Mizzou making strides in dealing with past and future in wake of alleged sexual assault cases

BY VAHE GREGORIAN
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
08/21/2014 10:06 PM

In contrast to its aloof initial response to the matter of Sasha Menu Courey, Mizzou on Thursday immediately and more sympathetically responded to the introduction of other smoldering remnants of deficient past practices.

First, the school acknowledged, after another ESPN “Outside The Lines” report, that it had not complied with proper procedures in the wake of a 2008 sexual assault report against former MU tailback Derrick Washington.

“We failed to do a Title IX investigation of that case,” new MU chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said during a teleconference. “That’s true. That was wrong. We didn’t do it. We should have.”

This admission in itself is part of progress, maybe even major progress, in the aftermath of the January ESPN report on Menu Courey: The former MU swimmer committed suicide in 2011, a year after she said she was raped.

One way or another, she had been lost in the gridlock of a system.

In response, MU has been revamping its broader approach, overhauling support resources and ramping up staffing to add a full-time Title IX coordinator, a full-time Title IX investigator and five deputy coordinators.
“This is a new day,” Loftin said. “We have really changed a great deal in a few months.”

Which is a great start.

But only a start.

Even after Loftin spoke, there remain lingering questions about who knew what when and how they responded to it.

Those questions are particularly pertinent since the latest ESPN report revolved around two allegations of incidents by Washington, the former Raymore-Peculiar star.

He effectively was dismissed from the team just before the 2010 season and later was convicted in two other instances of violence against women.

Might those other instances have been preventable with stronger, more diligent responses to earlier accusations?

According to ESPN, then-Boone County assistant prosecuting attorney Andrew Scholz declined to press charges because of what it called “a number of issues that came up in interviewing witnesses that would weaken the woman’s case.”

Washington’s parents also told “Outside The Lines” that MU assistant football coaches met with them to talk about the alleged 2008 incident and suggested criminal charges weren’t likely to be filed.

That doesn’t sound right, and it leaves open to debate whether Mizzou football then had an obligation to take action of its own.

MU football can, and should, have a higher standard than the legal system.

But there is a lot that remains murky here, too, especially since the prosecutor saw problems with the case.

So it would be nice if athletic director Mike Alden and football coach Gary Pinkel would join Loftin in publicly addressing this.
Asked if he had been told why Washington was allowed to remain with the team in 2008, Loftin said he had spoken with Alden and been assured that for that time “proper procedures were followed at the coaching level.”

Loftin also said he believed that Alden and Pinkel needed time to digest this but will “fairly soon” be able to “talk to you about this.”

“We don’t want to hold them back,” said Loftin, who by all indications hasn’t spoken directly with Pinkel about it.

That’s not the only element of this that still could use some shading in if this really is “a new day.”

Beyond the 2008 incident report, ESPN reported that a former MU women’s soccer player said MU’s soccer coach (Bryan Blitz) had stifled her from pressing charges on an alleged physical assault by Washington in May 2010 by threatening her scholarship status.

“Her coach made her feel as though she would not have any problems with her scholarship if she declined to prosecute Derrick Washington for assaulting her,” the police report stated, adding, “If Mr. Washington was arrested, the incident would make the news and the situation with her scholarship might change.”

That scenario is the first sentence, in fact, of the ESPN story, which only later explains the context.

The woman and Washington’s girlfriend had fought each other in a bar. Each woman was arrested. During the fight, the former soccer player told police, Washington had struck her with “a closed fist on the left side of her face.”

In a statement from Loftin that preceded the teleconference, he rejected the claim that Blitz had coerced her in any way: “We spoke to the coach, the former player and others and found the claim to be unsubstantiated.”

Loftin later would say he believed the woman misunderstood Blitz.
“Sometimes two people talk to each other and leave ... with a different understanding of the conversation,” he said, adding that Blitz “was clearly trying to tell his player (that) ... her involvement with the law in this case could result in the revocation of her scholarship.”

But during the teleconference it seemed uncertain that MU actually had spoken with her anew.

Asked if MU’s stance that the accusation was unsubstantiated meant she had said she misunderstood, Loftin said: “I wouldn’t put it that way.” He reiterated that Blitz was trying to communicate the seriousness of being arrested and that “she may have taken it somewhat differently. And that’s what she said apparently to the police officer.”

So some of this raises more questions than it answers.

But at least they largely are questions about events of six and four years ago, not recent developments.

And work in progress that this may all be, MU moved forward on Thursday by making itself more accountable and accessible.

“I can’t say it’s perfect right now,” Loftin said. “But certainly we’ve come a long ways in just a few months.”

Derrick Washington disputes allegations uncovered by ESPN

By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

UPDATED, 6:30 p.m.
COLUMBIA, Mo. • Former Missouri running back Derrick Washington does not dispute he had sex with the woman who accused him of rape in 2008. But he did not commit a crime, he insists six years later.
In a phone interview with the Post-Dispatch on Thursday, Washington said he had consensual sex with the unnamed MU student and stopped as soon as she told him to stop. The alleged victim, whose identity was not disclosed in the story or in the police report, later told MU police she was raped, but the county prosecutor declined to press charges.

Three years later Washington was convicted of sexual assault stemming from a separate incident and served four months in prison.

The 2008 rape allegation first surfaced publicly today in a story published by ESPN.com.

“When we started to have sex and she said stop, that was that,” Washington said Thursday. “In the police report, she said I was holding her down and she was hitting on my chest. None of that ever happened.”

The alleged incident happened at 2:15 a.m. on Oct. 12, 2008, several hours after Missouri had lost its first game of the season, a home game against Oklahoma State. According to her interview with police, the alleged victim was contacted by Washington earlier in the day when he was at the team hotel before the game and they exchanged messages about meeting after the game. In their correspondence, they discussed that she was “a stripper.”

Washington told the Post-Dispatch she was a stripper at Club Vogue in Columbia.

He arrived at her dorm at Johnston Hall later that night and they engaged in what she described as consensual sexual activity. Eventually Washington insisted on having intercourse, she told police, and used his forearms and shoulders to pin her down while having sex with her. She told police she tried to fight him off while sobbing. Washington abruptly stopped, she told police, and apologized for taking things too far.

Washington told the Post-Dispatch that they had intercourse for no more than “20 or 30 seconds.”

“She said she didn’t want to do it any more,” he said. “So we stopped. And that was it. She walked me to the door and I went to my car.”

In his account to police, Washington admitted to having sex with the woman and said “it should not have happened” but insisted he didn’t do anything wrong.

The alleged victim called Washington and sent him text messages after the incident, but he said he never saw her again.

Campus police brought Washington in for questioning on Oct. 24. He recalled it was the day before a road game. (Missouri was actually set to host Colorado the next day).
On the day of the game, a 58-0 Mizzou victory that saw Washington rush for 83 yards and a touchdown, the coaches informed Washington that he wasn’t going to be charged with a crime in the rape accusation, he said. Washington couldn’t remember which coach told him.

**Asked if head coach Gary Pinkel knew about the allegation, Washington said, “I think all the coaches knew.”**

Washington said he did not face any internal punishment from the coaching staff related to the allegation.

Around that time, Washington’s parents got a call from Missouri assistant coach Andy Hill, Sarah Washington said.

“He just kind of told us what was going on, what happened,” Sarah Washington said. “Basically he told us no charges were going to be filed. He didn’t know everything that happened, but I guess the prosecutor had said no charge would be filed. He was just keeping us informed of what was going on.”

“As far as I knew, that was the end of it,” Sarah Washington continued. “It was the end of it. They didn’t press any charges. Even during the 2010 (sexual assault) trial, this information never came out because he had never been charged.”

On Nov. 5, campus police requested a warrant for Washington’s arrest from Andrew Scholz, Boone County’s assistant prosecutor at the time. Instead, Scholz offered Washington an agreement to never contact the woman and attend rape awareness classes.

Scholz, who left Boone County in 2010, told ESPN that several issues came up while interviewing witnesses that would weaken the case. In her interview with police, the alleged victim said her ex-boyfriend advised her to ask the football coaches for a full scholarship in exchange for her silence.

The Post-Dispatch obtained an unredacted version of the police report, and the ex-boyfriend is identified as Kyle Piper, a former lineman who transferred to Southeast Missouri State in the 1990s. The police also interviewed Robert Call, the general manager at Club Vogue. Call told police that the alleged victim said she was reluctant to report the incident because she “did not want to be known as the girl that brought down the football team.”

The unredacted report includes a series of text messages between Washington and the alleged victim dated Oct. 15, 2008, three days after the incident and nine days before Washington was questioned by police. In one message to the woman, Washington wrote, "Ugh i kno I feel so horrible I really do. I f***ed up and if you hate me I can understand but I'm sorry and hope we can move on from this."

In a conference call with reporters Thursday, Missouri chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who was not at MU at the time, said he's been assured by MU athletics director Mike Alden that MU acted appropriately in handling the rape accusation.
"The proper procedures were followed at the coaching level and the A.D.’s level at the time this happened," Loftin said. "Since that time there’s been changes in our procedures and policies in the department."

Loftin would not elaborate on the changed policies, but MU has undergone several sweeping changes across the campus and UM System in light of several incidents over the last eight months.

Washington also disputed that he was involved in a May 2010 incident reported by ESPN where he allegedly punched a Mizzou female soccer player. Washington allegedly struck a Mizzou soccer player in the face with a closed fist while she fought with another female at a bar. Both women were arrested. ESPN reported that the alleged victim initially wanted to press charges against Washington but later told police she changed her mind after talking to her soccer coach, who said her scholarship might be in danger because of her arrest.

Washington said his girlfriend at the time was the other woman involved in the fight.

“That incident had nothing to do with me,” Washington said Thursday. “My girlfriend at the time and (the soccer player) got into it at a bar and they got arrested. I don’t even know why my name came up.

“We were outside, (the soccer player) came out of nowhere and rushed her. They were fighting on the ground and got arrested.”

The next day, Mizzou director of football operations Dan Hopkins called Washington to tell him that his name was mentioned in the police report, Washington said.

“I told him I had nothing to do with it,” he said.

According to the police report obtained by ESPN, Mizzou’s soccer coach “made her feel as though she would not have any problems with her scholarship if she declined to prosecute Derrick Washington for assaulting her," and that, "If Mr. Washington was arrested, the incident would make the news and the situation with her scholarship might change."

Loftin said MU had talked to soccer coach Bryan Blitz, the former player in question and others involved in the case. Loftin said the coach and player had a misunderstanding.

“The soccer coach was clearly trying to tell his player that because she was arrested … that could result in revocation of her scholarship,” Loftin said. “It’s my understanding having looked at the documentation that she walked away with a different impression, that if she pursued this, the loss of scholarship was possible because of the involvement of Washington. That was not, to my understanding, the intent of the coach.”

In Aug. 2010, Washington was investigated for sexually assaulting a female tutor, which led to a felony charge of deviate sexual assault and his suspension from the football team at the end of preseason camp. He later pleaded not guilty.
Voted a captain by his teammates in early August, he later left school while on suspension. Washington was arrested two weeks later after allegedly hitting his girlfriend in the face during a fight at their apartment.

In September 2011, Washington was sentenced to five years in prison for the sexual assault charge. He was later sentenced 90 days for the domestic assault charge, which he served concurrently during a four-month sentence. Washington later enrolled at Tuskegee University and was the team’s leading rusher in 2012.

