



SURVIVAL FACTORS ATTACHMENT

Surviving Occupant Interview Transcript

Andrews, TX

HWY22MH006

(22 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of: *

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FATAL TWO VEHICLE COLLISION *

IN ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS *

Accident No.: HWY22MH006

ON MARCH 15, 2022 *

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Interview of: DAYTON PRICE, Victim

University of the Southwest, Golf Team Member

Via telephone

APPEARANCES:

RON KAMINSKI, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

KENNY BRAGG, Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

PAT MCGRODER, Attorney
Law Firm of Beus Gilbert McGroder, PLLC

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MR. KAMINSKI: This is Ron Kaminski.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi, Ron. How are you?

MR. KAMINSKI: Good. Is this Mr. Price or Pat?

MR. MCGRODER: I think you've got everybody. I think you've got Dayton, Daren and Pat, Ron.

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. So let me add my colleague, Kenny Bragg. He's our human performance investigator.

MR. MCGRODER: Okay.

MR. BRAGG: This is Kenny Bragg.

MR. KAMINSKI: Yeah, Kenny. Hey, we're starting off here. I'm going to merge the calls.

Okay. Is everybody on? Kenny are you on?

MR. MCGRODER: Pat McGroder here.

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

MR. BRAGG: This is Kenny. I'm here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why don't we do attendance. So Darren's here. Dayton, if you could answer, and then Ornella, you can answer, and then Pat, I guess.

(Crosstalk)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, I'm on as well.

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. So I know Dayton and Darren are on. Pat, you're on. And --

MR. MCGRODER: And Mrs. Price, Dayton's mom, is on.

MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. And her first name?

1 MR. MCGRODER: Ornella.

2 MR. KAMINSKI: Ornella? Okay.

3 MR. MCGRODER: Yes, sir.

4 MR. KAMINSKI: And then I'm Ronald Kaminski, and then Kenny,
5 can you speak up?

6 MR. BRAGG: Sure. My name is Kenny Bragg. Can you guys hear
7 me okay?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

9 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay, great. And as you know, Pat, that I'm
10 going to record this so -- so I can, you know, we -- so I don't
11 have to worry about taking notes on every little thing, and we
12 just record it. I'll get it transcribed, and I will give you a
13 copy of the transcription.

14 MR. MCGRODER: Great, Ron. That's fine with us.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. So, Dayton, basically what we're
16 looking to get is I know trying to get you to -- I hate to bring
17 you back into that horrible time, but get you to try to remember
18 starting from the trip leaving after the golf tournament. And
19 then Mr. Bragg and I will just have some follow-up questions. So
20 why don't you start with that, or would you rather start with the
21 seating, the seating chart?

22 MR. BRAGG: Hold on, Ron.

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Yes.

24 MR. BRAGG: Before we do that, can I get -- just do a formal
25 introduction into the interview, get everyone to say and spell

1 their first and last names? That way that will help the
2 transcriptionist out tremendously.

3 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. Good idea, Kenny. I apologize for
4 that.

5 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Hold on. I'm going to go ahead, and set
6 up recording as well just so we'll have a backup.

7 MR. KAMINSKI: Tell us when you're ready, Ken.

8 MR. BRAGG: Hold one second. Small technical glitch here.
9 My -- I got to use another phone. It won't recall while I'm on it
10 apparently.

11 MR. KAMINSKI: Well, I'm going -- I'll just start. I got --

12 MR. BRAGG: Okay.

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Ronald Kaminski, R-o-n-a-l-d.

14 MR. BRAGG: Ron.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Yes.

16 MR. BRAGG: Hold on for a second here.

17 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay.

18 MR. BRAGG: Okay. My name is Kenny Bragg. I'm an
19 investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, Office
20 of Highway Safety. This interview is in connection with a motor
21 vehicle crash that took place in Andrews, Texas, on March 15,
22 2022. Also from the NTSB we have --

23 MR. KAMINSKI: Ronald Kaminski, K-a-m-i-n-s-k-i. I'm a
24 survival factors investigator with the Office of Highway Safety.

