

Teens' conditions critical

Police investigate two-car collision

From Staff Reports, Catawba Daily Times

HICKORY -- Two Hickory teenagers were seriously injured Friday afternoon in a two-car collision on NC 127 at the intersection with 29th Avenue NW.

Casey Miller, 17, and Alexandra Sigmon, 16, were in separate cars that collided around 4:30 p.m., according to Sgt. Alice Reynolds, Hickory Police Department traffic investigator.

Miller, the driver of a white Honda Civic, drove through a red light into NC 127 north from 29th coming west. Dana Sigmon, 54, mother of Alexandra, drove the second car, an Acura minivan, heading north on NC 127, according to Reynolds.

"Mrs. Sigmon was passing through the intersection when the Miller car entered the intersection from the right. Miller's car was struck on the driver's side with the front right of the minivan," said Reynolds.

The Sigmon teen was in the front passenger seat of the minivan, she said.

Considerable damage occurred to both vehicles.

Emergency responders from the nearby fire station cut Sigmon out of the minivan using Jaws of Life

Miller was pulled from her Civic with few visible injuries, but sustained head trauma, according to Reynolds.

EMT personnel stabilized each teen in critical condition, and both were flown by helicopter to the trauma center at NC Medical Center in Charlotte.

Both were immediately taken into surgery and are listed in critical condition, according to a spokesperson from NC Medical.

Sigmon's mother was taken by ambulance to Frist Regional Medical Center for treatment. She was released after treatment for non-life-threatening injuries.

Reynolds would not comment on the cause of the accident other than to say the investigation is ongoing. Witnesses told CDT Miller was texting on her cell phone at the time she ran the red light, but Reynolds could not confirm those allegations.

Miller is a senior at Hickory High School where she is captain of the girls' basketball team and an all-state pitcher on the softball team.

Her parents could not be reached for comment.

Sigmon is an honors student and early senior at St. Stephens High School. She was accepted early admissions at Duke University, and has plans to study microbiotics, according to Glenn Thomas, her father.

"She is such a bright girl," said Thomas. "I know all her friends are praying for her." Thomas was reached by cell phone at the medical center in Charlotte.

Traffic was detoured away from the intersection by police, which was not expected to reopen until early Saturday morning, according to Reynolds.