

Senior spreads safe driving message

By VICTORIA CORBETT
Hurricane Staff Writer

Senior Adam Blomberg is using his life-threatening experience to change the lives of others by sending out a wake-up call.

"I want to reach all those kids who think they're invincible, just like I did," said Blomberg.

Four years ago, Blomberg, then a senior at Cooper City High School in Broward County, was on his way with three friends to a University of Miami-St. John's basketball game at the Miami Arena when their van was hit by an oncoming car.

Blomberg, who was in the passenger seat, was not wearing his seat belt and was thrown 39 feet from the car.

He suffered a fractured skull, which caused a blood clot the size of a fist to form on his brain.

He arrived at Hollywood Memorial

Hospital in a coma with ten broken ribs and a collapsed lung.

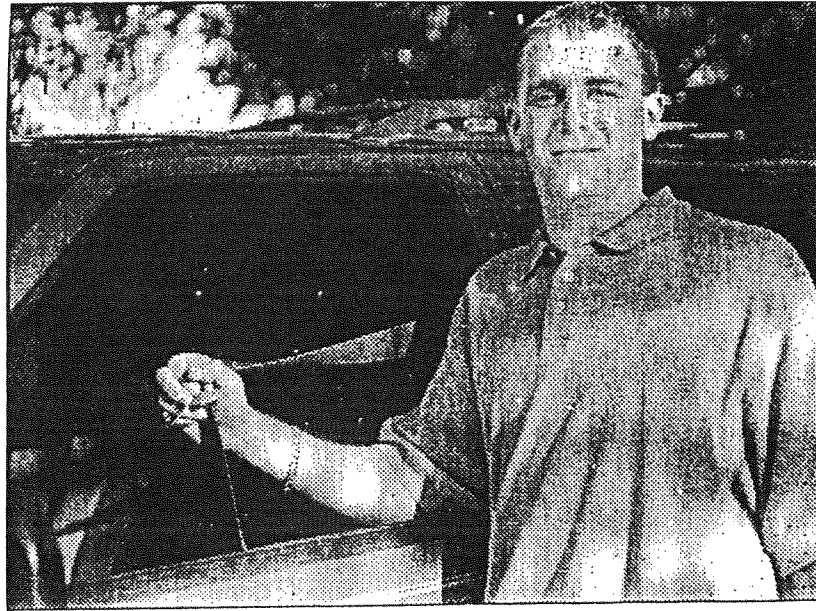
Doctors were not sure if he would live or function the same way again. He was determined to prove them wrong, he said.

"I've met a lot of people who let their injuries get them down," said Blomberg. "But I've made it better."

After a year of cognitive therapy and ongoing physical therapy, Blomberg said he was on his way to becoming a doctor. He started his freshman year at UM that fall. Now, he is a senior majoring in microbiology and immunology and plans to attend medical school.

When Blomberg is not studying, he divides his time between managing the basketball team and volunteering at the hospital. Through his volunteering at the William Lehman Injury

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MATT STROSHANE / Photo Editor

SEATBELT SAFETY: Four years after being injured in a car accident, senior Adam Blomberg is trying to help others.

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Research Center, he was able to develop a program on safe driving to help prevent accidents like his.

"He called and wanted to volunteer," said Carol Steans, the Injury Prevention coordinator at Jackson Memorial Hospital. "We came up with the idea of him putting slides and statistics together and talking to his peers."

Blomberg's slide presentation, which contains a picture of him in a hospital bed with various tubes in his body, is a graphic depiction of what can happen when drivers ignore simple safety guidelines.

"I started speaking at the local health fair over the summer," said

Blomberg. "But I wanted to do something with kids my age."

Since then, he has spoken with the Boy Scouts of America and several fraternities and sororities on campus, among them Delta Phi Epsilon and Pi Kappa Alpha.

"If I can save one life I would be happy," said Blomberg.

"The feedback from Adam's program is always positive," said Steans. "Hearing about safety from someone your own age makes a difference."

Blomberg's program deals with every type of driving issue including road rage, drinking and driving, speed related crashes and general car safety.

"Hearing about all the details from a peer makes it hit home," said Natalie Walker, president of Delta Phi Epsilon. "I know a few of my sisters that never wore seat belts really thought about what they were doing after seeing his program."

Blomberg's next presentation is scheduled for February 21 with Sigma Delta Tau.

Four years later, Blomberg says he still feels the effects of the accident in his neck and back and continues physical therapy.

Blomberg can be contacted at the William Lehman Injury Research Center at (305) 585-1190

Student shares
own
experiences