

Good morning, my name is Michael H. DiSabato

Please allow me to reintroduce myself .... I am one of Nine DiSabato Family members who have earned a Varsity O letter at The Ohio State from the mid seventies through the mid nineties. I graduated with a business marketing degree in 1991.... the same year I won the Big Ten Medal of Honor awarded to the top student and athlete at each Big Ten institution. I earned my master's degree in public administration from the John Glenn College in 1994. In 2008, my wife and I lead a group of donors to establish the FIRST FOUR fully endowed scholarships at The Glenn College for students interested in public service in the name of my teammate, Ray Mendoza, and my parents, Michael & Binnie DiSabato. We will never forget our time with John and Annie Glenn.

As you know, I am also THE whistleblower of the most vile sexual abuse scandal in the history of Higher Education and sport. According to reports from the firm entrusted to investigate this matter, Athletes from over 16 Sports have come forward to detail their abuse by Strauss. I chose to speak publicly about my abuse and systemic sexual abuse within the Athletic Dept and the Larkins Hall training facility on March 27, 2018 because my multiple attempts to open dialogue with the university were marginalized and discounted. In 1994, I conducted research and presented my Masters thesis on **Issues of substance abuse and sexual assault within the student athlete population**. I presented my findings to Athletic Director, Jim Jones and his staff, and discussed the issues associated with the research which shows that student athletes on college campuses are at risk of engaging in HIGH RISK behavior including binge drinking and sexual assault at a rate SEVEN TIMES that of the non athlete student population. What I did not recognize then that is clear to me today is that senior level leadership at The Ohio State University knowingly and intentionally failed to provide a safe environment for the "children" they were entrusted to protect, educate and nurture.

I was assaulted by Richard Strauss for the first time as a 14 year old freshman at Bishop Ready HS on the West Side. Stauss was authorized by the Catholic Church, the OHSAA and The Ohio State University to conduct "body fat tests" on my hs wrestling team which was one of the top wrestling programs in the country. We were told that a prominent sports physician from The Ohio State University was going to work with our team and I recall feeling a sense of pride that we were chosen ... we were special. I also recall being told by my older brothers and cousins, who were members of The Ohio State Wrestling team, that Strauss that "enjoyed" examining male genitals. It was a running joke within my family and The Ohio State Wrestling community..... a nervous joke.... & I was just that .... Very nervous heading into the private coaches office where strauss was prepping to abuse dozens of pre pubescent male athletes. This was not a study, it was a PREMEDITATED PLOT by a deviant male predator to ASSAULT CHILDREN on the grounds of a Catholic HS with it's own issues regarding the protection of children from deviant predators. Strauss immediately asked me to remove my shorts and proceeded pinched and measure several areas on my body including my buttocks waste and chest. He then began to "examine" my genitals, suggesting that it would not take long yet was a necessary part of the examination. (PAUSE). I closed my eyes and took a deep breath. Stauss molested me for approximately two or three minutes before he said... ok you are free to go.

Like Larry Nassar, Strauss was a master of grooming his victims. He often invited athletes to join him at Wendy's where he would overtly violate NCAA Rules on Amateurism by providing 'extra benefits'. A free meal goes a long way for an athlete leaving below the poverty level and who is working over 80 hours a week for to insure success both on and off the mat. (Pause)

I stand here today, in this JACKET w/ this blazing VARSITY O, to proudly say I SURVIVED, and So did thousands of athletes and students who were forced to endure SYSTEMIC SEXUAL ABUSE at THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY. Thousands of VOICES which have been silenced by THE institution whose BRAND was built on the backs of THE victims of these HENIUS crimes. A university with a \$8B budget and resources in hand to intimidate, retaliate, shame those who attempt to shed sunlight on this DARKNESS.

I ask each of you to hold this institution and its' leadership accountable to the victims of these vile criminal acts. THE SOUL of this University, THE Ohio State University, is in your hands. This bill will eliminate the archaic and immoral Statute of Limitations relating to ALL SEX CRIMES in the State of Ohio.

Coach Hellickson preached to us on more than one occasion that ... and I quote "Leadership is not a position, it is an ACTION."

WE NEED ACTION .....