Hochman: Mizzou desperately needs an inspired leader

As if it were left behind by a defunct college that lost its accreditation, the shoddy sign in front of our state’s flagship institution reads: “U IVE TY f M S O.”

The University of Missouri folks can’t even fix a symbol of their problems, let alone their problems.

That sign in Columbia, on the corner of Elm and Providence, is an embarrassment. Oh, and the other side is missing some letters, too.

And so, these unfixed signs just fester in front of the campus, welcoming all to the modern Mizzou: A university marred by image and admission issues, anchored by an athletic program seemingly stuck in flux.

With a first-year football coach and underwhelming basketball coach, as well as an interim chancellor, interim system president and interim athletic director, can UMSL be the interim Mizzou for a little while?

There seems to be some malaise among alums. The Mizzou community seems like the St. Louis community after the Rams bolted — burdened with a crisis of confidence.
Let’s make Mizzou cool again.

Make Mizzou a destination.

Make Mizzou a factor.

It starts with the boss.

At athletics director, Mizzou needs a man or woman who embraces the muck. Who yearns to lead. Who wants to see this thing through, not for themselves, but for fellow true sons and daughters. In 2016, after the year Mizzou just had, this isn’t just a job — it’s a purpose.

It’s frustrating that two influential men with strong ties might not get the gig. Jon Sundvold checks many of the boxes and is a Mizzou mainstay. And the fascinating Mike Owens spent nearly three decades at Anheuser-Busch as a vice president of sales and marketing — and then vice president of business operations. But neither fellow has actually been an athletics director, and I worry that this will hurt their chances. Sure, they played college sports, but perhaps decision-makers wonder if they know how to play the college game?

And so ... Mizzou won’t get Mark Hollis — but it should get a Mark Hollis.

He elevated Michigan State into an innovative, invigorated athletic power. He gave the program his own personality. He furiously fund-raised. He dared himself to think outside the box. And outside the arena. Seemingly at first kooky, he cooked up hockey in a football stadium and basketball on a naval ship. The NHL took notice — next January, the Blues will play in the ninth Winter Classic, a marquee event for the league.

“(Hollis) is a visionary,” Michigan State basketball coach Tom Izzo told The Detroit Free Press. “He gets a lot of credit but, to be honest, he doesn’t get enough.”

I’ve said it before: Mizzou isn’t just some college going through a rough patch, needing an AD to rejuvenate athletics. This is a historic, turning-point time.

I think back to that fall day. Standing in the middle of Carnahan Quadrangle on campus, surrounded by sardined students chanting: “It is our duty to fight for our freedom! It is our duty to win! We must love and support each other! We have nothing to lose but our chains! … Power! Power! Power!”

I remained awed by the historic stance the football team took. By the sacrifices. By the visual.

Again, a college football team pledged to forfeit a game in the name of racial justice on its campus. That’s heavy stuff.

Was it handled properly by, well, any of the parties, be it Concerned Student 1950 or the Mizzou administrators? Probably not. Was it all worthwhile? Change doesn’t happen overnight, but can at least start, right? But in a quick-news cycle, we sometimes forget the intricacies of a past issue
and just look at the present. And, admittedly, the present is a university that has come off looking bad. A university that has to answer questions from donors to parents of African-American recruits, wary of sending their son or daughter to that fiery campus.

Enrollment, overall, is down.

And as someone who has known his share of football coaches over the years, here’s thinking that rival recruiters are eviscerating Mizzou’s reputation to impressionable receivers and running backs.

The hiring of football coach Barry Odom wasn’t breathtaking, but Odom has shown that he’s in for this ride, mucky and murky as it may be. And on Wednesday, numerous high-school players tweeted their official scholarship offer letter from Mizzou. For instance, a Texas high-schooler named Roderick Ford typed: “I would like to say I’m truly blessed to commit to The University of Missouri. #Showme17 #MizzouMade.”

The hashtag of #Showme17 was trending Wednesday in the area. Tweeted receiver Jafar Armstrong, from across I-70 at the high school Bishop Miege: “The only offer I’ve ever wanted since I was a little kid. #Showme17.”

