

Michigan Department of State Police
ORIGINAL INCIDENT
REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE Wed, Oct 16, 2013		INCIDENT NO. 011-0004280-13 (04)	
TIME RECEIVED 2112		FILE CLASS 13001	
WORK UNIT MSP LANSING		COUNTY Eaton	
COMPLAINANT		TELEPHONE NO.	
ADDRESS: STREET AND NO.	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
INCIDENT STATUS Open			

ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A JUVENILE

SUMMARY:

I was assigned an alleged assault & battery complaint by D/Sgt. McPhee. The alleged victim, and the suspect, JOHN GEDDERT is her gymnastics coach. All parties were interviewed and the complaint will be forwarded Eaton Prosecutor's Office for review.

VENUE:

AT OR NEAR: SUMMIT SPORTS COMPLEX

DATE & TIME:

TUE, OCT 15, 2013
 BETWEEN 7:30 PM TO 8:45 PM

PRIOR CONTACT WITH JOHN GEDDERT BY M.S.P. LANSING POST:

Assault & Battery 11-10400-11 Tpr. N. Horan

COMPLAINANT

NAM:		RAC:	ETH:
NBR:	DIR:	SEX:	OPS
STR:		DOB:	SSN:
SFX:		HGT:	SID:
CTY:	ST:	WGT:	FBI:
TXH:	ZIP:	HAI:	MNU:
TXW:		EYE:	PRN:
MB:			

PAGE 1 of 5	INVESTIGATED BY TPR B OLEKSYK #161 TPR M BAKER #1170	REPORTED BY	REVIEWED BY
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INTERVIEW

I was assigned an alleged assault & battery complaint by D/Sgt. McPhee. I was requested to contact, and set up an interview to report and assault & battery complaint. I spoke with and an interview was set up for 10-16-13 at 8:15 PM.

came to the post and stated she is the and to stated is a gymnast and trains at Twistars within the Summit Sports Complex. has been going there for many years and the head coach/owner of Twistars is GEDDERT. stated last night when she picked up she was visibly upset. stated she asked what was wrong and told her that GEDDERT stomped on her foot, twisted her arm and put her up against a wall. stated that the coaches have a hands on coaching technique during training, but are not allowed to physically touch the students to discipline them.

VICTIM

NAM:
 NBR: DIR: RAC: ETH:
 STR: DOB: SEX: OPS:
 SFX: HGT: SSN:
 CTY: ST: WGT: SID:
 TXH: ZIP: HAI: FBI:
 TXW: EYE: MNU: PRN:

INTERVIEW

Arrangements were made for to bring to the post for an interview on 10-16-13 at 8:15 PM.

I interviewed on 10-16-13 at 8:47 PM at the Lansing Post with her permission, and without her present. Her did observe the interview from another room. The interview was recorded on a DVD, which is property item # 1. The interview was conducted using Michigan's Juvenile Forensic Interview and Protocol as a guide. was asked only open-ended questions, and asked direct questions to clarify her answers.

I introduced myself to, explained that I was a police officer and that she was not in trouble. During the interview, was in good spirits and able to answer my questions without difficulty. advised me she is a gymnast at Twistars within the Summit Complex, has many coaches and GEDDERT is the head/owner.

I then asked to tell me what occurred yesterday that she told her about. stated GEDDERT got made at her while practicing. She further advised GEDDERT took her into the locker

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room, stepped on her toe, grabbed her arm and push her into the wall. I then asked her if she could demonstrate me what occurred. then demonstrated to me of how GEDDERT stepped on her foot, grabbed her arm and pushed her into a chair. further advised me when GEDDERT grabbed her arm it started to go up. I asked her if GEDDERT grabbed her arm at the same time he stepped on her foot and she stated yes. I then asked her if GEDDERT stomped or stepped on her foot and she stated, "stepped." stated to me that she fell back into a chair. I then asked her how long GEDDERT stepped on her foot and held her arm an she stated about five seconds. I then asked her if GEDDERT has ever done this to her before and she stated no. I asked if GEDDERT every touched her before to discipline her and she stated no. I then asked her when GEDDERT did that to her how she felt. stated, "I felt scarred." "I thought that if I went in that room that he would like choke me or something." stated this occurred in the level 10 girls locker room. I then asked her to explain to me how of how she felt. stated, "I like shivered." "Like scarred." I asked her if she remembered what GEDDERT was talking to her about and she she stated she did not know. I then asked if she had practice in the future would she feel comfortable going to practice and she stated no. I then asked her if she was worried about GEDDERT in the future putting hands on her at practice and she stated yes.

The interview was concluded at 8:58 PM and was reunited with her

SUSPECT:

NAM: JOHN GERALD GEDDERT

NBR:	DIR:	RAC:	ETH:
STR:		SEX:	OPS:
SFX:		DOB:	SSN:
CTY:	ST:	HGT:	SID:
TXH:	ZIP:	WGT:	FBI:
TXW:		HAI:	MNU:
MB:		EYE:	PRN:

INTERVIEW W/ JOHN GEDDERT:

On 10-16-13 at 10:04 PM, Tpr. Baker and I went to GEDDERT's residence to speak with him. The interview was recorded on a digital recorder and is property item # 2. When GEDDERT answered the door he had a glass of wine in his hand. We asked him if we could speak with him in his residence and he let us in. It should be noted that his wife and son were home, so we spoke in the basement at a table while sitting down.

Since I observed a wine glass in GEDDERT's hand, I asked him how many glasses of wine he had to drink today and he stated one. GEDDERT further advised the glass in his hand was his second. I then advised GEDDERT the reason for my visit and that I needed to speak with him. I asked him if he felt like he was under the influence of alcohol and he stated, "No." I then asked him if recently quit gymnastics

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INTERVIEW W/ JOHN GEDDERT CONTINUED:

and he stated yes and for the twelfth time. I again advised him I was here to speak with him about a criminal complaint of the incident that occurred with [redacted] and himself. I then asked him if he wanted to speak with me and GEDDERT stated, "Absolutely." GEDDERT then gave me the history of how many times [redacted] has quit the program. He further stated she has an interest one day and not the next. I explained to GEDDERT of what the alleged incident was about and he stated, "She got her ass chewed." GEDDERT then stated to me that he doesn't coach her, but is the owner. GEDDERT advised how [redacted] was causing issues with the staff and that he had to step in. GEDDERT further advised me how they went into the locker room so he wouldn't chew her ass out in front people. GEDDERT stated of how disrespectful and unacceptable her attitude was throughout the day. I then asked GEDDERT what the form of discipline was for a student who was not performing and he stated, "Sent home." I then asked GEDDERT if hitting, punching, slapping was acceptable punishment and he stated no and they wouldn't be in this type of business. I then advised him what [redacted] stated happened in the locker room. I then asked GEDDERT if he stepped on [redacted] foot and he stated no but he did set her down on a bench. I then asked GEDDERT to demonstrate for me how he sat [redacted] on the bench and he demonstrated it for me. It should be noted GEDDERT grabbed my arm and guided me to a chair. I then asked GEDDERT if [redacted] gave him permission to touch her like that and he stated, "What aspect." I asked him if [redacted] gave him permission to assist her into the chair and GEDDERT stated, "No." I then asked him why he would do that and GEDDERT stated because he was about to talk to her. I then asked him if it was normal for a coach or owner to touch a student in this manner and GEDDERT stated it wasn't normal but this wasn't a normal student. GEDDERT further stated this was a discipline meeting. GEDDERT that stated, "Is this something I need to call a lawyer on?" I stated to him that he did not have to speak with me any further and again I told him the reason for my visit as soon as we met. GEDDERT stated he did not assault [redacted] old, has a good track record and knows how to handle children. GEDDERT stated he was being very frank and educating [redacted] on misbehaving. I then asked him if it was normal practice for a owner or coach to put hands on a student and GEDDERT stated, "No." GEDDERT then went onto to explain it wasn't meant to throw her down but to have seat. At this time the interview was concluded.

PROPERTY:

SEIZED BY: B OLEKSYK
Prop 0001 - Desc: INTERVIEW WITH
Evidence
Obtained From:
MSP LANSING POST

ON 10/16/2013 AT 8:47 PM. Type:

SEIZED BY: B OLEKSYK
Prop 0002 - Desc: INTERVIEW WITH JOHN GEDDERT ON 10/16/2013 AT HIS RESIDENCE Type:
Evidence
Obtained From:

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At or Near:

CCH/CERTIFIED DRIVING RECORD:

CRIME VICTIM'S RIGHTS:

was issued a UD-30 this date in behalf of

PROSECUTION REQUESTED:

For GEDDERT, Assault & Battery.

STATUS:

Open, pending prosecutor review.

