

# Missouri president resigns amid escalating protests

BY THE SPORTS XCHANGE

University of Missouri president Tim Wolfe resigned Monday amid escalating criticism and protests over his handling of racial issues on campus.

At least 32 Missouri football players planned to boycott all team activities until Wolfe stepped down.

The Tigers' next game is Saturday night against BYU at Arrowhead Stadium, the home of the Kansas City Chiefs. Canceling the game could have cost the school about \$1 million. Players confirmed Monday that the game will be played as scheduled and they will return to practice Tuesday.

The announcement of Wolfe's resignation, effective immediately, came at a special meeting of the university system's governing body, the Board of Curators.



Tim Wolfe

Missouri is the state's largest school with an enrollment of more than 35,000.

"My motivation in making this decision comes from love," Wolfe said at a news conference. "I love MU, Columbia, where I grew up, the

state of Missouri. ... It's the right thing to do.

"I take full responsibility for the actions that have occurred. I have asked everybody to use my resignation to heal. Let's focus in changing what we can change today and in the future, not what we can't change in the past."

Graduate student Jonathan Butler began a hunger strike last Monday, saying Wolfe should step down after failing to respond to student concerns about racial tension on campus.

Butler, appearing on CNN after Wolfe's resignation, said his strike is over.

"This is a great first step towards change," Butler told CNN.

Tensions were high on campus Monday with students camped out in solidarity, faculty members staging a walkout and canceling

classes and members of the football team threatening to boycott the rest of the season.

"It is my belief that we stopped listening to each other," Wolfe said during his statement. "We didn't respond or react. We got frustrated with each other and we forced individuals like Jonathan Butler to take immediate action, unusual steps to effect change. This is not — I repeat, not — the way change should come about. Change comes from listening, learning, caring and conversation and we have to respect each other enough to stop yelling at each other and quit intimidating each other. Unfortunately this has not happened."

A group of black football players announced Sunday on Twitter that they wouldn't participate in any

practice or game unless Wolfe resigned.

"The athletes of color on the University of Missouri football team truly believe 'Injustice Anywhere is a threat to Justice Everywhere.' We will no longer participate in any football related activities until President Tim Wolfe resigns or is removed due to his negligence toward marginalized students' experience. WE ARE UNITED!!!!," the players' statement read Sunday.

Black student groups have complained of racial slurs and other incidents on campus. Frustrations flared during a homecoming parade Oct. 10 when black protesters blocked Wolfe's car. He did not get out and talk to the protesters as they were removed by police.

Wolfe, 57, gave no indication Sunday in a statement that he would step down. He

is a Missouri graduate who was named president in February 2012.

Missouri head coach Gary Pinkel pledged support via Twitter on Sunday, posted a team photo, including coaches and what appeared to be all players on the roster, with interlocked elbows.

"The Mizzou Family stands as one. We are united. We are behind our players. #ConcernedStudent1950 GP."

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon said in a statement that Wolfe's resignation was "a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation on the University of Missouri campus."

"There is more work to do, and now the University of Missouri must move forward — united by a commitment to excellence, and respect and tolerance for all," Nixon said.

## Griffey, Hoffman, Wagner headline Hall of Fame ballot

BY THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Ken Griffey Jr. and Trevor Hoffman lead first-time Hall of Fame candidates and join 17 holdovers up for vote to be enshrined in Cooperstown with slugger Mark McGwire and shortstop Alan Trammell in their final year on the ballot.

There are a total of 15 first-time candidates on the 2016 Hall of Fame ballot being mailed this week to approximately 475 voting members of the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Near-miss repeat candidate Mike Piazza, who fell just short of the 75 percent of votes in the 2015 Hall of Fame class that featured Craig Biggio, Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and John Smoltz, appears on the 2016 ballot.

Griffey Jr., Hoffman and infielders David Eckstein, Troy Glaus and Mike Lowell are newcomers. Piazza polled 69.9 percent of the electorate in 2015 and fell 28 votes shy of the required amount for election.

The only other players to be named on more than half the ballots were first baseman Jeff Bagwell (55.7) and outfielder Tim Lincecum (55.0). Players may remain on the ballot provided they receive at least five percent of the vote for up to 10 years. Prior to 2015, players remained on the ballot for up to 15 years if they received five percent of the vote. Two players remain of those that were grandfathered on the ballot: shortstop Alan Trammell (15th year) and relief pitcher Lee Smith (14th year).

Starting pitchers Roger

Clemens, Curt Schilling and Mike Mussina, first basemen Fred McGriff and McGwire; second baseman Jeff Kent; third baseman-designated hitter Edgar Martinez; infielder Nomar Garciaparra and outfielders Barry Bonds, Larry Walker, Gary Sheffield and Sammy Sosa are also on the ballot.

Griffey played 22 seasons and was American League MVP in 1997 with the Seattle Mariners. He ended his career with 2,781 hits, including 630 home runs, the sixth-highest total in MLB history. A 13-time All-Star, Griffey won 10 Gold Glove Awards and seven Silver Slugger Awards.