This was pretty cool to read. But then it gets you thinking: Is the Mizzou he yearned to play for the same Mizzou he’ll play for? Those teams sure were good back when he was a little kid, with quarterback Chase Daniel and Sean Weatherspoon chasing quarterbacks. But Armstrong is committing to be part of the modern Mizzou, the one with potential, but the one in flux.

Soon, an AD will commit, too.

“Whomever is named director of athletics will inherit great student-athletes, coaches and staff and will be a very lucky individual,” Wren Baker, Mizzou’s interim AD who took the AD job at North Texas, said in a statement when he left. “I am confident that Chancellor (Hank) Foley and the search committee will find a terrific director of athletics.”

Mizzou is repairing its image. The least it can do is repair the dang sign.

Take pride in your appearance.

Report: Investigation finds no violations by Mizzou softball’s Earleywine
From staff reports, 15 hrs ago

**The University of Missouri’s Title IX investigation of softball coach Ehren Earleywine has concluded and no Title IX violations were found, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported Wednesday. Earleywine’s future at Mizzou remains uncertain.**

“Now, the question becomes, ‘What does have to happen?,’” MU interim chancellor Hank Foley told the Tribune. "Short of Title IX, what things do we want to see changed and who’s going to make them happen? I’m involved in those discussions."

The Title IX investigation, prompted by players’ complaints about Earleywine's coaching style, has been unresolved since late May. An internal investigation started by former Mizzou athletics director Mack Rhoades started previously. The softball team made headlines in the early stages of the investigation, when it played a game under protest of Rhoades and the athletics department's investigation of the coach.

resources, closed the Title IX investigation on Friday. Sadowski has since been replaced on a full-time basis by Patty Haberberger, according to Tribune. Foley is the interim athletics director for one more day before Sarah Reesman takes over later this week.

Earleywine has a 452-154 record and has reached the NCAA tournament in each of his 10 seasons at Mizzou.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial aid.
No Title IX violations in Earleywine investigation

By Joe Walljasper

Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 3:00 pm

Missouri Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said Wednesday that the internal investigation of Ehren Earleywine did not reveal Title IX violations by the Missouri softball coach.

The investigation of Earleywine began on April 5 as an athletic department review that was spawned by complaints from some softball players. The investigation eventually involved the Title IX office, which tried to determine whether there were violations of the federal law that bans discrimination on the basis of sex.

“It rose to a question of whether it was a Title IX set of violations,” Foley said. “That’s over. That part’s done. The person who had to make the decision of whether or not it went to the next level, which was to do a finding of facts with the committee and all that, is the head of HR. That person looked it over and said, ‘No, it doesn’t rise to that level.’”

Foley said the decision was made on Friday by Jatha Sadowski, the former interim vice chancellor for human resources. Sadowski was replaced on a full-time basis by Patty Haberberger on Monday.

“Now, the question becomes, ‘What does have to happen? Short of Title IX, what things do we want to see changed and who’s going to make them happen?’” Foley said. “I’m involved in those discussions.”

Earleywine is one of Missouri’s most successful coaches, with a 452-154 record and 10 NCAA Tournament appearances in his 10 years. When asked who would make the final determination on whether Earleywine keeps his job and under what conditions, Foley said it would be a collaborative decision, although he had the final call.

Foley is the interim athletic director for one more day before Sarah Reesman takes over as the interim AD.

“Lots of these decisions are made as a group and ultimately athletics and athletic directors are experts in this,” Foley said. “I would look for their guidance, and I would be the last person to say, ‘Yes, that looks right to me.’ At the end of the day, what I’m going to do is ask the question, ‘What are our values? What does the institution stand for? Are we going to see changes that are consistent with our institutional values?’”
Reesman appointed Mizzou's latest interim AD

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 8 hrs ago

COLUMBIA, MO. • Another week, another interim athletics director at the University of Missouri.

When acting interim AD Wren Baker took the AD job at North Texas on Friday, interim chancellor Hank Foley put himself in charge of Mizzou athletics as the school's second interim AD since Mack Rhoades left for Baylor.

Now it's Sarah Reesman's job.

The longtime Mizzou administrator will take over as interim AD on Friday, Foley announced Wednesday. Missouri has never had a full-time female athletics director. Reesman will serve in the role until Foley hires a full-time replacement.

Reesman has been traveling abroad the last two weeks and was expected to return to the office Thursday, Foley wrote in a statement addressed to the university community.

