

Good afternoon school board members and public,

It is with great frustration that I provide this statement of facts. I was in attendance for the entirety of the game and the events that take place following the game. From the beginning of this incident, the CUSD administration and school board has been intent on hiding the facts of what happened at the end of the CHS vs Orange Glen High School Regional Championship Basketball Game for their benefit. I was extremely excited to cheer on the Islanders and their high caliber team. The game was amazing and no one will ever take that away from the players, coaches, fans and me. Following the game winning basket, fans cleared the bleachers, rushed Alex, who hit the game-winning shot and hoisted him into the air in celebration. Following this, the Orange Glen team approached the CHS team on the CHS side of the court with the intent of violence against Islander players, fans and anyone else celebrating the win. As the confrontation continued, several tortillas were thrown up into the air in the direction of the Orange Glen team. There was absolutely no racial intent behind that action. Any effort to claim that was the case is a complete and utter FALSEHOOD. Coach Laaperi handled himself with grace and as the confrontation escalated, ordered all of the CHS players into the locker room to avoid any further confrontation. His actions should be lauded to de-escalate the situation that was initiated by Orange Glen's coaches and fans.

The tossing of tortillas is used as a celebratory action by the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos at various sporting events including basketball and soccer. Please view the following clip for an example of this tradition taking place at UCSB's Harder Stadium...

<https://youtu.be/s1x-mK6tfrQ>

Again, there was not a shred of ill-intent or racial animus in carrying out this celebratory action. Those who have enflamed this issue into a racially charged issue should be utterly ASHAMED of themselves. The people who have fallen for this frame-up to smear Coach Laaperi are not worthy of being any part of the discussion regarding this event as it is their intent to try and fan the flames of racism where none existed.

The administration, particularly the high school principal, did everything in his power to SMEAR Coach Laaperi in order to prevent bringing the facts forward regarding this event to avoid any responsibility himself. This included forcing Coach Laaperi to post the following FALSE tweet where he had to claim responsibility for this wholly fabricated racially motivated action.

*Unfortunately a community member brought tortillas and distributed them which was unacceptable and racist in nature. I do not condone this behavior. Coronado High School does not condone this behavior and is already taking appropriate action. -@jdlaaperi Jun 19*

128 Comments

15 Re-tweets

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The players who threw these tortillas did it in celebration with no racial or ill-will WHATSOEVER. I am confident the players would agree with this.

Coach Laaperi is owed an apology by those who perpetrated this SMEAR and no discussion WHATSOEVER should take place of taking away his job as basketball coach or as a Silver Strand elementary teacher.

I brought the tortillas to the game and provided them to players and cheerleaders to toss out onto the floor of the gym in celebration IF, and they certainly did, win the Regional Championship Game.

Thank you