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Southfield man who died while playing basketball had rare heart condition

Santiago Esparza / The Detroit News

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP -- An autopsy has found that a 19-year-old man who died while playing basketball Tuesday night had a heart condition that makes it difficult for blood to circulate.

The Oakland County Medical Examiner's Office ruled Scott Charles Loundmon III of Southfield died of natural causes.

Loundmon possessed hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, the medical examiner's office said. The condition is a hereditary one in which the heart's muscles thicken and make it difficult for blood to circulate, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine's Web site.

Sudden death can occur at a young age, according to the Web site.

Loundmon was playing basketball about 11 p.m. Tuesday at the Lifetime Fitness gym on Commerce Boulevard when he collapsed, Oakland County sheriff's officials said.

Staff at the gym used a defibrillator on the man while waiting for an emergency medical crew to arrive. The staff was advised to use the device when they called for help, sheriff's officials said.

The man was taken to Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills, where doctors pronounced him dead.

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