Reesman, in her 23rd year with Mizzou’s athletics department, is the school’s executive associate AD and senior woman administrator. The Boonville, Mo., native was promoted to senior associate AD in 2006 after eight years as the associate AD for student services and senior women administrator.

Reesman is the sports administrator and chief liaison for the women’s basketball team, the swimming and diving teams and the wrestling and volleyball teams. She also oversees the athletics department’s human resource services and gender equity, diversity and inclusion efforts.
Reesman also serves on Foley’s advisory committee to hire the school’s next AD, along with St. Louis attorney and former MU football player Darryl Chatman, UM system board of curators member and former MU football player Phil Snowden, former curator Don Walsworth and MU law professor Christina Wells.

Reesman graduated from Mizzou with departmental honors in 1986. As an undergraduate, she chaired MU’s Student Athletic Board for two years and also spent two years as a student member of MU’s Intercollegiate Athletic Committee. She earned her law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1989 and practiced law in Kansas City before joining MU athletics in 1993.

Her promotion continues a series of changes at the top of the chain of command within the athletics department that started with Mike Alden’s retirement in January 2015, ending his 17-year run as AD. Rhoades took over in April 2015 and lasted just 14 months before he left July 13 for the AD position at Baylor.

That day, Baker was announced as the interim AD. Baker, who had been MU’s deputy AD since May 2015, had already been contacted about the North Texas AD job when Foley appointed him Mizzou’s interim AD. Last Friday, after Baker was introduced as the new AD in Denton, Texas, Foley announced that he would take over as the interim AD. But not for long. While also serving as the school’s interim chancellor, Foley will have held the AD position for all of seven days.

From the day he was introduced as AD in July 1998, Alden held the position for 6,128 days, followed by Rhoades for 443 days, Baker for 17 days in the interim role, followed by Foley’s week in charge.
Mizzou turns to Sarah Reesman as interim athletic director

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kcstar.com

Effective Friday, Missouri athletics will have its third interim athletic director — executive associate athletic director/senior woman administrator Sarah Reesman — since Mack Rhoades’ abrupt July 13 resignation.

University of Missouri interim chancellor Hank Foley made the announcement Wednesday in an email to faculty, students and staff.

“As we continue the search for an Athletic Director, I am pleased to announce that Sarah Reesman has agreed to serve in the position on an interim basis beginning Friday, Aug. 5,” Foley said in a statement from his office. “Sarah has been travelling abroad for the past two weeks and will return to the office on Thursday.”

Foley initially appointed former Tigers deputy athletic director Wren Baker as interim athletic director upon Rhoades’ departure for Baylor.

Baker then was appointed the new North Texas athletic director last Friday, prompting Foley to appoint himself as interim athletic director for the last week.

Reesman, a native of Boonville, Mo., has worked in the Mizzou athletics department since 1993 and was promoted to executive associate athletic director in 2009.

“Sarah will have my full support as she steps into this new role later this week,” Foley said.

Reesman serves as the administrative liaison for women’s basketball, swimming and diving, wrestling and volleyball, and also oversees the department’s human resources and gender equity, diversity and inclusion efforts.

In addition, Reesman is a key figure in academic support, student-athlete development, student conduct, employee contracts and spearheads the department’s strategic planning process.

Reesman graduated from Missouri in 1986 and earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Minnesota law school in 1989.
Foley appointed her to his Advisory Committee for the Director of Athletics search on July 22 as the Mizzou athletics representative.

That committee also includes alumni representatives Darryl Chatman and Don Walsworth, University of Missouri System curator Phil Snowden and faculty athletics representative Christina Wells.

Sarah Reesman named MU interim athletics director

COLUMBIA — MU’s newest interim athletics director will be Sarah Reesman.

Reesman, a Boonville native who has been with the Missouri athletics department for 23 years, has served as executive associate athletics director and senior woman administrator.

Her appointment was announced Wednesday in an email from MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley.

Foley wrote that the search for a full-time athletics director will continue as scheduled. Reesman, who has been traveling abroad for the past two weeks, will return to the office Friday for her first day on the job.

"Sarah will have my full support as she steps into this new role later this week," Foley wrote.

