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WJW

High School Football Player Suffers Serious Spinal Injury

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MEDINA

A Medina Highland High School football player is hospitalized in critical condition, after suffering a serious spinal cord injury Friday night.

Senior Kory Wiita fractured three vertebrae, while making a tackle on second half kickoff of Highland's final regular season game against rival Cloverleaf High School.

His family says Kory was conscious when paramedics loaded him into an ambulance and rushed to Akron Children's Hospital.

Wiita was in surgery for more than three hours Saturday. Doctors inserted several pins into his spine, and say the operation went well.

He is scheduled to have a second operation on Monday.

Doctors sedated Wiita, and he is breathing with the assistance of a ventilator.

He has been surrounded by family members, including his parents, and siblings, including an older brother who rushed home from Florida.

Highland principal Pete Ulrich tells Fox 8 that his prayers are with Kory and the Wiita family.

The Wiita family has set up a web page to keep family and friends updated on Kory's condition.

Highland lost to Cloverleaf, 7-0, but still qualified for the Division II playoffs. The Hornets will play a road game this Friday.

Stay with www.fox8.com for the latest details on Kory Wiita's condition.

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