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## Family Mourns Entrepreneur Apparently Killed by Friend

**Shooting: Tyler K. Hutchinson's body was stored for two days in a sleeping bag before authorities were notified. A memorial service is planned for today.**

November 04, 1995 | GEOFF BOUCHER, SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

(Page 2 of 2)

"Mark was a dear friend of Tyler's," Wilk said, as he and other family members gathered in Santa Barbara for today's memorial. "I would like to think it was all indeed an accident. I just don't understand why he didn't call police. It is very bothersome. It makes everything even worse. The thought that his body was just lying there. No one called 911. . . . What if they could have helped?"

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Hutchinson was described by friends as a handsome, ambitious, hard-working businessman who had already begun to make his mark at a relatively young age. Logan Gulla, the co-founder of Boulderblades, said their in-line skating goods enterprise is on track to complete \$15 million in sales in this its inaugural year. Twice the young company or its products have been featured on national television news shows.

"He had entrepreneurship in his genes," Gulla said. "The personal loss here is tremendous. The corporate loss is tremendous."

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Hutchinson was in Avila Beach for the weekend to have West-wick introduce him to a local inventor with a product proposal, Gulla said. Shortly before his death, Hutchinson called Gulla to update him on the project, and he sounded "extremely coherent," Gulla said, adding that he was stunned by descriptions of Hutchinson playing with a pistol.

"That is extremely out of character, he's just not that stupid," Gulla said. "Only two people know what happened, unfortunately, and one of them is dead. The whole thing is just extremely strange."

Wilk said he hoped a lesson could be learned from his stepson's death.

"There's a gun and the gun goes off," he said. "If there is no gun, this doesn't happen."

Hutchinson enjoyed golfing, skiing and volleyball, the latter a sport he fell in love with as a youngster watching matches with his stepfather, the founder in the 1970s of the Professional Beach Volleyball Tour.

The Cal State Long Beach business graduate also attended Arizona and Arizona State universities and dabbled for a time with a modeling career in Los Angeles. He graduated from San Clemente High School in 1989.

The memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. today on the grassy expanse of Shoreline Park along the coastline of Santa Barbara. The park is off the Cabrillo Boulevard exit of Highway 101, about a mile northwest of the city's pier.

Hutchinson is survived by his parents, Terryle Wilk of Santa Barbara and Bill Hutchinson of Bullhead City, Ariz.; his stepfather, David Wilk of Santa Barbara; and his older brother, Travis Hutchinson of New York.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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