

Memorial fund established in Gordaooff's name

A memorial fund has been established in the name of Keith Brian Gordaooff, 14, of Cordova who was drowned May 22 after the boat he was fishing in with his father, overturned.

The boy's father, Keith Gordaooff, was rescued after spending more than three hours in the water of Prince William Sound. The elder Gordaooff is a director of the Chugach Natives Inc.

According to official reports, the 14-year-old boy and his father were fishing when they experienced boat troubles. Bad seas and unusually high breakers then flipped the boat.

The elder Gordaooff suffered a broken leg in the accident and was unable to call for help. One report of the incident said the younger Gordaooff pulled his father from the cabin as he was sending in one last call for help on the radio.

The two were thrown in the water and stayed together

for about two hours when the younger Gordaooff slipped away and was lost.

His father was rescued after a plane from the Kennedy Air Service spotted him as the pilot was searching for lost fishing gear.

That plane and another from Kennedy circled Gordaooff as another tried to attract the attention of nearby boats.

Ron Bowen on the Squirt eventually followed the plane and pulled Gordaooff from the water.

After the rescue the boat spent nearly half an hour searching the area but was unable to locate the boy.

Gordaooff was taken to Cordova where he was treated for hypothermia and the broken leg and released after three days.

Young Gordaooff was an honor student who loved basketball and fished regularly with his father for many years.

The fund established in his

name will be used to send a deserving student to a basketball camp. Young Keith was an avid basketball player.

Contributions to the fund should be sent to the Keith Brian Gordaooff Memorial Fund in care of the National Bank

of Alaska, Box 1250, Cordova, Alaska.

Keith is survived by his father and stepmother, Keith and Charlene Gordaooff of Cordova, his mother, Linda Lane of Washington, his grandparents, Les and Shirley Maxwell

of Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Plautz of Oregon, and Mrs. and Mrs. Clead Wilson of Arizona, and George and Mary Gordaooff of Cordova.

A memorial service was held for Gordaooff on May 27 in Cordova.