

A high school student was shot in his school parking lot after a fistfight broke out on Tuesday afternoon, Cronkiteville Police spokesman Sgt. John Garcia said.

“As far as we know right now, Oscar was an innocent bystander,” Garcia said.

Oscar Louis Madison, 16, a sophomore at Cronkiteville High School, was wounded after two students belonging to rival gangs became engaged in a fistfight that escalated into a shooting.

As the investigation is ongoing, identities of the two students have yet to be released but police believe to know the names of both suspects.

Long time friend and classmate, Alex McWilliams, said that there had been roughly 30 students present and watching when the fight transpired.

“I was standing right next to Oscar watching the fight,” McWilliams said.

Witnesses reported to the authorities that during lunch hour, around 12:15 p.m., two young, white males had begun to engage in a fistfight.

McWilliams recalled that one of the two students with a bloody nose had retrieved a gun and was yelling to the other that, “he’s gonna cap him.”

Responding to the gun, McWilliams said he started to pull away from the crowd of observing students, “but I hadn’t gone maybe a couple of steps before there was this sharp crack, and then Oscar’s on the ground, yelling and bleeding.”

It is likely that the bullet missed its intended target and instead hit the victim, Madison, in the fleshy part of his right thigh, Sgt. Garcia explained.

Students that made up the cohort began yelling for help when Madison fell to the ground, causing the two suspects to take off running and drop the gun.

“We found the gun where it was dropped in the parking lot; it’s a cheap .22-caliber pistol,” Garcia said. “A Saturday night special.”

Emergency room nurse, Mike Kinerk, reported Tuesday evening that Madison was in stable condition after being transported by ambulance to Cronkiteville Memorial Hospital, where he had emergency surgery to remove the bullet and stop bleeding.

Despite being last year’s district runner-up in football, Cronkiteville High School has been aware of passive gang activity during the last year.

“We’ve never had a shooting, but we’ve found weapons of one sort or another on students about half a dozen times this year,” Cronkiteville High School Principal Dr. Sarah Weitzel confessed in a statement regarding the incident.

Dr. Weitzel said she has requested money from the district to allow for the installation of metal detectors at entrances into the school. "Our children and teachers deserve a safe school environment, and I mean to see that they get it."