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Michigan Department of State Police
SUPPLEMENTAL INCIDENT
REPORT 0001

ORIGINAL DATE Wed, Oct 16, 2013	INCIDENT NO. 011-0004280-13 (04)
SUPPLEMENTARY DATE Fri, Mar 21, 2014	FILE CLASS 13001

INCIDENT STATUS
Open

ASSAULT AND BATTERY ON JUVENILE

JOURNAL:

10-18-13 Tpr. Oleksyk Copies of emails from John & to
Copies of emails to Prosecutor Office and master file. Due to emails
& text messages, requested John &
not to contact her family in any form. I spoke with John Geddert on
this date at 10:05 pm and advised him of request.

10-27-13 Sgt. Faccio Initial Review. Pends Prosecutor Office action.

11-20-13 Sgt. Faccio Reviewed. Note to court officer to please check status.

11-20-13 Tpr. Sims Being screened by Prosecutor Office.

12-6-13 Tpr. Oleksyk Copies of emails (68) from sent to my work email.
Copies of emails to Prosecutor Office and master file. These copies
are of statements has collected about the case.

12-16-13 Sgt. Faccio Reviewed. Still pends Prosecutor Office action.

1-15-14 Sgt. Faccio Reviewed. Still pends Prosecutor Office action.

2-18-14 Tpr. Oleksyk Checked with Prosecutor Office this date and case is still in screening.

2-19-14 Sgt. Faccio Reviewed. Pends Prosecutor Office action.

STATUS:

Open pending Prosecutor Office

PAGE 1 of 1	INVESTIGATED BY TPR. B. OLEKSYK #161	REPORTED BY	REVIEWED BY
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Michigan Department of State Police
SUPPLEMENTAL INCIDENT
REPORT 0002

ORIGINAL DATE Wed, Oct 16, 2013	INCIDENT NO. 011-0004280-13 (04)
SUPPLEMENTARY DATE Wed, Apr 23, 2014	FILE CLASS 13001

INCIDENT STATUS
Inactive

ASSAULT AND BATTERY ON JUVENILE

JOURNAL:

3/24/14 FACCIO Supp. #1 reviewed. Still pends Prosecutor action.

4-18-14 Oleksyk Spoke with prosecutor's office this date. Charges denied. Prosecutor's office ordered GEDDERT to complete counseling . If GEDDERT does not complete counseling the prosecutor's office will issue. Eaton Co. prosecutor's office gave no time line when counseling was to be completed. I also spoke with the complainant, this date and updated her on case. She already knew what was going on with the case.

REQUEST INACTIVE STATUS:

Due to the suspect being ordered to take counseling, and pending charges if he does not, this case will be made inactive pending completion of counseling.

SUSPECT:

NAM: JOHN GERALD GEDDERT

NBR:	DIR:	RAC:	ETH:	
STR:		SEX:	OPS:	
SFX:		DOB:	SSN:	
CTY:		HGT:	SID:	
TXH:	ZIP:	ST:	WGT:	FBI:
TXW:		HAI:	MNU:	
MB: (EYE:	PRN:	

STATUS:

Inactive

PAGE 1 of 1	INVESTIGATED BY SGT JOHN FACCIO #25	REPORTED BY	REVIEWED BY
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Michigan Department of State Police
SUPPLEMENTAL INCIDENT
REPORT 0003

ORIGINAL DATE Wed, Oct 16, 2013	INCIDENT NO. 011-0004280-13 (04)
SUPPLEMENTARY DATE Sat, Nov 22, 2014	FILE CLASS 13001

INCIDENT STATUS

Open pending release of property

ASSAULT AND BATTERY ON JUVENILE

JOURNAL:

4-23-14	Faccio	Supp # 2 reviewed. Case made inactive pending completion of non-mandated counseling.
4-25-14	Lt. Cremonte	Inactive status approved pending above prosecutor requirement.
6-09-14	Hale	Reviewed-pends completion of above counseling NR 12/14
11-12-14 may	Mckee	This was denied as listed above. Subject completed counseling. This be closed by exceptional clearance-prosecution declined. Note to Tpr. Oleksyk.

RECONTACT COMPLAINANT:

On 11-22-14 at approximately 5:20 PM, I called the complainant, _____ and advised her that GEDDERT completed his counseling, prosecutor denied charges and the case is closed.

STATUS:

Open pending release of property

PAGE 1 of 1	INVESTIGATED BY TPR B OLEKSYK #161	REPORTED BY	REVIEWED BY
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Michigan Department of State Police
SUPPLEMENTAL INCIDENT
REPORT 0004

ORIGINAL DATE Wed, Oct 16, 2013	INCIDENT NO. 011-0004280-13 (05)
SUPPLEMENTARY DATE Fri, Jan 23, 2015	FILE CLASS 13001

INCIDENT STATUS
Exceptional clearance

ASSAULT AND BATTERY ON JUVENILE

JOURNAL:

11/23/14	FACCIO	Supp. #3 reviewed. Pends property only. Case should be closed exceptional clearance when property is destroyed.
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PROPERTY DISPOSITION:

On January 22, 2015, the property disposition was completed at the MSP Lansing Post by F/Lt. Joseph Thomas and F/Lt. Kyle Bowman per Official Orders.

FINAL DISPOSITION:

Exceptional clearance

PAGE 1 of 1	INVESTIGATED BY SGT. P. SMITH #211	REPORTED BY	REVIEWED BY
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text messages

Tracking correspondence

Sent: Friday, October 18, 2013 1:35 PM

To:

Cc: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

Email from Kathryn Geddart October 16, 2013:

See email previously sent

FB message from Kathryn Thursday October 17, 2014 6:22 pm:

Tried to reach you by email. Can we please discuss what is going on? I observed what went on because I was on beam and walked over to see what they were doing.

Are you looking at the big picture of all of this?

By taking her arm and sitting her down on the bench...this is getting blown out of proportion. This complaint could take away our lively hood! What we have worked 30+ years for, 40+ jobs, 1200 gymnasts future at the gym.

Please contact me....msg....email...or call.

Thank you!

Kathryn

My response at 7:29 pm:

..... is no longer able to do a sport she excels at. I am incredibly sad. I can't sleep or eat and have cried for 2 days.

From Kathryn not time stamped:

Yea been a little insane myself!!! Can we talk this out and see what we can do???

From Kathryn at 10:24 pm:

....., can you please re-think this complaint???

Text received from John Geddart October 18, 2013

....., I have not been able to sleep for 2 days... I would really like to have a face to face meeting. The accusations pending can put me on the banned list for Usag. That obviously puts my coaching career and this business in jeopardy. My intent would never be to harm any of our athletes. My intent was to get her back in track. It would be very easy to simply ignore her but her talent level and the goals that I feel you have made clear warrant a more disciplined approach. Yes I was stern with her but also provided coaching advise in how to handle her issues. This is not the methods of someone trying to cause harm. I understand the frustrations involved and I am more than willing to sit down with and let her know my intentions... I am not perfect but I certainly am not one to harm children. I certainly would not be at this point of my career if that were ever my intensions. All of this said... This is better served with a face to face meeting
Sent from my iPhone

(M) 11-4280-13

FW:

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2013 11:47 AM

To: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

This is from John Geddart's wife. I assume I should disregard.....

Or can I respond with:

Thank you for contacting me, but that with the situation as it is, I don't think it would be a good thing to talk to her at this time.

From:

Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2013 11:10 AM

To:

Subject:

I would like to chat with you regarding this latest issue. We were visited by the State Police late last night, much to our surprise. I would appreciate it if we could have a conversation about this situation. Please let me know if I could phone you, or you phone me.

My cell is !
Thank you,

Please respond and let me know if this could happen.

11-080-13 (M)

RE: Statement

Heather Hicks [HHicks@eatoncounty.org]

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:25 PM

To: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

Thank you As we talked on the phone, Prosecutor Lloyd would like the photos to be sent to the officer handling the case and you can cc us on the information as Prosecutor Lloyd needs to review these statements within the next two weeks.

Heather Hicks
Victim/Witness Coordinator
1045 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, MI 48813
(517) 543-4835 (phone)
(517) 543-3348 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:24 PM
To: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)
Cc: Heather Hicks
Subject: FW: Statement

Trooper Oleksyk,

Since the Prosecuting Attorney's office asked me to put together some more information, I will send you what I gather. This is from the mom of a girl that was in group, she is also years old. It is SAD the hold he has on these people. The girls fear him and his retaliation. (as you can see, so do the moms).

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:14 PM
To:
Subject: Re: Statement

I know, but I guess I am a little afraid of him too :)
Yes- I did share that message with , but she is definitely afraid to say no to him, based on her response to that conversation.

You know you have my support. I am so sorry that you and have to go through this.

On a separate note, I have my arbonne order ready.

