

Chemical spill at MU draws emergency response

Wednesday, August 17, 2011 | 11:09 p.m. CDT



From left, research assistants Dan Howard and Quang Nguyen chat on the curb with University police officer Chris Groves on Sixth Street outside of Lafferre Hall where a chemical spill occurred in a lab on Wednesday night, according to a statement from the MU News Bureau. Howard said he discovered the spill while in the building, but the cause of the spill, which was contained inside the room, is still under investigation. **;** [NICK SCHNELLE](#)

BY MISSOURIAN STAFF

COLUMBIA — **A hazardous materials spill at Lafferre Hall at MU** drew emergency responders and environmental and health services officials for a cleanup on Wednesday evening. No injuries were reported.

Firefighters responded to the call at about 8 p.m. at the building at 416 S. Sixth St. A glass container in a lab ruptured and spilled material on the floor, according to a news release from the fire department.

The hazardous materials, which were not identified in the news release, were determined not to cause an "immediate threat to safety," and were contained within the lab space. About a half-gallon of the material was spilled.

Research assistant Dan Howard discovered the spill while in the building, but the cause of the spill is under investigation. Officials from MU Environmental Health and Safety will investigate further, according to a news release from the MU News Bureau.

The lab will be closed until MU Environmental Health and Safety officials conduct a secondary check of the lab Thursday morning.

MISSOURIAN

Tailgating lot gets new name, new rules

Wednesday, August 17, 2011 | 1:52 p.m. CDT

BY ALEXANDRIA BACA

COLUMBIA — New rules. New name. Same place.

The Jungle, a designated tailgating lot for students, has been renamed the EndZone for this football season. The revamped tailgating event is sponsored by the Missouri Students Association and the Graduate Professional Council.

Katie Bickley, director of student activities for the Missouri Students Association, said the Jungle provided a foundation for the idea of the EndZone but that rules this year would be "a lot more laid back and flexible."

It has been determined, after a meeting with the MU Police Department, there will be "no need for officers to be stationed at the event," MSA/GPC Tailgating Director Corey Jenkins said in an email.

MU police officers that normally patrol campus on game days "are more than capable of handling any situation that gets out of hand," Jenkins said in the email, but otherwise, EndZone staff will handle incidents within the tailgate.

Last year, five MU police officers were assigned to the Jungle, and coupled with low event attendance, the number of cops standing around gave students a "bad vibe," Jenkins said in the email.

Changes for the EndZone, located on lot CG-17 at the corner of Rollins Street and Tiger Avenue, include free admission and parking for \$5 per vehicle.

The Missouri Students Association wanted to make sure the new event would focus on the culture of tailgating, Bickley said. "On game day, people want to have fun," she said, "They want to drink with friends and family and they want to eat barbecue. The EndZone is definitely a prime location."

According to the EndZone website, tailgating will begin four hours before kickoff. Tailgaters will be required to leave the lot by the end of the first quarter; vehicles can be left until the game ends.

Rules on tailgating at the EndZone include:

- Fans can drink cans of beer, but glass containers, hard alcohol, kegs and drinking games aren't allowed.
- Propane grills are limited to 20-pound tanks.

- Parking will be available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$5 per vehicle. There are 35 parking spots available.
- Non-MU students can attend but must be accompanied by at least one student during entry.
- A group of three or more students is required to reserve a spot.

Reserved spaces will include five chairs, a table and a tent. There will also be free food and drinks available for tailgaters who reserved space.

The event will provide students with a safe, close place to tailgate Kristofferson Culmer, president of the Graduate Professional Council, said.

The EndZone will debut at MU's first home game versus Miami (Ohio) on Sept. 3.

Mizzou fans can reserve a spot at the EndZone website.



MU chemical spill under investigation

Published August 18, 2011 at 7:32 a.m.

The University of Missouri's Department of Environmental Health and Safety is trying to figure out what caused a glass container to explode and spill hazardous materials Wednesday night on campus.