Washington still insists he was wrongfully accused and convicted of the 2010 sexual assault.

"The only thing I’m guilty of is I did rough up my girlfriend back in 2010," he said. "That’s what I was guilty of. And I pled guilty for that. I really don’t understand why all this stuff keeps coming up. I paid my debt to society. I honestly didn’t do anything. They kind of put me in rough spot at that time in my life, when I thought I would go on with my senior year. I had cut a lot of weight. I was working extremely hard. I was voted a captain, so I was doing something right. Then all of this happens."

Missouri chancellor R. Bowen Loftin released a statement today in regard to the ESPN "Outside the Lines" report involving former Missouri football player Derrick Washington and additional allegations of assault that were never reported during his time at Mizzou.

As Chancellor of the University of Missouri, I believe that one of my greatest responsibilities is the well-being of our students, faculty and staff and that includes their safety and security. Since I took office more than six months ago, University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe and I have worked hard to evaluate and review our policies and resources related to sexual assault and mental health and, as a result, we have instituted sweeping changes to ensure the well-being of our community.

However, as we move forward, we must also learn from the past.

The report earlier today on ESPN’s Outside the Lines reported on instances in which the University should have taken action, an indication of why we believed that we needed to undertake a comprehensive review of our policies and procedures. As it relates to one case highlighted in the report of an assault in 2008, our internal processes broke down, and the proper procedures were not followed regarding the student conduct discipline process and a necessary Title IX investigation. In regard to the allegation that a member of our coaching staff threatened to revoke the scholarship of
a student-athlete if she pressed charges in an assault case, as soon as we learned of the Columbia Police Report, we spoke to the coach, the former player and others and found that claim to be unsubstantiated.

Though there does not appear to be an intentional mishandling of any of the cases in the report at this time, I make no excuses, and offer my personal apologies and those of my staff to the victims. No degree of explanation or regret can undo what has happened in the past. Our focus now is to do everything within our power to prevent sexual misconduct of any type at Missouri and, if it does unfortunately occur, to provide the resources and support to the victim while assuring that the perpetrator is brought to justice.

I know that even one case of sexual assault or domestic violence or a lack of resources to assist our students violates our sacred responsibility to the community. Our students and their parents, our faculty and staff, our alumni and community neighbors all deserve a safe and secure campus environment, and you have my word and my solemn promise that I will continue to work with UM System President Wolfe to work toward that end.

Loftin went on to outline several measures the UM System and the Mizzou campus have undertaken to address similar issues in the future.

ESPN’s "Outside the Lines" has uncovered new allegations involving former Missouri tailback Derrick Washington before he left the team and was convicted of sexual assault.

Washington, convicted of sexual assault in 2011, allegedly raped a female MU student in October 2008 in her dorm room, according to a report published by ESPN.com on Thursday. In May 2010, he allegedly punched a MU women’s soccer player at a bar. The story also details Washington’s 2009 sexual assault of an MU tutor, which eventually led to felony charges and his indefinite suspension from the football team in 2010. Washington was later arrested for beating up his girlfriend in 2010, before the assault case went to trial.

“Outside the Lines” interviewed the alleged victim in the 2008 rape.

"He grabbed both my wrists with one hand and kept doing [sic] and just proceeded to put his penis inside of me," she told ESPN. "When I was finally able to push him off me, he just kept saying that if I said anything
they would kick him off the football team. And football was his life, so if I said anything, he would kill me and kill himself.”

After receiving a warrant request from MU police, then-Boone County assistant prosecutor Andrew Scholz declined to press charges, ESPN reported. Scholz told ESPN that interviews with witnesses produced potential issues with the case. Instead, he entered an agreement with Washington that he wouldn’t be charged as long as he took rape awareness classes and did not contact the woman.

The woman told ESPN that she told university officials about the assault. Her academic advisor told ESPN that the woman told her about the assault but didn’t identify Washington.

Washington’s parents told ESPN that MU assistant football coaches discussed the incident with them and indicated that their son wouldn’t face charges.

The woman told ESPN that no one from the university contacted her as part of a Title IX investigation. The school confirmed to ESPN that a Title IX investigation never took place.

In May 2010, Washington allegedly struck a Mizzou soccer player in the face with a closed fist while she fought with another female at a bar. Both females were arrested. ESPN reported that the alleged victim initially wanted to press charges against Washington but later told the police she changed her mind after talking to her soccer coach, who said her scholarship might be in danger because of her arrest.

According to the police report obtained by ESPN, “Her coach made her feel as though she would not have any problems with her scholarship if she declined to prosecute Derrick Washington for assaulting her,” and that, ”If Mr. Washington was arrested, the incident would make the news and the situation with her scholarship might change.”

The case was closed. The soccer player, whose name was not published in the ESPN report, said she was never contacted by MU officials, briefly lost her scholarship but later had it reinstated.

Later that summer, Washington was investigated for sexually assaulting his tutor, a female MU student, which led to a felony charge of deviate sexual assault and his suspension from the football team at the end of preseason camp. Voted a captain by his teammates in early August, he later dropped out of school while on suspension. Washington was arrested two weeks later after allegedly hitting his girlfriend in the face during a fight at their apartment.

In September 2011, Washington was sentenced to five years in prison for the sexual assault charge. He was later sentenced 90 days for the domestic assault charge, which he served concurrently during a four-month sentence. Washington later enrolled at Tuskegee University and was the team’s leading rusher in 2012.

Teresa Braeckel, the victim in the 2009 sexual assault, and the woman from the alleged 2008 incident agreed to waive their privacy rights to allow school officials to comment. ESPN’s report said University of Missouri
system president Tim Wolfe, athletics director Mike Alden and football coach Gary Pinkel declined to answer questions.

Missouri chancellor R. Bowen Loftin released a lengthy response, listing several of the sweeping measures the school has taken in recent months to address sexual assault allegations, including the hiring of a full-time Title IX investigator. Alden’s athletics department created a task force to examine how the department handles such incidents.

The university policy changes came in the wake of ESPN’s reporting of an accusation made by former MU swimmer Sasha Menu-Courey, who was allegedly raped by an MU football players before she committed suicide. That report surfaced shortly before MU wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham was investigated for an alleged burglary incident where he pushed a female down stairs while entering her apartment. Green-Beckham was never charged with a crime but was dismissed from the football program and has since enrolled at Oklahoma.

“I know that even one case of sexual assault, domestic violence or a lack of resources to address a mental health concern violates our sacred responsibility to our students,” Loftin wrote. “Our students and their parents, our faculty and staff, our alumni and community neighbors all deserve a safe and secure campus environment, and you have my word and my solemn promise that I and our entire administration will continue to work toward that end. The changes and investments we have already made and the ones you will see in the future will make MU an exemplar for the safety and security of our students and a campus culture of respect in all of higher education.”

The university policy changes came in the wake of ESPN’s reporting in January of an accusation made by former MU swimmer Sasha Menu-Courey, whose allegations of being raped by MU football players were discovered after she committed suicide. That report surfaced shortly before MU wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham was investigated for an alleged burglary incident where he pushed a female down stairs while entering her apartment. Green-Beckham was never charged with a crime but was dismissed from the football program and has since enrolled at Oklahoma.
MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin on ESPN's Derrick Washington Story

By DAVID MORRISON

Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 4:44 pm Comments (1)Updated: 5:45 pm, Thu Aug 21, 2014.

Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin held a conference call with reporters Thursday afternoon to address an ESPN "Outside the Lines" piece that alleges university officials knew about two incidents of alleged violence against women involving former Missouri running back Derrick Washington that preceded the sexual assault for which he was subsequently suspended from the team and convicted.

Here's what he had to say:

Is there a disconnect between what you and system president Tim Wolfe have said about changing campus climate and what's actually going on?

I would say that disconnect, as you describe it, no longer exists. I can't say it's perfect right now, but certainly we've come a long way in just a few months. Look at the changes made already. When I arrived on campus (in February), we had a part-time Title IX coordinator, a part-time investigator. The Title IX coordinator was primarily assigned to run the Office of Equity. So that meant little time was available for the other aspects of Title IX. I changed that very quickly. We now have a full-time Title IX coordinator, a Title-IX investigator. We have five deputy coordinators. This has all changed in a few months here. That's the baseline you ought to be thinking about.

The Derrick Washington case occurred in 2008. We failed to do a Title IX investigation of that case. That's true. That was wrong. We didn't do it. We should have. That's what I want to try and make sure you understand. That was a long time ago. This particular case. Others may have had situations where we were as not as good as we should have been. I won't comment on those right now but, certainly, today we're very different from what we were six years ago."

You say you don't see evidence of intentional mishandling, but the report also indicates assistant football coaches met with Washington's parents. How can you be sure there was no cover-up?

That statement I saw for the first time today. I've tried to track that down today. Little time has been in place to make that happen. One question might be are we talking about 2008 or 2010 here? I
have not been able to verify that our assistant coaches talked to either Derrick or his parents in 2008. We're still trying to track that down as we speak.

What is your understanding of the 2010 incident in which the women's soccer player involved in the fight with Washington and his girlfriend alleged that Coach Bryan Blitz said her scholarship could be in jeopardy if she reported Washington to the police?

When we first learned of this particular thing -- which came about first because of our access to a Columbia Police Department report this year, this happened fairly recently -- that is the first time we were aware of the allegations that one of the soccer players had talked to her coach in that particular situation. We immediately began to look into that. We've done a real discussion about that. We've talked to 23 people so far about that particular incident.

What seems to be clear is the soccer coach and the player had a conversation. Sometimes two people talk to each other and leave that room with a different understanding of that conversation. The soccer coach was clearly trying to tell his player -- because she was arrested by the Columbia Police Department for fighting with the other girl -- that her involvement with the law in this case could result in the revocation of her scholarship. My understanding -- and my understanding only right now, having looked at some of the documentation and other pieces of it -- that she walked away, apparently, with a different impression of that. That if she were to pursue this, that there'd be a loss of scholarship possibly because of the involvement of Washington in this.

That was not, in my understanding, the intent of the soccer coach.

Have you talked with Mike Alden and Gary Pinkel about, knowing what they knew of Washington's 2008 rape allegation, why he was allowed to stay on the team?

As appropriate, I have talked extensively to Athletic Director Alden about this. I don't normally delve down below him to talk to coaches individually about issues like this. My assurance coming back up is that the proper procedure was followed at the coaching level and the AD's level at the time this happened. Now, I think, since that time, there have been some changes in our procedures and policies in the department. I can't comment on how it would be handled today. But what I was assured by my athletic director was, at the time this happened, we followed proper procedures as the athletic department had in place at that time.

What were those procedures?

That's a pretty voluminous set of things right there. I can't delve into that on the phone right now with the time we have. But those documents are available to you publicly if you want them.

How far along is implementation of training for Title IX reporters on campus?
The University of Missouri system has in place training right now which is being modified as we speak to address the new executive order 40. That is not quite finished at this point. But very, very soon it will be finished. We expect to roll this out around 1 September as far as mandatory training for all the mandated reporters of Title IX violations. That is very close to happening. In addition to that, both (Title IX Coordinator Linda Bennett) and her five deputies will be doing training beginning August 28 to add to their knowledge base and be able to add to their responsibilities. And we’re also rolling out, very shortly after that, a great deal of training for a number of people who have investigating capabilities to help us out on Title IX investigations. That number is well over 20. We have a lot of people going through the training from the standpoint of coordinators and investigators. But most importantly, we’re also going to be able to train every single individual on the campus who is not exempted by law from their responsibility to report any allegations of sexual assault.