On Nov 25, 2013, at 4:10 PM, wrote:

> What will get you in trouble? What are you nervous about?
>
> I'm NOT looking for to be involved AT ALL. What I remembered you telling me that after hearing about my discussion with with telling never to

11-4280-13 (M)

go into a room alone with a coach that you went home thinking you should reiterate the same with I recalled you stating your stomach did a flip flop when she told you she wouldn't "defy him" in fear of making him angrier. I just wanted to share that point with the PA. and both have strong opinions of the hold he has over the girls. I actually think the fact that stood a little strong willed against him, is what made him the angriest (is that a word?)

>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: [mailto: _____]
> Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:07 PM
> To:
> Subject: Re: Statement

> I'm a little nervous that it will get me in trouble.

> On Nov 25, 2013, at 4:05 PM, wrote:

>> Thanks. I appreciate you responding.

>> -----Original Message-----
>> From:
>> Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 3:50 PM
>> To:
>> Subject: Re: Statement

>> I do not remember saying that was crying. Honestly, I can't remember what she said told her. It seems like he put her in another group. I THINK she mentioned that he stepped on her foot.

>> I had a conversation with a few days later- after speaking to you about what happened- that she doesn't need to be alone in a locker room with any of the male coaches. Her reply was that she would not say no to John if he told her to go in the locker room. She would not leave if she was sent there by a coach.

>> I didn't push the conversation because she was not really aware of what happened. I told her it wasn't a good idea for a male coach to be in the locker room.

>> Not sure if this is accurate. This is what I remember.

>> On Nov 25, 2013 at 12:52 PM,

>>> Can you confirm a conversation we had recently after the incident with and John Geddart?

>>> Concerning recollection of that night, she did not see what happened, as John had taken into the Level 10 locker room alone. All was aware of was that came out crying VERY HARD.

>>> You mentioned to me that you had conversation with explaining neither of

11-4280-13

>>
>>>
>>>
>>> Can you confirm a conversation we had recently after the incident with
and John Geddart?
>>>
>>> Concerning recollection of that night, she did not see what happened,
as John had taken into the Level 10 locker room alone. All was
aware of was that came out crying VERY HARD. -----
>>>
>>> You mentioned to me that you had conversation with explaining neither of
you were witnesses to what happened between and John, but you wanted to be
very clear on what was ok and not ok in the treatment of her at the gym.
>>>
>>> You said you told that she was NEVER to go into a room secluded alone
with John, nor should she ever allow him to lay angry hands on her. If either was
to occur, you told she had your permission to walk out. Upon telling
Jillian this, you indicated her response was "oh no, mom. I could never do that, he
would be too mad".
>>>
>>> Is this correct? I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I do want to
substantiate some of the things I have heard from other members of the club.
>>>
>>> Thanks so much!
>>>
>>> <winmail.dat>

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Ⓜ 11-4280-13

RE: Statement

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:26 PM

To: Heather Hicks [HHicks@eatoncounty.org]; Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

Heather,

I'm not sure what "photos" you are referring to? Do you mean statements I get?

-----Original Message-----

From: Heather Hicks [mailto:HHicks@eatoncounty.org]

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:25 PM

To:

Subject: RE: Statement

Thank you As we talked on the phone, Prosecutor Lloyd would like the photos to be sent to the officer handling the case and you can cc us on the information as Prosecutor Lloyd needs to review these statements within the next two weeks.

(M)

11-4280-13

Heather Hicks
Victim/Witness Coordinator
1045 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, MI 48813
(517) 543-4835 (phone)
(517) 543-3348 (fax)

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:24 PM

To: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

Cc: Heather Hicks

Subject: FW: Statement

Trooper Oleksyk,

Since the Prosecuting Attorney's office asked me to put together some more information, I will send you what I gather. This is from the mom of a girl that was in group, she is also years old. It is SAD the hold he has on these people. The girls fear him and his retaliation. (as you can see, so do the moms).

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:14 PM

To:

Subject: Re: Statement

I know, but I guess I am a little afraid of him too :)
Yes- I did share that message with but she is definitely afraid to say no to him, based on her response to that conversation.

You know you have my support. I am so sorry that you and have to go through this.

On a separate note, I have my arbonne order ready.

On Nov 25, 2013, at 4:10 PM,
wrote:

> What will get you in trouble? What are you nervous about?
>
> I'm NOT looking for to be involved AT ALL. What I remembered you telling me that after hearing about my discussion with with telling never to go into a room alone with a coach that you went home thinking you should reiterate the same with I recalled you stating your stomach did a flip flop when she told you she wouldn't "defy him" in fear of making him angrier. I just wanted to share that point with the PA. and both have strong opinions of the hold he has over the girls. I actually think the fact that stood a little strong willed against him, is what made him the angriest (is that a word?)

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> Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:07 PM
> To:
> Subject: Re: Statement

> I'm a little nervous that it will get me in trouble.

> On Nov 25, 2013, at 4:05 PM,
wrote:

>> Thanks. I appreciate you responding.

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>> From:
>> Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 3:50 PM
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>> Subject: Re: Statement

>> I do not remember saying that was crying. Honestly, I can't remember what she said told her. It seems like he put her in another group. I THINK she mentioned that he stepped on her foot.

>> I had a conversation with a few days later- after speaking to you about what happened- that she doesn't need to be alone in a locker room with any of the male coaches. Her reply was that she would not say no to John if he told her to go in the locker room. She would not leave if she was sent there by a coach.

>> I didn't push the conversation because she was not really aware of what happened. I told her it wasn't a good idea for a male coach to be in the locker room.

>> Not sure if this is accurate. This is what I remember.

>> On Nov 25, 2013, at 12:58 PM,

11-4280-13

you were witnesses to what happened between [redacted] and John, but you wanted to be very clear on what was ok and not ok in the treatment of her at the gym.

>>>

>>> You said you told [redacted] that she was NEVER to go into a room secluded alone with John, nor should she ever allow him to lay angry hands on her. If either was to occur, you told [redacted] she had your permission to walk out. Upon telling [redacted] this, you indicated her response was "oh no, mom. I could never do that, he would be too mad".

>>>

>>> Is this correct? I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I do want to substantiate some of the things I have heard from other members of the club.

>>>

>>> Thanks so much!

>>>

>>> <winmail.dat>

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(M)

11-4280-13

FW: Statement

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 1:13 PM
To: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

Here's another mom that has concerns about how her daughter will not stand up to him if approached. I am trying to get her to confirm the conversation.

From:
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 12:58 PM
To:
Subject: Statement

Can you confirm a conversation we had recently after the incident with [redacted] and John Geddart?

Concerning [redacted] recollection of that night, she did not see what happened, as John had taken [redacted] into the Level 10 locker room alone. All [redacted] was aware of was that [redacted] came out crying VERY HARD.

You mentioned to me that you had conversation with [redacted] explaining neither of you were witnesses to what happened between [redacted] and John, but you wanted to be very clear on what was ok and not ok in the treatment of her at the gym.

You said you told [redacted] that she was NEVER to go into a room secluded alone with John, nor should she ever allow him to lay angry hands on her. If either was to occur, you told [redacted] she had your permission to walk out. Upon telling [redacted] this, you indicated her response was "oh no, mom. I could never do that, he would be too mad".

Is this correct? I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I do want to substantiate some of the things I have heard from other members of the club.

Thanks so much!

(2)
11-4280-13

RE: Compalint

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 3:36 PM

To: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

I guess I'm confused then, because she said we needed to find more substance, to include others who would be willing to provide facts to other instances. What do I do? I don't want to sit by and do nothing, if what they need is additional information.

From: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 3:32 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Compalint

I called the prosecutor's office on 11-25-13 and was advised the case is in screening with the prosecutor's office and has not been assigned to a specific prosecutor. I am just waiting to hear from Eaton Prosecutor's Office on the status of this specific case alone.

(M)

From:
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 12:19 PM
To: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)
Subject: Compalint

Trooper Oleksyk,

I spoke with Heather from the Prosecuting Attorney's office this morning. She said it is the "main PA" reviewing the case. He is concerned that he has enough solid information to press charges with just complaint and that of the previous one. He indicates he can mandate counseling, etc., and THEN if he doesn't follow through, he could act further.

She said if I could come up with additional information he might be able to re-consider. However, they can't investigate, that would have to be you ☺

A coach just recently left Twistars. She is filing a complaint with USAG as she feels he is VERY inappropriate with these girls, and is conditioning them to believe many wrong behaviors are right. She is going to write up a statement tonight and sent to me, and is more than willing to talk to you via phone. Her name is
Her cell number is: She had some stories I didn't want to hear. She is fearful that it is possible he may have stepped over the line in more than one direction.

Another is the mother of a teenager who left the gym a couple years ago. She learned about a year ago, that her teenager had been raped by her husband. I'm not sure that it was necessarily "forced" rape, but none-the-less, he is in prison. She feels STRONGLY that what was taught to her over her many years at the gym are how to "submit" to him, and there is a direct correlation to her training at Twistars to allowing this to happen. Her name is with a cell # of She suggested to me last week that she would indeed be a witness as to his character and type of unprofessional treatment of the girls.