25 MR. BRAGG: And the attorney for Dillon. Can you --

1 MR. KAMINSKI: Dayton.

2 MR. BRAGG: I'm sorry. For Dayton, yes. Can you go ahead
3 and state your name as well as your organization?

4 MR. MCGRODER: Sure, Ken. My name is Pat, P-a-t, McGroder,
5 M-c-g-r-o-d-e-r. I'm with the Law Firm of Beus, B-e-u-s, Gilbert,
6 G-i-l-b-e-r-t, and McGroder, M-c-g-r-o-d-e-r, in Phoenix, Arizona.
7 My clients are Mr. and Mrs. Daren and Ornella Price as well as my
8 client Dayton Price, all of which are on the phone.

9 MR. BRAGG: Great. And, Mrs. Price, can I get you to spell
10 your first and last name, please?

11 MS. PRICE: Certainly. It's O-r-n-e-l-l-a.

12 MR. KAMINSKI: Thank you.

13 MR. BRAGG: And just on behalf of myself, Ron, I would like
14 to just thank you for giving us this interview.

15 INTERVIEW OF DAYTON PRICE

16 BY MR. BRAGG:

17 Q. Dayton, if you don't mind, could you go ahead and start off
18 by telling what happened that day, and what you, what you
19 observed?

20 A. Yes, sir. Do you want me to start from before we left for
21 Midland or would you like me to start after the golf tournament?

22 Q. You can start from before you left Midland.

23 A. Okay. So I remember getting up around four o'clock in the
24 morning, 4 a.m. We had to load our bus with the trailer attached
25 by 4:30 in order to get to Midland in enough time for our team to

1 warm up, and get ready for this upcoming golf tournament that we
2 had. So it was pretty, pretty regular morning. We all got on the
3 bus, and sat down, and started driving. One of the main things I
4 remember on the bus is seeing a really nice sunrise on our way to
5 Midland. And then we stopped at a gas station just outside. I
6 think it was in Odessa. I'm not, I'm not too sure. I'm not too
7 familiar with Texas. Stopped at a big gas station, and myself and
8 my teammates we got some, got some breakfast, and breakfast
9 burritos for, for breakfast and to get ready, and then we all got
10 back in the bus. We arrived at the golf course. There was a lot
11 of, a lot of players there. The range was pretty much filled with
12 all, with all the teams, and guys and girls.

13 And then we began our round, our first round. There was two
14 rounds that day. Myself, from what I remember myself I played
15 pretty well. I didn't really see many of my teammates during the
16 day. I saw my coach, coach James a few times, and he came around,
17 and gave us water, and snacks and such. And we played the first
18 round, and started up our second round again. And by the end of
19 it we were all pretty tired. Unfortunately, our team didn't play
20 too well. So some of the guys were a little frustrated with
21 themselves, but we still had another day to play. So we were
22 looking forward to tomorrow.

23 Then we got -- we loaded the bus back up; got back in the
24 bus. And then as a team we decided we wanted to have some Chick-
25 fil-A because their milkshakes are pretty good. So we went to

1 Chick-fil-A. It was in the mall. And we ordered our food, and we
2 sat down, and we had, we had our chicken sandwiches and chicken
3 nuggets, and whatever else they got. But we ate, and then we all
4 got back in the bus.

5 And then the last thing I remember is trying to break the
6 glass.

7 Q. And so what time did you -- was the first tee-off for the
8 first round in the morning?

9 A. I believe it was 8 a.m. (indiscernible).

10 Q. Okay. And you said you were at the, the bus -- you got up
11 about 4 a.m. You were at the bus at 4:30 a.m., and then about
12 what time did the bus leave?

13 A. About 4:35, sir.

14 Q. Okay. And is that New Mexico time or Texas time or is it the
15 same? Is there a time change?

16 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir, that was New Mexico time. We left so
17 early because we had to account for an hour time difference.
18 Texas was an hour ahead of New Mexico.

