

Janna Clark,

This past weekend, our 12U Bixby Blues team traveled to Tahlequah to participate in a USSSA tournament held at the Anthis Brennan Sports Complex.

At the conclusion of our second game, I was walking toward the dugout to help our team pack up when I heard my wife yelling my name and calling for help. Naturally, I ran toward her. As I approached, I heard multiple individuals stating that someone had been taking inappropriate photographs of her and that a physical altercation had occurred as a result.

In an effort to de-escalate the situation, I positioned myself between several highly agitated individuals and members of our team's parents and spectators. While attempting to determine what had occurred, an umpire approached and began speaking to me. As I turned to respond to the umpire, I was unexpectedly struck in the face. I defended myself by taking the individual to the ground, and a brief physical altercation followed before we were separated.

Law enforcement was contacted, and I remained on scene until officers arrived. Both the other individual and I were temporarily detained while officers conducted their investigation. A neutral witness later provided video evidence confirming that I had been sucker-punched and had acted in self-defense. After considering all factors involved, I made the personal decision not to pursue assault and battery charges.

Following the investigation, the other individual and I had brief conversation, shook hands, and expressed gratitude that everyone involved was ultimately able to return home safely to their families.

Since the incident, several inaccurate accounts have circulated publicly. I would like to clarify the following:

- This incident was unrelated to the game of baseball itself; it simply occurred at a sports complex.
- The incident occurred between parents on teams that were not even competing against each other.
- The primary aggressor involved in the broader disturbance was never detained, as she left the scene prior to law enforcement's arrival. Multiple witnesses reported that she physically attacked multiple individuals and made threats toward spectators, including children associated with our team.
- Although I am employed in law enforcement, I never identified myself as an officer during the incident. I fully cooperated with responding officers, voluntarily complied with being detained, and allowed the investigation to proceed without interference.
- Our team was not disqualified from the tournament. However, due to concerns for the safety and well-being of our players, parents, and spectators, I believed it was in the team's best interest not to return for bracket play on Sunday.
- The Tournament director was present during the incident and He expressed sincere apologies regarding the events that occurred and advised that he would provide a refund in light of our experience. He also stated that the individuals involved had reportedly caused prior disturbances at the complex and would be prohibited from returning.

The biggest disappointed is that this incident occurred in front of so many children. It could have been prevented from the start with common respect for others and not resorting to threats and/or physical violence.

Respectfully,
Luke Flanagan