

Dave Matchett, Former KHS Grid Star, Dies in Vietnam

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Spec 4 Leslie David Matchett of Kokomo was one of five Indiana servicemen killed in Vietnam action in the last week, the Defense Department reported Tuesday.

The department told his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ormal Matchett Jr., 2211 Delon Court, that the 21-year-old Army specialist was killed Jan. 19 by a hostile mine while aboard a motorized combat vehicle in the Quan Son Valley below the demilitarized zone.

Matchett had just returned to duty a few days earlier after recovering from an enemy mine explosion on Christmas Day, the Defense Department said.

Before entering the Army Sept. 29, 1966, Matchett had worked for Chrysler Corp. here prior to enrolling at Ball State University where he was studying to be a history teacher and coach. He had been a varsity guard for the Kokomo High School football teams of 1963-1964, before graduating in 1964. He was born in Kokomo July 18, 1946.

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SPEC. 4 MATCHETT

Dave Matchett

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and went to Vietnam Aug. 9, 1967. In addition to his parents, Matchett is survived by a brother, Michael, at home; a sister, Mrs. James (Cinda) Scott, Kokomo; maternal grandmother, Mrs. Myrtle Morrow; and paternal grandmother, Mrs. Pearl Matchett, both of Kokomo, and several aunts and uncles. Funeral arrangements are pending at Ellers-Moquary.

Matchett's father is a foreman at Union Carbide's Sullite Works. His mother is the former Miss Kathryn Hall.

Other Hoosier servicemen reported killed in Vietnam in the last week were listed by the Defense Department as:

Capt. Charles E. Wuerthenberger, husband of Mrs. Tamara W. Wuerthenberger, Logansport.

Spec 4 Ronald G. Pahl, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Pahl, Michigan City.

Pfc. Jack L. Kupferer, husband of Mrs. Missa R. Kupferer, Terre Haute; Marine Pvt. Paul M. Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Roberts, South Bend.

The deaths raised the total of Hoosiers killed in the Vietnam war to 44.

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