Hoffman's 601 career saves and 856 games finished are second only to Mariano Rivera's MLB-record totals of 652-952. He played 18 seasons with the Florida Marlins, San Diego Padres and Milwaukee Brewers, finished in the top 10 of NL Cy Young Award voting four times and was the runner-up twice, in 1998 and 2006. The seven-time All-Star had 30 or more saves in 14 of 15 seasons from 1995 through 2009 and converted 41 consecutive save opportunities, a record since surpassed.

Eckstein played for five clubs in 10 seasons in the majors and participated in nine postseason series, including World Series championships with the Anaheim Angels in 2002 and the St. Louis Cardinals in 2006. He was MVP of the '06 World Series and hit .333 with 17 hits and nine runs combined in his two World Series.

Glaus was the World Series MVP in 2002 when he



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Ken Griffey Jr. walks out to throw out the ceremonial first pitch before to the 2015 Home Run Derby the day before the MLB All Star Game at Great American Ballpark in July.

hit .385 with three home runs and eight runs batted in as part of a postseason record of .321 with nine home runs and 16 RBI in 24 games. Glaus hit 320 career home runs of which 47 in 2000 when he led the AL.

Closer Billy Wagner, whose 422 career saves rank second among left-handers, and fellow lefty Mike Hampton, the 2000 NLCS MVP, are also on the ballot for the first time along with catchers Brad Ausmus and Jason Kendall, catcher-first baseman Mike Sweeney, infielder Mark Grudzielanek and outfielder Randy Winn.

Writers must return ballots by a Dec. 21 postmark. Votes are counted jointly by BBWAA secretary-treasurer Jack O'Connell and Ernst

and Young partner Michael DiIecce. Results will be announced by Hall of Fame president Jeff Idelson at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2016, on MLB Network.

**2016 Hall of Fame ballot:** Garret Anderson, Brad Ausmus, Jeff Bagwell, Barry Bonds, Luis Castillo, Roger Clemens, David Eckstein, Jim Edmonds, Nomar Garciaparra, Troy Glaus, Ken Griffey Jr., Mark Grudzielanek, Mike Hampton, Trevor Hoffman, Jason Kendall, Jeff Kent, Mike Lowell, Edgar Martinez, Fred McGriff, Mark McGwire, Mike Mussina, Mike Piazza, Tim Lincecum, Curt Schilling, Gary Sheffield, Lee Smith, Sammy Sosa, Mike Sweeney, Alan Trammell, Billy Wagner, Larry Walker, Randy Winn.

## Illinois fires AD after allegations by athletes

BY STEVE GINSBURG  
REUTERS

The University of Illinois fired athletic director Mike Thomas following the release on Monday of a report that detailed the mistreatment of players by former football coach Tim Beckman.

Interim Chancellor Barbara Wilson said while the report found no wrongdoing by Thomas, she believed that a "change in leadership" was necessary and it was "time for us to move forward."

"(Thomas) has done a good job of leading (the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics) through recent challenges," she told a news conference at the Champagne, Illinois school. "And he is the one who actually requested the outside investigations."

"However it's time to put the distractions of these past months behind us and to put the focus back on the success of our athletic programs."

Wilson said she "consulted with many people" over the firing of Thomas "and in the end I made the decision." She described his release as a no-cause dismissal.

Thomas, who will be paid \$2.5 million for the remainder of his contract, hired Beckman as head coach in December 2011, four months after becoming athletic director.

In a statement, Thomas said he understands the administration's decision "to turn the page and turn the focus" back to the athletes. "The reports indicate that I

acted appropriately and immediately whenever I learned of any issues related to the safety and well-being of our students," he said.

"However, I understand the chancellor's viewpoint that my continued presence may create an ongoing distraction for our students, coaches and staff, and I accept the situation."

The allegations against Beckman came to light in May by former football player Simon Cvijanovic.

Monday's report, which included a review of more than 200,000 documents and 100 interviews with players, former players, coaches and medical and athletic staff, concluded that Beckman "violated standards related to sports medicine protocols and scholarships" in his treatment of his players.

Beckman, who was fired in August, "pushed players and athletic trainers beyond reasonable limits in systematic fashion," the report said.

The report also found that allegations that women's basketball coach Matt Bollant and an assistant, Mike Divilbiss, had created a racially abusive environment were unfounded. Divilbiss left the program in March.

Paul Kowalczyk will move up from his role as senior associate athletic director to fill Thomas's spot on an interim basis, Wilson said. He previously served as athletic director at Colorado State University and Southern Illinois University.

## Eagles center Kelce: Hardy playing 'a joke'

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce called it "a joke" that Dallas Cowboys defensive end Greg Hardy is playing in the NFL.

Eagles offensive tackle Lane Johnson also was outspoken after the Eagles' 33-27 overtime win over the Cowboys on Sunday night.

Photos showing bruises and abrasions on the body of Hardy's former girlfriend were published Friday by Deadspin. The Cowboys claim they did not see the pictures before signing Hardy, even though the NFL acknowledged seeing the graphic evidence during its own investigation.

"There are three (types) of people I have zero respect for in this world," Kelce told the Philadelphia Daily News. "It's people who hit women, people who molest children, and rapists. I'm glad he (Hardy) didn't have

a good day and ... I don't know. I think it's a joke a guy like that is able to play this quickly."

