121 Rachael

Rachael's story could so easily be overshadowed by the monstrosity of her predator, Larry Nassar, a youth sports doctor and one of the most prolific child sex abusers in American history. It took incredible courage and strength for Rachael Denhollander to tell her story in 2016. She was finally moved to speak up, to protect the next generation of young female athletes from sexual predation by Dr. Nassar.

The story starts at least 20 years prior, with accusations made by a number of victims, none of whom were believed. Coaches, trainers, school administrators, physicians, teachers, therapists, USA Gymnastics officials, teammates, parents and even the police were notified of Nasser's assaults – no one stepped up to protect these children and young adults.

By 2018, there were hundreds of known victims, with thousands of molestations attributed to Nassar. When Rachael went public and reported her abuse, she was the first of Nassar's victims to file a criminal complaint, opening the floodgates for 100 other accusers to come forward. He continued to be defended by his believers, however; between the time of Rachael's charges and Nasser's arrest in December 2016, an estimated 40 new victims were molested. It wasn't until the police found his 37,000 digital images of child pornography (including some of his athletes/patients) that Nassar was brought to justice and jailed for life.