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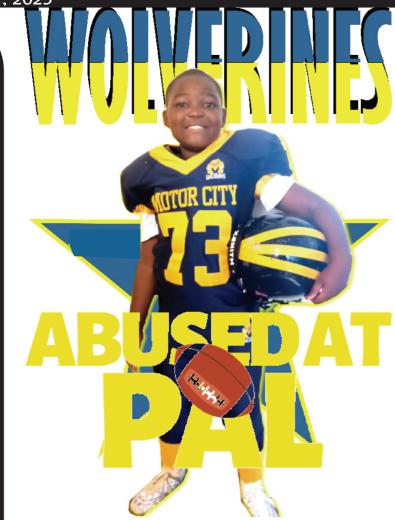
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By Sincere Z. L. SPECIAL TO THE SUN

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My name is Sincere, and I am 10 years old. I am a lineman on the Motor City Wolverines, a PAL football team. I'm announcing my retirement from PAL because of the lies and abuse of players. At first, I wanted to quit football and play another sport, but my mom told me not to give up. I've decided to continue my career at the Boys and Girls Club and N-Zone.

When I was four, I was placed into foster care with my four siblings. My older brother and I were placed together in the same house. We were taken away from my biological mother because she and her boyfriend abused us. I remember being put into a tub of hot water, then cold water, and being beaten butt naked. We were locked in a bedroom and told not to leave. We were beaten

UNITING & ENLIGHTENING

for wetting our pants, even though they said we couldn't leave the room to go to the bathroom.

Now, I'm in a home that gives me something I didn't have with my biological mother, "love." My new mom adopted me  $\,$ and my brother four years ago. She works two and sometimes three jobs to give us everything. We've gone to Disney World, Disneyland, Great Wolf Lodge, Kalahari, Cedar Point, SeaWorld, and other cool places. My mom has never spanked me, although she threatens to do so when we're bad. But, I do get grounded a lot.

My mom spends a lot of money on sports. My brother plays basketball in the Junior NBA and N-Zone. I play football. She spent \$275, so I can play on the Wolverines.

Coach Chez Chambers was allegedly fired for abusing kids. The team mom, Keisha, told my mom that he abused me, but it's not true. He did make me do bear crawls, which I hate to do. Remember, I'm an expert on child abuse. The team director, Ms. Rodalyn Gartner-Damerson, makes us practice at a public playground in hot weather when there's a heat advisory. They tell us to take off our helmets, as if that will help. I'm surprised that I didn't have a stroke. They also made us practice when there was an air quality warning. Now, that's abuse. My mom kept me at home. I think the Wolverines are more concerned with winning a championship, like we did in 2023, than keeping players healthy.

A lot of players quit the team when Coach Chez left. I don't think that we have enough players to make up a team.

"I never saw Coach Chez abuse anyone. He never abused me," Carter, a former Wolverines player, said.

His grandmother, Mrs. "Auntie Boo" Dickerson, said, "Coach Chez hasn't been anything but a stand up coach to me. I gave my money to Keisha and got a refund. They said he slapped a boy upside the head. As a grandparent, you notice things with your kids. Carter would have said he didn't want to go to football. He would have distance himself, and then I would ask him why, if he was abused."

I want to quit, too, but Ms. Gartner-Damerson won't give me a refund. My mom sent my money to Coach Chez via Cash App. He said my money was included in the \$900 he turned in from fundraising. My mom wants to sue, but it takes a long time. I asked if I could write this article and publish it in the newspaper. I'm taking my story to the media to try to get my money back.

My mom called, left messages, and sent an email to PAL's Deputy Athletic Director Karen Hall. She finally answered when my mom called a third time, but she was no help. My mom said she told her that I was going to write a story about PAL and publish it in the newspaper. She pretty much told my mom to do whatever she wanted to do, but she couldn't help. One thing about my mom is that she always keeps her word. She sat me down and had me dictate my story while she typed.

So here it is. Next, I'm taking my story to the problem-solvers. We don't have money to waste, and I need it to join a new team.



## **KATRINA BROWN**

A PROVEN FIGHTER FOR **DETROIT'S YOUTH & SENIORS** 

FOR DETROIT POLICE COMMISSIONER

WRITE IN CANDIDATE DISTRICT#5

