



## **Statement from the Hays High School Hawks Volleyball Team**

*Issued: September 6, 2022*

On Friday, September 2, our Hays Hawk Volleyball Team traveled to Comal ISD's Canyon High School to play a volleyball game. During the varsity match, there were multiple students from the student section using hateful and racial slurs towards many of our players on our team. It is unacceptable that students felt comfortable enough to degrade and berate our players with such derogatory and hateful language.

We also feel that not enough was done to remedy the situation after our coaching staff brought the incident to the attention of the Canyon High School administrator on duty. It is unfortunate that our voices and concerns were not fully trusted, heard, and respected because adults did not hear the comments - only student-athletes heard. If the students involved could not be identified at that moment, the entire student section should have been removed.

We do not believe the Canyon volleyball team is at fault in this situation, or that it is a reflection of their program. However, the students in the student section represent Canyon High School, and the administration did not adequately address the situation. Along with the outpouring of support, many people in and outside the community have come forward with similar experiences of racism happening at their schools and at events they were attending. We hope this encourages change and starts conversations that need to happen not only at Comal ISD, but everywhere.

Last Friday was not just an instance of "kids being kids." It is an example of blatant racism, and anyone who sat by or sits by and allows it to happen is equally as responsible as the students that used the inappropriate language to begin with. If you do not stand against racism, you stand with it.

United together,  
Hays Hawk Volleyball