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I have spoken also to [redacted] who used to drive here from [redacted] with 2 girls. She said their final straw was when he grabbed their [redacted] daughter by both arms and shook her in furry. I haven't spoken to her about providing a statement, but if you wanted to reach out, her number is [redacted]. She is very familiar with [redacted] not positive of the last name, I'm trying to determine that), and that she left within the last year because he STOMPED on her feet in anger.

Most within the gym believe that his wife is abused, but of course that's nothing we can attest to.

Thoughts?

(M)

11-4280-13

Complaint

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 4:45 PM

To: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

Cc:

Trooper Oleksyk,

I have been in contact with Heather Hicks, the Victim/Witness Coordinator for Eaton County regarding the complaint we filed (personally) back in October.

In speaking with her, she said the written complaint, which Mr. Lloyd is reviewing, indicated Mr. Geddart "stepped on her toes, took her by the arm, and set her on the bench". That doesn't sound as intense as described it.

I recall i saying he "stepped on her toes so she couldn't get away, grabbed her arm at the elbow, twisted it, put her up against the wall, where she fell to the bench beneath her".

I recall you telling me that Mr. Geddart said he did not "remember" stepping on her toes (although from everything that's been shared with me, this is a norm for him) but that he took her by the arm and set her down". Their descriptions varied in the intensity.

I get the feeling they would "like" to act on this, but don't feel they have enough to go on. Could you review your notes and the interview with to see if you have anything to add to the information as they have it "stepped on her toes, took ahold of her arm, and set her on the bench"? Also, is it possible that I get a copy of the report?

Thanks!

W
11-4280-13

Re: Additional

Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 10:35 AM
To: Heather Hicks [HHicks@eatoncounty.org]
Cc: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

Thanks Heather. I will forward the coaches report, who will testify if needed as soon as I have it

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 4, 2013, at 10:28 AM, "Heather Hicks" <HHicks@eatoncounty.org> wrote:
>
> Once Mr. Lloyd reviews the new information, he will decide what he should do. All we can do is the best we can do. Try not to stress about it. Mr. Lloyd takes his job seriously. If Mr. Lloyd thinks there is more we can do, he will not hesitate. As an attorney, you have to be able to prove the charge you may issue. Again, knowing what happened and being able to prove it to a jury (people who weren't there) what happened is two different levels of information. Once we get the updated information, we will see what Mr. Lloyd says. Try to have a great day knowing you are doing your best. :) Heather

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

> From:
> Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 10:19 AM
> To: Heather Hicks
> Cc: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)
> Subject: Re: Additional

> I am certainly new to this, and will do what I can. I think the report from adult coaches will help and I will have that in a couple days. Although understandable, due to the fact that he was smart enough to take a year female off into a locker room away from all eyes and cameras. You indicate you need more investigation, while the detective feels that will follow a formal charge. So I will continue to provide what I can collect over the next week

> You did indicate at the very least, the PA may mandate counseling, letter of apology, etc. I do have some thoughts on that if that is the only satisfaction we are able to see.

> Thanks for your support

> Sent from my iPhone

>> On Dec 4, 2013, at 10:05 AM, "Heather Hicks" <HHicks@eatoncounty.org> wrote:
>>
>> Knowing something and being able to prove something, is the problem we are likely having. Thank you for keeping us posted on this.

>> Heather

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

>> From:
>> Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 4:46 PM
>> To: Heather Hicks
>> Cc: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

① 11-4280-13

>> Subject: Additional

>>

>> Heather

>>

>> This is a comment from a coach that left after the complaint filed by ; said "I've seen him stand on girls feet so they couldn't move when he was talking to them with clinched teeth. But I can't recall exactly who it was with. I know he did it out in Vegas at a meet when they were on bars and another time....."

>>

>> I am confident this past coach, would be able to speak to this.

>>

>> I was told to contact the mother of a girl that left within the last year hearing: "Woz wants to make a statement. Contact her ASAP". I spoke to her father today, but he does not want his daughter dragged back into it. He said didn't even believe his daughter at first, and when he finally did, is frustrated that other coaches stood by and watched. He doesn't feel the word of children is not going to make a difference, that coaches need to stand up. However, they too are fearful of him.

>>

>> Most if what I am facing is everyone is afraid, I have heard that word OFTEN. The parents that have girls still there, have admitted to being fearful of retaliation on their gymnast if they speak out.

>>

>> One mom who left with two girls, telling me the final straw was when he grabbed her daughter by both arms and shaking her. She said in a Facebook message: "I am afraid to do anything. We are still in the sport and whether people like him or not, he has people in his pocket and will black ball my kids. I can't risk that. I'm seriously afraid to get involved. He has so many people that have covered things up for him."

>>

>> What I do have is a complaint being filed with the USAG of inappropriate behavior if Mr Geddart. This is being done by a coach who left shortly after incident. She WILL testify in case if someone will talk to her. I will have a copy of her documentation in the next couple of days.

>>

>> Thanks for listening.

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>>

>>

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11-4280-13

RE: RE:

Heather Hicks [HHicks@eatoncounty.org]

Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 3:00 PM

To:

Cc: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

Wow, that is quite a statement. We shall see what Mr. Lloyd thinks of it.

Heather

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 1:50 PM

To: Heather Hicks

Cc: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)

Subject: Re: RE:

December 4, 2013

USA Gymnastics

Attn: President and CEO Steve Penny

132 E. Washington Street<x-apple-data-detectors://1>

Suite 700

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Penny:

Gymnastics is my passion. I began the sport at age four and over the next twelve years transformed into not just an athlete, but a gymnast. Those twelve years have shaped my life immeasurably and are a large part of who I am. I have played the role of athlete, spectator, reporter, fan, and coach throughout my life. I have had the opportunity to take in the full realm of the sport, as I have experienced it in various capacities and environments. I began coaching gymnastics because I wanted to share my love and passion for the sport with others and help them to grow from it as I have.

I truly believe that this sport transforms lives for the better and has endless boundaries of impact on its athletes. It is my belief that our job as coaches is to make young athletes realize their full potential and strive to live up to that potential. Unfortunately, my coaching experience the past two years opened my eyes to a very different side of the sport: a dark, unpleasant kind of gymnastics that I did not think existed. It was at Geddert's Twistars USA, under the employment of John and Kathryn Geddert, that my view of gymnastics was turned upside down.

I was ecstatic when I was first asked by John Geddert to work at Twistars. For almost two years I drove an hour to the gym and an hour home six days a week, just so I could

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11-4280-13

work at what I thought was a gymnastics paradise. While I should have recognized problems earlier, my optimistic nature and love for high level talent kept me excusing certain behaviors. Eventually though, I was pushed to the breaking point. My morals and respect for the sport finally told me enough was enough.

I recognize that there are many different styles of coaching to be respected, but also believe that certain boundaries must exist for the well-being of the athletes we coach. I can say with certainty that John Geddert should not be allowed to coach gymnastics. I am truly concerned for the well-being of the athletes under his care. He coaches and lives in a narcissistic manner, attempting to control others by means of fear and intimidation. I have witnessed the use and abuse of multiple gymnasts under Geddert's care and have concerns for their bodies, health, interests, and overall psychosocial development. I have chosen to speak up not out of bitter resentment, but rather out of respect for the sport that I love and the gymnasts that deserve to have a positive experience with this sport. I would like to present you with my experiences and allow you to make your own judgment on what is happening in Dimondale, Michigan:

02.2012 Level 10 gymnast landed a double front on floor with straight legs. severely injuring her knee. John responded with anger and frustration, telling that she was a "Fucking idiot" and that it didn't look that bad. As she sat out and iced, John continued to make rude remarks or glances at for the remainder of the night.

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10.20.2012 During the staff picture, former Twistar and University of Florida gymnast and I were asked to kneel in the front as we were the short ones. was a gymnast for John that had returned after college to help coach at the gym. I was kneeling in front of Kathryn and was kneeling in front of John. At this point John put his hand on head, turned it toward him to face his private areas and loudly remarked "Oh yeah, just like that (her nickname)". As everyone had a little chuckle I found it slightly inappropriate. As and I had become good friends, we were talking about the incident a few minutes afterward. She said that although she was shocked, she was used to it as she had grown up in the gym and was raised with this behavior from John. Sadly, I knew exactly what she meant. While I probably would not have tolerated that particular comment had it been directed toward me, I have shrugged my shoulders at other very offensive sexual remarks by John. He is not shy to make these same type of remarks with the gymnasts he coaches either. Everyone is sort of accustomed to it and turns a blind eye in fear of what he may do if we were to respond differently.