Columbia firefighters were dispatched to Lafferre Hall on Sixth Street just after 8 p.m. for a report of the spill.

They were told a glass container in a cabinet had ruptured and spilled less than a half gallon of materials onto the floor. No one reported coming into contact with the materials or any injuries.

MU's health and safety staff assisted and determined that the materials weren't posing any immediate safety threats. They were able to clean it up without incident.

The lab is closed while the investigation is ongoing.



Record class means tight fit in MU dorms this year

The University of Missouri campus is awakening from its summertime slumber this week with students and their parents showing up to move belongings into residential halls.

"The dorms were empty," sophomore Rachel Hoemann, a Residential Life worker, said in between directing cars on Rollins Road outside Hudson Hall. "It's good to see people come back."

Today marks the official opening of the MU campus, though students involved in extracurricular activities have been arriving since Sunday, said Frankie Minor, director of Residential Life.

By the time classes begin Monday, he expects 7,100 students to be living in campus halls. Total enrollment this fall is expected to be around 33,800.

The university's Residential Life department keeps move-in day running like a well-oiled machine as campus deals with the swell of students.

Staff members are stationed along campus roads to tell drivers where to park. Others are stationed outside and inside of residential hall lobbies to make sure everyone has move-in carts, keys and directions.

Valerie Thompson, for one, was grateful as she was dropping her son, Zack, off this morning at his new home in Hudson Hall.

"They did a great job making sure we knew what to do and where to go," she said. "For a first-time parent, that's very nice."

Zack, a business major from St. Louis, wheeled piles of suitcases, boxes, TV equipment and other necessities into his second-floor room. Asked what he's most looking forward to during his first year in college, Valerie quipped: "Being away from his mother."

No, Zack said. He's just revved up for Tiger football.

Although mostly freshmen live in residential halls, some sophomores are returning, too, including Megan Iskra, who opted to stay in the room she had in Hudson Hall last year for the convenience of living on campus.

With returning sophomores and another record freshman class, though, finding rooms for everyone proved to be a tight fit, Minor said.

To accommodate, MU added 100 spaces at Tiger Diggs, the university's section of Campus View Apartments south of campus off Providence Road.

And in Hudson and the newly remodeled Gillett Hall, freshmen are temporarily being housed in study rooms and with Residential Life staff until more space opens up this fall.

"Typically, we have 40 to 100 students who either don't show up or decided within a few weeks living on campus is not for them," Minor said.

Students at Mark Twain also can expect a midyear move. That residential hall is closing at the end of the fall semester for renovations, forcing the 390 students there to find other living arrangements.

Minor said his staff tries to make it as easy for them as possible, including moving their belongings over winter break to their new rooms elsewhere on campus.

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MISSOURIAN

Candidates for UM System president to interview in Kansas City

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BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY — Some of the people vying for the job of leading the four-campus University of Missouri System will interview this week in Kansas City with a search committee.

Board of Curators Chairman Warren Erdman said the pool has been reduced from "well over 100" to about 40.

The Kansas City Star reported that Erdman would not say how many of the candidates will visit Kansas City on Thursday and Friday. He also wouldn't say how many candidates are participating in a second group of interviews next week in St. Louis.

Those having interviews already have had some phone conversations with search members.

The school is looking for a replacement for Gary Forsee. The former Sprint chief executive officer stepped down in January from the UM System job to care for his wife, who has cancer.

Haith caught in Miami fallout

NCAA wants to talk to MU coach about alleged violations at former job.

St. Louis -- **Frank Haith was not Missouri's first choice as men's basketball coach. Now, the school has to live with the potential fallout.**

A disgraced former booster at the University of Miami, Nevin Shapiro, told Yahoo! Sports he violated NCAA rules with the knowledge or direct participation of at least six Hurricanes coaches, including Haith, the men's basketball coach at Miami at the time. Shapiro is in prison after being convicted of running a massive Ponzi scheme.

