

Dear Coaching Staff:

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for the support I have received from so many of you this past week.

I have always valued the friendships within the coaching ranks at UNH as some of the very best in my professional life. There is no doubt that UNH is exceptionally fortunate to have one of the most experienced coaching staffs in the country guiding their respective athletic programs with integrity, class and honesty.

Understanding that each of you may be asked questions about this "incident" and what I certainly feel is the University's rash, callous and inexplicable handling of it, I feel compelled to share some of the facts with you.

To be clear, the incident that occurred during a home contest last Saturday was unfortunate. Under no circumstances, however, do I believe that the University's reaction to it was warranted. In my termination letter, the administration described the incident as grabbing the back of the player's jersey, pulling her onto the bench and pointing a finger at her face mask while reprimanding her for not listening and talking back. Although I do not agree with much of the department's characterization of the incident, I wanted to share their version of the "incident" to put this in context.

The athlete at the center of the incident is a sophomore who has had a long and documented history of misconduct, disrespecting fellow team mates, coaches and staff resulting in numerous face to face meetings, disciplinary action and reprimand. She was suspended for 3 weeks at the beginning of our playing season for failing to meet a conditioning standard and lied to the our coaching staff in the process. We had numerous staff meetings attempting to determine whether she should be allowed to return to the team this year even were she to meet the conditioning standard because of her poor attitude and repeated insubordination. Given that we were unusually short rostered this year due to injury and that the administration was urging us to carry a larger roster to assist the department in meeting their numbers in compliance with title IX, we ultimately decided to offer the athlete in question yet another opportunity to comply and participate with our program.

Following the game and incident which occurred during the first period of our home contest with Ohio State, I had several face to face player meetings, including a lengthy meeting with the player in question. During this meeting, attended by my long time assistant coach Stephanie Jones, a supporting teammate and myself, the player in question apologized repeatedly for her insubordination and disruptive behavior. It was clear to everyone in attendance that she was [REDACTED] distraught and due to her prior issues and misconduct she voiced that her primary concern was that she would be dismissed from the program. Both Stephanie Jones and I assured her that this wasn't the case [REDACTED]. After a lengthy conversation she departed claiming that she "felt much better" and that she would put this behind us. The teammate who sat in for support, sent me a lengthy text that evening thanking me personally for being so caring, considerate and understanding.

[REDACTED]

I was also informed by my coaching staff that they had been called in to meet with Mr Scarano as had my two year Captain. At no point was I contacted by Mr Scarano. In the afternoon I received a phone call from Steve Metcalf indicating that I needed to meet with Mr Scarano at 2:30 that afternoon.

I arrived at the Field House at 2:30 pm and was ushered into Mr Scarano's office. Present were he, Steve Metcalf and a representative from HR. After briefly stating that he was deeply disappointed in what had transpired on Saturday, I was handed an official letter of suspension. At no point was I asked any questions concerning the incident. I was informed that an official investigation would be conducted, that I would be contacted later in the week to return to campus for a follow up meeting, and that I was to have no contact with my coaching staff or any of my players.

On Wednesday afternoon I was notified that I was to return to Mr Scarano's office for a 3 pm meeting. In attendance were Mr Scarano, Mr Metcalf and Keith Timmerman from HR. Mr Timmerman began the meeting by stating that this was my official opportunity to provide my version of events that transpired on Saturday Nov 30th at the Whittemore Center, which I did. There was no discussion of alleged versions nor who had been consulted to provide details. I was instructed not to have any contact with anyone within the department or our program and that senior staff would determine the outcome within twenty four hours.

I was contacted at noon Thursday and asked to be in Mr Scarano's office for a 2 pm meeting. Present were Mr Scarano and Mr Timmerman. I was handed my termination letter. This was the first time and only time that I was apprised of what they believed the alleged 'incident' consisted of. Again, though there were a number of inaccuracies in their description, I was stunned. Frankly, I could not believe that after 20 long and loyal years of employment, I was being terminated based on this

conduct, let alone in this manner. I was asked if I wanted to say anything else. I was speechless and declined. Mr. Timmerman informed me that I needed to turn in my keys, phone and all university property by the end of the day and that my health benefits would be terminated by the end of the following day.

If matters could not get worse, following our meeting on Thursday, the school issued a press release stating that I had been terminated because of "inappropriate physical contact" with one of my athletes. The ensuing humiliation and embarrassment that my family and I experienced as coaches, players, parents, friends and supporters called, emailed and texted me is difficult to express. Both my wife Karen and I were deluged with hundreds upon hundreds of requests to clarify what had transpired while stating that they were in disbelief that I would have had any "sexual" engagement or contact with one of my student athletes. I can only hope that none of you experience anything similar.

As a peer that I hold in high regard, I felt that I needed to share the truth of what transpired this week behind closed doors. As a professional I can't imagine being treated with less respect or dignity by a department that I have served faithfully for two decades. In the coming weeks I hope that the true facts about the incident and the manner in which it was handled will come out.

I have nothing but the highest regard for the coaching staffs at UNH and heartfelt appreciation for your support. I wish each of you and your families the best during the holidays,

Warm regards,
Brian McCloskey

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