(School spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken later emailed to say online training for mandatory reporters will start in November 2014 and conclude in January 2015.)

So that's happening on the system level?

The system has consistently been a provider of uniform training. This applies to all four campuses. Not just the Columbia campus of the University of Missouri.

After the high-profile cases of Washington, Mike Dixon and Sasha Menu Courey, at what point do you address this as an athletic department cultural problem?

I won't debate with you what you said about previous individuals. There have been a number of individuals outside athletics and in non-revenue sports over time we've dealt with, I'm certain. So this is not like we’re dealing with only a very few people in the high-profile sports, which tend to be the focus of the media. Having said that, this is a new day. We have really changed a great deal in a few months. Simply the coordinator appointments I talked about earlier are not the only things we’ve done. We are right in the middle and almost completing the change of our student conduct process to make it very different than it was prior to my arrival here. That will be in place, we believe, by the start of school on the 25th of August. We have gone through a great deal of effort to really identify all the resources we have on campus to help victims of sexual assault and to make them more accessible. I could go on and on down a very long list of things we've done in the last four to five months, but you get the idea.

We've done a great deal of work to try to change everything here. That's what I want to leave you with, that particular concept. The fact that we made mistakes in the past is not right. We made mistakes. We accept that. And the university certainly wants to apologize to anybody who was affected by those errors in judgment and execution. But as I said in the statement I put out earlier
today, I can't find anybody who intentionally tried to do things which would prevent people from being recognized as possible perpetrators of these kinds of assaults or tried to handle a student-athlete different than a non-athlete. None that I can find in my investigation so far.

**Speaking on the AD's interplay with the school's Title IX structure.**

There is a deputy Title IX coordinator in the Department of Athletics, that's true. That's just really to enhance the reporting capabilities we have right now. But the Title IX coordinator is external to that department, reports to me directly I might add, has full responsibility for all investigations involving Title IX violations.

**Have you had any reports since the reforms?**

Not sexual assaults. There are reports from time to time regarding discrimination allegations, that sort of thing. That happens from time to time. We have a lot of employees. This applies to employees and students as well, I might add. We have 35,000 students and almost 20,000 employees in our university. Within that large body of 50,000-plus people, there are going to be allegations of sexual discrimination, which is really the larger volume. In this particular case, we've had no allegations of sexual assault that have come to the Title IX coordinator and launched investigations, since we put that program in place as of a few months ago.

*(Banken later emailed to say the Title IX office is "investigating reports of sexual assault.")*

**Are you confident in the amount of information you've received from athletics officials about this, or is there still more you want to know?**

We know a great deal, but we're not done yet. At the end of the day, other sources like ESPN might have knowledge of things I don't know about. I've already told you when I learned about other allegations in the story here, I've already begun asking questions about them. We'll continue asking questions until we have all the answers we need. We're not done yet. We've come a long way in trying to understand everything, but there are still opportunities out there for questions to arise. We'll continue to press for answers.

**Have you spoken with any female students about concerns they may have over these high-profile cases?**

I don't recall conversations I've had with any female student-athletes. But I frequently talk to students and, over the course of the past few months, there certainly have been several conversations with female students at the university about their safety on the campus. We've had those conversations with their parents as well. These are things that occur on a fairly regular basis, just because of people's sensitivity to this. This is a national conversation right now. Many people who come here on the campus, especially their parents are wondering what does the university do? What are our
policies? What are our procedures? Our Summer Welcome program in June, which welcomes 6,500 students to the campus for this fall, we have a very large chunk of that program devoted to this issue. We have a lot of conversation about that on campus with some of the female students and their parents.

**Are they comfortable, or concerned with the new procedures in place?**

I think there's a feeling on their part that we've done a lot to address past issues. Nothing is perfect. We will try our very best to get to the very top level of performance. I would say this to all of you. One sexual assault is one too many. There is simply no excuse for that. But our issues are really considered on prevention, as well as dealing with them once they've occurred. Prevention, to me, is the most important thing. If we can stop these from happening, that solves our problem up front. We've done a lot -- beginning with Summer Welcome and other programs on campus -- to address this very directly, including all the peripheral issues like alcohol use, that sort of thing, which may contribute to it. That's out there. The temperature is there in part because of the national conversation about this going on right now.

But I haven't sensed and or been told by any parent or student, 'I'm not coming to Mizzou because I feel unsafe here.' By and large the students I talk to do feel safe. They feel protected, they feel like they have access to the resources they need to deal with campus life and the challenges it can present to them. Not just in this area, but all areas.

**Did you have any indication of when the ESPN report was coming out?**

We did not know when it was going to come out, precisely. We had been dealing with ESPN for months in terms of their requests for information. We were aware of all that. So there were months of time here that we were aware there was a story being planned. We were not aware until this morning about the exact timing of when that might come out.

**So the soccer player from 2010 has since said she misunderstood the conversation?**

I wouldn't put it that way. What I'm saying is that I believe, having read the documentation I have in hand right now, the soccer coach was trying to communicate the seriousness of being arrested. The circumstances were that a fight occurred where two people were arrested that were fighting. Both female. An arrest is a serious issue for anybody, including a student-athlete, that does make possible the revocation of a student-athlete's scholarship if they're arrested and go through the process that adjudicates them to be found guilty. That's a real possibility. The coach felt he had to make sure she understood how serious that was. I think that's where his perspective was. She may have taken it somewhat differently. That's what she said, apparently, to the police officer. I became
aware of it only when I saw the Columbia Police Department report, and that was not that many months ago.

Are you encouraging Alden or Pinkel to address this situation publicly?

I believe both Director Alden and Coach Pinkel will, fairly soon, be able to talk to you about this. Again, this happened late this morning. Coach Pinkel has not been heavily involved in this conversation to date. Putting him in front of you right now before he has time to digest what this story really says would have been probably inappropriate. We don't want to hold him back, but the issue was putting me up front first. I've kind of been dealing with this for several months now in all kinds of aspects, so I've kind of had the broadest view of it. That seemed most appropriate. We have no problem making our coaches and our athletic director available to you at the right time.

Chancellor Loftin responds to ESPN 'Outside the Lines' accusations, apologizes

Thursday, August 21, 2014 | 6:51 p.m. CDT; updated 5:48 a.m. CDT, Friday, August 22, 2014

COLUMBIA — **MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin issued a new statement in response to ESPN's "Outside the Lines" report alleging that the university mishandled several reported instances of assault.**

In the statement, Loftin apologized on behalf of the university, though he said there "does not appear to be an intentional mishandling of any of the cases in the report at this time."

An ESPN "Outside the Lines" report released Thursday titled "Athletes, assaults and inaction"said MU failed to act on information and address several alleged assaults committed by former Missouri running back Derrick Washington.

One allegation in the report describes an incident in which a soccer coach used a scholarship as leverage to keep one of his players from reporting that she was assaulted by Washington. According to the ESPN report, Washington punched the player in the face after an altercation that resulted in the arrest of the soccer player and Washington's girlfriend.
Loftin said soccer coach Bryan Blitz was clearly trying to tell his player that her arrest could result in her scholarship being revoked.

"What seems to be clear is the soccer player and coach had a conversation," Loftin said in a teleconference Thursday afternoon. "Sometimes two people talk to each other and leave the room with a different understanding of that conversation."

Loftin said he and University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe spoke to the coach, former player and others and found that the claim was "unsubstantiated."

Noel English, the former Title IX coordinator and director of MU Equity, declined to comment. Interim Title IX coordinator Linda Bennett could not be reached for comment Thursday afternoon.

ESPN will air the full report at 8 a.m. Sunday but made the story and a video preview focused on Washington available online Thursday.

The report includes the details of two incidents that ultimately led to Washington's dismissal. The first took place in June 2010, when a 2009 MU graduate and former tutor, Teresa Braeckel, reported that Washington entered her bedroom in the middle of the night and sexually assaulted her. He was dismissed from the Missouri football team in September of that year.

The second came three months later, when Washington was arrested for assaulting his ex-girlfriend.

The ESPN report describes two other incidents that occurred prior to his removal from the team.

The first was in October 2008, when Washington was reported to have raped a sophomore student in her MU residence hall room.

The second incident came in May 2010, when the aforementioned soccer player said Washington punched her at a bar.

The June 2010 incident resulted in a conviction of deviate sexual assault in 2011. Washington was sentenced to five years in prison but served a 120-day shock sentence. He pleaded guilty to third-degree assault in the attack of his ex-girlfriend and served a 90-day sentence concurrently with the shock sentence.
In a statement to ESPN, Loftin said, "the University of Missouri System and our campus in Columbia, have evaluated and reviewed our policies and resources related to sexual assault and mental health. As a result of this review, we have instituted sweeping changes."

New attention was brought to how MU and the UM System handles Title IX cases in January when ESPN reported on the suicide of Sasha Menu Courey, which occurred about 16 months after she was allegedly assaulted by one or more football players. A Missourian report looked at what Title IX is and the responsibilities of reporting sexual assault.

In early April, Wolfe issued Executive Order 40, which would require all UM System employees — excluding those bound by confidentiality such as health care providers, counselors and lawyers — to report all known information about sexual harassment or assault of a student to the Title IX coordinator.

In the teleconference, Loftin said although the university has made some mistakes in the past, there are new procedures in place at the university level to improve how it handles allegations of sexual assault.

"We have gone through a great deal of effort to identify all the resources we have on campus to help victims of sexual assault and make them more accessible," Loftin said. "We've done a great deal of work to try to change everything here. The fact that we made mistakes in the past is not right."

The UM Board of Curators also approved rule changes regarding Title IX in June.

ESPN outlines new allegations against former Missouri running back Derrick Washington

By DAVID MORRISON

Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 2:45 pm Updated: 8:04 pm, Thu Aug 21, 2014.

For the second time in seven months, Missouri’s handling of past Title IX issues relating to its football team is squarely in the crosshairs.
Former Missouri running back Derrick Washington was accused of rape in October 2008 and of punching a female soccer player in May 2010, both of which came before Coach Gary Pinkel suspended Washington from the football team in August 2010, according to a report from ESPN's "Outside the Lines" Thursday.

University officials — including assistant football coaches — knew about the 2008 rape allegation, but no Title IX investigation resulted from the incident, according to ESPN.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who started at the university in February, acknowledged that Missouri should have started an investigation into the 2008 incident. Under federal Title IX legislation, schools are required to initiate an investigation into any instance of alleged sexual discrimination — including sexual violence — once it has a “preponderance of evidence” that an incident occurred.

“We failed to do a Title IX investigation of that case,” Loftin said Thursday. “That's true. That was wrong. We didn't do it. We should have.”

“Outside the Lines” spoke to the victim of the 2008 incident, who said Washington grabbed both of her wrists and had sex with her against her will in the early morning hours after the Tigers’ 28-23 home loss to Oklahoma State on October 11.

"When I was finally able to push him off me, he just kept saying that if I said anything they would kick him off the football team," she told ESPN. "And football was his life, so if I said anything, he would kill me and kill himself."

In a University police report obtained by ESPN, Washington said he had sex with the woman for about 30 seconds before she told him to stop, at which point he did and she started crying.

Washington told police that, after the intercourse, he told the woman, “I'm sorry, that was not supposed to happen.”