During her time at Missouri, Reesman has served as the liaison for the women’s basketball team, swimming and diving, wrestling and volleyball. Foley also named Reesman to the five-person advisory committee that will aid in the search for a new full-time athletics director.
Although an interim, Reesman will be the only female athletics director currently in the Southeastern Conference.

Reesman succeeds Foley, who named himself as temporary athletics director when Wren Baker left to take the athletics director job at the University of North Texas on Friday. Baker was named interim athletics director with the departure of former athletic director Mack Rhoades to Baylor in July.

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**Reesman appointed interim athletic director**

By Steve Walentik

Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 10:45 am

A week after assuming the responsibilities of interim athletic director after Wren Baker left that position for a permanent job at North Texas, Missouri interim Chancellor Hank Foley will hand them off again.

Sarah Reesman will take over as the interim athletic director effective Friday, according to a letter from Foley addressed to the university community on Wednesday. Reesman, who has been working as an executive associate athletic director, will be the first woman to oversee the athletic department in the school’s history.

“Sarah has been with Mizzou athletics for 23 years and currently oversees many operational functions of the department, including human resources, academic support, student-athlete development, diversity and inclusion activities, student conduct and employee contracts,” Foley said in the letter. “She also is the liaison with the women’s basketball team and is the administrator for volleyball, women’s and men’s swimming and diving and wrestling.”

Reesman is one of five people that Foley named to the committee assembled to assist him with the hiring of a permanent athletic director shortly after Mack Rhoades’ abrupt departure for Baylor on July 13.

Foley’s letter said Reesman has been traveling abroad the past two weeks but is scheduled to return to the office on Thursday.
Reesman is a native of Boonville who graduated from MU in 1986 and earned a law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1989. She was hired by the athletic department in 1993.

**MU announces third interim athletic director in three weeks**

COLUMBIA - **In an email, MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced Sarah Reesman will take over as the university's interim athletic director starting Friday, after she returns from a two-week trip abroad Thursday.**

Foley said Reesman will have his full support as she steps into this new role.

Reesman has served as the executive associate athletic director since 2009 and has worked for the athletics department for 23 years. She currently oversees many of the operational functions of the department, including human resources, academic support, student-athlete development, diversity and inclusion activities, student conduct and employee contracts.

Reesman also is the liaison with the women’s basketball team and is the administrator for volleyball, women’s and men’s swimming and diving and wrestling.

Mack Rhoades announced his decision to leave MU to become the vice president and director of athletics at Baylor University July 13. Wren Baker was then appointed as interim athletic director, until he announced his new role as athletic director at University of North Texas. On July 29, Hank Foley said he would serve as interim athletic director, until he announced Reesman's appointment Wednesday.
Sarah Reesman named Mizzou interim athletic director

For the third time in the last four weeks, Mizzou names a new athletic director.

University of Missouri interim chancellor Hank Foley announced Sarah Reesman will take over as interim athletic director. Reesman has been with Missouri for 23 years. She serves as Missouri's executive associate athletic director and senior woman administrator.

Reesman will begin her new role on Friday.

Reesman is Missouri's administrative liaison for women's basketball, wrestling, volleyball and swimming and diving. She also supervises Mizzou Athletics' human resources division and is involved in the department's gender and equity and inclusion campaign.

Hawley must decide future with University of Missouri after primary win

By Rudi Keller

Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 3:58 pm

With his victory in Tuesday’s Republican primary for attorney general, Josh Hawley must decide if he will seek to extend his leave at the University of Missouri or resign his faculty position in the School of Law.

Hawley has not asked for an extended leave or given any indication of his plans, MU interim Chancellor Hank Foley said Wednesday. Until the election was over, there was no need to think about it, Foley said.

“Now it is very much on my list,” Foley said. “I will be waiting to see. I would think he has to think this through politically, what does he want to do? It is not just up to me. It depends on what he requests. So I will have to run the traps on it and figure out what we are able to do.”
Hawley won a crushing victory over state Sen. Kurt Schaefer in the GOP primary and will face former Cass County Prosecuting Attorney Teresa Hensley in the Nov. 8 election. Last year, Hawley was granted unpaid leave through Aug. 31 from his post as an associate professor of law.

“I think it’s within the realm of feasible to give him an extension through election day, but I don’t know if it is doable,” Foley said.

