

Youth, 17, Drowns in Mead's Quarry

A Knoxville youth drowned late Saturday afternoon after a small



Brian

rockslide knocked him into 20-foot-deep waters in an abandoned quarry in South Knoxville.

Brian Pope, 17, of 3133 Davenport Rd., fell into deep waters at Mead's Quarry, McClure Road, after he was struck by rocks

falling off a rock wall above him, witnesses said.

Witnesses said Pope had climbed about 10 or 15 feet above the water on some lower rocks, apparently to dive into the quarry water.

He was pronounced dead at Baptist Hospital.

Randy Longmire, who was swimming at the quarry at the same time as Pope, said he warned Pope about swimming over to that part of the quarry.

"We told him it was too unsafe to go out there," Longmire said.

Knox County Rescue Squad officials said Pope was under water for approximately 30 minutes before rescue squad volunteers pulled him out at 5:30 p.m.

Immediately after Pope first got in the water, he swam over to the rocks on the far side, Longmire said. Pope was with a group that included his brother-in-law and they had been at the quarry "all day," Longmire said.

Pope was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Pope. He would have been a senior at South-Young High School this year. He was a fullback on the school's football team.

In addition to his parents, he leaves a brother, John, and a sister, Mrs. Toby (Mary) Beckner of Kentucky.

Berry's is in charge.