

# Boaters ignored help calls

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A friend of University of Wisconsin football player Wayne Souza said several boaters ignored pleas for help while he was trying to save the star receiver from drowning during the weekend.

Souza, 20, of New Bedford, Mass., drowned Saturday afternoon in Lake Monona after he had jumped in for a swim while boating with David White, 25.

White, a recent Wisconsin graduate and an assistant basketball coach at Madison East High School, said he, too, could have drowned while trying to rescue Souza.

White, 6-feet-5 and 225 pounds, was recently certified as a water safety instructor. But he said that the 6-foot-2, 185-pound Souza was so strong he could not control him in the football player's panic.

Spokane, Wash., Wed., July 25, 1979.

"If it was someone not as trained as I was out there, there might have been a double drowning," White said. "Wayne was so strong, another person could have been drowned by him."

White said he cried out for help while trying to rescue Souza.

"Three boats were going towards the mouth of the river, but they all ignored me," White said. "I yelled as hard as I could, and I think they had to hear more because my parents' neighbors heard me a block away. If even one of those boats had stopped, Wayne would be alive today."

White said he and Souza were cruising in the lake near the mouth of the Yahara River when Souza suggested a swim and jumped in. White said Souza yelled for help as soon as he surfaced, about 25 feet from the boat.

It was believed that Souza may have developed a cramp as soon as he hit the water. White said Souza had mentioned some recent hamstring muscle problems.

"I suspect it was a cramp, but we'll never know," said Dane County Coroner Clyde Chamberlain. "If he had a hamstring problem, going from the hot air temperature to the cold water temperature could have aggravated it. Cramps aren't uncommon for athletes."