According to the police report, the woman told her ex-boyfriend of the incident with Washington and he advised her that if she contacted the football coaching staff, “she would have to have proof of what happened and they would make her sign a contract saying she would not talk about the incident.” The ex-boyfriend, who the police report says is a former Missouri football player, told her the coaches could possibly offer her a full-ride scholarship “or something of that nature,” and that he had seen something similar happen before.

Police investigated the incident and sent a warrant request to Boone County assistant prosecutor Andrew Scholz on Nov. 5, 2008, the report says, but he did not press charges against Washington, instead entering into an agreement with him that he avoid contact with woman and take rape awareness classes to avoid charges.
Scholz told ESPN that issues arose in interviews with witnesses that he felt would weaken the woman's case. Messages for Scholz, who left the prosecutor's office in 2010 and now works at a private firm, left by the Tribune have not been returned.

The woman told ESPN she talked with her academic adviser about the rape, and the academic adviser told ESPN they had a conversation about the incident, but the woman did not tell her Washington was involved. Washington's parents said assistant football coaches met with them about the incident and told them charges were not likely to be filed.

Washington told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Thursday that he believed all of the coaches knew of the allegation and he never received any punishment from them. His mother, Sarah, said then-receivers coach and current Tigers quarterbacks coach Andy Hill called them about the incident.

Washington was also involved in an incident May 6, 2010, in which a Missouri women's soccer player said he "struck her with a closed fist on the left side of her face" when she and his girlfriend were fighting at a bar. Both women were arrested. Washington told the Post-Dispatch he did not punch the soccer player.

The soccer player initially told Columbia police she wanted to press charges against Washington and a warrant for third-degree assault was issued, according to the report. But she reconsidered.

The police report, obtained by ESPN, indicates the woman said Coach Bryan Blitz “made her feel as though she would not have any problems with her scholarship if she declined to prosecute Derrick Washington for assaulting her.”

Blitz referred comment to the chancellor's office.

"I'm confident that once you speak to the chancellor and" university spokeswoman “Mary Jo” Banken “that as this thing progresses moving forward, all the information and truth will come out,” Blitz said. "That's really all I can say. The chancellor's office wants to handle any and all questions. They're the boss."

Loftin said he has received input from 23 people regarding the conversation between the soccer player and Blitz about her scholarship and has found the claim that Blitz was threatening to pull her scholarship if the Washington news went public "unsubstantiated."

"The soccer coach was clearly trying to tell his player — because she was arrested by the Columbia Police Department for fighting with the other girl — that her involvement with the law in this case could result in the revocation of her scholarship," Loftin said. “My understanding — and my understanding only right now, having looked at some of the documentation and other pieces of it —
is that she walked away, apparently, with a different impression of that. That if she were to pursue this, that there'd be a loss of scholarship possibly because of the involvement of Washington in this.

“That was not, in my understanding, the intent of the soccer coach.”

Washington was indefinitely suspended from the football team on August 26, 2010, four days before he was charged with deviate sexual assault stemming from a June 2010 incident in which former athletic department tutor Teresa Braeckel accused Washington of sneaking into her bedroom and assaulting her.

Washington was voted a team captain and represented the Tigers at Big 12 media days in Dallas while police were investigating Braeckel's sexual assault claims from June.

Less than two weeks after his suspension, with Washington out on bond, he was arrested again after his former girlfriend alleged he hit her in the face multiple times after an argument. Washington left school and was convicted of sexually assaulting Braeckel in September 2011. He was sentenced to five years in prison for his 2011 sexual assault conviction in the Braeckel case and served four months as a first-time offender. He pleaded guilty to third-degree domestic assault in February 2012 for the incident with his ex-girlfriend and served 90 days in jail concurrent with his sexual assault sentence.

Washington ran for 2,085 yards and 28 touchdowns over 39 career games for Missouri. He played for Division-II Tuskegee University in 2012, where he led the league in rushing with 1,679 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Neither he nor his mother have returned messages from the Tribune seeking comment.

“The only thing I’m guilty of is I did rough up my girlfriend back in 2010,” Washington told the Post-Dispatch. “That's what I was guilty of. And I pled guilty for that. I really don't understand why all this stuff keeps coming up. I paid my debt to society.”

Loftin said he has been aware of ESPN's investigation for the past couple months as the network requested information from the university and has spoken to athletic director Mike Alden “extensively” in that time. Pinkel, he said, “has not been heavily involved in this conversation to date.”

“My assurance coming back up is that the proper procedure was followed at the coaching level and the AD's level at the time” of the 2008 incident, Loftin said. “Now, I think, since that time, there have been some changes in our procedures and policies in the department. I can't comment on how it would be handled today. But what I was assured by my athletic director was, at the time this happened, we followed proper procedures as the athletic department had in place at that time.”
Braeckel and the woman from the 2008 assault waived their privacy rights so ESPN could seek comment from Missouri officials. Pinkel, Alden and system president Tim Wolfe all declined comment, the report says. In a text, athletic department spokesman Chad Moller said the chancellor’s office is handling comment on the story, as it is a “university issue.”

Loftin said he believes Pinkel and Alden will be available for comment on the story “fairly soon.”

“We have no problem making our coaches and our athletic director available to you at the right time,” Loftin said.

Missouri’s Title IX procedures also came under fire in January, when an “Outside the Lines” piece shone light on the tale of former Tigers swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who alleged she was raped by a Missouri football player in February 2010. She committed suicide in June 2011.

Thursday, Loftin repeatedly outlined changes in the school’s Title IX reporting framework that are underway. That includes the hiring of a full-time Title IX coordinator and a task force headed by Alden concerning how the athletic department, specifically, handles incidents of violence against women.

Wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham was also dismissed from the team in April after an incident in which he allegedly forced his way into an apartment and pushed a woman down stairs. He was never charged and has since transferred to Oklahoma.

"The fact that we made mistakes in the past is not right. We made mistakes. We accept that. And the university certainly wants to apologize to anybody who was affected by those errors in judgment and execution," Loftin said. "But ... I can't find anybody who intentionally tried to do things which would prevent people from being recognized as possible perpetrators of these kinds of assaults or tried to handle a student-athlete different than a non-athlete. None that I can find in my investigation so far."

ESPN's "Outside the Lines" special on Missouri and other schools' handling of Title IX issues airs Sunday at 8 a.m.

“We know a great deal, but we're not done yet. At the end of the day, other sources like ESPN might have knowledge of things I don't know about,” Loftin said. “We'll continue asking questions until we have all the answers we need. We've come a long way in trying to understand everything, but there are still opportunities out there for questions to arise. We'll continue to press for answers."

Blake Toppmeyer contributed to this report.
COLUMBIA — An ESPN "Outside the Lines" report released Thursday titled, "Athletes, assaults and inaction" says MU failed to act on information and address several alleged assaults committed by former Missouri running back Derrick Washington.

The report also says that a Missouri soccer coach talked a Missouri soccer player out of filing an assault charge against Washington after an incident that occurred on May 6, 2010, in a Columbia bar, where Washington allegedly punched the soccer player.

The soccer player, who is not identified in the report, told ESPN a coach said that her scholarship could be at stake if she were to press charges against Washington.

At Missouri, Washington was involved in "one alleged rape, one alleged physical assault, one sexual assault and one domestic assault," according to ESPN.

ESPN will air the full report at 8 a.m. Sunday but made the story available online Friday.

The chronology, according to ESPN, is as follows:

The first incident took place in October 2008. Washington was reported to have raped a sophomore student in her MU dorm room.

The second incident came in May 2010 when the aforementioned soccer player said Washington punched her at a bar.

The third incident took place in June 2010, when a 2009 MU graduate and former tutor, Teresa Braeckel, reported that Washington entered her bedroom in the middle of the night and sexually assaulted her. He was dismissed from the Missouri football team in September of that year.

The fourth and final incident came three months later, when Washington was arrested for assaulting his ex-girlfriend.
The June 2010 incident resulted in a conviction of deviate sexual assault in 2011. Washington was sentenced to five years in prison but served a 120-day shock sentence. He pleaded guilty to third-degree assault in the attack of his ex-girlfriend and served a 90-day sentence concurrently with the shock sentence.

In a statement to ESPN, MU Chancellor Bowen Loftin said "the University of Missouri System and our campus in Columbia, have evaluated and reviewed our policies and resources related to sexual assault and mental health. As a result of this review, we have instituted sweeping changes."

New attention was brought to how MU and the UM System handles Title IX cases in January when ESPN reported on the suicide of Sasha Menu Courey, which occurred about 16 months after she was allegedly assaulted by one or more football players. AMissourian report looked at what Title IX is and the responsibilities of reporting.

In early April, UM System President Tim Wolfe issued Executive Order 40, which would require all UM System employees — excluding those bound by confidentiality such as health care providers, counselors and lawyers — to report all known information about sexual harassment or assault of a student to the Title IX coordinator.

The UM Board of Curators also approved rule changes regarding Title IX in June.

Supervising editor is Greg Bowers.

Report: Missouri violated Title IX laws by not investigating rape allegation

The University of Missouri violated Title IX laws by not conducting an investigation after a student accused a football player of raping her, according to a report from ESPN's Outside the Lines.
The student reportedly told an academic adviser about the rape, which allegedly occurred in 2008, but assistant football coaches told the parents of the football player, Derrick Washington, that criminal charges were unlikely.

University officials confirmed to Outside the Lines that a Title IX investigation was not conducted.

Missouri chancellor R. Bowen Loftin issued a statement saying the university has implemented "sweeping" changes to its "policies and resources related to sexual assault and mental health."

Washington was also involved in three other incidents while at Missouri.

In 2010, a woman's soccer player who was arrested for fighting with Washington's girlfriend at a bar alleged that Washington punched her in the face. The woman's soccer player spoke to her coach, who said her scholarship was at risk because of her arrest, according to a police report. From ESPN's investigation:

*The report stated, "Her coach made her feel as though she would not have any problems with her scholarship if she declined to prosecute Derrick Washington for assaulting her," and that, "If Mr. Washington was arrested, the incident would make the news and the situation with her scholarship might change."

The soccer player said she lost her scholarship but had it reinstated with the help from an attorney.

In 2011, Washington was convicted on a deviate sexual assault charge and sentenced to five years in prison after he sexually assaulted a woman who was asleep in her bed, an incident that occurred weeks after the alleged bar assault of the women's soccer player. As part of a first-time offenders program, Washington served four months and registered as a sex offender.

In 2012, Washington received a 90-day jail sentence as part of a guilty plea to misdemeanor third-degree domestic assault after he beat up his girlfriend, an incident that occurred in 2010 just 13 days after he was charged for the bedroom incident. He served the 90 days simultaneously with his other sentence.
During his three years at Missouri, Washington rushed for more than 2,000 yards and 28 touchdowns. Washington was selected as a team captain and sent to represent the Tigers at Big 12 media days in 2010.

Washington was kicked off the team in September of that year and spent his final year of eligibility at Tuskegee University in Alabama.

- Chris Johnson

Jefferson City, Mo. Newspaper

ESPN reports university mishandled Washington incidents
By Brandon Foster
Thursday, August 21, 2014

COLUMBIA — Former Missouri running back Derrick Washington was accused of rape in October 2008, and the university failed to properly conduct a Title IX investigation, according to an ESPN's “Outside the Lines” report published Thursday.

