

Crash kills yeshiva student No charges in rear-ender

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A 19-year-old yeshiva graduate from Kew Gardens Hills was killed early yesterday morning when the car he was driving was struck from behind by another vehicle and propelled into a tree, police said.

According to police, Yaer Nissanian of 68th Drive was driving a 1994 Ford Taurus eastbound on 75th Ave. at 1:48 a.m. As he approached the intersection of 183rd St., his car was struck from behind by a 2002 Acura, causing the Ford to mount the center median and plow into a tree.

Nissanian was killed instantly. His front-seat passenger, Abraham Benishay, 19, was taken to the New York Hospital Queens with minor injuries, police said.

The driver and passenger of the Acura - both 19-year-old males whose names were withheld by police - were not hurt in the crash. Police from the 107th Precinct did not issue any summonses, and a law enforcement source said that it did not appear the drivers were racing.

Nissanian's family left their home in the heart of the Orthodox Jewish section of Kew Gardens Hills late yesterday morning for Israel, where their son had long wished to be buried, neighbors said. Family members and friends gathered at Kennedy Airport for a brief memorial service.

"It's very sad . . . the night before Succoth [Jewish celebration of the harvest], you know?" said Liza Basal, 30, a family friend who rushed over to visit the Nissanians. "They were a good family, a happy family."

Nissanian was born in New York, but his father, a local rabbi, was from Iran, and his mother, a teacher, was from Afghanistan, neighbors said. Yaer was the oldest of two siblings.

Friends of the Nissanians described Yaer as a "great guy from a great home," who always would be the first on the block to help out with errands like shoveling snow.

"He was a 19-year-old boy who had his whole life in front of him," said a neighbor who didn't want his name to be used. "He was loved by everybody on the block."