

Re: Marist Appeal on Behalf of Jordan Pifer

Hello John,

Marist is formally appealing the red card and ejection of Jordan Pifer in yesterday's game against Springfield High School. In speaking with referee at the conclusion of the game last night he indicated that our player made a comment and placed his hands on his chest. In speaking with the player and his parents he did not deny that he said "that was a bullshit call," but he denies ever touching the official. Several additional parents have sent me supporting e-mails to state that they witnessed the interaction and did not see Jordan touch the official in any way at any point in time. My understanding of the reason for the red card was the contact, we had two other players issued yellow cards for additional comments and I wonder if the official in question made a knee-jerk reaction on the red card and then justified it by mistakenly indicating that he was touched. I am aware that a Springfield player brushed up against the official at about the same time as he put his hands in the air to celebrate their victory.

I can clearly state that while we do not condone that kind of language and treatment of officials I can understand their frustration as it appeared that the officials were out of position when they made an important call that helped to decide the game. In this case we would like to see the decision reversed and for there to be consistency in handing out cards to all players who made similar poor judgment in addressing the official at all. I do not wish to call the officials integrity into question, but I have several parents who are adamant that they did not see contact between our player and the official. I have attached those e-mails to this appeal. I know you have a very difficult job and I appreciate the time that you give to every situation.

Parent e-mail #1

I wanted to let you know that I saw the interaction between Jordan Pifer and the ref from our soccer game last night. I was sitting in the bleachers and had a clear view with no obstruction as this happened on our side of the field close to the sideline. Jordan must have been frustrated at the end of the game but walked over calmly and slowly to the ref. Jordan stopped about an arms length from the ref and said some words which I couldn't hear. This lasted about 4 seconds. Jordan started to walk away. The ref pulled out a red card. I was confused as r there was no lost temper, no yelling or raised voices, no flailing of arms. The incident seemed virtually emotionless. I turned to my friend and said, "What could Jordan have possibly said that deserved a red card?!"

Parent e-mail #2

I am sure Cory has brought to your attention the red card Jordan received after the game was over. Jordan went up and spoke to the ref, they were right in front of the grandstand so we all had a perfect view to see. While we don't know what was said what I can attest to was Jordan did not bump or touch the ref which is what we were told why he received the red card.

Parent e-mail #3

I was in attendance at last night's Varsity soccer game between the above named teams. After the final whistle, I witnessed Jordan Pifer of Marist approach the referee and make a comment

to him. There was absolutely no contact made by Jordan to the referee, he only spoke to him very briefly.

Parent e-mail #4

It has come to our attention that the Marist player Jordan Pifer got a red card at the end of the game for pushing a ref. We were there in stands in front of the players and referees and never saw any physical contact at all. Please appeal this decision as it is in error.

Parent e-mail #5

Hi Cory,

I heard you were appealing the red card given to Jordan tonight.

I wanted to share with you what I saw. I had a clear view of the interaction after the game, standing 8 rows up the bleachers at around the 45 yard line. I was keeping an eye on the ref, hoping to clear my confusion surrounding the last goal scored by Springfield.

Jordan began to walk away from the referee, stopped and walked back to him, standing within a couple feet of him. He spoke to the referee in a controlled, but defiant manner. He then turned to walk away. That is when the referee called Jordan back and pulled out a red card. My immediate reaction was, "Jordan, you should have kept your mouth shut!" and that he must have said something pretty awful to deserve a red card.

At NO TIME did Jordan make physical contact with the referee.

Maybe he deserved a yellow card, but a red card?? No way.

As you can see several parents are certain that they did not see contact. We are asking for a reversal of this decision and for Jordan Pifer to be allowed to play tomorrow evening in our play-in game against South Albany

Thank you for your time.

Rick Gardner
Athletic Director
Marist Catholic High School