19 Q. Right. Okay. And why don't we touch on the seating chart.
20 I know you said -- I did get some notes that your dad gave me when
21 I was there at the hospital, and I talked to him, and I guess he
22 just got this information from when he was listening to you talk
23 to the police or something. But so we have the coach in the --
24 driving in the front left seat, correct?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. And then we have a female that was in the passenger
2 seat. What was her name?

3 A. Laci Stone.

4 Q. Laci Stone. Okay. And then the second row behind the coach
5 was that Jackson Zinn?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay. And next to Jackson would have been Mauricio Sanchez?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And behind -- or next, and then the -- on the outside,
10 I guess, it would have been Karisa Raines?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And then in the third row, you were in the third row
13 next to the window, correct, on the left side, on the driver's
14 side?

15 A. Oh, yes, sir, yes, yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. And next to you in the middle would have been Tiago?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Okay. And next to Tiago would have been Hayden?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay. And we have Travis Garcia, he was in that last row
21 alone, correct?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Okay. Do you happen to know was he -- where he was seated
24 back there? Was it more towards behind you, behind Tiago or maybe
25 all the way to the right by the other window, passenger side? Do

1 you recall?

2 A. I believe, yeah, I believe he was on the right-hand side
3 behind Hayden Underhill.

4 Q. Okay. Great. Thank you. And as for seatbelts, was -- do
5 you recall anyone being -- having their lap shoulder belts on
6 other than the driver?

7 A. No, sir.

8 Q. Okay. So you're not even -- do you know or you're not sure
9 about Laci Stone up in the front wearing her seatbelt?

10 A. I'm not too sure.

11 Q. Okay. That's fine. Okay. So that's it for the, for the
12 seating chart.

13 MR. BRAGG: Ken, you want to follow-up with anything
14 regarding the trip right before the crash?

15 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

16 Q. Yeah, sure, Dayton. Let's talk a little bit about your
17 background with the team. How long had you played on the team?

18 A. It was my freshman year. So about a semester, and I guess a
19 semester and then until March 15th. So I'd say about half a
20 semester and one semester. So not quite a full year.

21 Q. And was it just a normal occurrence on the team that you take
22 these types of trips for different golfing events?

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. And do you normally drive? I mean, did the team normally
25 take a highway vehicle?

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. And do you normally take the van that you were in during the
3 crash?
- 4 A. Yes, sir, that's our -- that was our usual van. Sometimes
5 the basketball team would have to take our, our van. So we would
6 use the almost identical one, but those were the vans that we
7 took, yes.
- 8 Q. Okay. And do you normally take a trailer along --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- as well? And is coach James is he always the driver?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. Have you ever been on a trip when he wasn't the driver?
- 13 A. No, sir.
- 14 Q. In your experience this -- all this time riding with coach
15 James, have you ever, have you ever felt unsafe or had, had any
16 concern about the way he drove?
- 17 A. No, sir.
- 18 Q. Okay. Have you ever known him to get pulled over on these
19 trips by the police?
- 20 A. No, sir.
- 21 Q. Okay. And this trip, this was a two-day event, correct?
- 22 A. It was -- technically we played a practice run the day
23 before. So you could say it was a three-day trip for us, but the
24 tournament was only two days, yes, sir.
- 25 Q. And so did you, did you go make the same trip the day before

1 the accident trip?

2 A. Yes, sir. We left around the same time, 4:35 a.m.

3 Q. And how long did it take to go from the school -- and I
4 assume you left from the school --

5 A. Yes, sir, school parking lot, yeah.

6 Q. Okay. So how long did it take you to drive from the school
7 to where the tournament was being held?

8 A. Unfortunately, I don't really remember.

9 Q. Was it more than five hours?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. More than two hours? Somewhere about that time? I mean, I'm
12 just asking. I'm just trying to narrow it down.

13 A. Yeah. I would say, I would say anywhere from like an hour 45
14 minutes to two and a half hours. I don't think it's -- I think
15 the maximum amount of time it would have took us two and a half
16 hours. I'm just -- I was a little confused now because we had to
17 account for the time difference. So I'm just -- I was just a
18 little confused.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. It was between -- I would say it was definitely close to like
21 an hour 50, two hours and 15 minutes, around there. It's my best
22 guess for sure.

