

Former Star Player Dies

Written by Staff Reports
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Former A.C. Reynolds High football star, A.J. Marion, was shot and killed on Sunday morning after police say he was involved in a break-in and fired a gun as he was being chased by Asheville police

officers. Marion, who 19-years-old, was a star running back at ACR and was a member of the Rockets' 2009 state championship team.

Marion was wounded after being struck by a single bullet and died later at Mission Hospital, authorities and witnesses said. The shooting happened in a wooded area beside Ascension Drive at The Meadows Apartments, just off New Leicester Highway. The burglary victim was not injured, and no officers were injured, according to police reports.

Marion had been offered a scholarship to play football collegiately at East Carolina University, Clemson, North Carolina State, North Carolina and UCLA were among the schools that expressed an interest in Marion during his senior year at ACR, according to 247sports.com. He was considered a two-star prospect.

Marion suffered a knee injury during a scrimmage his senior year, and he saw limited duty for the Rockets that season.

Photo Courtesy: A.J. Marion, PHOTO SUBMITTED