

Dear Kevin McArdle,

After reading your story this morning, we, members of the St. Peter's Prep basketball team, have chosen to respond in writing, as a family to your story. We would like to address your portrayal of Coach Todd Decker and the unfortunate injury to Tommy Papas.

We would like to make it completely clear to all parties involved, as well as the public, that at no point ever have we felt threatened or fearful in any way towards Coach Decker or any other members of the coaching staff. We have used the pads in drills for years and not only saw the benefits of the drills in our skill development, but also appreciated and enjoyed the efforts of our coaches. We also witnessed Tommy's father use the pads numerous times in practice as a freshman team coach at our school for one and a half seasons before he was relieved of the job during this season. We always knew that Coach Decker has nothing but our best interest in mind and will always continue to, both on the court as players and off the court as people.

Coach Decker has nothing but our support and dedication. We do not want what was an athletic accident to be presented as an example of physical abuse. We feel that your story does not show that to be the case and instead supports the family attempting to take public advantage of the situation at Rutgers University which could not be more opposite stories.

As players we want everyone to know the truth about our Coach as well as our basketball program. Our hopes are for Tommy to recover from his injury. We also want to let set the record straight that as people who spend more time with Coach Decker and his staff than our families and are together in the gym on and off the court every day, that there is zero chance that this incident is anything but an unfortunate accident.

Sincerely,

The 2012-2013 St. Peter's Prep Basketball Program

Nick Serbone  
Thomas Hognacki  
Patrick Lavin  
Dennis James  
Cedric Mendez  
Piomello Ford  
Shankar Waterman  
Austin Rache  
Jordan Harris  
Matt Halchak

Tyler Wyle  
Sean Cummings  
Najja Hunter  
Jabir Bishop  
James Scott

STAFF

William Jones  
Alex Mosher  
Kenneth Teschlog

\* 4 Varsity Players Away on retreat for weekend.