On November 12, 1910, WVU football player Rudolph Munk was fatally injured during the state championship game with Bethany College.

**CSO:** SS.8.8, SS.8.11, ELA.8.1

**Investigate the Document:** *(Wheeling Register, November 13, 1910)*

1. According to the article, what was the cause of death for West Virginia University (WVU) halfback, Rudolph Munk? Had there been prior concerns, surrounding Munk’s past injuries?

2. Who was WVU’s opponent in the game that cost Rudolph Munk his life?

**Think Critically:** Concerning the modern era of West Virginia University athletics, correlate West Virginia economic conditions with the effects on its citizens. Has the increased cost of tickets influenced the turnout at WVU football games? Is the safety of players a greater priority today, compared to 1910? How has West Virginia University contributed to the development of Morgantown as a major West Virginia city?
Munk of W.V.U., Dies from Injuries Inflicted in Wheeling Game
Umpire Declares a Bethany Player Deliberately Felled Munk

[Special to the Register]

PITTSBURG, Pa., Nov. 12.—Attorney Homer S. Young, an ex-Michigan football player, who inspired the Bethany-West Virginia University game at Wheeling, opens in Westminster about, this city. Upon his return from Wheeling, he was unable to talk of anything but the scrimmage that resulted in the death of West Virginia Bethany Munk, of the university team. He said:

"I was present at the Wheeling field when the controversy arose between the Bethany and West Virginia University teams. I saw the Bethany player, whose name I do not remember, run into Munk and throw him over the shoulder. Munk fell heavily on the back of his head and did not rise. I have no doubt I did not see that. I saw the player who had knocked him down out of the game. He looked like a man who knew he had done something wrong, for he left the field without a word of protest or explanation."

TRAGEDY MARKS GAME OF COLLEGE ELEVEN

Player Emerges Stricken and Unconscious from Scrimmage—Taken to Hospital where Death Followed several hours later—Slugging Duel between Munk and McCoy alleged

Coroner Rogers Begins Inquest To Determine Cause of Death

The Tragic Sequel of Football Game for the West Virginia Collegiate Championship Casts a Pall over City—Players talk of the Events Leading up to the Tragedy
RUDOLPH MUNK.

Fused in his blood to produce artificial respiration, to no avail, the patient dying at the hour stated without regaining consciousness. Dr. Staats stated that his death was due to a hemorrhage at the base of the brain, which produced paralysis of the nervous centers controlling respiration.

Dr. Carr’s Statement.

Dr. Carr, in connection with the death last evening, gave the following interview: “Munk has not been well for any reason. At the Thanksgiving game last year at Morgantown between W. V. U. and W. & J. he was injured in a manner very similar to the accident today. He never fully recovered from that injury, and was subject to dizzy spells, spots before the eyes, etc., as a result. He had no business in the game, and a very slight blow could have accomplished his death.”

Manager Tom Polik of the West Virginia team said: “Munk has not been well, but he insisted on playing. He received a blow in the Pennsylvania and Pitt games, but not on the head, which made him dizzy and forced him to retire from the contest.”

Munk was the son of Fred Munk, of Connellsville, Pa., who was notified immediately following his son’s death and he left immediately for this city. The body was taken to Mendel’s undertaking parlors, where it will be prepared for shipment to Connellsville. He was twenty-one years old.

Always Played Football.

Munk always played football. At the Connellsville High School he was captain and quarterback. Later he attended Bucknell College, at Lewisburg, Pa., from which place he went to West Virginia. He played quarterback on the university team last year, and this year until the game today, when he went in as left halfback. He was shortstop for the baseball team last spring.

The play in which Munk was injured was peculiar, and no one appeared certain just what had occurred. Bell was running the ball, and Munk was blocking, and was some distance behind Bethany’s line in the open field, when he went down with what End McCoy of the Bethany team on top of him. McCoy was immediately put out of the game by Empire Young, who, when asked as to his action by a reporter, said that he had not seen more of the play than what got us and we had been away from the fallen player. Referee Budgen said the same.

Captain Henley’s Statement.

Captain Henley, of Bethany, when asked concerning the play, said: “It is the consensus of opinion among the Bethany players that McCoy hit Munk and McCoy hit him back. None of the Bethany players say the play, nor do I think the officials did, as all were crouching the way with the ball.”

Coach Townsend said: “Slugging had been going on all through the game, and just prior to the accident I had asked the officials to have it stopped, but they paid no attention to my remarks. All of our players deeply regret the affair, and tomorrow we will take up another subscription to purchase a new uniform for him, and I am sure the boy’s parents feel the same.”

Coroner’s Inquest.

Last night Coroner Roper held an inquest on the death of Rudolph Munk. The verdict was that death was due to injuries as stated above, the injury received in a manner unknown. Charles A. Feeder, coach of St. J. Bell, right halfback, and Tom L. Feeder, manager of the West Virginia team, and H. D. Feeder were examined. Their testimony was to the effect that Munk’s death had been either jolted or struck by some person. That they had heard that Garrett, the athletic secretary, said that he had not been in the game and that he, Henley, had recommended McCoy immediately following the accident.

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