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Saturday 10.2012 Level 10 gymnast was having difficulties on bars and vault. John blatantly told her that it was because she was too fat. The only correction he would give her over and over was to lose weight. I watched her get continually upset for a few practices. Shortly after, a Saturday morning<x-apple-data-detectors://3> came when was not at practice. We were told by John that she went to the hospital because she had troubles with mixing medications and were asked to remain quiet about the situation. As I did not feel it was my place to intervene I left it to her parents, doctors, and John to handle the situation. I have since learned much more of what happened from both and her mother: begged her parents not to go to practice that morning and not understanding what was going on, they told her no. She then took pills and wrote a note to her parents telling them she loved them. The next thing she remembers is her dad and the paramedics trying to shake her awake on the floor. When asked why she did this, she responded "Coach" repeatedly. reportedly told them that the previous night at practice John had told her she would pay for what she did tomorrow (Saturday), which was why she did not want to go to practice. She told them that she took the pills because she just wanted it to all go away and she wanted to go to sleep. She was then sent to a psychiatric hospital and in isolation for a few days. Upon returning, a meeting was held with , her parents, John and Kathryn Geddert, and Larry Nassar in which they were pressured to keep things quiet so that John would not lose

his reputation. eventually left Twistars to train at R Athletics in Grand Rapids until she joined the Western Michigan University Gymnastics team months later. John has since sent correspondence and attempted to ruin her reputation with the coach of Western Michigan University. Her parents are currently seeking an attorney and want to take care of the situation. They made it clear to me that they felt John had permanently tainted their daughter and pushed her to attempt to take her life. Her mother wants to "Take care of this monster so that he can't hurt anyone else mentally and physically", as she corresponded to me via text message.

SUMMER 2013 John was upset with me regarding a fall scheduling email he sent out. He had asked for a timely response in order to organize things in the best possible manner. As I had to figure out my school schedule, carpooling, and various scheduling conflicts, I responded to him within two weeks. This made him very upset as he had wanted a more immediate response. In his frustration he chose to approach me while I was coaching. I was standing up on a high beam teaching the new compulsory routines to a group of young athletes around the ages of eight to ten. In front of the girls, he loudly yelled at me and vented his frustrations, calling me immature and irresponsible. He said that he was disappointed in me and could not believe I would act as such. I feel this was a very inappropriate method of communication on his part. As a coach and authority figure it is difficult for me to maintain respect within a group of young athletes while being belittled by the owner of the facility. This situation could have been handled in a much more effective manner.

SUMMER 2013 Shortly after the previous incident, in which John was disappointed and extremely rude to me, he made an attempt to smooth the air in a very awkward manner. Just days after he had yelled at and belittled me, he chose to smooth things over by commenting on how my tight pants looked nice from behind, but he would prefer less clothing. He said the less clothing I wore to the gym, the better. This was just one of many, many sexually harassing remarks. He often made me feel awkward in a sexual aspect and did not mind doing so with Kathryn around. Being a married, Christian woman I found this very distasteful and certainly inappropriate in the workplace. The team girls would sometimes even come to me to let me know how long John had been staring at my backside. Flattery is one thing; inappropriate sexual conduct from your boss is another.

Saturday 09.21.13 It was the day of our annual Twistars Fall Mixer. The Fall Mixer is usually planned by members of the Booster Club and takes place at one of the gymnast's houses. The event is planned as an opportunity for bonding among team coaches, gymnasts, and parents. Upon arriving at this year's Fall Mixer, I was greeted by a group of six to eight young athletes. As I got out of my car I was immediately swarmed by the girls, saying "Hi we are so glad you're here!! We have been waiting for you! John was drinking and driving!" I took a moment to collect myself and asked the girls what they were referring to. They led me over to John's Corvette and pointed to an open beer can in the middle console cup holder. I explained to the girls that he probably just went out to his car for something and set it there forgetting to bring it back in with him. To this they replied "No, it was there when he drove up and it was open!" I then glanced at it again, and although I could tell it was indeed a beer can, I quieted the girls telling them it was probably just root beer. The rest of the night, however, bothered me slightly. Among the ten staff that attended, there were three or four of us that really engaged with the gymnasts and parents. John and Kathryn, among other staff, sat around the campfire drinking continuously and smoking cigars. We were able to get John up to join in one activity, but that was it. While I realize this is not illegal by any means, I just feel it was not the right time or place for such things. I was stuck trying to defend John and other staff to a few young athletes questioning with "I didn't know John and Brett smoked?" Ten year olds do not understand the difference between smoking cigarettes and an occasional celebratory cigar. Perhaps the partying simply could have waited until after the team gathering when the staff went on to mingle elsewhere.

Tuesday 10.15.13 John told gymnast training level 8, to go in the level 10 locker room as he was upset with her for a particular conditioning assignment she had been doing. He followed her into the locker room and shut the

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door, placing himself and year old in the locker room alone. After a few minutes, both of them emerged from the locker room. was visibly upset and crying uncontrollably. She then worked out with a level 4 group for the rest of the night. told her teammates, and me that while John was yelling at her in the locker room he stepped on her toes, grabbed her by the arm, and threw her up against the wall. Clearly the only two people that know for absolute certainty what occurred that night in the locker room are John Geddert and which creates a his word vs. her word scenario. While I cannot be certain what took place in the room, I can be certain that I was and still am concerned about the events that night. I have watched John scream at, belittle, and punish almost every person in that gym at one point or another. He has done so in front of parents, gymnasts, coaches, and anyone that happened to be in the gym at the given time. Therefore, it struck me as particularly odd that he took into the locker room that night to punish her rather than simply doing so out in the gym as he does with every other situation that arises. One of the older level 10 gymnasts that I carpool with who has been with Twistars for quite a few years, had a response to the situation that I found interesting as well. That night during our carpool home, the girls were talking amongst themselves about the situation. When I asked if she thought John actually did what had described, responded with "I don't know, but he used to step on our toes so we couldn't run away from him when he was mad."

Tuesday 11.05.13 This was the day that I planned to give John my notice and let him know that I would be leaving Twistars. I had originally planned to offer him eight weeks if necessary and thought that we could discuss an end date. Upon being hired I had signed an agreement stating that if I did not give eight week notice, I would be billed for certain trainings and various items. I sent John a text message asking to talk to him for a few minutes after practice. He responded telling me that before practice was better. When I got to the gym he motioned for me to talk to him in the downstairs staff room. I asked him if he was sure he wanted to do it before practice and in the staff room rather than upstairs in the office. He asked me if it was earth shattering news, to which I responded no, but it is important and I think the office may be a better place to talk. He said no, that he wanted to talk then and there. I began with "I have been struggling financially for a few months and it is just getting too hard to make this work. I know you are aware of all the car problems I have had. I just put \$400 on my car and it is already making noises and needs looked at again. I also share a car with and the 60 mile commute 6 days a week on top of both of our school schedules is becoming extremely difficult. I appreciate everything you and Kathryn have done for me and I am so thankful for the opportunities you have provided me, but unfortunately I am no longer able to do this. This has not been an easy decision, and of course leaving the girls has been the hardest part of it, but I have to be able to pay my bills." John was immediately upset and angry. He said that he did not understand how I could leave in the middle of the season. I explained to him that I was trying to let him know as soon as possible, before competition season began. I also said I wanted to let him know before he sent me to the Karolyi Ranch, instead of taking the opportunity to go to the ranch and then turning around and leaving Twistars (he had asked me the previous week if I wanted to go to TOPs National Team Camp December 5-7<x-apple-data-detectors://8>). He only replied with "This is why I ask everyone in April what their plans are for the season. Did you not learn anything from leaving in the middle of the season? This is not a mature, responsible choice you are making. How can you just spit on the team and leave us high and dry in the middle of the season? What do you think I am supposed to do? I cannot believe you would be so selfish and think only about yourself." He then walked out of the staff room, leaving the conversation, and did not speak to me the rest of the night. After work the following text messages took place between John and I:

-----I would like to be the one to tell the girls...none of them know yet I wanted you to know first...but I would appreciate it if they could hear it from me

John-No But I expect you to keep it quiet until I can figure out a plan

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=-No as in they are not allowed to hear it from me?

John-Yes

Why?

