



National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Los Angeles Angels Pitcher Killed in Red Light Running Crash

Member of team that took stance against red light running

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 9, 2009) — Nick Adenhardt, a rookie pitcher for the Los Angeles Angels, and two other people were killed today when their car was struck by a minivan that ran a red light in Fullerton, California.

Adenhardt, 22, of Silver Spring, Maryland, died after undergoing surgery, according to a spokesman for the University of California, Irvine Medical Center. A fourth person remained hospitalized in critical condition.

“We offer our condolences to the Adenhardt family and the entire Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim team,” said Leslie Blakey, executive director of the National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running. “Over the years the Angels have enthusiastically supported National Stop on Red Week and called attention to the dangers of red light running, which in 2006 resulted in more than 144,000 injuries and 887 fatalities in the United States.”

Police said Adenhardt and three other people were in a silver Mitsubishi that was struck shortly before 12:30 a.m. by a minivan that ran a red light and also hit another vehicle. The minivan driver fled the crash scene and was captured a short time later. The driver was arrested and booked for investigation of felony hit-and-run.

Even before Adenhardt’s tragic death, Angels players and managers were well aware of the dangers of red light running and had taken a public stand against it.

For three years running —2003, 2004 and 2005 — the National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running co-sponsored “Stop on Red Night” at Angels Stadium with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. In each of those three years a Los Angeles Angel was featured on a National Stop on Red Week poster that encouraged motorists to “Get Home Safe.” The 2003 poster featured Jeff DaVanon and the slogan, “I have to rush to get home safe, but you don’t.” The 2004 poster featured pitcher Kelvim Escobar and the slogan, “Make your drive home a no-hitter.” The 2005 poster featured catcher Bengie Molina saying “Stopping on red is always a good call.”

The National Campaign and Stop on Red Orange County distributed the posters to fans at the ball park, and billboards with the same message were posted in the Los Angeles and Anaheim areas during National Stop on Red Week, which is the first full week of August (August 2 – 8, 2009).

Adenhardt, the Angels No. 3 starter, threw six scoreless innings Wednesday night, April 8, in his fourth major-league start and first of the season. Oakland won the game 6-4. Adenhardt was considered one of the top prospects in baseball when he graduated from Williamsport High School in Hagerstown, Maryland in 2004. He entered this season as the Angels’ top prospect, according to Baseball America, and won a spot in the starting rotation in spring training.

The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running, headquartered in Washington, DC, is dedicated to reducing the incidences of red light running in the United States and the fatalities and injuries it causes. The campaign has assembled a team of leaders from the fields of law enforcement, transportation engineering, healthcare and emergency medicine, and traffic safety, to tackle this crucial safety issue. Visit us at www.stoppedlightrunning.com.

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