If Hawley seeks an extension, Foley said he will seek input from the law school, interim President Mike Middleton, curators and the MU Faculty council, among others.

Hawley could not be reached Wednesday afternoon for comment. Hensley’s campaign manager, David Woodruff, did not return a message seeking comment.

Hawley joined the law school faculty in 2011. If he had not filed for office, he would have been granted tenure at the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year. Under the terms of his leave, if he had returned to work on Sept. 1 he would have been granted tenure at that time.

Speaking to a legislative committee in 2015, then-Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said the initial leave was granted by Provost Garnett Stokes and then-law school Dean Gary Myers. Any extension would be the chancellor’s responsibility, Loftin said.

Hawley took leave earlier than many faculty or staff who have become candidates in the past. When he applied for leave, GOP rival Sen. Kurt Schaefer was pressing for a university rule change that could have blocked Hawley’s candidacy. The Board of Curators approved an updated policy in July 2015 that moved the date for obtaining leave from the day of candidate filing to when an employee declares their intent or creates a committee to raise money for a campaign.

The rule change did not, however, take effect until April 1 and had no impact on Hawley.

No action will be taken until Hawley decides, Foley said.

“First and foremost, it is the candidate himself who has to weigh what he wants to do,” Foley said.

University of Missouri System leader named state higher education chief

By Ashley Jost St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 15 hrs ago
Another University of Missouri System leader is moving on.

Zora Mulligan was tapped Wednesday by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to be the next commissioner for the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Mulligan was brought on under former president Tim Wolfe as his chief of staff during 2014. She continued in her role under interim president Mike Middleton after Wolfe’s resignation.

The office won’t be new for Mulligan, who was assistant commissioner and general counsel for the state department from 2007-2010. She also did a stint with the attorney general’s office before moving on to be the executive director of the Missouri Community College Association where she lobbied for all 12 community colleges statewide.

Filling a vacancy left by David Russell, who retired in January after five years at the department’s helm, Mulligan will be responsible for shepherding policy issues for all of Missouri’s higher education institutions. She will begin her new job Aug. 29.

Like Mulligan, Russell came to the job from the UM System chief of staff role.

As chief of staff, Mulligan was the liaison among the president’s office, other system leaders and the Board of Curators.

Missouri has a new commissioner of higher education.

The Associated Press
JEFFERSON CITY, MO. - Missouri has a new commissioner of higher education.

The Missouri Department of Higher Education said in a release that the Coordinating Board for Higher Education on Wednesday appointed Zora Mulligan as Missouri's new commissioner of higher education.

David Russell retired as commissioner in February. Leroy Wade, deputy commissioner, has been interim commissioner since March 1. Mulligan takes over as commissioner of higher education on August 29.

The commissioner of higher education leads the Missouri Department of Higher Education, which is the board's administrative arm.

**Mulligan, chief of staff for the University of Missouri system, has also been an assistant commissioner for the department, as well as general counsel and legislative liaison. She was also the executive director of the Missouri Community College Association from 2010 to 2014.**

AUGUST 3, 2016 12:51 PM

**Mizzou dismisses defensive linemen**

**Walter Brady, Harold Brantley**

BY TOD PALMER

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**On the eve of first-year football coach Barry Odom’s inaugural fall camp at Missouri, the team confirmed Wednesday that two defensive linemen were no longer on the roster.**

The Tigers dismissed sophomore defensive end Walter Brady for an unspecified violation of team rules and senior defensive tackle Harold Brantley for failing to meet academic expectations.

Brady, a native of Florence, Ala., tied for the team lead with seven sacks last season, which also tied for the most sacks by any freshman in the Football Bowl Subdivision.
He finished eighth on the Tigers with 40 tackles and was chosen as a Freshman All-American by several publications.

Brady’s 12 1/2 tackles for a loss were the second-most on the team. He also seven quarterback hurries, two pass breakups, an interception, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

Meanwhile, Brantley missed last season after suffering severe injuries in a June 2015 car crash. He was still rehabilitating after a broken left tibia, ligament damage in his left knee, several broken ribs and a cracked shoulder blade, but Mizzou was hopeful he could return to the field this fall.