John-I do not want to text discuss this...But the answer is obvious. I would like to continue our conversation tomorrow

Okay sounds good...I have no problem with waiting to tell them until you can figure something out I just wanted them to hear it from me is all but we can continue the conversation tomorrow

Thursday 11.07.13 Upon arriving at the gym I went to John's office to continue our discussion. I had hoped that we could go over more details as to when my last day would be and how the girls would find out. John started with saying that he was still trying to wrap his head around how I thought that leaving in the middle of the season was a mature, responsible choice. He assured me that I would not be allowed to tell them, that he would tell them. He said "I will tell them you are leaving them, quitting on them, and abandoning them. That will be the end of the story. I do not want some big sob fest." After about five minutes of belittling me and acting in rage, he said I was dismissed and to get downstairs and coach. As I walked downstairs, I called my mother crying. My mother advised me to pick an end date that worked for me. She said that at this point I did not need to give him eight weeks; two weeks would be fine as I had attempted twice to discuss details professionally to which he did not cooperate. At this pointed I texted John that my last day would be November 26, giving him exactly three weeks from the day I had told him. He came downstairs as I was putting my staff shirt on and calming myself to coach. I then told him in the downstairs staff room that my last day would be the 26. He turned to look at me and angrily said "That is not eight weeks!" I told him I was aware of the agreement I had signed, was choosing to give him three weeks based on our two prior conversations, and asked him to please itemize a bill for whatever items would be deducted from my paycheck. He then screamed "If you are only giving three weeks then get out now! Get out of my gym...I want you gone NOW!" I asked him if he was sure that was what he wanted and he replied affirmatively. I gathered my belongings and began to leave. As I was walking out, he stopped me. At this point we were directly in front of the floor exercise where the team girls were stretching and warming up. Approximately two feet from the floor, with all the girls watching as I was crying, he motioned loudly to a nearby staff member "Hold up...Angelina, I want you to be a witness. She is quitting her job and just walking out on her job. You are a witness of this." To this I replied "Angelina, if you are going to be a witness of the situation I feel you should know the full truth. I gave John my three week notice as I am financially unable to continue at Twistars, at which point he kicked me out and asked me to leave his gym now. He has also questioned my character and told me I am irresponsible and immature for leaving. I am now leaving to respect his wishes." As I walked to the door John yelled "I want it on my desk, in writing, tonight." At this point I went up to the office, got a pen and paper, and began documenting the scenario. I had planned on making a copy to take with me and leaving the letter on his desk. Before I could finish writing, he came upstairs and motioned for me to come in his office. He then said that he was trying to make this go smoothly. I let him know that I had wanted to leave on good terms from the start but his actions were making that impossible and had conveyed otherwise. He then replied "I need you to stay tonight<x-apple-data-detectors://11>. is gone. I want you to stay your three weeks. Short of buying you a new car what can I do to make you stay?" I asked him if he meant stay for three weeks, eight weeks, or permanently to which he responded eight weeks. After what had gone down and the way he handled the situation I told him that was not in the cards anymore. He responded with "That says a lot. I ask you what I can do to help and you say nothing. That says a lot about your character. I have been nothing but good to you and you don't care at all about me or this program. You are hurting hundreds of people." I told John that I care a great deal about the athletes and their families,

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but that I did not care about what he thought of me. I said to him that once he questioned my character, called me immature, irresponsible, and a bad role model I had lost all respect for him and this was why I no longer cared what he thought of me. I said he was entitled to feel however he wanted, but I was comfortable with who I was. I told him I would stay the three weeks, although he had just kicked me out, but only out of care and concern for the girls. I then went downstairs, calmed down, and returned to work. When leaving that day I wanted to make sure he wanted me to come back the next day, as I was unsure if he was just keeping me around that night because we were short a team staff member. He said "I don't know. I guess yeah, plan on coming tomorrow." At this point I felt completely unsure as to whether he would have me continue for three weeks or simply call me one day and say you're done, do not come in. For this reason, I chose to tell the girls myself. I had built a very strong relationship with the girls and felt that they deserved to hear it from me. I thought that if he was to not have me come in one day and simply tell them that I left with no explanation, they would be extremely hurt and feel much more abandoned. That night and the following day I broke the news to the girls. I simply told them that I could no longer coach in Lansing because it was too difficult financially, especially sharing one car with my husband. I let them know that I needed to find a job closer to home so I could afford to pay my bills. I told them it was not an easy decision and the hardest part was leaving them. I reassured them it had nothing to do with them and that I wanted to stay in their lives. I asked them not to talk about it around the gym at practice, because John was not happy that I was leaving and I did not want them to get in trouble. I said I planned on my last day being November 26, but that he may ask me to leave sooner. They understood fairly well, as most of them had seen him kick me out of the gym the day before. That was all the information I gave them. They did well with not talking about it at the gym and trying to keep their emotions in tact in following practices, as I am sure they did not want to get in trouble either. Neither John nor Kathryn spoke to me for the next week, but I continued to come to work and figured that I would simply finish my three weeks if allowed, out of respect for the girls.

Saturday 11.16.13 Upon noticing that my paycheck was substantially less than what I had expected, I sent Kathryn a text inquiring about the amount. John was now out of town at the Karolyi Ranch, so I sent the text to Kathryn instead while I was on my way to the gym. She responded, informing me that deductions had already been taken for my decision to give three weeks instead of eight. I told her that I was under the impression that I would know what the deductions were going to be before they were taken out and that I would get a bill for them prior to them being taken out of my paycheck. I also asked whether or not there would be further deductions. She did not respond as to whether or not there would be further deductions. At this point in time I realized that I was driving two hours every day and not even certain if I would be given an adequate paycheck. As I had stressed in my decision to leave, I was struggling financially. I thought that after attempting various times to professionally put in my notice with John and returning to work for him five minutes after he had disturbingly kicked me out, that perhaps he would have the decency to treat me with similar respect. I should have known better. At this point I was reassured by both of my parents that I no longer owed them anything. I had tried to make this a smooth, professional resignation and in turn was treated very poorly and unprofessionally. By clearly showing me that they did not want to handle this situation in a professional matter, I thought it was no longer necessary to give them my time and loyalty. Based on the actions and behaviors of the Gedderts the past week and a half, I realized that I should be prepared for the worst. Not knowing whether or not my paycheck would be held, I turned around and drove back home. I could no longer drive 120 miles a day and give my time and efforts for people that had treated me so unfairly and may not even pay me for my remaining work. My parents advised me to end contact with the Gedderts so I would no longer be harassed. Although it was shortly after practice had started, I sent Kathryn a text less than an hour after I had planned on being there letting her know that I would not be in. I then stopped any and all texting to John and Kathryn.

Tuesday 11.19.13 I received this text from John:

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11-4280-13

"Whoops you missed it by a couple days... But then again I would expect nothing less from the immature and irresponsible. Very classy...You couldn't even be respectful enough to keep your self-centered excuses to yourself as requested. What a shame but very typical of the entitlement generation"

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(M)

11-4280-13

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I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. Please feel free to contact me with questions or for copies of any texts/emails that you may wish to see regarding this situation. Again, I am proud and grateful to be a member of such an outstanding organization.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 4, 2013, at 1:42 PM, "Heather Hicks"
<HHicks@eatoncounty.orgmailto:HHicks@eatoncounty.org>> wrote:

Your attachment did not come through. :(Heather

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 1:15 PM
To: Heather Hicks
Cc: Oleksyk, Brian (MSP)
Subject: Fwd:

(M)

Heather and Brian

Here us a letter from the coach that just left. She is MIRE than willing to testify to what goes on in this gym. I can only pray that some action before someone is truly injured by the hand or intimidation of this man

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: '

Date: December 4, 2013 at 12:54:39 PM EST
To:

11-4280-13

December 4, 2013

USA Gymnastics

Attn: President and CEO Steve Penny

132 E. Washington Street

Suite 700

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Penny:

Gymnastics is my passion. I began the sport at age four and over the next twelve years transformed into not just an athlete, but a gymnast. Those twelve years have shaped my life immeasurably and are a large part of who I am. I have played the role of athlete, spectator, reporter, fan, and coach throughout my life. I have had the opportunity to take in the full realm of the sport, as I have experienced it in various capacities and environments. I began coaching gymnastics because I wanted to share my love and passion for the sport with others and help them to grow from it as I have.

I truly believe that this sport transforms lives for the better and has endless boundaries of impact on its athletes. It is my belief that our job as coaches is to make young athletes realize their full potential and strive to live up to that potential. Unfortunately, my coaching experience the past two years opened my eyes to a very different side of the sport: a dark, unpleasant kind of gymnastics that I did not think existed. It was at Geddert's Twistars USA, under the employment of John and Kathryn Geddert, that my view of gymnastics was turned upside down.

I was ecstatic when I was first asked by John Geddert to work at Twistars. For almost two years I drove an hour to the gym and an hour home six days a week, just so I could work at what I thought was a gymnastics paradise. While I should have recognized problems earlier, my optimistic nature and love for high level talent kept me excusing certain behaviors. Eventually though, I was pushed to the breaking point. My morals and respect for the sport finally told me enough was enough.

