

1. I was never a rumor-guy so I have not witnessed or heard any stories about his moves on the swimmers.

2. To give you example, from observing Greg's interactions with Kate Charipar for the first several months I thought she was his wife. Back then, I did not know that she hold a compliance officer position in the university.

Here is my story:

I am native of Kazan, Russia. My family moved to USA when I turned 14. By the time I had to choose a college for further education my swimming records were well recognized on both sides of the ocean. I was Russian high school champion, member of Russian Junior National team, I took 6th place in 2007 US Junior Nationals and I was a member of All-Star American Junior team.

I got offers from UMD at College Park, University of Tennessee, Syracuse University, Perdue University, University of Washington, University of Utah and several others. From all of the above my choice was to come to Utah. I really liked the team atmosphere and environment. Also, Utes, among others, offered me 100% athletic scholarship. This offer made me quit national team and school back in Russia.

I arrived to Utah about the same time Greg Winslow became a new head coach. Despite the great pressure that he constantly put on the team I personally never had any difficulties with psychological or physical demands he required. Although, I could clearly notice that for some other members it was a bigger challenge to stay on the team due to different initial athletic levels. I abide all given instructions and was more than prepared to any physical exercise. Also, I tried contribute in other areas by providing the photo coverage of the events and contributing images to different purposes including media guides, all free of charge. [See attached files] Being very focused on my academic and athletic career I did not pay attention to any rumors and the only Greg Winslow who I saw was my coach in the pool. I never had problems or arguments with coaching staff and it seemed that we got along well.

Year and half into the program, during the Princeton Invitational meet, I showed one of the best personal and team results. Then we went to Mexico for a training trip, with the following meet in TCU. After a very tough training trip nobody was able to perform their best, therefore this particular meet turned to be a very frustrating for everybody on the team. As a routine procedure every swimmer recaps the past event with the coach and listens for the instructions for the following one. As I was done with one of my events I verbally tried to get Greg's attention for couple of minutes to discuss possible mistakes and directions for my following event. Because it was unsuccessful I put my hand on his shoulder and slightly pulled it. His reaction was unpredictably aggressive – he turned to me and blazed: "You are off the team". In that particular moment I was shocked but did not take it too serious because he said something similar to several members of the team. Later that day when he cooled down he took back his words for the other members of the team. He approached me in the lobby while I had a conversation with my primary coach, Marie Marsman, with the statement written from my name and declaring that I voluntarily withdraw from the team. In a very abusive manner he tried to make me sign the document, which would allow him to immediately cut my full-ride scholarship. He refused to explain the situation and reasoning behind his decision. Of course, I was very shocked but was able to realize that I should not do it and did not sign anything.

When we returned to Salt Lake City I humbly approached Greg several times during the two week period begging to take me back on the team at least on probation so I could show how my athletic career is important to me and is inevitably linked to my fate. Without scholarship I did not have any means to support my education and presence in the states, and I would not qualify (as international student) for any loans. At that time he asked me to his office and said that his decision solely based on my disrespect to the coaching staff. Here I would like to make a small remark that I was raised in Russian culture, in which the attitude towards the superior is far more formal and respectful. As a result, for two and half years practicing with my first American coach, Andy Lehman, I never overcame a psychological barrier to be with him on the first-name basis.

After exhausting my options with coach Winslow I approached several people in University of Utah athletic/compliance department. I talked personally with following people: Pete Oliszcak, Kate Charipar, Kyle Brennan. Although, all of them verbally expressed their concerns, no action was taken: nobody was asked no information collected. As a result, I had to file an official appeal to the cancelation of my scholarship (attached). The response stated that I did not provide enough evidence to prove myself not guilty for any behavior that could lead to my cancellation. Shockingly and illogically this statement totally contradicts basic legal principle "Ei incumbit probatio qui dicit, non qui negat" ("Innocent until proven guilty"). I am dead sure, that they would not be able to prove me guilty in any activity that can be even remotely considered inappropriate. They are there to protect athletes, instead they mark them guilty by default.