The article also said a former Missouri women's soccer player told police her coach said she might lose her scholarship if she did not drop assault allegations against Washington.

The report outlines four incidents involving Washington: the alleged rape in 2008, the May 2010 incident when Washington allegedly punched the Missouri women's soccer player in the face at a bar, a June 2010 incident when Washington allegedly sexually assaulted a Missouri graduate and former athletic department tutor, and a incident later in 2010 when Washington was arrested for beating up his ex-girlfriend.

In 2011, Washington was convicted of deviate sexual assault for the June 2010 incident, and in February 2012 he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor third-degree domestic assault against his ex-girlfriend.

Washington was dismissed from the team in August 2010. He was expected to be a team captain that season.

The ESPN report said there was enough evidence for Missouri to have undergone a Title IX investigation regarding the rape accusation and the failure to do so may have violated federal law.
“Outside the Lines” reported Boone County police told Washington he would not face charges if he took rape awareness classes and did not contact the woman. However, the report says, “The standard of proof needed for (a Title IX investigation) also differs from criminal investigations … a Title IX case, much like a civil court case, needs only ‘a preponderance of evidence,’ rather than ‘proof beyond a reasonable doubt,’” the requirement for criminal cases.

Title IX deals with the way universities handle gender-related issues, including sexual assault and rape, and is a federal law.

Missouri chancellor R. Bowen Loftin responded to the claims in a university press release: “Though there does not appear to be an intentional mishandling of any of the cases in the report at this time, I make no excuses, and offer my personal apologies and those of my staff to the victims,” he said. “No degree of explanation or regret can undo what has happened in the past. Our focus now is to do everything within our power to prevent sexual misconduct of any type at Missouri and, if it does unfortunately occur, to provide the resources and support to the victim while assuring that the perpetrator is brought to justice.”

Loftin also spoke with reporters Thursday about the report.

He said the claims of soccer coach Bryan Blitz telling the player she would lose her scholarship if she did not drop accusations against Washington were investigated when the university gained access to the Columbia Police Department report earlier this year. Loftin does not believe Blitz told the player to drop her accusations.

“What seems to be clear is the soccer coach and the player had a conversation. Sometimes two people talk to each other and leave that room with a different understanding of that conversation,” he said, according to a Columbia Tribune transcript. “The soccer coach was clearly trying to tell his player — because she was arrested by the Columbia Police Department for fighting with the other girl — that her involvement with the law in this case could result in the revocation of her scholarship. My understanding (is) she walked away, apparently, with a different impression of that. That if she were to pursue this, that there’d be a loss of scholarship possibly because of the involvement of Washington in this.

“That was not, in my understanding, the intent of the soccer coach.”

Washington told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Thursday the alleged rape in 2008 only involved consensual sex.

“When we started to have sex and she said stop, that was that,” Washington told the Post-Dispatch by phone. “In the police report, she said I was holding her down and she was hitting on my chest. None of that ever happened.”

This is the second time this year “Outside the Lines” has alleged wrongdoing by the University of Missouri regarding sexual violence and Title IX. In January ESPN published an article claiming the university failed to properly investigate the alleged rape of Missouri swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who later committed
In the aftermath of the report, the university hired outside counsel to investigate Missouri’s handling of the incident, and the counsel found the university mishandled the alleged rape in regards to Title IX. The university has hired a full-time Title IX coordinator, which had previous been a part-time position.

By Sept. 1, the university should have mandatory training prepared for all university employees who are required to report Title IX violations, Loftin said in his talk with reporters.

Mizzou goes back into damage control after ESPN’s Outside the Lines reveals possible missteps in Washington case

August 21, 2014 By Bill Pollock

University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin spoke with reporters this afternoon on a conference call to address allegations in an upcoming ESPN Outside the Lines program that university officials and coaches knew of alleged acts of violence against women by former football player Derrick Washington and failed to act.

Earlier in the day, Loftin released a statement through the university that read in part:

“As it relates to one case highlighted in the report of an assault in 2008, our internal processes broke down, and the proper procedures were not followed regarding the student conduct discipline process and a necessary Title IX investigation. In regard to the allegation that a member of our coaching staff threatened to revoke the scholarship of a student-athlete if she pressed charges in an assault case, as soon as we learned of the Columbia Police Report, we spoke to the coach, the former player and others and found that claim to be unsubstantiated.”

You can click here to read the full press release.

To read the transcript of the conference call with reporters, click here.

You say you don’t see evidence of intentional mishandling, but the report also indicates assistant football coaches met with Washington’s parents. How can you be sure there was no cover-up?

That statement I saw for the first time today. I’ve tried to track that down today. Little time has been in place to make that happen. One question might be are we talking about 2008 or 2010 here? I have not been able to verify that our assistant coaches talked to either Derrick or his parents in 2008. We’re still trying to track that down as we speak.
What is your understanding of the 2010 incident in which the women’s soccer player involved in the fight with Washington and his girlfriend alleged that Coach Bryan Blitz said her scholarship could be in jeopardy if she reported Washington to the police?

When we first learned of this particular thing — which came about first because of our access to a Columbia Police Department report this year, this happened fairly recently — that is the first time we were aware of the allegations that one of the soccer players had talked to her coach in that particular situation. We immediately began to look into that. We’ve done a real discussion about that. We’ve talked to 23 people so far about that particular incident.

What seems to be clear is the soccer coach and the player had a conversation. Sometimes two people talk to each other and leave that room with a different understanding of that conversation. The soccer coach was clearly trying to tell his player — because she was arrested by the Columbia Police Department for fighting with the other girl — that her involvement with the law in this case could result in the revocation of her scholarship. My understanding — and my understanding only right now, having looked at some of the documentation and other pieces of it — that she walked away, apparently, with a different impression of that. That if she were to pursue this, that there’d be a loss of scholarship possibly because of the involvement of Washington in this.

That was not, in my understanding, the intent of the soccer coach.

Have you talked with Mike Alden and Gary Pinkel about, knowing what they knew of Washington’s 2008 rape allegation, why he was allowed to stay on the team?

As appropriate, I have talked extensively to Athletic Director Alden about this. I don’t normally delve down below him to talk to coaches individually about issues like this. My assurance coming back up is that the proper procedure was followed at the coaching level and the AD’s level at the time this happened. Now, I think, since that time, there have been some changes in our procedures and policies in the department. I can’t comment on how it would be handled today. But what I was assured by my athletic director was, at the time this happened, we followed proper procedures as the athletic department had in place at that time.

Did you have any indication of when the ESPN report was coming out?

We did not know when it was going to come out, precisely. We had been dealing with ESPN for months in terms of their requests for information. We were aware of all that. So there were months of time here that we were aware there was a story being planned. We were not aware until this morning about the exact timing of when that might come out.

So the soccer player from 2010 has since said she misunderstood the conversation?

I wouldn’t put it that way. What I’m saying is that I believe, having read the documentation I have in hand right now, the soccer coach was trying to communicate the seriousness of being arrested. The circumstances were that a fight occurred where two people were arrested that were fighting. Both female. An arrest is a serious issue for anybody, including a student-athlete, that does make possible the revocation of a student-athlete’s scholarship if they’re arrested and go through the process that adjudicates them to be found guilty. That’s a real possibility. The coach felt he had to make sure she understood how serious that was. I think that’s where his perspective was. She may have taken it somewhat differently. That’s what she said, apparently, to the police officer. I became aware of it only when I saw the Columbia Police Department report, and that was not that many months ago.

Are you encouraging Alden or Pinkel to address this situation publicly?
I believe both Director Alden and Coach Pinkel will, fairly soon, be able to talk to you about this. Again, this happened late this morning. Coach Pinkel has not been heavily involved in this conversation to date. Putting him in front of you right now before he has time to digest what this story really says would have been probably inappropriate. We don’t want to hold him back, but the issue was putting me up front first. I’ve kind of been dealing with this for several months now in all kinds of aspects, so I’ve kind of had the broadest view of it. That seemed most appropriate. We have no problem making our coaches and our athletic director available to you at the right time.

(Original story from Aug. 21)

Athletes, assaults and inaction

Title IX aims to protect students, but schools can be slow to act -- if they do at all

Updated: August 21, 2014, 6:47 PM ET

By Paula Lavigne and Nicole Noren | ESPN.com

Editor's note: The following story contains descriptions and links to documents with language that might be offensive to some readers.

A women’s soccer player at the University of Missouri told police that her coach said she might lose her scholarship unless she dropped assault allegations she had made against a star football player. The running back would later be accused in two other assaults.

At the College of Southern Idaho, the mother of a student emailed the head basketball coach that one of his players had raped her daughter. The coach responded that "campus policies don't allow us to handle 'internally' matters of this nature." About two years later, that same basketball player -- having transferred to the University of Tulsa -- was cleared of rape allegations in a campus disciplinary hearing after the dean of students determined that the alleged victim wasn't clear enough that she didn't want to have sex.

"Outside the Lines" uncovered these allegations and incidents through multiple interviews and by obtaining hundreds of documents from the colleges, alleged victims and police. The details are striking: two student-athletes with at least seven women in all having reported being allegedly hurt or sexually assaulted by them, the reports occurring at a small junior college, a private mid-major and a major Division I public university. The reporting by "Outside the Lines" shows that two of the colleges likely violated federal law for not investigating assault allegations. The third is being sued in federal court for ignoring past allegations of abuse from two women.

The U.S. Department of Education is investigating 76 colleges and universities for their handling of what are commonly known as Title IX complaints. Title IX is a federal gender equity law that, among other requirements, sets the rules for how schools must investigate incidents of sexual assault or violence. The law provides protection for women and men and covers how schools must provide support for the students involved.

NEW MISSOURI STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES ERRORS

On Thursday, Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin issued a statement in response this "Outside the Lines" report. In the statement, which can be read in full here, he said:
"As it relates to one case highlighted in the report of an assault in 2008, our internal processes broke
down, and the proper procedures were not followed regarding the student conduct discipline process and a
necessary Title IX investigation. Our students and their parents, our faculty and staff, our alumni and
community neighbors all deserve a safe and secure campus environment, and you have my word and my
solemn promise that I and our entire administration will continue to work toward that end."

Last year, the National College Health Assessment found that more than 10 percent of women said they
had been the victim of some form of sexual assault on campus in the previous 12 months. Although it's
unknown how many instances of campus sexual assault involve athletes, "Outside the Lines" research of
media coverage found at least 30 Division I schools had such reports in the past five years. These cases,
because of their publicity, are often the ones by which the system -- the university and law enforcement --
is judged for how such reports are handled. There are plenty to judge, too, with recent reports of athletes
allegedly raping or assaulting women at Oregon, UCLA, Texas, Vanderbilt, Connecticut, Mississippi, and
Florida State, which is being investigated for its handling of sexual assault allegations against Heisman
Trophy winner Jameis Winston.

Catherine Lhamon, the U.S. Department of Education's assistant secretary of the Office for Civil Rights,
said the Missouri, Southern Idaho and Tulsa cases are representative of many the department has seen in
recent years.

"That fact pattern is enormously distressing to me, that people are coming forward saying that there's
something wrong, that shouldn't have happened, and that the school says that, 'We can't handle that,'" she
said.

**Multiple allegations before player dismissed**

At Missouri, the final count was four -- one alleged rape, one alleged physical assault, one sexual assault
and one domestic assault -- before one of its star athletes left campus in 2010.

