

Times Union-COs revive inmate who collapses while playing basketball

By Jeff Waggoner

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Quick work by three corrections officers was credited with saving the life of an inmate who had a heart attack while playing basketball at the Eastern Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison in Ulster County, according to the state Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association.

Officers Jeremy Greene and Michael Landon administered CPR to inmate Rayshawn Smith after he went into cardiac arrest. Officer Jeremy Osterhoudt used an automatic external defibrillator to revive Smith, who was taken by helicopter to Albany Medical Center where he was reported on Monday to be in stable condition.

Smith, who is serving 26 years to life after being convicted in 1991 for second-degree murder in Kings County, is the second inmate correction officers revived in the past month, according to NYSCOPBA. On Dec. 11 at Greene Correctional Facility, officers revived a 40-year-old inmate who went into cardiac arrest.

“Despite the constant scrutiny and criticism members in law enforcement across the country have received in the past several years, it is refreshing to recognize the heroic work that our members do on a daily basis that often go unnoticed,” said NYSOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President Michael Mazzella. “In less than a month two inmates who went into cardiac arrest and were unresponsive were revived by the quick actions of our members. They are all certainly a credit to their profession.”