Shapiro said his influence at the school spread to the men's basketball program in 2007, when he paid \$10,000 to help secure the commitment of recruit DeQuan Jones in a transaction set up by assistant coach Jake Morton and later acknowledged by Haith in a one-on-one conversation.

Missouri said Tuesday that it is aware of the report and that the NCAA has asked to speak with Haith, who hasn't commented publicly about Shapiro's allegations.

Haith was hired in early April, right about the same time the NCAA launched its investigation at Miami.

At the time, athletic director Mike Alden proclaimed Haith a character hire. It was unknown whether Haith or anyone at Missouri was aware of the NCAA investigation.

David Bradley, publisher of the St. Joseph News-Press and a member of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, said the board backed Haith's hire on Alden's recommendation.

"He thought he was a well-qualified guy," Bradley said. "I hope there's no truth to the allegations."

Haith's first season with the Tigers will now begin under a cloud and he was already the subject of skepticism among the Tigers' faithful after going 129-101 in seven seasons at Miami. Missouri tried to keep Anderson and publicly courted Matt Painter of Purdue before hiring Haith.

The vibe conjures unpleasant memories from a mess five years earlier, when Quin Snyder was forced to resign in midseason. Alden was under fire then for his handling of the matter, including allegations he sent a radio announcer to fire Snyder.

Snyder produced NCAA Tournament bids his first four seasons but the school landed on NCAA probation for three years in 2004 after a year of scrutiny of activities surrounding former point guard Ricky Clemons, including a one-year ban from off-campus recruiting.

Clemons subsequently accused a Tigers assistant coach of paying him cash, charges that an NCAA investigation failed to substantiate. The NCAA did identify 42 violations, from improper meal purchases for amateur coaches to improper contact with recruits by Snyder and two assistants.

Snyder resigned in a two-sentence statement 21 games into the 2005-06 season, though he still claims that he was fired.

Anderson's four seasons were controversy-free, and the last three ended in the NCAA Tournament. He left for Arkansas in March.

Haith has a five-year contract that will pay him a base salary of \$1.5 million per season with an automatic one-year contract extension effective May 1, 2012. The contract also has a more stringent buyout clause, designed to prevent him from jumping to another job, with a \$1.2 million penalty after one year that gradually decreases to \$500,000 by year four.

The board of curators is holding a regularly scheduled meeting Friday in Kansas City, but Bradley said he was unaware whether the Haith situation would be added to the agenda.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Damage is done to Haith, Mizzou

BY BERNIE MIKLASK

When Missouri athletics director Mike Alden hired Frank Haith to coach the men's basketball team, the AD made little attempt to market Haith's won-loss record at Miami.

Granted, the Hurricanes weren't going to be able to fly with Duke and North Carolina near the top of the Atlantic Coast Conference, but Haith had an abysmal 43-69 conference record and one NCAA Tournament appearance in seven unremarkable seasons at Miami.

So Alden adopted an alternative strategy, stressing Haith's skills as a recruiter. More than anything Alden portrayed Haith as a beacon of integrity. That was core of MU's hard sales pitch to a skeptical, agitated fan base that had a hostile initial reaction to the hiring. Alden played the Family Values card.

"Mentoring and the development of men," said Alden as he listed Haith's attributes on the evening MU announced the hire. "Men. Not basketball players. Men. People that are going to grow as sons, and brothers and perhaps husbands some day. Fathers. Whatever that may be. And to model those behaviors and to do those in a way that are reflective of the culture of the University of Missouri. You will note that when you meet Frank and his family that he certainly represents the highest character and ideals relative to social responsibility and mentorship."

That was an emphatic endorsement of Haith's virtue.

You'll notice that Alden has gone underground and hasn't said anything over the last two days.

Not since Haith was implicated in a comprehensive investigation done by Yahoo! Sports.

A former Miami booster, Nevin Shapiro, alleged that Haith expressed gratitude for a \$10,000 payoff to seal a commitment from recruit DeQuan Jones in 2007. Shapiro alleges that Miami assistant Jake Morton received the money to pass along to Jones.