The first incident came in October 2008, when a sophomore at Missouri reported that running back
Derrick Washington raped her in her dorm room.

The second came in May 2010, when a women's soccer player said Washington punched her at a bar.

The third came in June 2010, when a 2009 Missouri graduate and former athletic department tutor
reported that Washington -- who was at her apartment to have sex with her roommate -- crept into her
bedroom in the middle of the night and sexually assaulted her.

And the last came three months later, when Washington was arrested for beating up his ex-girlfriend.

Washington's involvement with police began in 2008, when a student accused him of rape.

"He grabbed both my wrists with one hand and kept doing [sic] and just proceeded to put his penis inside
of me," the woman told "Outside the Lines" about the 2008 incident. "When I was finally able to push
him off me, he just kept saying that if I said anything they would kick him off the football team. And
football was his life, so if I said anything, he would kill me and kill himself."

After their investigation, campus police sent a warrant request to Boone County assistant prosecuting
attorney Andrew Scholz, but he ultimately declined to press charges against Washington. Instead, Scholz
entered into an agreement with Washington that he wouldn't be charged as long as he never contacted the
woman and took rape awareness classes. Scholz, who left Boone County in 2010 and is in private
practice, said there were a number of issues that came up in interviewing witnesses that would weaken the
woman's case, including a comment made to her by her ex-boyfriend that she could use the incident as
leverage to get a full-ride scholarship.

University officials knew of her rape allegation, though, and under federal law should have begun an
investigation, no matter what authorities did. The woman said she told her academic adviser, who
acknowledged in a phone conversation with "Outside the Lines" that she had a conversation with her about the rape. But the adviser said the woman didn't tell her it had been Washington.

Washington's parents told "Outside the Lines" that assistant football coaches met with them to talk about the incident and indicated to them that criminal charges likely wouldn't be filed.

The coaches and adviser fit the definition of "mandatory reporters" under Title IX, meaning someone obligated to report the incident to initiate a Title IX investigation. At that point, the university would have been required to open a Title IX investigation -- the purpose and conduct of which are different from a criminal investigation. The standard of proof needed for action also differs from criminal investigations; although a criminal case requires "proof beyond a reasonable doubt" for a finding of guilt, a Title IX case, much like a civil court case, needs only a "preponderance of evidence."

But the woman said no one from the university reached out to her to offer assistance or interview her as part of a Title IX or student disciplinary investigation, part of which the law says should include an assessment of the alleged victim's needs in order to feel safe on campus and able to continue her education.

"I stayed in my dorm room with the doors locked. ... I don't think I went to class for weeks or maybe even a month," she said.

Recently, the woman asked the university what had been done about her allegations and a university official told her the school had no disciplinary records responsive to her request. This week, the school confirmed to "Outside the Lines" that a Title IX investigation never occurred.

Washington played every game that season and scored 19 touchdowns, leading his team in rushing. The woman said she had to seek therapy, and medical records confirm she was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I've lost the majority of my faith in humanity," she said. "I lost my self-worth. I was put on antidepressants, anti-anxiety medicine. I have nightmares."

Washington, through his parents, declined to speak to "Outside the Lines" for this story. In 2009, he led the team in rushing again and, in spring 2010, was projected to be one of the best running backs in the Big 12.

After the spring practice season concluded, a Missouri women's soccer player got into a fight with Washington's girlfriend at a bar in Columbia on May 6, 2010. Police arrested and cited both women for fighting. The soccer player told police that, during the fight, Washington walked up and "struck her with a closed fist on the left side of her face."

While at the hospital being treated for the injury to her face, she told police she wanted to press charges against Washington, and a warrant was issued for third-degree assault. But later that day, she came to the police department and said she had changed her mind.

According to the police report, the woman spoke to her soccer coach, who said her scholarship might be in danger because of her arrest. The report stated, "Her coach made her feel as though she would not have any problems with her scholarship if she declined to prosecute Derrick Washington for assaulting her," and that, "If Mr. Washington was arrested, the incident would make the news and the situation with her scholarship might change."

Police closed the case and didn't arrest Washington, whose status with the university and team remained the same. The soccer player, who did not want her name published, said she was never contacted by university officials about the incident. She wrote in an email to "Outside the Lines" that she did lose her scholarship but, with the help of an attorney, was able to have it reinstated.
Just six weeks later, another woman would accuse Washington of sexually assaulting her. She said she was asleep in her bed when Washington came in and put his finger in her vagina. Teresa Braeckel reported the incident to police nearly immediately, and police opened an investigation. While police were investigating, Washington was named one of four captains of the football team and sent to Dallas to represent the school at Big 12 media days.

In this case, Missouri's Office of Student Conduct did reach out to Braeckel, but she told officials she was concerned that discussing the case could interfere with her criminal case proceedings. When felony charges were imminent, football coach Gary Pinkel suspended Washington from the team, but he remained on scholarship and on campus. Washington was charged with felony deviate sexual assault on Aug. 30, 2010.

Thirteen days later, while Washington was out on bail, police arrested him again. This time it was for beating up his former girlfriend, who told police that Washington struck her in the face multiple times after they got into an argument at her apartment. An officer wrote in a report that the woman had some hemorrhaging around her left eye, consistent with her report that Washington had tried to "push her eyeballs into her skull."

Washington withdrew from the university and moved home to live with his parents near Kansas City, Missouri.

"Outside the Lines" reported this story from interviews, medical records and hundreds of public records from the colleges and local law enforcement. Requested documentation included all records (emails and phone records) sent or received by key individuals coinciding with three of these women's police reports. The University of Missouri handed over many records but said that head football coach Gary Pinkel had no emails from the 11-day time period "Outside the Lines" requested. Two women involved in the Missouri cases signed forms to waive their privacy rights so as to allow University of Missouri officials to talk to "Outside the Lines" about their cases, but university officials declined comment.

The university issued a statement from Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin that states, in part, "Our students and their parents, our faculty and staff, our alumni and community neighbors all deserve a safe and secure campus environment, and you have my word and my solemn promise that I and our entire administration will continue to work toward that end."

In September 2011, a jury convicted him of sexually assaulting Braeckel, and a judge sentenced him to five years in prison. He served four months as part of a first-time offenders program and had to register as a sex offender. In February 2012, he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor third-degree domestic assault for the attack on his former girlfriend and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which he served concurrently with the deviate sexual assault sentence.

Washington used his final year of playing eligibility at Tuskegee University and worked out with the Kansas City Chiefs and New England Patriots last year but was never signed. On his Twitter account, he recently indicated he was still enrolled at Tuskegee and working to finish his degree.

Braeckel said she left the school over the incident and moved home, giving up job opportunities in the District of Columbia. "It was time for me to just kind of close the shutters and be by myself and to try to feel safe and to cope with what had happened," she said.

She also sought counseling.
Braeckel and the woman from the 2008 incident signed forms to waive their privacy rights so as to allow Missouri officials to discuss their cases with "Outside the Lines." But Missouri president Tim Wolfe, athletic director Mike Alden and Pinkel declined to answer questions, and a university spokeswoman said the school would not make anyone else available for an interview.

Braeckel said she places some of the blame directly on Missouri for not acting sooner on other women's complaints about Washington.

"Maybe his whereabouts would have been monitored. Maybe Coach would have told him, 'You need to watch yourself,'" she said.

"No one should have been the first. And none of us should have been the last."

Lawsuit: Tulsa failed to protect woman

A lawsuit filed in federal court Monday alleges that the University of Tulsa failed to protect a student from one of its prominent basketball players who has a history of facing sexual assault allegations. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Abigail Ross, a sophomore at Tulsa, states that basketball player Patrick Swilling Jr. raped her in January. It outlines three prior alleged incidents involving Swilling: from a woman who reported in 2012 that he raped her while the two were students at the College of Southern Idaho; a woman at Tulsa who reported a sexual assault to campus security; and a woman who said Swilling tried to sexually assault her before friends intervened.

"Despite its knowledge of at least one, and as many as three prior allegations of sexual assault and misconduct perpetrated by Swilling, TU undertook zero investigation of his conduct and permitted Swilling to continue to attend TU," the lawsuit states. "... TU was deliberately indifferent to the substantial risk that Swilling would sexually harass other female students at TU. As a result of TU's deliberate indifference, Plaintiff was subjected to extreme sexual harassment in the form of rape by Swilling."

"Outside the Lines" found that the first allegation against Swilling came at the College of Southern Idaho, when the mother of sophomore Lexi Mallory reported to the men's basketball coach that Swilling had raped her daughter. The coach, who told her mother that campus policies didn't allow for such an incident to be investigated, forwarded her email to his athletic director, who called college president Jerry Beck. Beck told "Outside the Lines" that he agreed with the decision to let city police handle the allegation.

In January, "Outside the Lines" aired and published the story of University of Missouri swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who said she had been raped by a football player. In response to the story's findings, the university ordered an investigation and started a sexual assault and mental health task force, pledges to do more to support people who come forward to report incidents.

Two women involved in this new report told "Outside the Lines" that, despite the public pledge, school officials were not initially responsive enough to their requests to get more information about their cases. Months ago, each requested public records for campus disciplinary records and emails in which key staffers discussed their cases. The university responded by saying the search and retrieval would cost them about $5,000 and $10,000. After negotiation, officials gave one woman a single email related to her case and told the other woman there were no disciplinary records regarding her case. This week, a school official wrote to the women and said they will now provide all of the records at no cost.

"We don't have people who are trained in dealing with that type of thing," said Beck, who retired last summer.

But the College of Southern Idaho had what's known as a Title IX coordinator, someone whose job is to investigate gender equity complaints, including cases of sexual assault.
That coordinator is Monty Arrossa, and he said the first time he heard about Mallory's alleged assault was when "Outside the Lines" made a public records request this year for documents related to Swilling. Arrossa said the former president never informed him nor the former dean of students.

"We should have contacted the student. We should have investigated this," he said. "Because that's our policy."

Mallory dropped out, which is something Arrossa said was "devastating" to hear.

She has yet to finish her degree. She moved to Boise, Idaho, where she works in retail and cares for her infant son.

Ross, the student at Tulsa, withdrew from classes in the spring because, according to the lawsuit, she felt the university disregarded her safety.

Swilling was suspended from the team by then-coach Danny Manning on Feb. 12 because of the Ross investigation. Six weeks later, Tulsa dean of students Yolanda Taylor cleared Swilling. In late April, the Tulsa district attorney's office declined to press charges against Swilling.

On Wednesday afternoon, Swilling's attorney, Corbin Brewster, confirmed that a letter sent via social media defending his client was written by Swilling.

In the document, which includes pictures of Ross and some of her social media posts, Swilling vigorously defends himself against all of the women's claims and criticizes ESPN's reporting. He noted that he was not charged with any crimes and that there is a double standard that exists when it comes to people who accuse others of crimes.

"I have proven my innocence and continue to persevere through these tough times," he wrote. "I have been verbally abused, harassed, constantly sent harsh things on social media and even received death threats on multiple occasions.

"... My life has changed drastically since these allegations have been brought against me. I've lost friends, I've lost loved ones, my goals have changed, my image has change [sic] and I've lost Patrick Swilling Jr. in it all. I'm not the same person I was before the allegations, I can't be."

