

## Westbrook's March 11 Press Conference

Following the game, Russell Westbrook had a brief press conference about the incident. Out of the noisy stadium, away from the fan and his wife, calmly shared what had happened to push him over the emotional edge earlier in the night.

... How it started was, a young man and his wife in the stands told me to "get down on my knees like you used to." And for me that's just completely disrespectful. To me I think it was racial. I think it's just inappropriate, in a sense of, there's no protection for the players.

I think there are a lot of great fans around the world that'd like to come to the game and enjoy the game. And there are people that come to the game to say mean, disrespectful things about me my family.

For many years ... I've done all the right things. I've never done anything to hurt or harm anybody. I never been in any trouble. Never fought a fan. Been in the league 11 years. Clean slate. Humble. I take whatever, all the criticism from everybody. I've been doing the same thing for years. And for me disrespect will not be taken from me. ....

That's just one video, but throughout the whole game ... since I've been here, especially here in Utah, every time I come here, a lot of disrespectful things are said and for me I'm just not gonna continue to take the disrespect for my family. I just think that there's got to be something done. There's got to be some consequences for those type of people, that come to the game just to say and do whatever they want to say. And I don't think it's fair to the players, not just to me, but I don't think it's fair to the players. And if I had to do it over again I would say the same exact thing because I truly will stand up for myself for my family, for my kids, for my wife, for my mom, for my dad every single time. I expect anybody else to do the same.

So that's kind of where I'm at with the whole situation. As for beating up his wife, I've never put my hand on a woman, I never will. Never been in any domestic violence before ... but once he said the comment and his wife repeated the same thing to me as well ... so that's kind of how that started. I know you guys only got the tail end of the video but the start of the video was way more important and way more disrespectful than what you guys heard, so I appreciate you all.

The fan, in an interview with a local TV station, denied saying anything racist or profane to Westbrook. He said that it was Westbrook who was "acting a fool," and described him as "classless." However, the Utah Jazz verified the fan's racist comments through video and eyewitnesses, including Westbrook's teammates, Patrick Patterson and Raymond Felton. Moreover, tweets have since surfaced showing the fan to be racist and biased against Westbrook in particular. The tweets were deleted from the fan's account soon after the incident.