In a statement issued by Missouri, Haith issued a general denial and said he would cooperate with NCAA investigators.

I'm guessing that Haith didn't mention Mr. Shapiro during the job interview with Alden and the Mizzou administration.

Hey, a busy coach meets a lot of people.

He can't remember everything.

Haith has a good chance to clear himself of the most serious accusation, his knowledge of the \$10,000 payoff. If there's no hard evidence, no documented money trail, then the dispute would come down to Haith's version of the truth compared to Shapiro's word and reputation. And the slimy Shapiro is serving a 20-year sentence in prison for his illicit role in a \$930 million Ponzi scheme. So Haith's version of events would likely carry more credibility.

However, even if Haith is exonerated on the alleged \$10,000 payoff, that doesn't completely burnish his rep. Haith will need some disinfectant.

The alleged payment aside, it seems that Haith had more than a casual connection with Shapiro, who described it as "a very close relationship," to Yahoo.

In the Yahoo exposé, Haith is seen posing with Shapiro in two photos. Yahoo reported that Shapiro's cell-phone records show 85 calls or texts between Haith and Shapiro over several years.

Shapiro donated \$50,000 to the Miami basketball program in 2008. And Shapiro also told Yahoo that Haith accompanied him to a strip club.

This is a problem for Haith and Alden.

When you hire a coach and position him on high moral ground and depict him as an unassailable man of honor, you are obligated to uphold the ethical standards.

And this raises obvious questions. Why would Haith be hanging out in strip clubs with this scoundrel? Why would Haith accept a \$50,000 donation from Shapiro? What's with the texts and phone calls? Is Shapiro really the kind of person you want your basketball coach to run with?

Goodness, what does this say about Haith's judgment?

When introduced as the new coach by Alden in early April, Haith hardly distanced himself from the character-integrity casting. He fully embraced it. Haith explained his recruiting message on home visits:

"First and foremost, I'm here to mold our young people to be great citizens, great men," Haith said in his first Mizzou news conference. "And when their time is up, I've taught them more than how to dribble a basketball. I've taught them life skills."

How will that recruiting pitch play now?

If parents invite Haith into the family home to explain why they should entrust him to supervise and shape their child, they'd probably be wondering how "great citizens and great men" are molded by visits to strip clubs and spending quality time with a sleazy booster. In the Yahoo! piece the details of Shapiro's creepy, corrupt conduct will give you the hives.

Potential recruits will know that the NCAA is poking around Haith's past. And suppose the NCAA finds more filth? What if the assistant coach (Morton) or another corroborating witness backs up Shapiro's claim that Haith knew about the \$10,000?

The NCAA probe figures to take time, which will hinder Mizzou's recruiting and thus reduce Haith's ability to do his job to his fullest ability.

Why would a top recruit want to commit to Missouri with Haith facing an uncertain future? And the NCAA could punish Haith by imposing recruiting-related penalties on him, as the NCAA did when Kelvin Sampson set up at Indiana after leaving Oklahoma.

I don't know if you watched ESPN on Wednesday, but Haith was frequently mentioned and cited by the world-wide leader. The scroll line at the bottom of the screen continually made reference to "Haith, now at Missouri," ...

So the taint already is there. This is horrible PR for Missouri. Just awful. There's no way around that, no spin that can put a gloss on it. This will stick for a while. And you'd better believe that recruiting rivals will use this crud against Haith and Mizzou.

Even if Haith walks on the allegation concerning the \$10,000, he's already been damaged by this scandal. I think he's severely damaged.

Haith should do the honorable thing and resign, but I'd be surprised if he did. And for now Missouri is in a tough, terrible spot. My fear for the program is that Haith will stay and fight, and that the MU administration will stubbornly stand by their coach, with the everything blowing up on Mizzou. So it's probably best to get a head start on the damage control and cleanup.

