Following his firing as head softball coach at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Michael Lotief spoke to the media Wednesday night.

Lotief violated university policy by subjecting student-athletes and coworkers to "violent, vulgar language and verbal and physical assault," according to the news release from the university.

Sitting near his wife, former softball co-head coach Stefni Lotief Attorney Glenn Edwards and a room full of current teary-eyed softball players, Lotief was steadfast on the allegations that he physically and verbally abused his players were untrue.

"I have never been involved in a physical confrontation in my life," Lotief said.

According to Lotief, the assault, which was a poke on the shoulder of a former player during weight training was overblown.

"You take a poke and make that into a physical assault, and then you don't even think about what the surrounding facts or circumstances or the fact of whether or not I'm even capable of doing that," Lotief said.

As for verbal abuse, Lotief, who says he's "not an angel," believes it's common in competitive sports and doesn't think it's grounds for termination.

When it comes to competitive women's sports, Lotief said he knows there is a certain conduct he must follow, but he also knows each player's mindset are the same as the coaches.

"When it's in-between the lines, we all get after it," Lotief said.

But Lotief is adamant he's never crossed the line.

"No, I don't think I've crossed the line," Lotief, who was questioned for nine hours by the university, said.

Lotief said believes the retaliation
by the university to fire him is based on equality issues he advocated last month in which he was placed on administrative leave, first reported by KATC.

These issues, which include “like getting the grass cut, making sure students have an athletic trainer at practice, making sure the assistant coaches get paid and ensuring female athletes get a functional assessment before doing weight training,” go unnoticed by administration.

“They don’t appreciate and understand the quality of the people and the athletes that are behind me,” Lotief said.

Lotief, who is unsure what will happen to his former players, is heartbroken for them.

“My heart breaks for these girls because this administration and this university is not committed to those causes.”

Lotief doesn’t doubt that there is somebody that can come in and do better than he did but is concerned with who is doing the hiring.