

TO: Benjamin Crump Law Firm

ATTN: Benjamin Crump Esq

FROM: Roger A. Mitchell, Jr. MD
 Board Certified Forensic Pathologist
 RAM Consulting LLC

RE: Preliminary Report: Death of Nolan Xavier Wells

DATE: July 19, 2026

Preliminary Report – Second Autopsy – Death of Nolan Xavier Wells

Cause of Death: **Undetermined – Pending Investigation**

Manner of Death: **Undetermined – Pending Investigation**

Statement of Examination:

This forensic pathologist was retained to perform a second autopsy examination on the body of Nolan Xavier Wells.

NAME OF DECEDENT: NOLAN XAVIER WELLS

AGE: 18 YEARS **RACE:** BLACK **GENDER:** MALE

DATE OF DEATH: UNKNOWN **SECOND AUTOPSY DATE:** JULY 10, 2026

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- I. Focal area of red discoloration in the soft tissue of the back of the head, occipital region - Etiology Unknown
 - A. The Body Received After Initial Autopsy
 - B. Marked Decomposition
 - C. Coronal incision of the scalp
 1. Brain Removed
 - D. Y Shaped incision of the anterior torso
 1. Organs removed.
 - a. Accompanying the body in the body cavity
 - E. Anterior Internal Neck Structures Absent (*not received with body*)
- II. Additional Procedures Performed During Second Autopsy
 - A. Bilateral Facial Dissection

1. No Fractures
2. No Evidence of Deep Tissue Injury
- B. Posterior Head Dissection
 1. Focal area of red discoloration in the soft tissue of the back of the head, occipital region
 2. No Fractures
- C. Posterior Neck Dissection
 1. No Fractures
 2. No Evidence of Deep Tissue Injury
- D. Rib Exposure Dissection
 1. No Fractures
 2. No Evidence of Deep Tissue Injury
- E. Pelvic Dissection
 1. No Fractures
 2. No Evidence of Deep Tissue Injury
- F. Subcutaneous and deep soft tissue dissection of the back, buttocks, arms and legs
 1. No Evidence of Deep Tissue Injury
- III. Remote Healed Scars
 - A. Left Ankle
- IV. Histology – Submitted
- V. Toxicology - Not performed

Preliminary Discussion | Opinion:

This forensic pathologist identified several limitations during the second autopsy that create barriers to establishing a definitive cause and manner of death for Nolan Xavier Wells.

The second autopsy performed on Nolan Wells revealed marked decompositional changes. Marked decomposition can obscure the presence or absence of bruising on the skin surface, especially during a second autopsy examination. For these reasons, additional dissection procedures, not performed during the first autopsy examination, were performed to rule out potential blunt force injuries responsible for the death. These procedures included facial dissection, posterior head and neck dissection, dissection of the ribs, pelvic dissection, and subcutaneous and deep soft tissue dissection of the back, buttocks, arms, and legs. There were no fractures or deep tissue injuries identified.

However, dissection of the back of head during the layered posterior neck dissection revealed a 12 X 8-inch focal area of red discoloration in the deep soft tissues overlying the occipital bone. The etiology of this finding is unclear. There are no lacerations of the overlying skin nor fractures of the underlying skull. These findings are inconclusive for perimortem injury due to both the extensive decomposition and the absence of associated injuries. This finding, however, is significant enough to be highlighted in this preliminary report for further investigation. It is important to reiterate that this finding could not have been observed in the first autopsy because the posterior head and neck dissections were not

performed.

Another limitation faced by this forensic pathologist was the absence of the anterior internal neck structures. The tracheal and laryngeal cartilages, thyroid horn, and hyoid bone were not received with the body. It is assumed that the initial pathologist retained these structures for additional evaluation. The retention of the anterior neck structures during an initial autopsy is a common forensic pathology practice. Nevertheless, a posterior neck dissection performed without review of the anterior neck structures, is incomplete. Therefore, this pathologist cannot rule out injury to the neck as a contributor or cause of death.

