

Friends help Beverly teen 'remember'

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Like the old Beatles' song suggested, Aaron Brown, a 16-year-old Beverly Hills student got a little help from his friends to get through a "really scary" situation.

Brown, a junior at Birmingham Groves High School, suffered a mild case of amnesia last week after being knocked unconscious during a basketball game with West Bloomfield.

"I think I caught an elbow," said Brown, who doesn't remember much about the injury. "When I woke up, I

was on the floor, I was dizzy and I didn't recognize teammates . . . or where I was."

Doctors initially feared a neck injury, he said. But after reviewing X-rays and other data they concluded he was suffering from a mild case of amnesia.

He said they told him there was no serious injury, but there was no telling, however, how long the amnesia would last.

"I recognized my mom and stepdad (Yvonne and Harrison Blackmun), but I didn't recognize other family members," he said.

That's where friends and family

members came in. Over the week-end, he said family members and friends did their best to cheer him up . . . and to help reintroduce him to the real world.

When he went to school Monday, Brown didn't recognize classrooms, teachers or fellow students. "It was like I was at a different school," he said. "Kids I knew had to be reintroduced. They'd tell me about things we'd done, but it didn't register."

BROWN SAID he tried to pay attention in class, but things just didn't seem to fit together. It was frustrating and "really scary," he said.

Things changed very abruptly Tuesday, Brown said, when he saw another friend, Adam Black, slip and fall as his teammates were playing Southfield-Lathrup. Black was not seriously injured.

Brown said there was no physical jarring of his head nor any abrupt trauma. But when his friend fell, "things started clearing up. I started recognizing people and within five minutes or so, things were almost back to normal."

Brown said he has no idea if there was any connection between his friend's fall and his recovery. He's just glad the ordeal seems to be

over. Classes, and life in general, for the remainder of the week were a lot more fun and productive, he said.

Brown said he was anxious to get back to the doctor to possibly get some explanation about what happened, as well as medical authorization to return to the team where he is a starter.

Looking back on the experience, Brown said he "missed a few days," but came away with a greater appreciation for family and friends.

"They really helped out," he said. "I'm pretty lucky."



Aaron Brown

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