Alden should get out in front of this mess. He has a lot on the line.

After all, it was Alden -- not fans or media -- that touted Haith's impeccable standards for honesty and decency. It was Alden who said that as a representative of the university, Haith accepted the fact that he'd be held accountable at all times. Alden gave us the hard sell.

"At Mizzou you are a tremendously public representative of our institution," Alden said in announcing the Haith hire. "There's a lot of responsibility that goes along with that. That reflects not only on yourself but reflects on your family, and your loved ones. Those people you represent. You accept those responsibilities when you accept the responsibility of being in positions of leadership that we have. Particularly visible ones. The basketball position at Mizzou is an extremely visible position. One not only in our state, but throughout our country.

"So you have to identify people that not only represent those ideals but are willing to accept that responsibility. It's not as always comfortable for people to know that you've got to be on 24/7. And you're never, ever off duty. Ever. And so you have to be recognizing the fact that it spills over to everything you do, and identify someone that was willing to accept that and do that in a way that reflects positively on all of us. And Frank does that."

Or maybe not.

We'll find out if Alden's words, and Haith's words, carry any real meaning. We'll see Alden and Haith abide by their previous statements. We'll see if they were telling the truth when they aggressively staked out the high moral ground to enhance the new coach's appeal.

If Alden and Haith run away from their words, they will be exposed as plastic men that cynically served up empty platitudes to pacify an annoyed fan base.

As made clear by Alden, Haith was hired for two primary reasons: (1) his character, integrity, leadership; (2) his heralded recruiting skills.

Mizzou fans were warming to Haith, who made a positive initial impression. But these revelations have shaken the foundation.

If Haith's integrity isn't anything close to being as pristine as advertised by Alden, and if Haith's recruiting power is compromised by the stench of Shapiro and a looming NCAA investigation, then what does Mizzou have exactly?

Answer: another coaching search.



MU contacted NCAA while vetting Haith

Officials also reached out to administrators at Miami and around college basketball.

By Steve Walentik

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

A source close to the search that brought Frank Haith to Missouri said committee members, including Athletic Director Mike Alden, contacted more than 20 individuals in an attempt to vet the former Miami coach before hiring him in April.

Among those contacted were a representative from the NCAA; Miami President Donna Shalala as well as the head of the school's compliance department; former Miami Athletic Director Kirby Hocutt; Tony Hernandez, who was served as the school's interim athletic director at the time of the hiring; Texas Coach Rick Barnes, under whom Haith worked as an assistant coach for three seasons; Jim Haney, the executive director of the National Association of Basketball Coaches; Floyd Keith, the Executive Director of the Black Coaches Association; as well as a member of the compliance staff at the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The same source said none of those people gave them any reason to be concerned about naming him as Mike Anderson's successor.

Missouri officials are trying to figure out how to proceed after Haith's name surfaced Tuesday afternoon in a Yahoo! Sports report that shined a light on the activities of former Miami booster Nevin Shapiro, a convicted felon who alleged that he committed numerous NCAA violations involving more than 70 Hurricanes athletes and coaches between 2002 and 2010.

Shapiro told Yahoo! Sports that Haith acknowledged and expressed gratitude for a \$10,000 payment made from the booster to a person close to basketball recruit DeQuan Jones, now a senior on the Miami team. He said that former Miami assistant coach Jake Morton, now at Western Kentucky, acted as the conduit for the funds.

The Yahoo! Sports investigation spanned 11 months and reportedly was based on more than 100 hours of jailhouse interviews with Shapiro, who is serving a 20-year sentence in federal prison for his role in a \$930 million Ponzi scheme.

The NCAA on Wednesday released a statement from President Mark Emmert acknowledging that college sports' governing body has been investigating the relationship between Shapiro and Miami for five months.

"If the assertions are true, the alleged conduct at the University of Miami is an illustration of the need for serious and fundamental change in many critical aspects of college sports," Emmert said in a statement.