Because the initial autopsy rightfully removed and dissected each organ, there are additional limitations inherent in the second autopsy of Nolan Wells. The most significant of the limitations was the inability to directly observe the airway and lungs for water and directly observe the stomach for gastric contents. In addition, the original toxicology results had not been received at the time of this report.

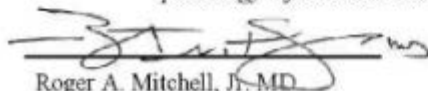
Lastly, in cases where a death has occurred in or around a body of water with suspicion of drowning it is important to confirm how that person entered the water. This information is especially important for those deaths of persons who can swim, as is the case with Nolan Wells. At the time of this report, this forensic pathologist does not know the condition of Nolan Wells (i.e. conscious or unconscious, forced or unforced) before entering the water. Definitive circumstances of death are required to determine manner of death. For these reasons, this pathologist cannot rule out if any intervening non-accidental factors contributed to or caused the death of Nolan Wells.

With the following questions still outstanding:

1. What were the circumstances that led to Nolan Xavier Wells entering the water?
2. What was the body position when found?
3. Was there water in the airway?
4. Is there any evidence of injuries to the anterior neck structures?
5. Is there any evidence of intracranial hemorrhage (subdural or subarachnoid)?
6. What was the composition of the stomach contents?
7. What are the toxicology report findings?

The best classification for the cause and manner of death for Nolan Xavier Wells is
Undetermined - Pending Investigation.

This forensic pathologist reserves the right to review and incorporate additional forensic pathology information into his opinion as it becomes available.



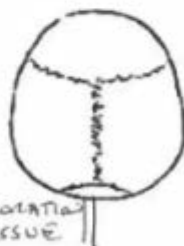
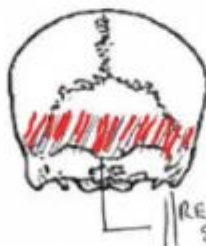
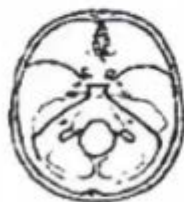
Roger A. Mitchell, Jr., MD

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DATE

The above opinions are expressed to a reasonable degree of medical certainty

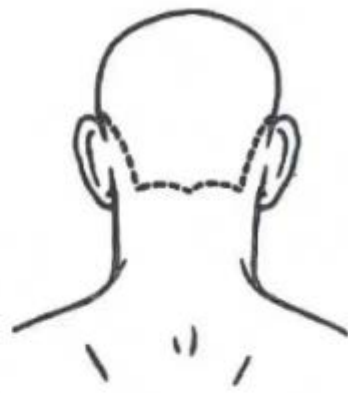
NOLAN XAVIER WELLS
CLASSIFICATION
DIAGRAM



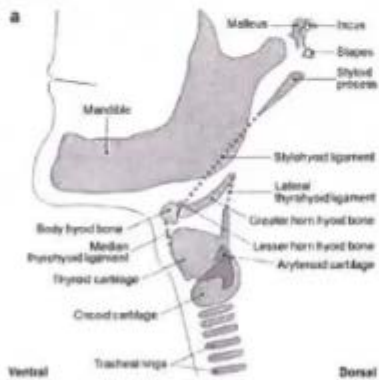
BACK
(OCCIPITAL)

RAM
7/19/2026

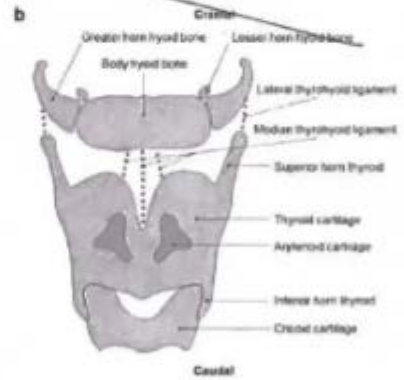
Nolan Xavier Wells
CLARIFICATION
DIAGRAM



NECK STRUCTURES



SIDE VIEW



FRONT VIEW

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