“He’s made a lot of progress, a tremendous amount from the times we talked in the spring until now,” Odom said when asked about Brantley as SEC Football Media Days. “Weightwise, he’s up around the 270 marks. When he got out of the hospital, he was down around 200, so he’s made a lot of progress. It’s day-to-day with him on getting back and re-teaching himself how to run and change direction.”

Instead of a feel-good story, Brantley’s career appears finished after he consistently struggled to meet expectations in the classroom.

Brantley didn’t fully participate in spring practice, in part, because of academic issues, but Odom said at SEC Media Days that Brantley finished the spring semester in strong fashion.

Teammates, especially junior defensive end Charles Harris, raved about Brantley.

“Harold’s doing great,” Harris said at SEC Media Days. “Old Harold, new Harold — he’s just Harold. He’s really just Harold. ... From the outside looking in, he looks great to me. Overall, he’s looking great. He’s a physical specimen.”

As a redshirt sophomore in 2014, Brantley recorded 54 tackles, including seven for a loss, with five sacks. He also blocked a field goal and an extra point that season.

The loss of Brady and Brantley deals a blow to Mizzou’s depth, but it was a position of strength for Odom’s squad.

Brady is the only player from last season’s rotation who won’t return in 2016.

Harris, who is listed among preseason All-America by several publications and is on the preseason watch lists for the Chuck Bednarik and Bronko Nagurski Awards, is poised for a monster season despite two offseason shoulder surgeries.
Junior Marcell Frazier probably moves up to the starting left defensive end spot for now, but sophomores Nate Howard and Spencer Williams and freshman Tre Williams, a four-star recruit from Columbia-Rock Bridge, provide tremendous depth.

On the interior, it’s unclear how much or how effective Brantley would have been if and when he returned to the field.

Fortunately for the Tigers, there’s still plenty of depth there with seniors Josh Augusta and Rickey Hatley, junior A.J. Logan and sophomores Terry Beckner Jr. and Josh Moore in the mix.

Brantley’s biggest impact might be the emotional toll. His comeback was an inspiration for teammates and his departure will be a bummer.

“I didn’t really look at (entering the NFL Draft last spring) too hard to too in-depth just because of Harold Brantley,” Harris said at SEC Media Days. “I wanted to play another season with him. I’m going to play another season with him this year. That’s my brother; I love him. That’s something that I really wanted to do. I wanted to play on the field with him.”

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

A Star Quarterback’s Unfiltered Posts Set Off Debate About Athletes’ Speech Rights

There is nothing unusual about a student posting a snarky comment about a presidential candidate or questioning a corporate sponsorship on social media. But when that student is a star athlete, the pressure to hit the delete key can be intense.

Just ask Josh Rosen, the starting quarterback at the University of California at Los Angeles. In April he posted a photo of himself on Instagram teeing off on a golf course owned by Donald J. Trump while wearing a baseball cap that insulted the Republican presidential candidate with a well-known four-letter expletive.
The Bruins head coach, Jim Mora, didn’t like that message any more than he approved of the one Mr. Rosen posted in May questioning UCLA’s record-setting $280-million apparel deal with Under Armour.

In a nod to the fact that college athletes aren’t paid and don’t benefit financially from such windfalls, the quarterback posted news of the contract with a sarcastic Instagram message: "We’re still amateurs though … Gotta love non-profits #NCAA."

That post was quickly deleted, but the Trump one lived on, prompting Mr. Mora to admonish his quarterback to be more "socially responsible" in the future.

That advice, in turn, raised questions about the free-speech rights of athletes, particularly when they embrace liberal causes that might offend boosters or corporate sponsors.

"Coaches and athletic departments have struggled over the past five-plus years to come to grips with social media, which gives athletes lots of unfiltered access to express themselves," says Richard M. Southall, an associate professor of sport and entertainment at the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

When Mr. Mora urged the quarterback to be "socially responsible," Mr. Southall says, "I suspect this was doublespeak for protecting the university athletic-department brand."

UCLA’s student-athlete code of conduct urges "extreme caution" in posting on social media. "While we encourage and fully support freedom of speech, expression, and association, we also ask that you be cognizant of the fact that you are representing yourself, UCLA, the athletic department, and your team every time you use social media," it reads. "Always remember that inappropriate postings can follow you for life."

