Mizzou softball players, interim coach move on from Earlywine firing

By: Alex Schiffer

COLUMBIA-- Missouri interim softball coach Gina Fogue spoke to reporters Monday for the first time since replacing longtime coach Ehren Earleywine. Fogue played and coached under Earleywine and said it’s been a difficult few weeks for the team since Missouri announced it was parting ways with him, but she thinks the team is trending upward.

“It’s been difficult for sure for them,” Fogue said. “We spent a lot of time in one-on-one meetings. The team is just focusing on what we have to do.”

Fogue said the independent meetings she held were mainly for players to vent their feelings, and she thought the response was positive.

She declined to elaborate on the administration approaching her to take the interim job or if she would like to use the season as an audition for the permanent job. Fogue said taking the interim job was bittersweet since it’s a great opportunity but a tough situation.

Fogue has spent 11 years as either a player or coach for Earleywine and said a lot of her coaching style will be reflective of his.

“That’s what I learned,” she said. “And I think that on-field approach worked. As a player, as a coach, you’re always thinking what can you do better. There’s things I’m going to keep, there’s things I’m going to tweak.”

For the players, they couldn’t have asked for a better situation.

Junior infielder Rylee Pierce said the situation with Fogue “couldn’t have been more ideal” since an outside hire would have caused them to go through the season in a new system while getting acquainted with a new coach.

Sophomore shortstop Braxton Burnside said Earleywine’s firing has brought the team closer together and has further motivated the players.

Burnside said she’s seen people say that the program is going to take a step backward with Earleywine’s departure and finds that inaccurate since he never physically won any games for Missouri.
“As far as I’m concerned Coach E never hit a ball, he never threw a ball, never pitched a ball,” she said. “We did all that.”

Missouri opens the season on Thursday in Tempe, Ariz., against San Jose State in the Kajikawa Classic.

Burnside said the start of the season won’t distract the team from the Earleywine news. They’ve been over it for a while and are ready to get going.

“We’ve already moved on from it,” she said. “We took it, we accepted it. We got all of our emotions out of the way. We are 100 percent behind Coach Gina.”

Similar story ran in the Columbia Tribune

Reducing readmissions to keep Central Missouri healthy

By Bryan Bliven and Dr. Thomas Selva

More than five million Americans suffer from congestive heart failure (CHF), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CHF is not only a devastating outcome, but also a diagnosis that is responsible for putting seemingly recovered, recently-released patients back in the hospital.

While many patients enter the hospital for one reason — a broken bone or an infection — they are often suffering from an underlying condition, like CHF, that isn’t always identified on admission. Patients suffering from CHF may have no idea, nor exhibit any obvious signs or symptoms of this serious, chronic condition.

Recognizing that readmission rates are on the rise nationwide, and that CHF is a key contributor to this trend, University of Missouri Health Care set out to identify an innovative way to help prevent our patients from returning to the hospital due to CHF.

Within just nine short months of developing and launching a program to tackle this concerning trend, we were able to reduce our patient readmission rate due to CHF by more than 33 percent.

How did we do it?
A dedicated team of staff members, committed to ongoing quality improvement, conducted extensive research and analysis of our patients’ medical records, and were able to identify and isolate key indicators for CHF. Using this information, the team partnered with our IT specialists to create an algorithm that could be applied to the electronic health records used throughout our hospital system.

The technology — known here as CHF Identification Innovation — analyzes patient histories and symptoms, and then alerts our health care providers if their patients are at risk for CHF.

In the fast-paced environment that is a hospital, communication between departments is vital, which is why leveraging technology to serve our patients is even more important. Thankfully, adopting electronic health records has increased communication, used predictive technological methods to better assess patients, and made demonstrable improvements in health outcomes for MU Health Care’s patients.

**What’s next?**

Given the success, our team believes the program can be replicated elsewhere, applying the same algorithmic principles across an entire health system. This type of detection technology will prove even more important in the years to come, with more than 150 million people across the country estimated to be living with at least one chronic condition.

At MU Health Care, we’re working to adapt the algorithm to screen for a range of other diseases and conditions, which we’re confident will go a long way in helping us further reduce readmissions and improve overall patient care.

As members of the dedicated team that worked hard on this technology, we are incredibly proud of the development of this first-class program — especially for the dramatic results we’ve seen in improving our patients’ lives.

That’s the type of work we believe in at MU Health Care, and we will never stop working to better serve our patients and our community.