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## BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

# Football likely over for BSU player Love

By Doug Zaleski / Muncie Star Press

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MUNCIE — Ball State officials confirmed today that Ball State wide receiver Dante Love's playing career is "expected to be over" after a violent collision during the second quarter of Saturday's 42-20 win over Indiana University.

The statement from the school, issued by Associate Athletics Director for External Affairs Joe Hernandez, also said that after a rehabilitation period, Love is "expected to be able to live a normal and healthy life."

ADVERTISEMENT The statement also issued a line of thanks from the school to all those who assisted Love during the emergency, including the Indiana State Police, the IU athletic training and medical staff, Indiana University's game operations and athletic staff and the Bloomington and Methodist Hospital doctors and staff.

Love was injured with 10:45 remaining in the second quarter of Saturday's game when he caught an out-pass from quarterback Nate Davis and headed toward the sideline.

Love lowered his head as he was about to be tackled by Indiana's Chris Adkins, and the players' helmets smacked face to face. Love fumbled, fell to the turf, and, Ball State head coach Brady Hoke said Sunday, was briefly unconscious.

"But he remembered the hit, and was talking on the field," Hoke said.

Love briefly lost feeling in his legs on the field but had sensation in his arms. He was strapped to a spineboard, transported to Bloomington Hospital, then transferred to Methodist Hospital.



Ball State's Dante Love is placed helmet-to-helmet hit during Saturday's game against Indiana University. - Associated Press

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Love, a senior, was able to move his arms and legs Sunday after a five-hour surgery at Methodist to stabilize a back fracture, the school said.

Hoke quickly left his postgame press conference Saturday night to be with Love at the hospital. Hoke, his wife Laura, Ball State strength and conditioning coordinator Aaron Wellman and team physician Jay Matchett received an escort to Methodist Hospital by the Indiana State Police.

Hoke stayed overnight at the hospital before returning to Muncie for a regular late Sunday afternoon meeting with his team, which has begun preparing for Saturday's homecoming game against Kent State.

Love's legal guardian and his family were in the stands at Indiana, and were brought onto the field during the 18-minute stoppage of play. Love's mother arrived at Methodist Hospital from Cincinnati on Saturday night.

Love was one of the main reasons Ball State was able to win its first four games this season, something that hasn't occurred since 1988.

He came into the game as the nation's leading receiver with 144.3 yards a game, and ranked second in the country in all-purpose yards (242.0).

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