

I.S.U. Coed's Death Called 'Sex Crime'



Sheila Jean Collins
Body in Ditch

By Nick Lamberto
(Register Staff Writer)

AMES, IA. — Sheila Jean Collins, 19-year-old Iowa State University freshman, was strangled with a nylon cord knotted around her neck, officials said Monday.

"The cord was knotted just once, but it was tied tighter than hell," an official said.

Time Unknown

The exact time of the girl's death has not been determined, but officials think it may have taken place within 24 hours after she left her campus residence about 8 p.m. Friday for a ride to her home at Evanston, Ill. Her body was found Sunday afternoon in a weedy ditch beside a gravel road five miles east of Nevada and 15 miles east of the Ames campus.

One official said he has no doubt it was a sex crime and that the girl was sexually molested or abused.

"I can't state that officially until the medical tests are completed, but why else would someone take off most of her clothes and then strangle her?" the official said.

Officials also think the girl probably was slain at some place other than the ditch where her body was found.

Warm Place

"I'm inclined to think she may have been in a warm place somewhere before the body was dumped," said one official.

The girl's panties, blue jeans, purse and suitcase were found in a field just west of where the body was found.

The girl's belongings "ap-

SLAYING —

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