23 Q. And you stated earlier that the coach stopped and got fuel on
24 the way to the tournament?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Does he have to get -- would he have to get fuel each,
4 each way there? Meaning --

5 A. Yes, sir. He filled up when we got to Odessa or Midland, and
6 always on a trip back from wherever we were coming from he'd
7 always stop pretty much the same gas station (indiscernible) New
8 Mexico, and fill up either -- even if it's the next morning or for
9 the next USW Athletic Team's use.

10 Q. Okay. So you indicated that Pat -- no. I'm sorry. What was
11 the young lady that was sitting next to him?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Laci.

13 THE WITNESS: Laci Stone.

14 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

15 Q. Laci?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did Laci sit next to him on the way down there as well?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Does she always sit up front or does -- do you guys move
20 around or what's the seating situation like?

21 A. Usually -- or the senior on our team Justin Pasitney, he
22 usually sat up front with coach James and either played music or
23 talked to the coach. But he, he wasn't traveling with us that
24 day. So Laci took the front seat.

25 Q. Okay. And when they play music, they used the radio in the

1 van or they used a cell phone or what did they -- how did they
2 normally?

3 A. Yes, sir. She used her -- I believe there was an auxiliary
4 cord that was plugged into the radio or into the radio system
5 there, and she could play her preferred songs (indiscernible), and
6 it would come out of the speakers on the bus (indiscernible).

7 Q. And when you got to the, to the golf tournament that morning,
8 what did you guys do?

9 A. We got there, we got there, I believe, about an hour, hour
10 and 20 minutes early. Some of the players stayed in the van for a
11 little bit, and ate something, and -- because it was a little cold
12 outside or chilly for Texas weather, I guess. And they -- some of
13 the -- some of my teammates had energy drinks or coffee or stuff
14 like that, and they just sat in the van for a little bit. Myself,
15 I went to the range. Put my headphones in, and started just
16 hitting golf balls to warm up. And then everybody just gradually
17 started coming out of the van, and went to the range, and then
18 went to the putting facility, and warmed up there, and then we
19 walked out to our designated holes.

20 Q. And what did coach James do during the day?

21 A. He made his way around the golf course. He had two teams to
22 take care of; the guys' team and the girls' team. He was in a
23 cart, and we would see him maybe every five or six holes, or he
24 was up

25 -- up on, for example, like the ninth hole, and see, see the

1 players come through. Or he would be talking to some other
2 coaches. So that's, that's pretty much where he -- what he does
3 during our tournaments.

4 Q. Does he get to take a break at all? I mean, have you ever --
5 does he just go into maybe the clubhouse and have lunch and just
6 take a little time off or --

7 A. No, sir. We started on -- myself, I started on, I think the
8 12th hole, and you would play your full round, and then
9 (indiscernible), and then coach James would bring you a to-go
10 container with a, with a sandwich in it, and a cookie, and a
11 drink, and then you would just keep going. You would start back
12 on the 12th hole, and play again. And then after the round, we
13 almost immediately left after we (indiscernible).

14 Q. And so when you left, you said you went to Chick-fil-A that
15 was in a mall?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. How long do you think you were at the Chick-fil-A?

18 A. I would say about 30 minutes, 30, 40 minutes.

19 Q. So you all sat down, consumed your food, and you left?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Did coach James have a drink with him when he left?

22 A. It would have been -- not alcoholic drink. No. It would
23 have been --

24 Q. No, no, no. I mean, did he have a, did he have a cup of iced
25 team or a milkshake with him when he was driving?

1 A. Yes. I believe he had a Dr Pepper. That's pretty much all
2 he drank.

3 Q. You remember seeing him, seeing him with it getting in the
4 vehicle?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Okay. And so when you left, you don't remember anything
7 after that; is that what you stated?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. Oh, sorry, sorry. Let me -- I remember trying to remember
11 break, break the glass. Because I was -- I believe I was stuck
12 inside the van. But other than that, unfortunately, I don't
13 remember anything else.