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MISSOURIAN

Not known how Missouri will proceed with Haith situation

Wednesday, August 17, 2011 | 11:08 p.m. CDT



New Missouri men's basketball coach Frank Haith applauds during a Golden Girls performance at a rally at the MU Student Center. Attending promotional events is just one part of the work that has kept Haith busy as he settles into his new job. ¶ MELISSA KLAUDA/MISSOURIAN

BY ERIC HOLMBERG

COLUMBIA — The numerous allegations of NCAA violations surrounding the Miami football and men's basketball programs detailed in Tuesday's Yahoo Sports report have had a ripple effect that touches the **Missouri athletic department and new men's basketball coach Frank Haith.**

Haith, who was the head coach at Miami for the past seven seasons before being hired by Missouri in April, was named in the report, accused by a former Miami booster of knowing about a \$10,000 payment the booster made to a Miami recruit in the summer of 2008.

The NCAA is investigating the allegations made in the report, and on Tuesday night Haith made a statement saying he would cooperate with the investigation.

The question for Missouri is how to respond to the allegations and what course to take if they prove to be true.

On Wednesday, the NCAA did not respond to requests for information about when they will be speaking to Haith. Missouri Athletics Director Mike Alden's office said he will not be available for interviews and the athletic department's media relations office had no further comment.

It is not clear what actions, if any, Missouri is considering. But Haith's contract, which began on April 5, outlines nine conditions that could result in his termination with cause.

The most important clause cites any violation that leads to sanctions against the Missouri program and also includes "any violation which occurred during prior employment at another NCAA member institution."

If Chancellor Brady Deaton decides Haith violated NCAA bylaws, MU's punishment could include "suspension without pay or termination of employment."

If his contract was terminated, Haith would have a chance to state his case at a hearing, should he want one. If a hearing or lawsuit rules that Haith was fired without good reason, he would receive the base portion of his salary — \$350,000 — each year until 2016. A lump sum payment could also be negotiated, which would pay Haith less than the \$1,750,000 he would be paid over five years.

It is also unclear whether Haith will face NCAA penalties after leaving Miami.

When Kelvin Sampson left Oklahoma for Indiana under the cloud of repeated NCAA violations, he was banned at Indiana from calling recruits and making off-campus visits. However, Kentucky head coach John Calipari has been the subject of multiple NCAA investigations, and has never had sanctions follow him to another school.

Haith was hired about the same time the NCAA launched its investigation at Miami. At the time, Alden proclaimed Haith a character hire. It is unknown whether Haith or anyone at MU was aware of the NCAA investigation.

David Bradley, publisher of the St. Joseph News-Press and a member of the UM System Board of Curators, said the board backed Haith's hire on Alden's recommendation.

"He thought he was a well-qualified guy," Bradley said. "I hope there's no truth to the allegations."

The board of curators is holding a regularly scheduled meeting Friday in Kansas City, but Bradley said he was unaware whether the Haith situation would be added to the agenda.

— **The Associated Press contributed to this report**



Better be proactive on Haith

By Joe Walljasper

If I were Mike Alden, I would be putting together two groups: one to investigate Frank Haith and the other to help find his replacement as the basketball coach at Missouri.

Best-case scenario, the second group wastes its time. But it doesn't look good for Haith, who is accused of condoning a University of Miami booster's payment of \$10,000 to a recruit. If Haith knew about the payment and didn't report it, his career at Missouri is over before it starts. And until this is sorted out, it would be wise to put Haith on leave.

To summarize, investigative reporters Charles Robinson and Dan Wetzel of Yahoo! Sports yesterday published an exposé of an outrageous scandal at Miami — even by Miami standards. The accuser, Nevin Shapiro, told the website he provided at least 72 football and basketball players a buffet of illicit benefits including prostitutes, bounties for injuring opposing players and even an abortion for a pregnant stripper.

