



AMY JACKLIN  
STUDENT, HOCKEY PLAYER  
DIED: JAN. 24, 2006

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A two-vehicle collision in January on Shannonville Road claimed the life of a nine-year-old local girl described as "a wonderful kid" by one of her sports team coaches.

Amy Jacklin of Melrose was killed when a minivan she was travelling in with her mother collided with a truck at about 5 p.m., Jan. 24.

Poor weather conditions were a factor in the accident and no charges are being laid, said the OPP in a report released Wednesday morning.

Amy's mother sustained injuries to her left arm while the driver of the truck, and a passenger, were treated on the scene for minor injuries.

Police said Amy Jacklin was seated in the back of the van, wearing her seatbelt.

Amy was heavily involved in minor sports in the Belleville area.

Her ball hockey coach, Bruce Bell, remembered her as an upbeat child, eager to play the game.

"She was a wonderful kid," said Bell. "She was quiet and went about her business. She played every shift. She never took a shift off."

Last winter, Amy was playing rep hockey for the Belleville Junior Bulls atom select squad coached by Mike Parker.

In the previous season, Amy was captain of the novice team also coached by Parker.

"She was a dream to coach," said Parker. "

Actually, she was a contradiction, in a way. Here was this young girl in pigtails, but she was as tough as nails on the ice. A lot of our boys could take some lessons from her."

Parker said Amy, who played defence, was a team leader with a positive attitude.

"She always had a ready smile," he said. "If you wanted to talk to her, she'd stop and look right at you."

"She'd give you her undivided attention and listen to what you said. Then, she'd go out on the ice and execute it."

Parker recalled a rugged drill he ran during a practice when the atom selects were sharing ice with an older boys team.

"We were doing a drill with potential for collisions at centre ice," said Parker. "Amy came up against one of the other team's biggest boys."

"He outweighed her by 30 or 40 pounds. But she didn't slow down at all. Then — wham! She got knocked down. But, she got right up and went right back in line."

"She had this plow-through mentality. She was the consummate team player."

Jacklin was a Grade 4 student at Harmony Public School.

She is survived by her parents — Bill and Peggy — and an older brother, Brad, at home.