14 Q. Do you remember, you know, were they talking? Were people
15 talking on the van? Was he talking to the front -- the front seat
16 passenger? I mean, were they riding in silence? Describe that a
17 little bit for me.

18 A. Myself and Tiago were listening to music on our phones. I
19 had my headphones. I had one, one headphone in. And I, I
20 couldn't really tell what was going on in front of me. I believe
21 there was music playing, but I'm not, I'm -- I don't really know.

22 Q. Okay. Do you remember, like, any movements of the van?
23 Like, do you remember the driver coach either slamming on brakes
24 or swerving? You remember anything like that?

25 A. No, sir.

1 MR. BRAGG: Okay. All right, well thank you. I don't have
2 any further questions.

3 Ron, do you?

4 BY MR. KAMINSKI:

5 Q. Yeah. I was just going to say, so Dayton, so when did you
6 first realize that -- I mean, when you were listening to music,
7 did you have your eyes closed at the time, you just kind of
8 chilling?

9 A. Yeah. I believe my eyes were open. I was just -- I believe
10 I was on my phone and looking out the window, and just listening
11 to music, and talking to Tiago Sousa.

12 Q. Okay. So you don't recall then if there was any kind of a
13 sudden brake at the end or kind of swerve right before the impact?

14 A. Unfortunately --

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. Unfortunately, no, sir.

17 Q. And when you -- so when you realized -- you said you had to
18 bust out the window. Is that what -- can you describe that what
19 happened there?

20 A. Yes. Yes, sir. I remember trying to take my shirt off, and
21 trying to wrap it around my fist, and then trying to break the
22 window with my foot and my, and my fist.

23 Q. And did your fist finally break it or did your foot?

24 A. I'm not, I'm not too sure. I just remember trying to break
25 it. I don't remember if I got out or not through that exact

1 point.

2 Q. Okay. But I think you did have some arm, right arm
3 fractures. Is that your primary arm you use, your right hand?

4 A. Yes, sir. They put, they put two plates in my forearm.

5 Q. Okay. So it was probably a good chance you were probably
6 using your, your right hand there to break that out. So okay.

7 And regarding the -- did the coach ever discuss any kind of, you
8 know, you guys put on your seatbelts or you don't have to wear
9 your seatbelts? Anything regarding seatbelt usage?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Yeah, we were never -- yeah.

13 Q. Okay. And that had been on the other trips too the same
14 thing?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. Then as for other injuries, I know you had the, the
17 right arm fracture, and then the ulna and radius. You had some
18 facial fractures too; is that correct?

19 A. Yes, sir. I believe (indiscernible) my orbital bone.

20 Q. Okay. On your right side? Was that your right?

21 A. Yeah, right side, yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. And okay. And then also was it a lacerated spleen you
23 had as well?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Okay. And I guess just -- your -- let's get your date of

1 birth, make sure we have that correct.

2 A. Okay. [REDACTED].

3 Q. [REDACTED]?

4 A. Yes.

5 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. That was all the questions I have,
6 Mr. McGroder. So and if Kenny doesn't have any more, I guess
7 we're done. I just want to thank you all for taking the time for
8 talking with us.

9 MR. MCGRODER: Thank you gentlemen.

10 MR. KAMINSKI: Speedy recovery there, Dayton.

11 MR. BRAGG: Yeah, Dayton, wish you the best in your recovery.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you so much

13 MR. KAMINSKI: Okay. God bless you all.

14 MR. MCGRODER: Thank you.

15 MR. KAMINSKI: Bye-bye.

16 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

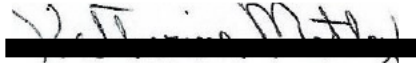
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: FATAL TWO VEHICLE COLLISION
IN ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS
ON MARCH 15, 2022
Interview of Dayton Price

ACCIDENT NO.: HWY22MH006

PLACE: Via telephone

was held according to the record, and that this is the original,
complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed
to the best of my skill and ability.



Katherine Motley
Transcriber