Also on Wednesday afternoon, Mallory's former roommate and Swilling friend Alysha Zephyr forwarded a statement to "Outside the Lines" that called Mallory's claims against Swilling a "lie." She said Mallory acknowledged having sex with Swilling to her and another roommate. Zephyr, whom "Outside the Lines" contacted several months ago but who would not talk on the record, said in the statement she believed Mallory's claims were a "desperate effort to get her fiancee to take her back and mend her reputation."

Swilling's attorney said "the allegations in the recent lawsuit that Patrick sexually assaulted other women are unsubstantiated and false. The lawsuit appears to be an attempt to further damage Patrick's reputation."

Swilling had been waiting to be cleared academically by the NCAA so he can play football for Tulsa this fall, but he announced on Twitter this week that the NCAA denied his waiver. Tulsa officials declined an interview request from "Outside the Lines" to discuss Swilling's case.

'It can take too long'

Details of how college officials at Missouri, Southern Idaho and Tulsa handled the assault allegations by students are prime examples of what the U.S. Department of Education wants to see stop, said the department's Lhamon.

"We have colleges and institutions that are not responding quickly," she said. "So they get a complaint, but they sit on it. And they don't investigate. And they let the facts grow stale. That can take too long to get relief for the student community. It can take too long to make sure that kids are safe."
In 2011, the department sent a 19-page letter to colleges and universities re-emphasizing their obligations under Title IX and stressing the importance of investigating reports of violence. After that letter received national media attention, Lhamon said, her office saw an 88 percent increase in the complaints about how institutions were addressing such reports. She also said she believes the increase could also be the result of an increase in campus sexual assaults overall.

Making clear to schools that they "shouldn't take a backseat to the criminal justice process" is important, Lhamon said, because Title IX -- a law with roots in civil rights and gender equity -- addresses questions that go beyond law enforcement.

"Should a student stay in the same course schedule? Should a student stay in the same dormitory? Can a student feel safe going to the library or not?" she said.

This year, President Barack Obama established a White House task force to address sexual assaults among college students, and several weeks ago members of the U.S. House and Senate introduced bipartisan bills designed to crack down on colleges that fail to act.

The bills would improve support services for survivors, instill mandatory training for campus personnel and improve coordination with law enforcement. They also would prevent athletic departments from being the sole arbiter of cases involving student-athletes. If schools don't follow Title IX provisions, they face a penalty of up to 1 percent of their operating budget.

The issue came to head July 9 in Washington, D.C., when Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Missouri, -- a co-sponsor of the Senate bill -- released a study that examined how colleges and universities respond to allegations of sexual violence. One statistic from the study stated that 22 percent of the schools said oversight of reports of sexual violence involving athletes is given to their athletic departments. At a Senate hearing that day, she grilled NCAA President Mark Emmert, asking him how the NCAA could allow such a practice.

A month later, the NCAA Executive Committee unanimously approved a resolution instructing athletic departments to "Cooperate with but not manage, direct, control or interfere with college or university investigations into allegations of sexual violence."

In January, McCaskill called for Missouri, her alma mater, to conduct a probe into the alleged sexual assault of Sasha Menu Courey, a swimmer who committed suicide months after reporting the assault to several campus medical professionals and writing in her diary that she also had told her athletic academic adviser.

When McCaskill learned in an interview last week of Washington's string of alleged incidents, she said, "There's just no excuse. It makes me sick to my stomach." However, she said she feels confident that the university "wants to do better" and is working toward that end.

At the College of Southern Idaho, Title IX coordinator Arrossa told "Outside the Lines" several months ago that the way the Swilling allegations were handled has prompted the school to review its policy and start mandatory Title IX training for key faculty and staff members, including athletic department staff and coaches.

"This has been a good exercise for us because it made us look at our policy," he said. "This won't happen again."

Nicole Noren is a producer in ESPN's enterprise and investigative unit and can be reached at Nicole.K.Noren@espn.com. Production assistant Jennifer Somach contributed to this report.
ESPN reports new allegations against former MU running back Derrick Washington

BY TOD PALMER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
UPDATED: 08/21/2014 7:00 PM

COLUMBIA - New allegations against former Missouri running back Derrick Washington surfaced Thursday as part of a report by ESPN’s “Outside the Lines,” which also said MU officials didn’t properly handle an alleged sexual assault as required by Title IX.

Washington, a Raymore-Peculiar graduate, was dismissed from the Tigers football team in September 2010, two days after he was charged with felony deviate sexual assault against a female former MU athletics tutor. About two weeks later, in an unrelated case, Washington was charged with misdemeanor domestic assault against a former girlfriend.

Washington was convicted in both cases. But ESPN’s report uncovered two previously unreported allegations against Washington — an alleged October 2008 sexual assault of a female MU student and an alleged May 2010 assault against a MU women’s soccer player. Charges were not filed in either case.

According to ESPN, Missouri assistant football coaches and the victim’s adviser were aware of the sexual assault allegation but didn’t report it to the university so the school could start an investigation as required by Title IX. Also, the assault victim told ESPN
that she felt her coach said she should decline to press charges against Washington in order to keep her scholarship, a claim MU chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said was unsubstantiated.

“Though there does not appear to be an intentional mishandling of any of the cases in the report at this time, I make no excuses, and offer my personal apologies and those of my staff to the victims,” Loftin said Thursday.

“No degree of explanation or regret can undo what has happened in the past. Our focus now is to do everything within our power to prevent sexual misconduct of any type at Missouri and, if it does unfortunately occur, to provide the resources and support to the victim while assuring that the perpetrator is brought to justice.”

According to MU Police, Washington was investigated in October 2008 for the alleged sexual assault of a female MU student in her dorm. But former Boone County assistant prosecuting attorney Andrew Scholz declined to press charges against Washington.

Scholz, who entered private practice in 2010, told ESPN that there were issues with witness statements. Washington agreed not have contact with the woman and was required to attend rape-awareness classes.

Also according to ESPN, the woman told her faculty adviser about the alleged rape, but the adviser denied being told Washington was involved. Washington’s parents, however, told ESPN that Missouri football assistant coaches discussed the case with them.

The woman said no one from MU contacted her about launching an investigation.

In May 2010, Washington’s girlfriend got into a bar fight with a Missouri women’s soccer player, who alleged that Washington punched her in the face.

The next day, the soccer player, who was arrested for her role in the fight, returned to the Columbia Police Department and declined to press charges against Washington.
According to a police report, the player indicated her soccer coach said her scholarship might be in danger because of her arrest, but that “her coach made her feel as though she would not have any problems with her scholarship if she declined to prosecute.”

Loftin said in a statement that “we spoke to the coach, the former player and others and found that claim to be unsubstantiated.”

Loftin said the coach, Bryan Blitz, was trying to tell her player that because she was arrested for fighting that “her involvement with the law in this case could result in the revocation of her scholarship.

“It’s my understanding, and my understanding only right now, having looked at some of the documentation here and other pieces of it, that she walked away apparently with a different impression of that: that if she were to pursue this, that there (could) be a loss of scholarship possibly because of the involvement of Washington in this. That was not, in my understanding, the intent of the soccer coach.”

Washington, who finished his eligibility at Tuskegee in 2012, served four months in prison for the sexual assault conviction as part of a first-time offenders program and was required to register as a sex offender. He served a 90-day sentence for the domestic assault concurrently.

Since February, Missouri undertook a sweeping inventory of its Title IX responsibilities after a previous ESPN “Outside the Lines” report about the university’s handling of a former MU swimmer’s rape allegations. Swimmer Sasha Menu Courey committed suicide after a sexual assault that also was never investigated.

At University of Missouri System president Tim Wolfe’s suggestion, MU and the state’s other land-grant colleges strengthened reporting policies, inventoried resources for victims and dedicated more staff and resources toward ensuring Title IX compliance.

Read more here: [http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-missouri/article1272558.html#storylink=cpy](http://www.kansascity.com/sports/college/sec/university-of-missouri/article1272558.html#storylink=cpy)
New assault complaints against ex-Mizzou RB emerge

Friday, August 22, 2014

By: Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Two more former University of Missouri students have gone public with assault allegations against ex-running back Derrick Washington, including a women's soccer player who said her coach suggested she could lose her scholarship if she pursued her complaint that Washington punched her in a 2010 bar fight.

The second woman accuses Washington of raping her in a dorm room as a sophomore in 2008. Local prosecutors in that case declined to file criminal charges, despite a request to do so by campus police. Washington instead agreed to not contact the woman and to complete a rape awareness class under a deferred prosecution agreement.

The women made the statements to ESPN's "Outside the Lines" for a report published Thursday.

The report did not name either woman. Police reports and university documents connected to the two incidents also don't identify the complainants.

University Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who came to the Columbia campus in February, said Thursday that the school "made mistakes in the past" by not investigating the alleged sex assault as required by the federal Title IX law.

"Our internal processes broke down," said Loftin, a former chancellor at Texas A&M University. "Though there does not appear to be any intentional mishandling of any cases in the (ESPN) report at this time, I make no excuses, and offer my personal apologies and those of my staff to the victims."

Washington, a former co-captain of the team, was convicted in 2011 of deviate sexual assault against a former Missouri athletics tutor while she slept. He served four months of a five-year prison sentence. Missouri's leading rusher as a sophomore and junior was kicked off the team days before the start of his senior season. He completed his college football career at Division II Tuskegee in Alabama.
After his dismissal by Missouri Coach Gary Pinkel, Washington also pleaded guilty to misdemeanor domestic assault against an ex-girlfriend but did not have to serve any additional time. He could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press on Thursday but told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that the 2008 incident involved only consensual sex.

Loftin said the former women's soccer player's assertion that Coach Bryan Blitz threatened to pull her scholarship was investigated and found to be "unsubstantiated" after nearly two dozen interviews with the woman's coaches and teammates.

The chancellor said Blitz was instead expressing concern that the woman's arrest for getting into a fight with Washington's girlfriend could also lead to university discipline should she be found guilty. The woman told police she initially wanted to press charges against Washington after she was punched in the face, but changed her mind after speaking with her coach.

Blitz, who has led the squad to five NCAA Tournaments, is beginning his 19th year as the school's only varsity women's soccer coach. He did not immediately respond to an interview request on Thursday as the team prepares to start it season on Friday with a pair of matches at the Penn State Invitational.

"Sometimes two people talk to each other and leave the room with a different understanding of (the same) conversation," Loftin said. "The coach was trying to tell his player ... that her involvement with the law could involve the revocation of her scholarship."

The new details emerge as Missouri and other colleges and universities across the country face significantly increased scrutiny of sexual misconduct on campus, both by activists, lawmakers and the federal government.

The U.S. Education Department is investigating 76 schools for possible violations of Title IX requirements to investigate complaints of sexual violence — a mandate that is independent of any criminal inquiries by law enforcement.

Missouri hired an outside law firm to review its policies after another ESPN investigation in January into the alleged off-campus rape of a former university swimmer by several football players in February 2010. Sasha Menu Courey later left school and committed suicide.

The outside review faulted the university's response and determined that the school's Title IX coordinator and local police should have been alerted to Menu Courey's claims in November 2012 after a public records request by her parents produced documents alluded to a possible attack.

Missouri has since hired a full-time Title IX coordinator as well as a full-time sex assault investigator. Overseeing the school's compliance with the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education had previously been handled on a part-time basis by an administrator with other duties.
Missouri medical school receives $2.4 million gift

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri School of Medicine has received a $2.4 million gift to create an endowed chair in oncology.

The school announced in a news release Thursday that the gift from Mark McAndrew was made to honor his late aunt. It will create the Frances T. McAndrew Endowed Chair in Oncology.