I recognize that there are many different styles of coaching to be respected, but also believe that certain boundaries must exist for the well-being of the athletes we coach. I can say with certainty that John Geddert should not be allowed to coach gymnastics. I am truly concerned for the well-being of the athletes under his care. He coaches and lives in a narcissistic manner, attempting to control others by means of fear and intimidation. I have witnessed the use and abuse of multiple gymnasts under Geddert's care and have concerns for their bodies, health, interests, and overall psychosocial development. I have chosen to speak up not out of bitter resentment, but rather out of respect for the sport that I love and the gymnasts that deserve to have a positive experience with this sport. I would like to present you with my experiences and allow you to make your own judgment on what is happening in Dimondale, Michigan:

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11-4280-13

02.2012 Level 10 gymnast landed a double front on floor with straight legs, severely injuring her knee. John responded with anger and frustration, telling that she was a "Fucking idiot" and that it didn't look that bad. As she sat out and iced, John continued to make rude remarks or glances at Bayle for the remainder of the night.

10.20.2012 During the staff picture, former Twistar and University of Florida gymnast and I were asked to kneel in the front as we were the short ones. was a gymnast for John that had returned after college to help coach at the gym. I was kneeling in front of Kathryn and was kneeling in front of John. At this point John put his hand on head, turned it toward him to face his private areas and loudly remarked "Oh yeah, just like that (her name)". As everyone had a little chuckle I found it slightly inappropriate. As and I had become good friends, we were talking about the incident a few minutes afterward. She said that although she was shocked, she was used to it as she had grown up in the gym and was raised with this behavior from John. Sadly, I knew exactly what she meant. While I probably would not have tolerated that particular comment had it been directed toward me, I have shrugged my shoulders at other very offensive sexual remarks by John. He is not shy to make these same type of remarks with the gymnasts he coaches either. Everyone is sort of accustomed to it and turns a blind eye in fear of what he may do if we were to respond differently.

Saturday 10.2012 Level 10 gymnast was having difficulties on bars and vault. John blatantly told her that it was because she was too fat. The only correction he would give her over and over was to lose weight. I watched her get continually upset for a few practices. Shortly after, a Saturday morning came when Brittany was not at practice. We were told by John that she went to the hospital because she had troubles with mixing medications and were asked to remain quiet about the situation. As I did not feel it was my place to intervene I left it to her parents, doctors, and John to handle the situation. I have since learned much more of what happened from both [redacted] and her mother: [redacted] begged her parents not to go to practice that morning and not understanding what was going on, they told her no. She then took pills and wrote a note to her parents telling them she loved them. The next thing she remembers is her dad and the paramedics trying to shake her awake on the floor. When asked why she did this, she responded "Coach" repeatedly. [redacted] reportedly told them that the previous night at practice John had told her she would pay for what she did tomorrow (Saturday), which was why she did not want to go to practice. She told them that she took the pills because she just wanted it to all go away and she wanted to go to sleep. She was then sent to a psychiatric hospital and in isolation for a few days. Upon returning, a meeting was held with [redacted], her parents, John and Kathryn Geddert, and Larry Nassar in which they were pressured to keep things quiet so that John would not lose his reputation. [redacted] eventually left Twistars to train at R Athletics in Grand Rapids until she joined the Western Michigan University Gymnastics team months later. John has since sent [redacted] correspondence and attempted to ruin her reputation with the coach of Western Michigan University. Her parents are currently seeking an attorney and want to take care of the situation. They made it clear to me that they felt John had permanently tainted their daughter and pushed her to attempt to take her life. Her mother wants to "Take care of this monster so that he can't hurt anyone else mentally and physically", as she corresponded to me via text message.

(M)

SUMMER 2013 John was upset with me regarding a fall scheduling email he sent out. He had asked for a timely response in order to organize things in the best possible manner. As I had to figure out my school schedule, carpooling, and various scheduling conflicts, I responded to him within two weeks. This made him very upset as he had wanted a more immediate response. In his frustration he chose to approach me while I was coaching. I was standing up on a high beam teaching the new compulsory routines to a group of young athletes around the ages of eight to ten. In front of the girls, he loudly yelled at me and vented his frustrations, calling me immature and irresponsible. He said that he was disappointed in me and could not believe I would act as such. I feel this was a very inappropriate method of communication on his part. As a coach and authority figure it is difficult for me to maintain respect within a group of young athletes while being belittled by the owner of the facility. This situation could have been handled in a much more effective manner.

11-4280-13

SUMMER 2013 Shortly after the previous incident, in which John was disappointed and extremely rude to me, he made an attempt to smooth the air in a very awkward manner. Just days after he had yelled at and belittled me, he chose to smooth things over by commenting on how my tight pants looked nice from behind, but he would prefer less clothing. He said the less clothing I wore to the gym, the better. This was just one of many, many sexually harassing remarks. He often made me feel awkward in a sexual aspect and did not mind doing so with Kathryn around. Being a married, Christian woman I found this very distasteful and certainly inappropriate in the workplace. The team girls would sometimes even come to me to let me know how long John had been staring at my backside. Flattery is one thing; inappropriate sexual conduct from your boss is another.

Saturday 09.21.13 It was the day of our annual Twistars Fall Mixer. The Fall Mixer is usually planned by members of the Booster Club and takes place at one of the gymnast's houses. The event is planned as an opportunity for bonding among team coaches, gymnasts, and parents. Upon arriving at this year's Fall Mixer, I was greeted by a group of six to eight young athletes. As I got out of my car I was immediately swarmed by the girls, saying "Hi Claire, we are so glad you're here!! We have been waiting for you! John was drinking and driving!" I took a moment to collect

myself and asked the girls what they were referring to. They led me over to John's Corvette and pointed to an open beer can in the middle console cup holder. I explained to the girls that he probably just went out to his car for something and set it there forgetting to bring it back in with him. To this they replied "No, it was there when he drove up and it was open!" I then glanced at it again, and although I could tell it was indeed a beer can, I quieted the girls telling them it was probably just root beer. The rest of the night, however, bothered me slightly. Among the ten staff that attended, there were three or four of us that really engaged with the gymnasts and parents. John and Kathryn, among other staff, sat around the campfire drinking continuously and smoking cigars. We were able to get John up to join in one activity, but that was it. While I realize this is not illegal by any means, I just feel it was not the right time or place for such things. I was stuck trying to defend John and other staff to a few young athletes questioning with "I didn't know John and Brett smoked?" Ten year olds do not understand the difference between smoking cigarettes and an occasional celebratory cigar. Perhaps the partying simply could have waited until after the team gathering when the staff went on to mingle elsewhere.

Tuesday 10.15.13 John told gymnast [redacted], training level 8, to go in the level 10 locker room as he was upset with her for a particular conditioning assignment she had been doing. He followed her into the locker room and shut the door, placing himself and [redacted] year old [redacted] in the locker room alone. After a few minutes, both of them emerged from the locker room. [redacted] was visibly upset and crying uncontrollably. She then worked out with a level 4 group for the rest of the night. [redacted] told her teammates, grandmother, and me that while John was yelling at her in the locker room he stepped on her toes, grabbed her by the arm, and threw her up against the wall. Clearly the only two people that know for absolute certainty what occurred that night in the locker room are John Geddert and [redacted] which creates a his word vs. her word scenario. While I cannot be certain what took place in the room, I can be certain that I was and still am concerned about the events that night. I have watched John scream at, belittle, and punish almost every person in that gym at one point or another. He has done so in front of parents, gymnasts, coaches, and anyone that happened to be in the gym at the given time. Therefore, it struck me as particularly odd that he took [redacted] into the locker room that night to punish her rather than simply doing so out in the gym as he does with every other situation that arises. One of the older level 10 gymnasts that I carpool with who has been with Twistars for quite a few years, [redacted], had a response to the situation that I found interesting as well. That night during our carpool home, the girls were talking amongst themselves about the situation. When I asked Rachel if she thought John actually did what [redacted] had described, [redacted] responded with "I don't know, but he used to step on our toes so we couldn't run away from him when he was mad."

