Found Slain

Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — The body of Bland Stewart, a Tampa cab driver, was found shot and beaten Friday in a wooded area east of Hillsborough County, police reported.

Stewart, 48, had been missing since Thursday, when police found his blood-stained cab in Tampa.

A group of youths happened on Stewart's body near Sligh Avenue and Williams Road, police said.

Although Stewart quit the Yellow Cab Co. when a strike began last week and joined rival United Cab, police said they had no indication that that could be connected with his death.

They said evidence of a struggle was found in the field where Stewart's body lay.

A medical examiner's report on Stewart's death was incomplete Saturday, police said.