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Subject: You could Save Boise State Wrestling
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To: lanny@wrestlingusa.com



The link below is to sign a petition for change! You could be a part of the efforts to save Boise State Wrestling.

<https://www.change.org/p/help-us-save-boise-state-wrestling>

“I do not have a single day go by, where I don't get asked what happened at Boise State?”



I live everyday in the wrestling world, I eat, breath, and think wrestling all day! Seriously it's my job!

I talk to coaches daily who use my ALL IN SYSTEM, I work with kids daily on a personal level, and I provide a daily message or video on

wrestling via my social networks to provide massive value to a community in need!

With that comes a history and a background that really cannot be ignored. I wrestled at Boise State and I was later a coach for one year when they dropped the program. This message is not about me, but my past and my story always crosses with Boise State and the incident of the program being dropped. It has become a part of my daily conversations whether i like it or not.

The truth is we had an amazing coaching staff in Greg Randal, Chris Owens, and Kirk White when I was wrestling in college.

Greg was a man of little words, but he could spark a fire in you with his one liners, and you would be ready to fight in the blink of an eye. Chris was our lifestyle and everything wrestling coach. Coach Owens truly did it all from mentality to ability. We all grew to love and respect him tremendously as a mentor in our lives on and off the mat.

Coach White was perhaps one of the best technicians any wrestler could ever be around. If you watched us wrestle you new he had an impact on each and every one of us because we wrestled like him.

The combo of the three coaches took our team to amazing heights and we quickly became known as a team to be reckon with. We were without a doubt one of the best teams nationwide. At one point we were ranked #2 in the country on multiple polls behind the Iowa Hawkeyes who we closely lost to at national duals. The best part was our team was made of northwest boys through and through.

This was just during my time as a wrestler, but the history and success goes way beyond my years as this coaching staff crafted and molded the most accomplished and successful sports teams in Boise States sport history hands down.

My father, a high school coach, and my college staff planted seeds in my life that would guarantee one day I would follow in their coaching footsteps. After a little time coaching and competing at elite level for

Arizona State I would later get the chance to come back and work with my coaching staff as a fundraiser and volunteer.

Shortly into my time back in Idaho it was noticeable that Boise State started making some moves and decisions that were pitting the coaching staff against one another and their pursuit of success was obviously being interrupted. I won't get into details here, but many fans were worried as they announced some of the coaching changes that were going to be taking place.

We were watching one of the most successful coaching staffs in Boise State history be separated. The split of our great staff was happening and no one was able to put a halt to it, nor did anyone really know what was going on. Our wrestling fans were tremendously worried about the security of the program during this time and rightfully so.

Shortly after, the new hire of Mike Mendoza brought light to the scenario and sparked excitement that the future could still be bright for Boise State Wrestling once again. Mike hired his long time assistant coach Riley Orozco, he hired myself as an assistant coach, and also hired my teammate and Boise State national finalist Andrew Hochstrasser.

In respect for our historic program, the dedicated coaches before us, our own drive to be successful, we put our nose to the grindstone working like mad men to spark a new culture, improve academics, rally the donors, recruit the future, and find a way to win the second we stepped on campus.

When we first started our job, the athletic directors would regularly walk into our office and ask us to just improve the academics of the wrestling team as a new staff. At times it almost seemed he would say it so often that he did not even care if we won, brought in money, made improvements, etc...! As coaches, of course we would not be content with losing. We had a vision and plan for improving multiple aspects of the program and winning would still be one of the most

aspects of the program and winning would still be one of the most important tasks at hand. We also knew answering this request on academics would put us in good position to make some of our bigger plans for the future easily applicable so we made it a priority as well.

The culture shift happened, we went from last in academics to the first place mens team at the university in less than one year, and trust me this was not easy to do.

We secured record donor money for our program from individual donors, and we were well on our way to renovating the wrestling room for improvements.

We had lined up 15 recruits to be the future of bronco wrestling. These recruits combined over 14 high school All American honors, 30 combined state titles, and they averaged a 3.6 gpa between all of them. Saying we were excited about this class is a major understatement.

Our current bronco wrestlers became exciting to watch, and the fire had been lit again in our wrestling community. The buzz around the duals was contagious and the program was undeniably improving from so many angles. We were starting to bring some of those good ol'e days back to life.

Stop and think about this scenario before I take it a step further. Coach Mendoza left a 15 year career as a division one coach at Cal State Bakersfield in which he was basically building from scratch. Prior to him taking the BSU position he had taken a team from last in the entire NCAA to a top 20 team in the country and he did it all while self funding the entire programs budget. Mendoza left one of the best retirement pensions in the united states when he up and brought his family to Boise, ID and he did it with our athletic administrations word and commitment.

Mendoza knew Boise, ID was great and that it could be a mecca of success for wrestling in the Northwest. He was correct and he made a good decision for his career, but he was also misled in the process,

We all were...!

Mendoza would never publicly say this because he is a better man than me, but I feel its fare I at the minimum state the facts during this unique time.

