

I, Bryce Prather, am submitting this statement regarding the incident involving Paris and the individuals known as the “Twins” during a basketball game at The Beast Recreation Center on the morning of June 30th.

From the moment the Twins arrived, they attempted to dictate the rules of the game. We all agreed to their requests because we were not there to be overly competitive—our primary goal was simply to get some cardio and enjoy playing basketball together.

Typically, when players become overly competitive or start talking trash, I take on the responsibility of guarding them. That day, once the Twins began making hostile comments about foul calls—specifically saying things like “none of us are going to the league” and that we weren’t good enough to call fouls—I began defending one of them, not out of anger, but to demonstrate in a competitive sense that we were capable players.

Once Paris, Danae, and I started playing more assertively, it became clear we were outplaying them. We won three or four games in a row, including the first game against them. By the time they returned to the court, tensions were already high.

The initial disagreement arose when Jouk called a foul, which one of the Twins disputed, saying Jouk was “too big” to be calling fouls like that. In the following possessions, the Twins began repeatedly calling fouls themselves—four times in a row on shots with little or no contact—apparently to make a point. Even then, Paris kept everyone calm, telling us to respect their calls, give them the ball back, and reminding us we were still leading comfortably. He consistently maintained a positive, composed attitude, encouraging everyone to relax and avoid escalation.

As the game progressed and the score became more lopsided, the Twins’ frustration grew. During one possession, Danae slid over to play legal defense, and the Twin she was guarding didn’t like it. He stepped back, ran toward her, and shoved her forcefully. From my vantage point, I saw Paris immediately respond by running over and striking the individual who had just pushed Danae. Within seconds, the situation ended, and we attempted to resume play.

After the incident, Paris stood calmly at the top of the key with both Twins in front of him. He did not appear aggressive or fearful; he simply wanted the situation to be over. He continued telling everyone to relax and deescalate.

In my opinion, the suspension imposed on Paris is unfair. He acted solely to protect Danae after she was physically attacked. Paris has never shown violent behavior. He is a respected presence in our basketball community—someone who loves and respects the game, provides mentorship to younger players, and brings positivity to every session.

Suspending Paris for six months, especially during a period when many of us college players are home and looking to train, will only hurt the growth of basketball in our community. He is an important part of this environment, both as a player and a leader who embodies respect and passion for the game.

This statement reflects my firsthand observations and honest perspective on the events that occurred.