Mark McAndrew, of McKinney, Texas, said his aunt always spoke highly of the care she received from the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. Frances McAndrew died last year.

McAndrew, the retired chairman and CEO of Torchmark, a holding company, has given a total of $3.8 million to the university. He graduated from Missouri in 1975.

A national search to hire the oncology chair will begin soon.

MU announces $2.4 million gift for endowed oncology chair

By ASHLEY JOST
Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 10:53 am

The University of Missouri School of Medicine announced a $2.4 million gift Thursday that creates the Frances T. McAndrew Endowed Chair in Oncology.
Mark McAndrew donated the money to create a gift in honor of his aunt, the chair’s namesake. Frances McAndrew was a patient at the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center.

“Frances was a tremendous person — truly a good soul — and it is a privilege to be able to make this gift in her honor,” Mark McAndrew, a 1975 MU alumnus, said in a news release. “Growing up in rural Missouri, I can say that rural Missourians have always looked to the University of Missouri health system as a source for care above and beyond the routine. Frances always spoke highly of the top-notch care she received at the MU Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, and I hope this gift will help continue to advance the premier research and care the MU health system provides.”

Almost a dozen members of the McAndrew family attended a small ceremony in honor of the gift and endowed chair this morning at the School of Medicine.

“I hope to see a day where there’s no need for a chair in oncology,” McAndrew said. He lost his aunt Frances last year, as well as a sister, to cancer. During past years he lost his mother and multiple other relatives. “Until then, hopefully this gift will, in some way, save a life, extend a life or at least improve the life of the people of Missouri.”

McAndrew was inspired to donate by his aunt’s battle with cancer and by an essay written by a student in the medical school who treated his aunt during her stay at Ellis Fischel. In his essay, Noah Wald-Dickler discusses the skills he learned from his time with the McAndrew family that can’t be taught in the classroom, including compassion.

Of the $2.4 million gift, $400,000 will fund MU cancer researcher Fred Hawthorne’s boron-neutron therapy as a cancer treatment, according to the news release.

McAndrew, a retired chairman and chief executive officer of Torchmark, a holding company, has given $3.8 million to MU overall, including a $1.4 million gift to a scholarship for MU students from Clark County.

“Mr. McAndrew’s generosity and the spirit of his late aunt, Frances, are inspirations to the entire MU community,” MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in a news release. “This gift will allow MU to attract and retain the highest-caliber cancer researchers for decades to come. The fight against cancer is a long battle, but with strong support such as this, MU will play a leading role in future advancements in treatments.”

A national search to hire the oncology chair will begin soon.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU receives $2.4 million for endowed chair in cancer research

Thursday, August 21, 2014 | 9:13 p.m. CDT; updated 10:36 p.m. CDT, Thursday, August 21, 2014

BY JINGHONG CHEN

COLUMBIA — A former student has donated $2.4 million to create an endowed chair in oncology and to fund cancer research at the MU School of Medicine, according to an MU news release.

Mark McAndrew, a 1975 MU graduate, made the donation in honor of his late aunt, Frances McAndrew, who battled cancer and received treatment at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center.

“Frances always spoke highly of the top-notch care she received at the MU Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, and I hope this gift will continue to advance the premier research and care the MU health system provides,” McAndrew said in the news release.

A national search will begin soon to find a researcher to occupy the Frances McAndrew Endowed Chair in Oncology, according to the release.

Four hundred thousand dollars of the gift has already gone toward funding for MU cancer researcher Fred Hawthorne, who is exploring boron-neutron therapy as a cancer treatment, said Carol Krause, administrative assistant at MU’s International Institute of Nano and Molecular Medicine.

McAndrew was inspired to make his donation after reading an essay by Noah Wald-Dickler, a graduate of the MU School of Medicine who treated Frances in the clinic. In his essay, Wald-Dickler described the experience of treating Frances, and spoke of the example of “compassion and strength” that she and the McAndrew family provided for him.

McAndrew, a member of the Mizzou Alumni Association, has given more than $3.8 million to MU in the past, including a $1.4 million donation to the Flagship Scholars program in 2008. McAndrew retired as chairman and CEO of Torchmark, a financial services holding company specializing in life and health insurance. MU officials are hopeful that McAndrew’s gift will put the university in a prime position to make meaningful contributions to cancer research.
“This gift will allow MU to attract and retain the highest caliber cancer researchers for decades to come,” MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in the news release. “The fight against cancer is a long battle, but with strong support such as this, MU will play a leading role in future advancements in treatments.”

University of Missouri Human Environmental Sciences dean announces retirement

By Ashley Jost
Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 2:42 pm

Stephen Jorgensen, dean of the University of Missouri College of Human Environmental Sciences, will retire effective Aug. 31, 2015.

Jorgensen has served as dean of the college since 2001.

During his tenure, Human Environmental Sciences’ enrollment, credit hours and endowment have all increased, according to a news release. It was while Jorgensen was dean that the college opened the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. Additionally, Gwynn Hall, which houses many of the college’s offices and classrooms, was renovated during 2012 and 2013.

“As dean, it has been rewarding to be part of the growth the college has experienced,” Jorgensen said in a news release. “I’ve enjoyed helping students, faculty and staff resolve problems and break down barriers as they strive to achieve their goals. It’s been a delight working with them to accomplish all we have as a college. I leave MU knowing the College of Human Environmental Sciences is headed in a direction that will contribute so much to the well-being of families and our broader society in the future.”

Interim Provost Ken Dean said in a news release that Jorgensen’s leadership will be missed.

“He has guided the College of Human Environmental Sciences through continued growth in students, funding, and classroom and office space,” Dean said in the release. “He will be
remembered for the partnerships he formed within the College of Human Environmental Sciences and across campus with other schools and colleges."

Undergraduate enrollment increased from 1,093 in 2001 to more than 1,400 last fall, with graduate enrollment also seeing an increase, according to the university. The college’s endowment grew almost 160 percent to more than $14 million during Jorgensen’s tenure as well.

A national search for his replacement will begin soon.

Local institutions get grants to educate students about loan debt

By ASHLEY JOST
Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 11:38 am

The Missouri Department of Higher Education released grant funding this month to colleges and universities that applied for extra money to educate students on how to be smart student loan borrowers and how to avoid defaulting.

The Default Prevention Grant Program isn't new to the state department, as this is the program’s 14th year, but four area institutions are getting the grant funding for the first or second year.

The University of Missouri, Stephens College, Columbia College and Moberly Area Community College all received grant funding for the 2014-15 academic year. Recipients can use the money at their own discretion, as long as it's related to educating students on their loans.

This year, the Department of Higher Education awarded $823,751 to 31 Missouri institutions, private and public. The department can award as much as $890,000 in a year, but the amount fluctuates depending on how much selected applicants request for funding, department spokeswoman Liz Coleman said in an email. She said the maximum amount schools can request is $25,000.

Stephens College, Columbia College and Moberly Area Community college all received the maximum grant amount, Coleman said. MU received slightly less at $24,955.

Nick Prewett, director of financial aid at MU, said the grant money has allowed the university to explore which students are at risk for defaulting on loans. The university hired a part-time graduate student to explore risk factors when it received the grant last year.
“We were interested in seeing what impacts we could have as an institution if we put additional interest from our end on the subject,” Prewett said about what motivated him to apply for the grant. “We always had initiatives in our office like this, just not the resources to really do more programming. We had staff spending 10 to 15 percent of their time on these issues, but now we have a graduate student focused on it.”

Prewett said the grant also helps pay for brochures that talk about subjects such as repayment and better understanding differences between loans. This year, Prewett said MU plans to use more brochures and host more on-campus workshops to grab students’ attention.

On-campus workshops are common at the local college grant recipient campuses.

Stephens College hosts two to three financial aid-themed events per semester, spokeswoman Janese Silvey said.

Columbia College wrapped up a pilot program last year that will continue and expand in 2014-15 with the help of the grant.

Rachel Smith, manager of registration and financial services, said the “Money Stacks” program, which promotes financial literacy, went well in its pilot phase last year.

“We want them to know what’s happening before they borrow,” Smith said. “We talk about budgeting, about loans and how debt for your education isn’t a bad thing.”

Ferguson protesters renew push to replace prosecutor

CLAYTON, Mo. — Protesters demanding an indictment of the police officer who shot and killed an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson are renewing their call for the removal of the county prosecutor who is presenting the case to a grand jury.
Scores of protesters marched Thursday outside the Buzz Westfall Justice Center here, calling for the removal of St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch. McCulloch is handling the case of the Aug. 9 shooting of Michael Brown, 18, by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson.

The shooting touched off days of sometimes-violent protests in the St. Louis suburb of 21,000 people.

State Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, a St. Louis Democrat, was among those delivering what they said were 70,000 signatures on a petition from people around the nation calling for the removal of McCulloch from the case.

McCulloch, who is white, is viewed with distrust by many African Americans in St. Louis County, who say he is overzealous in prosecuting black suspects and lenient toward police officers.

One of his cases is legendary in St. Louis County.

In 2001, two white undercover drug officers shot and killed two black men in the parking lot of a Jack in the Box restaurant, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The officers said the men, who had prior felony convictions in drug and assault cases, tried to escape and drove toward them. However, a federal investigation found that the men were unarmed and that their car had not moved when the officers fired 21 shots into the vehicle, killing both men. That inquiry concluded, however, that the shooting was justified because the officers feared for their lives.

McCulloch refused to prosecute the officers, despite public protests. He said of the dead men, "These guys were bums."

Protesters also question whether McCulloch can impartially prosecute the Brown case because his policeman father was killed while on duty by an African-American man in 1964. McCulloch was 12. His brother, uncle and cousins all worked for the St. Louis police department.

"How can he be fair?" asked Adrian Hubbard, 33, of St. Louis.

In a written statement, McCulloch, who was first elected in 1990, said he will not step aside.

"As I have stated repeatedly, I have no intention of walking away from the responsibilities and duties entrusted to me by the people of this community," he said. "Additionally, there is no basis in the law to do so. I have faithfully and fairly carried out those responsibilities and
duties for more than two decades and will continue to do so for at least the next four years."

He said he recognizes that Gov. Jay Nixon, a Democrat, has the authority to remove him from the case under the declaration of emergency that Nixon made Saturday. McCulloch said he believes doing so would be a mistake.

"The pressure is now on the governor," Nasheed said.

The governor said in a written statement Tuesday that he was not asking McCulloch to remove himself from the case. "There is a well-established process by which a prosecutor can recuse themselves from a pending investigation," he said.

Nixon said "a vigorous prosecution must now be pursued." A day later, his office said he meant only that the prosecutor should ensure "that justice is served."

**Ben Trachtenberg, an associate professor of law at the University of Missouri School of Law, said it is "highly unusual" for a Missouri governor to remove an elected county prosecutor. "It’s very unusual because the governor would in effect be saying he doesn’t trust the county prosecutor to admit he might be unable to handle the case appropriately."

"The prosecutors in Missouri are elected by the voters of the county," Trachtenberg said. "The prosecutors themselves can request the appointment of a special prosecutor if there is a conflict of interest or some other reason why they can't properly work on a case."

In a letter last week, Nasheed said that if Nixon doesn't seek a special prosecutor and if Wilson is not indicted, "the rioting we witnessed (in Ferguson) will seem like a picnic compared to the havoc that will likely occur."