

September 23, 2015

Mr Powers/Ms McDaniel

Bellevue High School

Re: Response to your inquiry regarding the █████ family

In response to the concerns you have brought up regarding the █████ family and █████, here is my written response:

1: "Disproportional punishment at practice (i.e. making him run more than other athletes)"

Response: This is factually incorrect. Players are treated evenly. Players who loaf or do not demonstrate appropriate effort in drills will be sent to the track to run. My understanding is that all players should be treated evenly. Are the █████ anticipating receiving special treatment where the expectations for their child are supposed to be less than other student athletes? If so, I have not been told that █████ gets "special" treatment. My understanding is that he gets treated just like anybody else. For the record, to date, there are zero times when █████ went alone to the track to run (i.e. on each occasion it has happened, there have been other athletes similarly treated at the same time). As offensive linemen, part of the required apparel are ankle braces and this has been made incredibly clear over and over and over again. The consequences for not wearing them to practice are fifty up-downs. This is evenly enforced. █████ regularly chooses not to wear ankle braces to practice. On each occasion that I have caught it, those players on the offensive line not wearing ankle braces have to do fifty up-downs at practice. On zero occasions to date has it only been █████ who had to do fifty up-downs.....there has always been at least one other. █████ sometimes wears them, sometimes he does not. With that said, should circumstances present themselves where █████ is the only lineman without ankle braces or the only lineman loafing, it would not be unfair or out of the norm for only him to do fifty up-downs or only him to run on the track. However, to date, I have had zero occasions where only █████ had to run and zero occasions where only █████ had to do fifty up-downs for refusing to wear ankle braces to practice. But given the climate being created by the █████ family here, it is important to note now that it is quite possible that that there could be times when it is only him if he is the only one not wearing them or the only one loafing, etc. That is up to █████.

2: "The impact your letter had on █████'s emotional state"

Response: I stand 100% behind my letter. The letter is factual. The letter does not name any players. I cannot and will not comment on █████'s emotional state, nor do I have an opinion on it. Again, the letter is factual. As always, I will continue to do what I feel is in the best overall interest of the team.

3: "The impact your letter had on [REDACTED]'s ability to be recruited for college athletics"

Response: I stand 100% behind my letter. The letter is factual. The letter does not name any current players. I cannot and will not comment on [REDACTED]'s college recruiting. I will always be truthful with college football coaches with regard to any player when asked and that will never change. I believe in transparency and I believe in being factual and truthful, and that will continue and all players are treated the same.

4: "Concerns about you having control on [REDACTED]'s playing time"

Response: I am his position coach on offense. I am the assistant head coach. [REDACTED]'s playing time situation is no different than any other player's playing time situation. You earn it at practice. I cannot be of any assistance answering this "concern" further as the concern is to me nonsense. [REDACTED] does not have to play a team sport. He has chosen to. Coaches have been hired to make decisions about who plays where and when. Ironically, given [REDACTED] extensive playing time to date (which would have been greater had he not been in my opinion so out of condition), the facts don't even come close to giving life to this ridiculous concern.

5: "Concerns that you provide little praise or encouragement to [REDACTED]"

Response: Praise, encouragement and correction are fairly and evenly distributed to all of the players on the team commensurate with the actions (or inactions) of each individual student athlete. [REDACTED] has received praise, [REDACTED] has received encouragement and [REDACTED] has received correction. The more effort [REDACTED] provides, the more praise and encouragement he gets. The less effort he provides, the less he gets. By even raising this as a concern, if this were my own son, I would tell my own son to grow up and become accountable for his own actions instead of always seeking to point a finger or place blame somewhere else. However, as [REDACTED] is not my son, I will continue as always to provide praise, encouragement and correction fairly and evenly to all players including [REDACTED]

6: "Concerns you are angry with [REDACTED] expressed through your verbal interactions."

Response: My personal feelings with regard to [REDACTED] are just that.....my personal feelings. [REDACTED] is being treated fairly. [REDACTED] is being treated equally. These six questions/concerns lead me to believe that the [REDACTED] family feels [REDACTED] should receive "special" treatment rather than fair and equal treatment. [REDACTED] is being treated fairly. [REDACTED] is being treated equally. At times his effort is good. At times it is not good. It is my opinion that he came into the fall extremely out of shape and this is hurting his performance and his effort. Be that as it may, that is on [REDACTED] and he is the one who decides each and every play how much effort he will be providing. As far as the [REDACTED] family trying to decipher what my own personal feelings are on the matter (ie that I am "angry"), for the record I am not "angry" with [REDACTED]. The word I would use to best capture my general overall feeling at this time regarding [REDACTED] would be "disappointed". Not always, but often. [REDACTED]'s behavior and effort is at times "disappointing". At times it is good. In any event, my feelings are my own and are not subject to the control of the [REDACTED] family. Their son is rewarded for good behavior and actions and corrected for behavior that is less than exemplary.....just like everybody else. It would appear that the [REDACTED] family

does not want their son to be coached. If so, perhaps they should be reminded that participation is voluntary on their part.

In closing, [REDACTED] sometimes chooses to be fully suited, and sometimes chooses not to be. [REDACTED] sometimes bends his knees and gets low, and sometimes chooses not to. [REDACTED] sometimes hustles, and sometimes does not. Angry at [REDACTED]? No. Disappointed at times? Yes. But my feelings of disappointment have not affected how much he plays or does not play. Nor have they affected the distribution of praise or encouragement or correction. Like many student athletes, [REDACTED] needs to grow up, become accountable for his own actions, and stop blaming others for his own mistakes or shortcomings. If playing a sport at the college level is actually something that [REDACTED] is interested in, his biggest obstacle right now with regard to that is that he has allowed himself to become incredibly out of shape. This will hurt his performance during games, lessen his ability to be in more often and the film that is created for him will be less than it would be otherwise. These things have nothing to do with me and I will continue to coach [REDACTED] the same as I coach everyone else.

I would also like to state for the record that by not bringing this matter up first to his Safety person coach (Manase Hopoi) or to the head coach (Butch Goncharoff) pursuant to the player agreement, [REDACTED] and his family are again violating the team rules with regard to this and I would like the team rules to be enforced here and a note made in the file about yet another transgression in violation of what the [REDACTED] family agreed to. This complaint is inappropriate and unfounded and was not in the best interest of the team. Given the [REDACTED] family has now complained against Tracy Ford and Jeff Razore and Connor Mawhinney and Rich Brown, and Dan Cerrillo and Butch Goncharoff and Manase Hopoi, and Matt Coombs.....and now me.....Mr Powers and Ms McDaniel while I can appreciate that you both have to perform your jobs, it does at some point become "enough". This recent complaint by the [REDACTED] family was not done pursuant to the agreed upon player agreement, and their complaint here is unfounded and not based in fact. As a perfect example, three players showed up late for walk through last Friday. All three were treated the same and [REDACTED] was one of them (in fact, he was the latest of all three). It's fair. While the [REDACTED] family may not like it that [REDACTED] had to sit out the first series, that is the way it is when you are late to walk through.....for everyone. The [REDACTED] family appears to want "special" treatment. They don't get that. The treatment is fair. The treatment is equal. The "opportunity" for playing time is equal. They apparently want "special" treatment and that is not something I can give them. They all get treated the same.....and enough is enough.

Pat Jones

