan Beach 6-Man team wore orange in her memory this year. The last mile of this year’s L.A. Marathon was also dedicated to her.

The Ashlyn Dyer Fund for Neurological Research and Support was also created to honor her memory by making a positive impact for others affected with Traumatic Brain Injury. A number of Dyer’s organs were donated as well.

“I know something positive is going to

come out of this,” said Marsha Dyer.

Dyer was going to surprise her family, which also includes her father, Bruce, and sisters, Taryn, and Allyn, with a trip to Paris on Oct. 24, her birthday.

“She was supposedly going to surprise us and take us there,” said Marsha Dyer. “So on Oct. 24, we’re all going to Paris. She was an awesome and unique girl!”

For more on the Ashlyn Dyer Foundation, visit www.ashlyndyer.com. ■



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