

# Young shooting victim's teammates dedicate football tournament to his memory



MARY MILZ

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INDIANAPOLIS (WTHR) - One year ago this weekend, a 10-year-old Indianapolis boy got caught in the crossfire. He was killed in a drive-by shooting. It happened as he and his family gathered at this grandmother's home along the 3900 block of Graceland to grieve her passing.

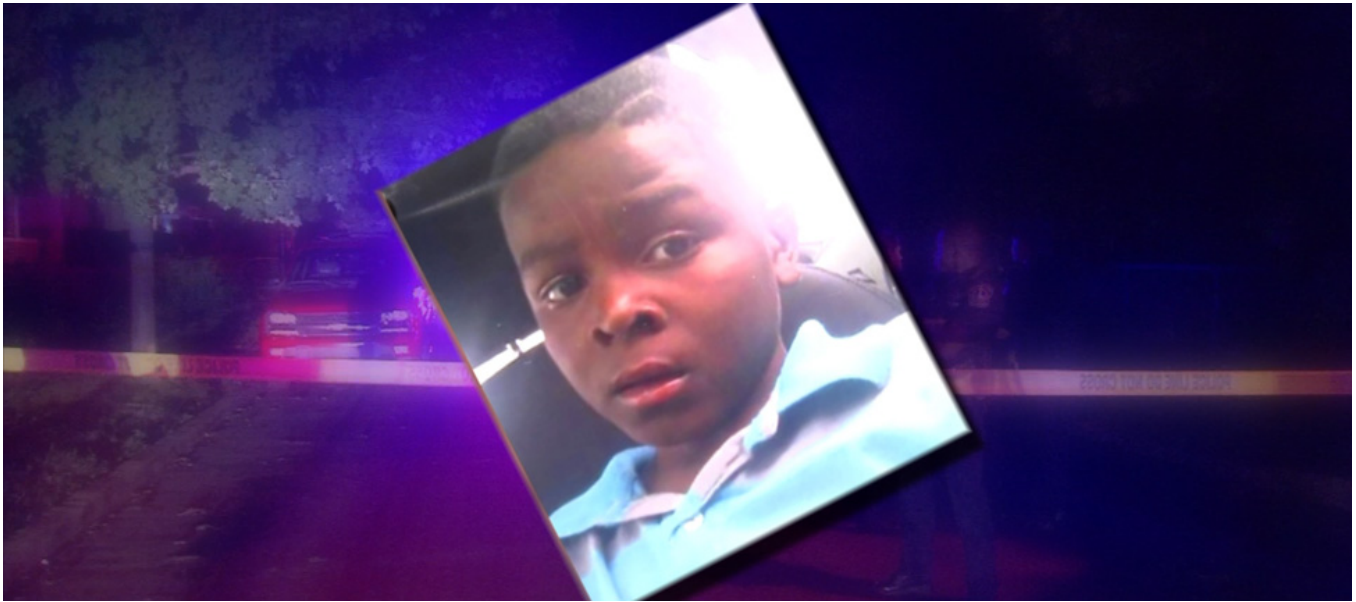
Someone in a car opened fire on the crowd, striking **Deshaun Swanson** in the stomach. A year later, police have not made any arrests, but Deshaun's friends and teammates are doing what they can to make sure he's not forgotten.

The Indy Steelers, part of a youth football league, are hosting a tournament Saturday at the Butler Bowl on Deshaun's behalf.

"I love it because he was my little friend," said teammate Latravron Wainwright.

Fellow player Dameon Anderson added, "because if he was here and someone else passed away, he would support them... every night I pray for him and think about him."

Deshaun was killed just a few blocks from Tarkington Park where the Steelers practice. The first-ever tournament is being called the Tarkington Classic. It includes eight games. At 2pm, players will pause to release dozen of balloons in memory of their fallen teammate.



Deshaun Swanson

"It's a way to honor him and keep his name in memory and also to bring awareness to stop the violence," Steelers coach Darryl Smith said. "So many of these kids are pulled away to the streets and a lot of the reason why is they have nothing positive to do. So a lot of groups like us are out here trying to give the kids a positive avenue, another way other than the streets. Maybe we can stop a lot of young lives that have been taken."

Deshaun's brother Dai'twaun, 12, also plays for the Steelers. While he's not part of tomorrow's tournament (it's for the 8-and-under and 10-and-under teams) he will be there, thinking about his brother.

"I want people to remember him because he was a good person and liked to play sports and stuff," Dai'twaun said.

Smith said he and the other coaches have been "trying to keep our arms around Dai'Twaun, keep it positive, keep his head up, but a loss like that you can't replace."

He said kids that young shouldn't be grieving the death of a brother or friend and certainly not to violence.

"We think it's our job as coaches and part of his family to keep his name in honor and honor him with our playing and let the boys grow up from here on out," Smith said.

Despite the rainy forecast, he hopes Saturday is a special day for the Steelers - a chance to "be like the big time" and play in the Butler Bowl, but also to pay tribute to their friend.

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