Witnessing no action taken towards the people who were engaged in much more serious misconducts than tapping coach's shoulder, I felt extremely mistreated. Common sense says that the single reason for ruining my athletic life was Greg not liking me for whatever reason he was able to find – discrimination by the textbook. Only due to tremendous financial sacrifices of my whole family I was able to graduate from university with computer engineering degree. Psychological damage of being expelled from the sport I was devoting myself since I was 5 years old is beyond measurable. Only couple years later, I was able to come back to the pool: I became 2nd twice during 2012 Utah State Championship, and won with record 12k Bear Lake Open Water swim.

Now, I found peace in SLC: I have work that I love, I am married to the best woman in the world, and I always find time for the pool. I have no hard feelings left for Greg, but his departure would be best for everybody. Nevertheless, if athletic/compliance departments keep acting like they were in my case, it is just a matter of time when new abusive Greg shows up on the horizon.

Some additional info:

I have had email conversations, including in "Copy" field, with:

Kyle Brennan
Kate Charipar
Peter Oliszcak
John Curl
Chris Hill

Below i paraphrase the Univeristy Of Utah athletic department emails(due to disclaimers on each and every email) and directly quote of my own.

After i was presented the denial of appeal, I have asked:

"Dear Financial Aid Appeals Committee,
Thank you very much for not taking much time to make your decision about my appeal.
I would have been completely satisfied with it if you explained me on what grounds you declined my appeal. Were my swimming results not too good enough or was my accidental hugging Coach Greg which I regret much a serious misconduct?
Please answer my inquiry because I need it to understand what my fault was in as well as my possible other appeals to the Principals of the University or/and NCAA headquarters,
Sincerely, Vlas"

Athletic Department answer to the above, was describing how they did not see any violations in materials provided. Committee (members of which is not known to me) said that they cannot overturn my cancellation because all of the decision lies in the hands of the coaching staff. They took 0 action to verify the decision or my concerns. They also have referred to NCAA bylaw 15.3.5.1 and 15.3.3.1 that they cannot provide more than one year of financial aid even if they wanted to.

My response:

"I studied NCAA Division I manual very thoroughly and I knew about those bylaws.

But please notice the following one:

15.3.5.1.1 (Hearing Opportunity Required.)

"The decision to renew or not renew the financial aid is left to the discretion of the institution, to be determined in accordance with its normal practices for students generally."

As I understand, that means I should be treated in my appeal as a student of the University of Utah but not an athlete who is very susceptible to his coach right/wrong opinion. Please, note if it is so Financial Aid and Scholarships Executive Appeals Committee should find any violation a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rule/bylaw or a University policy in my behavior as a student of the University. Although, you informed me that Committee did not find any violation from the side of Men's Swimming and Diving coaching staff. I do not understand this substitution of actions undertaken by the Committee.

Anyway, I am still wondering:

1. if I am the only person in the University who thinks that is not ethical for any coach to write a request for voluntarily withdrawal from the sport on behalf of an athlete.
2. if it is right from the point of Law that I signed the letter of intention to work with exactly with Coach Mike not with Coach Greg who has expelled me from the team. Why nobody told me about that right when I was signing up the letter of intention?
3. Why I cannot attend swimming practices in the University if my results as good as the best results of the swimming team and I am a senior of this University?

I am still hoping to continue my swimming career for one more year in NCAA. It seems that I need to be transferred for that. I guess this is very hard because formally, I have already been transferred once. But I have many opportunities: I can search within our state, within Division II and so on. Will you please help me to get the information what is the best way for me to go?

Thank you so much,

Vlas"

I was channeled to Mr. Kyle Brennan, who was an Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance. During our in person conversation, Mr. Brennan told me, that coaching staff can do whatever they want and athletic department would only consider looking into the decision only if there were clear signs of discrimination. And even then, once financial aid is terminated it cannot be extended for more than a current year, according to the bylaws mentioned above.