Aside from being a sleazy jock-sniffer, Shapiro is a felon imprisoned for running a \$930 million Ponzi scheme. His credibility is terrible. But the Yahoo! report included photographs and cell-phone records that show Haith and Shapiro were well acquainted. Shapiro said he and Haith "spent some personal nights at Solid Gold," a strip club where Shapiro racked up more than \$7,000 in credit card charges in two visits during one week in 2008.

Apparently, no paper trail connects Haith to the alleged \$10,000 payment to DeQuan Jones in 2008. Shapiro said assistant coach Jake Morton told him the money was necessary to ensure Jones would honor his letter of intent with the Hurricanes. Jones did sign and is entering his senior year at Miami. Shapiro told Yahoo! he went out to eat with Haith in August 2008 and Haith acknowledged he knew about the payment and thanked Shapiro for it.

The Yahoo! report said one source confirmed seeing Morton returning \$10,000 to Shapiro's mother in June 2010 after Shapiro became angry that Haith and Morton stopped returning his calls following his incarceration.

Haith said yesterday in a statement released by MU that he is cooperating with the NCAA and that "the reports questioning my personal interactions with Mr. Shapiro are not an accurate portrayal of my character." Perhaps not, but given the photos and evidence of 85 calls or text messages between the two, Haith is at least guilty of terrible judgment in who he associates with.

You know, you so rarely hear about Gary Pinkel cavorting with Ponzi schemers at Club Vogue.

The biggest problem for Missouri is that the NCAA investigation of Miami will drag on forever, especially considering the staggering number of players and coaches accused of violations. The NCAA won't just be following up on the specific allegations in the Yahoo! story but also trying to unearth other violations, which shouldn't be too difficult given the Sodom and Gomorrah atmosphere in Coral Gables. Active players and coaches will be compelled to cooperate. The NCAA could very likely make accusations of more violations than we know about now.

Once the NCAA arrives on campus, it's impossible to emerge unscathed, and the wait for the notice of allegations is punishment in itself. Missouri doesn't have that kind of time. If the season starts with Haith as coach, his reputation becomes MU's reputation.

So gather lawyers and dispatch them to interview Shapiro, Robinson and Wetzell, as well as anyone else who was around the Miami basketball program during Haith's tenure and is willing to talk. Then go over every detail with Haith.

If you're absolutely convinced the allegations against Haith are baseless, let him coach. If you're not sure, keep him on paid leave, promote an assistant on an interim basis and announce that a final determination on Haith's fate will be made after the NCAA releases its findings. If you think Haith is guilty, cut your losses and end the shortest basketball coaching career in school history.

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Appeals court sides with man suing UM System

By Janese Silvey

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

The Missouri Western District Court of Appeals yesterday revived a lawsuit against the University of Missouri System that a Boone County judge previously had dismissed.

The lawsuit — filed by a former university employee seeking to restore his disability benefits — now goes back to Circuit Judge Kevin Crane.

Crane dismissed the case, siding with UM attorneys who contended that Ken Whithaus had not gone through all appeal channels at the system level before taking the case to court. Three appellate judges disagreed, saying that based on case law the suit should be heard.

Whithaus' attorney, Paul Graham, said he's not concerned about continuing the case in Crane's courtroom.

"I don't have any problem trying this case in Boone County," he said. "If I were the University of Missouri, I would be a little anxious. An awful lot of people in Columbia get caught in the kind of situation my client got caught in."

Whithaus was a university employee until he left in 1999 with a heart condition. He collected disability benefits until the university notified him in late 2009 that he no longer was eligible because a doctor had deemed he was not limited from working.

The benefits provider also contended that Whithaus is not totally disabled because he allegedly manages a farm, according to court records.

Whithaus argued that he has a heart defibrillator that causes painful shocks and prevents him from working, disrupts his sleep and keeps him from driving regularly. His petition also challenged the farming claim, saying he is not qualified to manage a farm under definitions outlined in his benefits plan.

Whithaus is asking a court to reinstate his benefits plan and repay the \$998 a month he hasn't been receiving since his benefits were canceled in November 2009.

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