Far from trying to silence athletes, UCLA coaches encourage them to find their voices, says Josh Rupprecht, an associate athletic director at the university.
"In doing so, we want them to be educated on what they actually speak out about and be able to back up their thoughts with intelligent discourse," Mr. Rupprecht wrote in an email to The Chronicle.

**3 Role Models, All Republican**

In a radio interview in May, Mr. Mora said UCLA has a long history of athletes, like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Walton, who were "socially aware and not afraid to rattle the cage a little bit."

But times are different, players' actions are hyper-analyzed today, and they should think before they speak, Mr. Mora said.

He said he had urged Mr. Rosen to take a page from the playbooks of Tom Brady, Troy Aikman, and Peyton Manning — all college quarterbacks who became standout professional athletes — and not Johnny Manziel, the Heisman Trophy winner whose NFL career has been plagued by allegations of substance abuse and domestic violence.

Mr. Mora didn’t mention that all three of the athletes he praised are committed Republicans (Mr. Brady has described Mr. Trump as a "good friend") — a point that an editorial in the Los Angeles Times seized on.

The piece was written by Peter Dreier, a professor of politics at Occidental College, and Kelly Candaele, a documentary producer and former trustee of the Los Angeles Community College District.

"Maybe Mora was merely trying to give Rosen some friendly career advice: Don’t alienate fans or jeopardize potentially lucrative commercial endorsements," they wrote. "But Mora’s picks for positive role models fit into a disturbing pattern in college sports: Outspoken conservatives are admired and forthright liberals, not so much."
Mr. Rosen did not respond to repeated requests for an interview.

Mr. Mora also declined to comment, but his assistant, Mr. Rupprecht, says that the coach’s objection was to the use of profanity in the Trump post.

Others see an attempt to keep players from rocking the boat with corporate sponsors.

"One of the challenges student-athletes face is that while coaches want them to think critically on the field, they don’t want them to do the same critical thinking off the field," says Emmett Gill, an assistant professor of social work at the University of Texas at San Antonio who also heads the nonprofit Student-Athletes Human Rights Project, which encourages activism by athletes.

"If coaches continue to try to silence student-athletes during a time when our nation is facing some very critical issues in terms of the presidential campaign and racial issues, they’re simply stifling their development," he adds.

Many athletes become depressed when they feel that they lack any identity outside of sports, especially when their playing days are over, Mr. Gill says.

**Protests like the ones that rocked the University of Missouri at Columbia last year, which helped topple the campus’s chancellor and the system’s president, demonstrate the power players can have beyond the field, he says. The players’ threat to boycott practices and at least one key game until the president stepped down amplified the demonstrations over complaints of racism on the campus.**

"There’s a four-year window for many of these students to have an impact," Mr. Gill says. "Now is the prime time for these athletes to comment on issues, and it would be socially irresponsible for them not to."
Christian D. Green, who graduated from UCLA this spring and will start a master’s program in African-American studies this fall, says he and other campus activists have been frustrated in their efforts to get minority athletes to speak out about racism, police violence, and other issues. Some fear losing scholarships or leadership positions, he says.

"These athletes are making millions of dollars for the school, which doesn’t want them to say anything negative or controversial" that will hurt the UCLA brand or jeopardize their contracts, Mr. Green says. High-profile athletes like Mr. Rosen should be able to use their positions to influence others, not feel they need to hide from controversy, he adds.

Daron K. Roberts, founding director of the Center for Sports Leadership and Innovation at the University of Texas at Austin, agrees.

"In the past, student-athletes have been criticized for being unwilling to tackle social and political issues with their voice," he wrote in an email.

When they speak out at places like Missouri and Northwestern University, where football players led an unsuccessful effort to unionize, they’re criticized for being on the wrong side of an issue, Mr. Roberts added.

"We should afford student-athletes with the same latitude in beliefs as we do other Americans," he wrote.

Looking ahead to the fall, some predict that athletes might be tempted to weigh in during a raucous presidential campaign and lingering racial tensions over police shootings.

Mr. Southall isn’t holding his breath.

"I’m not optimistic that we’ll see a groundswell of social activism" by athletes, he says. "They’ve been taught for years to obey authority, and they’ve seen the response to athletes who speak out."