

> www.cpsk12.org

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Alexander Huck <AHuck@cpsk12.org>

> Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 2:55 PM

> To: Michelle Baumstark <MBaumstark@cpsk12.org>; Bruce Whitesides <BWhitesides@cpsk12.org>; Jennifer Rukstad <JRukstad@cpsk12.org>; Peter Stiepleman <PStiepleman@cpsk12.org>; John White <JoWhite@cpsk12.org>; Kim Presko <KPresko@cpsk12.org>; Adam Taylor <AdTaylor@cpsk12.org>

> Subject: RE: [External] Battle Football Incident

>

> Michelle,

>

> I have been able to speak with six of our players thus far today and collect statements as we said we would do throughout the day. According to the players on the field participating in the contest, there were multiple instances where racially-motivated insults and racial slurs were thrown in the direction of our team. One player stated that from the opposing team's fans section, a fan yelled "go back across the river", and that a fan standing next to an administrator in a red Jackson shirt and an SRO had yelled the 'n' word toward our bench. When the players made a motion to the SRO standing nearby (as the fans stand "right on top" of the players) the SRO motioned back that he had not heard the comment and there was nothing he could do.

>

> The same player stated that after a failed 2 point conversion, after being tackled, a Jackson player put a knee in his back, ripped his helmet off and said to him, "stay down you f\*\*king 'n' word". After a second failed 2 point conversion, a Jackson player twisted this same Battle player's ankle and proceed to call him the 'n' word, and when the Battle player kicked his foot loose, the official threatened to kick him out for retaliating. The Battle player asked if the official had seen his ankle get twisted and hear him get called the racial slur, the official said "yeah but I can't do anything about that".

>

> Multiple players stated that the officials routinely neglected to confront any of the Jackson players using racial slurs, and multiple players stated that the officials told them to "shut the fuck up and play football". At one point, the head official called the Battle offense and Jackson players to a huddle in the middle of the field, and told them all to "shut the fuck up, I'm tired of the bullshit and talking". The players that stated this who were involved in the huddle felt as if that comment was directed more at the Battle players. At one point, one of our corners ran into an official causing him to stumble, and two players stated they heard that official say "if I get knocked down, I'm knocking you down with me". One player specifically said that he notified the officials at least three times regarding being called the 'n' word to no avail and no penalties being called.

>

> After the game, multiple players stated they returned to the locker room to it in complete disarray. Every player I spoke to claims it did not look as it did when the team left halftime for the start of the 3rd quarter. In fact, one defensive player stated, before the game started, my bag and travel gear were in the locker in the room where the offense met. During halftime, the defense went to a separate room to game plan for the second half, where he had no contact with his bag or travel gear. Upon returning after the game, his bag was out of the locker and opened, and tossed about in a way indicating it had been rifled through. One player recalls wanting to say something to the 5 police officers present outside of their locker room, but were afraid to as they stood there smiling at all of the players. He did however plead that they "check the cameras!" stating multiple times as they were being accused of trashing the locker room. Another player recounted their time in the locker room throughout the night, saying they had eaten before the game and had a quick snack at half-time, and they would not have "trashed" the locker room that they would be returning to after the game, because they know "the coaches make us stay until everything is clean anyway". In addition there were multiple coaches in the locker room supervising the players at all times. After halftime, this player said we had our stuff contained by the lockers and when we got back after the game it was thrown around the locker room. A different player stated that upon returning to the locker room it looked like someone had picked up a big trash can and tossed the trash all over. He was confused why they would be accused of doing this because they still had to return to the area at the end of the game and that would only cause them to clean up a mess they had made before. Multiple players stated that

when they returned to the locker room after the game, it did not look like how it did leaving halftime. If he had to estimate, any movement of personal items as referenced before would have occurred during the 3rd or 4th quarter.

>  
> I have included statements issued by the 6 players that I have pulled out to interview. I did not add any narrative whatsoever and stuck to their comments and statements. I am now proceeding to touch base with the coaches. I understand this is a very pressing matter, hence why I am making sure to do our due diligence in getting firsthand accounts from those directly involved, not comments made by others and passed along. What I want to prevent is more rumors being spread. Coach Ellison (and anyone else on staff) have been passing along any media contact to me, whom I have then passed along to you, Michelle.

>  
>  
> I'm going to continue collecting official statements and relay on what I gather.

>  
> Mr. Alex Huck  
> Activities & Athletics Director  
> Battle High School

>  
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Michelle Baumstark <MBaumstark@cpsk12.org>

> Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 2:01 PM

> To: Bruce Whitesides <BWhitesides@cpsk12.org>; Jennifer Rukstad <JRukstad@cpsk12.org>; Peter Stiepleman <PStiepleman@cpsk12.org>; John White <JoWhite@cpsk12.org>; Kim Presko <KPresko@cpsk12.org>; Alexander Huck <AHuck@cpsk12.org>

> Subject: RE: [External] Battle Football Incident

>  
> There are two written summaries that have been sent to Dr. Stiepleman by the Jackson Superintendent one from the superintendent and one from the Jackson AD. See below. Guys...we don't look good here. Sounds as though we had a poor display of sportsmanship and we need to get to the bottom of who was in the locker room supervising our athletes and what they saw and the condition of the locker room during 3 critical points... before they went on the field, at half-time and post-game when they returned to the locker room. Has anyone seen the video footage or had video footage of the locker room provided to them? No more media interviews from our coaches please. We cannot have any more third or fourth hand hearsay being perpetuated. The Tribune and Missourian articles were not helpful and in fact could do more harm than good at this point. Especially because nothing being reported on our end can be verified and even within our own reporting we're contradicting ourselves.

>  
> On Sep 30, 2019, at 21:37, Link, John <jlink@jr2mail.org> wrote:

>  
> Peter

>  
> I am sure you have been made aware of the incidents that supposedly occurred last Friday night when Battle traveled to Jackson for football. Our team has looked into this and has put together the following summary of the events as seen from our investigation.

>  
> Please let me know if you have any questions. It is very unfortunate that our school district and community is being portrayed so negatively by the Columbia local media. Like Columbia Public School we pride ourselves in being good host and showing strong character.

>  
> John  
>  
> Summary of Events

>