

Dear UMKC students, faculty, and KC community,

We understand that most of you have read, seen, or heard of the Kansas City Star article regarding the UMKC Softball coaches Greg Bachkora (Coach Bach) and Head Coach Meredith, as well as the team. We, as the softball community, are here to shed light on that topic. We realize that if you have read the article it sounds horrible to say the least, which is why we decided as a whole that we need to speak up.

Coach Bach is very important to us and our team. For most of us who are playing or have played were far from home during season, away from our family and friends and Coach Bach is our home away from home. There is no one that cares more about our well-being, lives, jobs, etc. than him. We cannot express our gratitude for him nor describe to any extent how much he means to us on paper, but we hope to be heard nevertheless. We are not trying to tear anyone down, but only wish to defend and protect one of our own just as he would do for us. We do not think that Coach Bach is perfect, he admitted that he is not, but there is a lot more to this story. In order to better understand another side to this story, there are some things the public needs to know.

We know that women have a right to say what they want to say and express how they feel, and we are in no way placing blame or attacking the women that went to The Star with these accusations. We have received overwhelming feedback on the issue from UMKC students as well as others who have expressed support for us. We appreciate that people want to help and support us as a team and program. A lot of individuals are speaking their mind on the article, but have not been exposed to the other side of the story. We want the public to have a chance to hear our truth. Although we feel support from the public, the support we are getting is misplaced.

We feel compelled to tell our side of story because there are women of all ages who are truly going through terrible things and we want to make sure that their voices are heard. We want to make sure that everyone knows and understands the truth, our truth, as we have seen and lived it. We, as players (previous and current), do not like being disrespected, our team does not deserve this reputation, and we will stand up for ourselves as a family in any way that we can. We want you to know that our safety and well-being have been the main concerns of the administration from day one, and our intention is to help the public understand our perspective on this situation.

We want to stand up for our coach, our team, and UMKC.

First, we want to recognize that our coach did admit to some things that The Star accused him of, but none of these things were ever anything other than support and encouragement for our efforts in the classroom and on the field. Never have any of us felt uncomfortable or uneasy about either of our coaches, especially in an inappropriate, sexual manner.

Here are some facts that you should know, the statements made about our locker room do not add up nor make sense if you have ever seen or been in our locker room, and we are aware that almost all of you have no way of accessing it. Therefore, we are concerned how you are able to believe these statements and accusations made. The dimensions of our locker room are set up in a way that it is impossible for anyone to be interrupted or seen without their knowledge. Every non-player that has access and is

entering our locker room is required to knock and ask permission to enter, which is a protocol that is always followed. Our microwave, which is used frequently by players due to our strenuous and busy hours related to school and softball is only used by non-players when they ask to enter and we are aware. It is unbelievable that Coach Bach is getting backlash for heating up food. The comment made about the shower curtain is false, below is a picture of our showers, which are rarely used and all have curtains. The Kansas City Star, went about their reporting and journalism all wrong. Below is a statement from a person interviewed.

“Hello my name is Abigail Taylor (Johnson), a former player of Coach Greg Bachkora at UMKC. Coach Bachkora is currently being wrongfully accused of sexual harassment by a couple of former players. I personally talked to the head reporter who did an interview with me. In her first initial voicemail she told me names of former players that she had interviewed and names of the accusers and the parents of those accusers. She also stated that she wanted to hear my story about UMKC and why it did not work out. When I eventually called her back, she completely threw me off by her questions. She NEVER talked to the former teammates that she named (I called and asked them after.) I also want to point out that I still have this voicemail. This said reporter also sent me an email, which I still have. In this email she completely denied ever mentioning any names and denied that she didn't fully disclose what the article truly was about. When asked, I told her that I did not want my name in the article with my statements due to some personal reasons. Not only did she not put my name in the article, but she did not use any of my statements. This reporter only used the statements she thought would help promote the accusers story.”

The girls that went to The Star with this information were our teammates and were once part of this family. We can imagine they must be experiencing discomfort as to how much this blew up and how twisted the story got by the writers at The Star through direct interview and word of mouth. We respect every woman's right to express their feelings and we also know that these girls had a right to their thoughts and opinions. Under the circumstances of these claims, we are here to say that accusations of any sexual harassment committed by any coaches is downright false.

This letter is what we want staff, students, and SGA to know in response to the overwhelming expression of concern and care. We know that we are not the only ones affected and this has had an impact on everyone in this community and we hope that this helps everyone better understand the situation.

This is our side of things, the side that The Star failed to include in a narrative surrounding the culture of our team. The names included in this document have read, contributed, and agreed to the message we are trying to convey and we are proud to stand up for this man, this school, and this program.

Maegan Rollow- Current UMKC softball player

Kendra Leach- Former UMKC Softball Player 2012-2017

Ashley Thorne- Current UMKC softball player

Macy Hornosky- Current UMKC softball player  
Kailyn Packard- Current UMKC softball player  
Chyanne Onstad- Current UMKC softball player  
Alexis D'Ambrosio- Current UMKC softball player  
Tessa Mikkelson- Former UWGB softball player  
Alexandra Friloux - Former UMKC Softball player and director of operations  
Alexis Larson - Former UMKC softball player 2016-2018  
Abby Warkentine-Former UMKC softball player  
Catherine Friloux- Current UMKC softball player  
Ashlynn Williams- Current UMKC softball player  
Faith Willis- Current UMKC softball player  
Sydney Garcia- Current UMKC softball player  
Lia Lombardini- Current UMKC softball player  
Emily Flack- Former University of Northern Colorado softball player (2013-2017)  
Katie Kelley- Former UMKC softball player and Graduate Assistant  
Molly Ryan - Former University of Northern Colorado softball player (2013-2015)  
Adeline Coldiron- Former University of Northern Colorado softball player  
(2013-2017)  
Melissa Truett - Former University of Northern Colorado Softball player  
(2011-2015)  
Erica Dick- Former University of Northern Colorado Softball player (2013-2017)  
Rachel Johnson - former University of Northern Colorado Softball Player  
(2014-2018)  
Madason shaw-current UMKC softball player  
Mallory Goulding - Former Benedictine College Softball Player (2012-2013)