

**ACTIVITY:** Fishing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2006.10.16](#)

**DATE:** Monday October 16, 2006

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean about a mile north of Sebastian Inlet, Indian River County, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Blaise Castellano, Jr.

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a 15-year-old male, a sophomore at Lemon Bay High school.

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** See next page

**MOON PHASE:** New Moon, October 22, 2006

**SEA CONDITIONS:**

**ENVIRONMENT:** "There was a lot of bait in the water, but no one saw the shark that hit Blaise," said Kevin Fogo, who was celebrating his 16th birthday on the trip.

**DISTANCE FROM SHORE:**

**DEPTH:** Chest-deep

**TIME:**



*Blaise Castellano, Jr.*

**NARRATIVE:** With Charlotte County schools closed Monday and Tuesday, Blaise and several friends decided to go to the beach to celebrate one buddy's birthday. The waves weren't good for surfing Monday, so the group decided to fish, Blaise said. Sainy Taha, 16, said he had just started wading away from Blaise when he heard the boy say, 'Aaaugh'. "I turned back around and saw him paddle in as fast as he could," Sainy said. "He was telling everyone 'Don't go in the water'. I was looking right at his ankle, and I just saw white tissue. When Blaise reached down and touched the wound, it started gushing blood," Sainy said. "It was pretty crazy," Blaise said. "I guess the shark thought my foot was a mullet. Then it was gone. There was blood everywhere."

**INJURY:** The teen sustained three 5-inch lacerations to his shin, 10 small puncture wounds to the bottom of his right foot and one large hole in his heel.

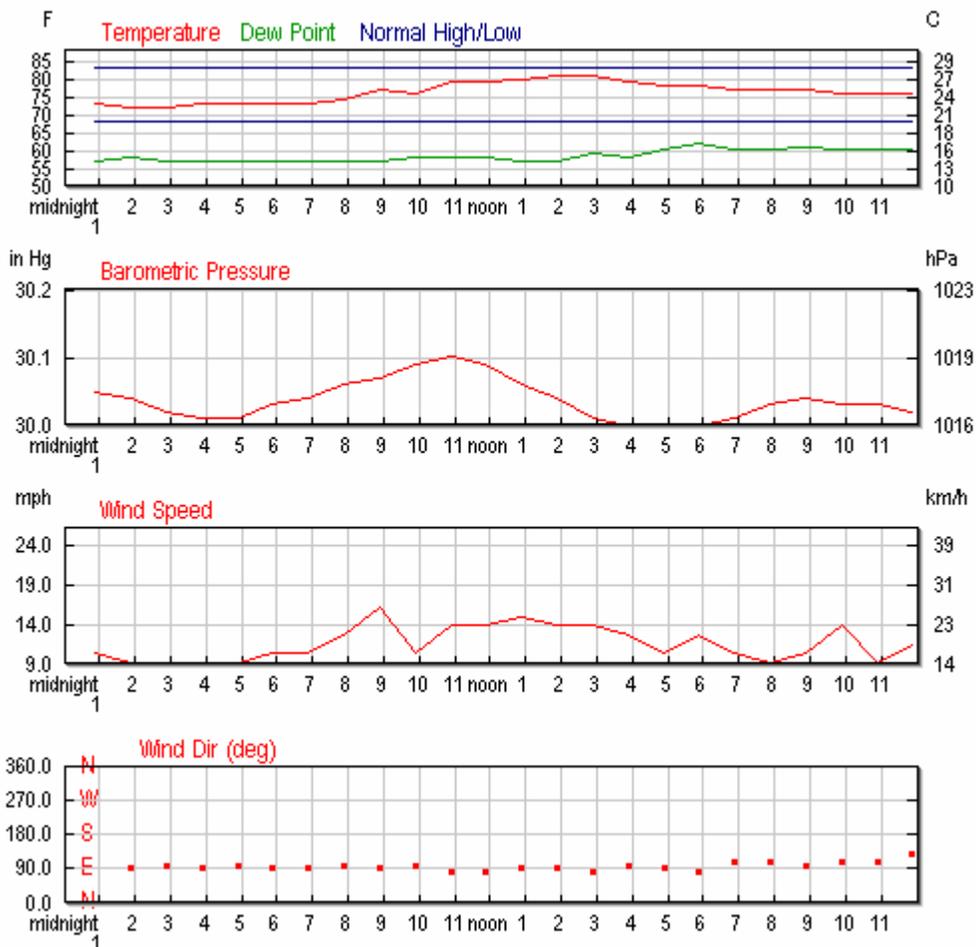
**FIRST AID:** Sainy handed Randy Fogo his shirt and pulled a shoelace out of a sneaker. "I wouldn't call it a shark attack; I would just call it a shark bite," said Randy Fogo, the birthday boy's father and the individual who drove Blaise to the hospital. Only Fogo went with Blaise to the hospital, but none of the boys went back into the water Monday, Sainy said. They did go swimming Tuesday, but not at that spot, he said with a chuckle. Fogo wrapped the shirt around Blaise's leg and tied it off with the shoe string.

**TREATMENT:** The injuries were repaired with 34 sutures at Sebastian River Medical Center. Emergency room physicians confirmed that the injury was a shark bite. Blaise is expected to remain on crutches for two weeks and stay completely off his right foot. Recovery is expected to be complete within six weeks.

**SPECIES:** Not identified.

**SOURCE:** Kristen Kridel, Herald Tribune.

Blaise put photographs of the bite on his MySpace.com web page.



*Weather at Vero Beach, Florida, on October 16, 2006*