The domestic violence charges filed last year against Hardy have been expunged. Hardy originally was suspended for 10 games by the NFL for multiple violations of its personal-conduct policy resulting from an incident with in the spring of 2014 while he was with the Carolina Panthers.

Hardy was found guilty by a Mecklenburg County (N.C.) judge of assault and making death threats against the woman. However, Hardy appealed the ruling, and the charges against him were dismissed after She refused to cooperate with the district attorney's office. Hardy reportedly reached a civil settlement with the woman, which prompted her to not show up for the jury trial.

## Russia

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tional Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

At one point, the commission said, the WADA-accredited anti-doping laboratory in Moscow destroyed 1,417 samples shortly before an inspection. "This was done on a Saturday morning immediately prior to the arrival in Moscow of a WADA audit team," the report said.

Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said there was no evidence for the accusations against the Russian Athletics Federation, and that the samples had been destroyed at WADA's request.

IAAF President Sebastian Coe said he was alarmed and surprised by the scale of the revelations, which come days after the IAAF's long-time president, Lamine Diack, was accused by the IAAF of concealing a Russian athlete's doping violations.

"These are dark days," said Coe, Diack's successor. He gave Russia until the end of the week to respond to the accusations, and said the IAAF Council would then discuss possible sanctions.

Dick Pound, the head of the commission that produced the report and a former president of WADA, referred to a corruption scan-

dal now shaking soccer's governing body, FIFA.

"I hope all sports will look at their governance and their anti-doping systems because their existence may be at risk," he told a news conference. "Public opinion is going to move towards the view that all sport is corrupt."

The report said the presence of Russian security services in the Moscow anti-doping laboratory "actively imposed an atmosphere of intimidation on laboratory process and staff."

The international police body Interpol said it would coordinate a global investigation into suspected corruption and doping in athletics.

Some believe the scandal could have bigger ramifications than the graft affair at FIFA, where president Sepp Blatter has been suspended, 14 officials and marketing executives have been indicted, and Switzerland is investigating the awarding of two World Cups: to Russia in 2018 and Qatar in 2022.

The commission said in its report that the London Olympics in 2012 had in effect been "sabotaged" by the widespread inaction of national anti-doping authorities and the sport's governing body.

"For 2016, our recommendation is that the Russian Federation be suspended," Pound said. "In fact, one of our hopes is that they will volunteer that, so that they can take the remedial work in

time to make sure that Russian athletes can compete under a new framework."

Russia finished second behind the United States in athletics at the 2012 Olympics, with 17 medals, eight of them gold, and has long been one of the chief players in track and field.

In one sense at least, the scandal could prove more compromising than the FIFA affair. There has never been any suggestion that FIFA corruption has affected results on the pitch, at the World Cup, for example.

"It's worse than we thought, It has the effect of factually affecting the results on the field of play and athletes, both in Russia and abroad, are suffering as a result," Pound said. "It may be a residue of the old Soviet system ... they must stop it and make a new start."

"I hope they'll say this is an opportunity to get rid of the old system, get rid of the old coaches, and change their ways. If they (Russia) do the surgery, and do the therapy, I hope they can get there (the Rio Olympics) and compete."

A decision to suspend Russia could be taken only by the IAAF.

The acting president of the Russian Athletics Federation (ARAF), Vadim Zelichenok, told Reuters by telephone: "It is only a recommendation ... But I cannot say if the IAAF will follow this."

## UMaine

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the disappointment of not earning an NCAA berth won't overshadow their accomplishments.

"We were very upset when we didn't make it in, but we had an awesome year, a historic season, so we can't be too upset," said Veljacic. "We had a talented team, and we worked together really well. Our large freshman class really contributed, and everyone else really stepped up."

Sevey said it was a special season with a great team atmosphere.

"We were disappointed not to get in the tournament, but we were very happy with how the year went," she said.

Babineau said the publicity and the "tremendous amount of support" they received as well as having the championship game on ESPN3 are all "really good things for us" and should help with recruiting.

Maine will graduate five exceptional seniors (Sevey, Jessica Skillings, Katie Bingle, Marissa Shaw, Cassidy Svetek) but will return its top three scorers in Danielle Aviani (11 goals, 5 assists), Veljacic (12 & 2) and Libby Riedl (6 & 13) along with goalies Emma Cochran and Emily Corbett.

## Husson

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be more of a group effort. We have more success when we do it that way," said Hoeppner.

Husson is making its fifth NCAA Tournament appearance since 2009 and is still looking for its first win.

Sophomore forward Taylor Shaw from Plymouth was the catalyst in the NAC tourney for Husson with

seven goals in two games to give her 10 on the season.

Skowhegan sophomore midfielder Mikayla Toth, who has three goals and seven assists on the year, was the tournament Most Valuable Player, and Simmons, Shaw, Dexter's Libby Kain and Skowhegan goalie Anne-Marie Provencale also were all-tourney selections. Saco's Lauren Russell (5 & 3) is tied with Toth for second on the team in scoring behind Shaw.