

To: Penn State President Rodney Erickson and Members of the Board of Trustees

From: Gary Gray

Class of 1972, August 9, 2012

Re: **My Last Visit with Coach Paterno**

I have written this letter to provide you with some potentially important information that perhaps should be part of the official record concerning the Sandusky matter and Freeh report. For those of you who may not know me, I am an alumnus with three degrees from Penn State (B.S., MBA, Ph.D.). I was a linebacker who played for Penn State in the 1968-72 seasons, was Jerry Sandusky's Graduate Assistant in 1975 and 76 when he was creating The Second Mile, and was on the freshmen wrestling team with Ira Lubert and Dave Joyner in 1969. I teach finance at PSU, I have lived in State College for nearly 40 years, and I am active in the community.

I was able to spend some time with Coach Paterno shortly before his death. I had the opportunity to have a private and substantive discussion about Jerry Sandusky. Because Coach Paterno's account was not available to the University, to the Freeh investigators, or to the public, I feel that it is my responsibility to convey to you what Coach Paterno said to me so that you have the benefit of this information. Given the circumstances, I believe that he would want me to share with you the details of that conversation. My visit with Coach Paterno lasted about twenty minutes and we talked about our families, teaching, retirement and Sandusky.

On December 6, 2011, I called Joe Paterno to see if I could visit with him. It had recently been reported that he had been diagnosed with lung cancer. The next afternoon Sue Paterno met me at the door of their McKee Avenue home. Joe was right behind her. He put his hand on my shoulder for support as Sue led us into the kitchen. We sat at the kitchen table. Joe had just started chemotherapy and the treatment was sapping much of his strength. He looked good and he was mentally sharp, but his voice was raspy.

Coach Paterno told me that even before his dismissal he had planned to retire at the end of the 2011 football season. He had informed Penn State President Graham Spanier of his decision before the season started. Now he faced a future of days just like this one, in retirement and with no schedule or structure. He admitted that he didn't know how he would fill the many hours he once devoted to football.

At 85 years old, he was not concerned about himself. He'd be okay, Paterno told me. But now that he no longer controlled the football office, he didn't know what was going to happen to the assistant coaches, the equipment managers and everyone else employed in the football program. These were people that he cared for deeply, he said.

At the mention of his assistants, I told him I was having a hard time with the allegations against Jerry Sandusky. You and me both, Joe had replied. He said it was tough for him to believe that Jerry could have done the things that he had been accused of. He said that Sandusky had completely fooled him and a lot of other people.

Sandusky had also fooled me. I told Coach Paterno that until the day of Jerry's indictment I had been helping Jerry to fight the rumors and allegations against him. Jerry told me repeatedly that he was innocent. I hadn't believed the rumors reported by the press, I thought he was being falsely accused, and I wanted to defend Jerry. I wrote letters-to-the-editor—

supportive of Jerry—to the newspapers that had reported the grand jury leak. And I had frequently met and talked with Jerry over the past year.

Coach Paterno asked me what I had known about the victims and what I had heard from Jerry. As I recounted the information to Coach Paterno, it seemed clear to me that other than the McQueary incident Joe had known nothing about other allegations against Jerry until the release on November 5th of the Grand Jury Presentment. I told Coach Paterno that once I read the report I backed away from Jerry. These were not the charges that Jerry had led me to believe he was facing.

Coach Paterno told me about that morning in 2001 that Mike McQueary had come to his house. Coach said that McQueary was sitting in the same kitchen chair where I was now seated. McQueary told Paterno what he thought he had seen in the showers of the Lasch Building. Mike was fidgeting, Paterno said. He was sort of stuttering, mumbling softly as if he didn't know how to say the things he wanted to say. Joe said that McQueary had told him that he had seen Jerry engaged in *horseplay* or *horsing around* with a young boy. McQueary *wasn't sure what was happening*, but he said that it made him feel *uncomfortable*. In recounting McQueary's conversation to me, Coach Paterno did not use any terms with sexual overtones.

I then asked Coach Paterno if he had forced Jerry into retirement. No, he hadn't forced him out, Paterno replied. He had told Jerry that he was spending too much time and energy with The Second Mile. He had said that Jerry could never be a successful head coach here or anywhere else because he would always be torn between football and The Second Mile. Coach Paterno maintained that Jerry would not be able to devote the 80-plus hour work weeks that are necessary to coach at the big-time intercollegiate level. Coach Paterno also said to me that he had told Jerry that he would not support him in his bid to become the next head football coach at Penn State.

I thanked Coach Paterno for seeing me and wished him good luck with his treatments. That was the last time that I saw or talked with him.

I had a subsequent conversation with Dr. Jonathan Dranov who I bumped into one day in mid-July, 2012. Dr. Dranov described to me the 2001 meeting he had at the McQueary home with Mike and with Mike's father John McQueary on the night of the shower incident, just after it occurred. Dr. Dranov stated that when he arrived at John McQueary's home Mike appeared to be visibly shaken. Mike said that he had seen Jerry Sandusky *horsing around* with a young boy in a shower at the Lasch Building. Dr. Dranov told me that he had asked Mike McQueary several times if he had *seen* anything sexual. Each time Mike McQueary answered no.

From my visit with Coach Paterno, I got the impression that he was as stunned as anyone by the revelations that have now become public knowledge. If you or any of the members of the Board of Trustees have any questions, please contact me at