Michigan Wrestler Dies During Workout

December 11, 1997 By Jack Thompson.

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A University of Michigan wrestler collapsed and died during a workout on Tuesday, school officials said.

Jeff Reese, a junior from Wellsburg, N.Y., collapsed while practicing at Crisler Arena and died on arrival at University of Michigan Medical Center, officials said.

The Wolverines' Wednesday match against Michigan State has been canceled, as was the Michigan-Eastern Michigan basketball game.

"The department is saying only that a student-athlete, a wrestler, died Tuesday night," spokesman Bruce Madej said. "This is an extremely difficult and emotional time for the entire athletic department."

Beth Hall, a Department of Public Safety spokeswoman, said an autopsy was to be done on Wednesday.

Reese, selected the Wolverines' most improved wrestler last year after compiling a 19-4 record, was competing in the 150-pound class this season.