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11-4280-13

Tuesday 11.05.13 This was the day that I planned to give John my notice and let him know that I would be leaving Twistars. I had originally planned to offer him eight weeks if necessary and thought that we could discuss an end date. Upon being hired I had signed an agreement stating that if I did not give eight week notice, I would be billed for certain trainings and various items. I sent John a text message asking to talk to him for a few minutes after practice. He responded telling me that before practice was better. When I got to the gym he motioned for me to talk to him in the downstairs staff room. I asked him if he was sure he wanted to do it before practice and in the staff room rather than upstairs in the office. He asked me if it was earth shattering news, to which I responded no, but it is important and I think the office may be a better place to talk. He said no, that he wanted to talk then and there. I began with "I have been struggling financially for a few months and it is just getting too hard to make this work. I know you are aware of all the car problems I have had. I just put \$400 on my car and it is already making noises and needs looked at again. I also share a car with [redacted] and the 60 mile commute 6 days a week on top of both of our school schedules is becoming extremely difficult. I appreciate everything you and Kathryn have done for me and I am so thankful for the opportunities you have provided me, but unfortunately I am no longer able to do this. This has not been an easy decision, and of course leaving the girls has been the hardest part of it, but I have to be able to pay my bills." John was immediately upset

and angry. He said that he did not understand how I could leave in the middle of the season. I explained to him that I was trying to let him know as soon as possible, before competition season began. I also said I wanted to let him know before he sent me to the Karolyi Ranch, instead of taking the opportunity to go to the ranch and then turning around and leaving Twistars (he had asked me the previous week if I wanted to go to TOPs National Team Camp December 5-7). He only replied with "This is why I ask everyone in April what their plans are for the season. Did you not learn anything from Carrie leaving in the middle of the season? This is not a mature, responsible choice you are making. How can you just spit on the team and leave us high and dry in the middle of the season? What do you think I am supposed to do? I cannot believe you would be so selfish and think only about yourself." He then walked out of the staff room, leaving the conversation, and did not speak to me the rest of the night. After work the following text messages took place between John and I:

-I would like to be the one to tell the girls...none of them know yet I wanted you to know first...but I would appreciate it if they could hear it from me

John-No But I expect you to keep it quiet until I can figure out a plan

e-No as in they are not allowed to hear it from me?

(M)

John-Yes

e-Why?

John-I do not want to text discuss this..But the answer is obvious. I would like to continue our conversation tomorrow

Claire-Okay sounds good...I have no problem with waiting to tell them until you can figure something out I just wanted them to hear it from me is all but we can continue the conversation tomorrow

11-4280-13

Thursday 11.07.13 Upon arriving at the gym I went to John's office to continue our discussion. I had hoped that we could go over more details as to when my last day would be and how the girls would find out. John started with saying that he was still trying to wrap his head around how I thought that leaving in the middle of the season was a mature, responsible choice. He assured me that I would not be allowed to tell them, that he would tell them. He said "I will tell them you are leaving them, quitting on them, and abandoning them. That will be the end of the story. I do not want some big sob fest." After about five minutes of belittling me and acting in rage, he said I was dismissed and to get downstairs and coach. As I walked downstairs, I called my mother crying. My mother advised me to pick an end date that worked for me. She said that at this point I did not need to give him eight weeks; two weeks would be fine as I had attempted twice to discuss details professionally to which he did not cooperate. At this point I texted John that my last day would be November 26, giving him exactly three weeks from the day I had told him. He came downstairs as I was putting my staff shirt on and calming myself to coach. I then told him in the downstairs staff room that my last day would be the 26. He turned to look at me and angrily said "That is not eight weeks!" I told him I was aware of the agreement I had signed, was choosing to give him three weeks based on our two prior conversations, and asked him to please itemize a bill for whatever items would be deducted from my paycheck. He then screamed "If you are only giving three weeks then get out now! Get out of my gym...I want you gone NOW!" I asked him if he was sure that was what he wanted and he replied affirmatively. I gathered my belongings and began to leave. As I was walking out, he stopped me. At this point we were directly in front of the floor exercise where the team girls were stretching and warming up. Approximately two feet from the floor, with all the girls watching as I was crying, he motioned loudly to a nearby staff member "Hold up... I want you to be a witness. She is quitting her job and just walking out on her job. You are a witness of this." To this I replied " if you are going to be a witness of the situation I feel you

should know the full truth. I gave John my three week notice as I am financially unable to continue at Twistars, at which point he kicked me out and asked me to leave his gym now. He has also questioned my character and told me I am irresponsible and immature for leaving. I am now leaving to respect his wishes." As I walked to the door John yelled "I want it on my desk, in writing, tonight." At this point I went up to the office, got a pen and paper, and began documenting the scenario. I had planned on making a copy to take with me and leaving the letter on his desk. Before I could finish writing, he came upstairs and motioned for me to come in his office. He then said that he was trying to make this go smoothly. I let him know that I had wanted to leave on good terms from the start but his actions were making that impossible and had conveyed otherwise. He then replied "I need you to stay tonight. Erin is gone. I want you to stay your three weeks. Short of buying you a new car what can I do to make you stay?" I asked him if he meant stay for three weeks, eight weeks, or permanently to which he responded eight weeks. After what had gone down and the way he handled the situation I told him that was not in the cards anymore. He responded with "That says a lot. I ask you what I can do to help and you say nothing. That says a lot about your character. I have been nothing but good to you and you don't care at all about me or this program. You are hurting hundreds of people." I told John that I care a great deal about the athletes and their families, but that I did not care about what he thought of me. I said to him that once he questioned my character, called me immature, irresponsible, and a bad role model I had lost all respect for him and this was why I no longer cared what he thought of me. I said he was entitled to feel however he wanted, but I was comfortable with who I was. I told him I would stay the three weeks, although he had just kicked me out, but only out of care and concern for the girls. I then went downstairs, calmed down, and returned to work. When leaving that day I wanted to make sure he wanted me to come back the next day, as I was unsure if he was just keeping me around that night because we were short a team staff member. He said "I don't know. I guess yeah, plan on coming tomorrow." At this point I felt completely unsure as to whether he would have me continue for three weeks or simply call me one day and say you're done, do not come in. For this reason, I chose to tell the girls myself. I had built a very strong relationship with the girls and felt that they deserved to hear it from me. I thought that if he was to not have me come in one day and simply tell them that I left with no explanation, they would be extremely hurt and feel much more abandoned. That night and the following day I broke the news to the girls. I simply told them that I could no longer coach in Lansing because it was too difficult financially, especially sharing one car with my husband. I let them know that I needed to find a job closer to home so I could afford to pay my bills. I told them it was not an easy decision and the hardest part was leaving them. I reassured them it had nothing to do with them and that I wanted to stay in their lives. I asked them not to talk about it around the gym at practice, because John was not happy that I was leaving and I did not want them to get in trouble. I said I planned on my last day being November 26, but that he may ask me to leave sooner. They understood fairly well, as most of them had seen him kick me out of the gym the day before. That was all the information I gave them. They did well with not talking about it at the gym and trying to keep their emotions in tact in following practices, as I am sure they did not want to get in trouble either. Neither John nor Kathryn spoke to me for the next week, but I continued to come to work and figured that I would simply finish my three weeks if allowed, out of respect for the girls.



11-4280-13

Saturday 11.16.13 Upon noticing that my paycheck was substantially less than what I had expected, I sent Kathryn a text inquiring about the amount. John was now out of town at the Karolyi Ranch, so I sent the text to Kathryn instead while I was on my way to the gym. She responded, informing me that deductions had already been taken for my decision to give three weeks instead of eight. I told her that I was under the impression that I would know what the deductions were going to be before they were taken out and that I would get a bill for them prior to them being taken out of my paycheck. I also asked whether or not there would be further deductions. She did not respond as to whether or not there would be further deductions. At this point in time I realized that I was driving two hours every day and not even certain if I would be given an adequate paycheck. As I had stressed in my decision to leave, I was struggling financially. I thought that after attempting various times to professionally put in my notice with John and returning to work for him five minutes

after he had disturbingly kicked me out, that perhaps he would have the decency to treat me with similar respect. I should have known better. At this point I was reassured by both of my parents that I no longer owed them anything. I had tried to make this a smooth, professional resignation and in turn was treated very poorly and unprofessionally. By clearly showing me that they did not want to handle this situation in a professional matter, I thought it was no longer necessary to give them my time and loyalty. Based on the actions and behaviors of the Gedderts the past week and a half, I realized that I should be prepared for the worst. Not knowing whether or not my paycheck would be held, I turned around and drove back home. I could no longer drive 120 miles a day and give my time and efforts for people that had treated me so unfairly and may not even pay me for my remaining work. My parents advised me to end contact with the Gedderts so I would no longer be harassed. Although it was shortly after practice had started, I sent Kathryn a text less than an hour after I had planned on being there letting her know that I would not be in. I then stopped any and all texting to John and Kathryn.

Tuesday 11.19.13 I received this text from John:

"Whoops you missed it by a couple days... But then again I would expect nothing less from the immature and irresponsible. Very classy... You couldn't even be respectful enough to keep your self-centered excuses to yourself as requested. What a shame but very typical of the entitlement generation"

At this point I decided it was best to block John and Kathryn from Facebook as well, as I had noticed a post pertaining to me. If they wished to contact me from here on, it would need to be by email.

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11-4280-13

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I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter. Please feel free to contact me with questions or for copies of any texts/emails that you may wish to see regarding this situation. Again, I am proud and grateful to be a member of such an outstanding organization.

Thank you,

This email, including any attachment(s) to it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify Eaton County by replying to the original email and deleting any email(s) or attachment(s) that you have received. Eaton County screens all outgoing email and attachment(s) for viruses; however, Eaton County cannot accept liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email. The recipient should check this email and any attachment(s) for the presence of viruses.

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11-4280-13