I love coach Mendoza and he may actually advise me to not send or make this post if he was sitting next to me right now, but as he knows I make some decisions with my gut, and I feel this topic should be under deep scrutiny and spark true change that could impact thousands of wrestlers in the Northwest without the opportunity to continue their wrestling careers at a school close to home because of the decision that was made.

Boise State's Wrestling program as you know was blind sided by the athletic directors and presidents decision to drop our program with only 9 months under our belts as a new staff. They would strategically accomplish what the University of Oregon also accomplished years ago. They would pit wrestling against baseball and substitute the two with little to no explanation leaving a community in outrage and confusion.

They would ignore the possible debts of the decision financially, and they would not involve the people for there thoughts, considerations, or alternative options. Does this sound like a state organization? If it does then we need change!

True Story...One day we were told to bring all of our wrestlers to the wrestling room. They asked our staff to go into a separate office with the athletic directors and they simoltaneously told us and our wrestlers in two different rooms that they are dropping the mens wrestling team to better align themselves with the conference and that they would be adding mens baseball in place of wrestling. We did not even have the time of day or respect to be notified first so we could speak with our wrestlers personally.

While we are in the meeting being told our jobs were done and the program was to be cut effective immediately, a media release takes place and the entire town is being notified simultaneously. We are almost bombarded with media on the decision within 30 minutes of this happening. It was meticulously crafted to say the least.

We actually had a recruit on campus who met with the AD just 20 minutes prior and he was being told how great our university and program is by the AD himself. This recruit had verbally committed to our program earlier that day, and he was just one of so many others that were also fed a misrepresentation of the truth.

The story goes on and on and only gets worse!

I stood for being a bronco and would proudly say that my blood was blue and orange up until this point. I remember one day when I was coaching at Boise State and the AD had asked us all sports coaches to email him why we think football ticket sales are down. I was probably one of few that actually emailed him. I referred back to my days as an athlete when the stadiums were requiring growth because they could not seat the amount of people who wanted in. The city rallied around the well respected high character man known as Coach Pete. In a nice way I simply explained in my email how the sense of blue collar, integrity, and character was being lost in connection with the community. We had been focused more on the status of success than the process. I thought if we shifted the focus the community would rally again with loyalty. I was watching it happen with our team so why would I not believe that.

I really believed that character, integrity, and just general morality is what people put their faith in. It's the process not the result. I believed that more people would buy tickets when they morally agree with everything the university is standing for in the public eye. I believed that a university could be its own attractive character by promoting its core beliefs we originally stated we stood for.

I believed these things were being lost. The focus was shifted to success only, instead of why we do things, or what we stand for as an organization.

I did not mention these next things to him because I possibly would have been out of a job if I did at the time, but the culture inside the building had become very power lated and political. It became a "be careful what you say" type environment. The music, the language, and the overall humanity had made a shift in many ways for the worse. For the lack of better words it was more worldly and less genuine. I really believed these were the reasons ticket sales were down and the buzz just was not the same.

Of course I was careful how I said all this but its the truth. I had a job to do myself, so thats what we focused hard on. I would confidently say anyone who worked hand in hand with our staff would attest to that if it did not mean they would loose their jobs for doing so.

This was not a decision of finance, this was not a decision of behavior, this was not a decision of success, this was not a decision of bad staff, this was not a decision of academics.

This was a decision that would happen regardless of what people think. This was strategic, this was ruthless, this was with no love, this was with no respect, this was a decision with no integrity, this was a dishonest procedure, this was not title nine, this was meticulously crafted, THIS WAS NOT WHAT WE WOULD WANT OUR UNIVERSITY TO REPRESENT.

Many wrestlers love baseball so why pit the two against one another, why not both?

Whats the actual costs associated with this decision? (this one will just make you more angry, trust me...!)

Couldn't they add a Womens sport and have both baseball and wrestling? (Yes, matter of fact the wrestling program it's self would of happily funded a Womens wrestling program or another sport.)

Did the coaches do something wrong? (no, matter of fact you could ask any employee in the building that was not in on it, and our character and performance would be held in high regard)

Did the kids do something? (no, as mentioned the kids were turning things around for the program and big time momentum.)

So what happened? Well its all in the past now, but a president had an agenda and he had an army of people ready to make it happen.

Our community has fought tremendously hard now for two full years.

This petition for change is a small testimony to the efforts that have been put forth of the long and historic community. It's nearing 25,000 signatures and you can push it over the edge.

What's happening?

Well the president has finally left his post and a new lady has been hired to advance the university academically and athletically. She has decisions to make just like the past president, and she would be very popular in her decisions if she answered to the people and what they truly want.

You are my most loyal followers and you can help sign and spread this petition for change more than anyone. Please take 1 minute of your time to sign this petition and make a difference.

You have a voice!

Sign the petition if you love wrestling!

Sign the petition if you would like to re write this story!

Sign the petition if you would like to re-write this story!

Sign the petition if you are someone who wants to stop things like this from happening!

Sign the petition if you want the new president to make a change for the better!

<https://www.change.org/p/help-us-save-boise-state-wrestling>

Thanks for listening and taking the time to make a change,

Levi Jones

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