

Urban Meyer Issues Public Apology To Courtney Smith



Ohio State head football coach Urban Meyer issued a statement Friday at 6:01 p.m. ET on Twitter, publicly apologizing to Courtney Smith. It was also released six minutes later through the university.

After a 14-day investigation into how he handled allegations of former wide receivers coach Zach Smith's past domestic violence against ex-wife Courtney Smith finished Wednesday at Longaberger Alumni House, a press conference concluded with Meyer receiving a three-game suspension without pay.

During the question-and-answer portion, Meyer did not directly address Courtney Smith when asked about what message he would have for her.

"My words and demeanor on Wednesday did not show how seriously I take relationship violence. I sincerely apologize. I was taught at a very young age that if I ever hit a woman, I would be kicked out of the house and never welcomed back. I have the same rule in my house and in the Football Program at Ohio State. Over the years, we have worked hard to educate and remind our players of the seriousness of relationship violence.

"I understand my lack of action in this situation has raised concerns about this commitment. I once again apologize for this, and I extend my empathy to all women, men and families who are affected by relationship violence. This has been a real learning experience for me. I fully intend to use my voice more effectively to be a part of the solution.

"Let me say here and now what I should have said on Wednesday: I sincerely apologize to Courtney Smith and her children for what they have gone through."

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