

Shoels killed by blast to chest

By Andrew Guy Jr.

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Columbine High School shooting victim Isaiah Shoels died of a single shotgun blast to the chest, not to the face as widely reported, according to an official autopsy.

The autopsy was released to the media by Isaiah's parents on Friday, despite a judicial order that sealed the autopsies of all the Columbine victims.

Michael and Vonda Shoels said the public deserves to know the details of what happened at the school, where their son and 12 other people were gunned down on April 20 by Columbine students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

"The world needs to see the ugliness that went on out there at Columbine," Michael Shoels said Friday. "The truth needs to come out."

Isaiah Shoels was in the library with other classmates when he was killed.

Afterwards, a number of witnesses indicated he'd been shot in the face.

The autopsy was conducted by the Boulder County Coroner's Office at the request of the Jefferson County coroner. It shows the shotgun blast ripped through Isaiah's chest from left to right, causing extensive damage to his heart.

The only other Columbine autopsy released so far has been that of the gunman Harris. It showed he died after placing a shotgun to the roof of his mouth and pulling the trigger.

A judge has ruled the autopsy for Klebold, who also committed suicide, can be released, despite opposition from Klebold's family. He has kept it sealed, however, to give the Klebolds a chance to appeal his decision.