
From: Art Chansky [achansky@tarheelsports.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 7:07 PM
To: Holden Thorp
Subject: Private and Confidential

Importance: High

Holden,

Obviously, I write this as a UNC alumnus and with the highest degree of confidentiality.

This must be an extremely difficult situation to deal with, as the moving parts change almost dally. What to say for the good of the university in the short run and the long run are tough words to craft.

If, at the end of this ordeal, we need to find a new football coach, that does not necessarily mean a huge step backward for the program, both on the field and financially. Not if we are traveling a parallel path to plan for such a contingency.

You know Jim Delany and I know you have heard of Eddie Fogler. Both are classmates, fraternity brothers and very close friends. Of course, you are aware that Jim has become the most influential man in college athletics, with wide-reaching circles of influence. You may not know that Eddie, in his retirement from coaching, works almost secretly as a one-man search firm for colleges looking for new coaches.

Eddie helped place Bob Huggins at Kansas State (before he returned to West Virginia), John Beilein at Michigan, Tom Crean at Indiana and Darrin Horn at South Carolina, among others. He makes arrangements with athletic directors and/or presidents to research candidates who meet specified criteria set up by that school. He operates on his own for the schools, not as part of a big search firm that has a "stable" of coaches they want to place and thus often border on conflicts of interest.

Unofficially, Jim has helped many schools find the right football or basketball coach to fill a vacancy. And his love and loyalty for this university is unquestioned.

In this manner, an athletic director or president from a school looking for a coach can truthfully say he has had no direct contact with any potential candidates. Hiring a high-profile search firm or well-known consultant such as Chuck Neinas defeats the purpose of that statement because people know the search is on regardless.

If we were to make a change, it would divide our alumni and fans because Butch is so popular in some circles. The only solution is to galvanize our supporters with a hire that trumps the firing or resignation almost immediately afterward.

If you would consider this as part of your contingency plan, I can give you Jim's and Eddie's private telephone numbers. Neither of them knows I am writing this email, and they never will if you do not act on it.

Like many alumni, I am sick over how this scandal has tainted the 50-year reputation of a school that has "done it the right way." Most of the time, that stain cannot be erased without a complete change of command.

Seeking big-time football, our Board of Trustees tried this in 2006, and it could turn out that they failed to bring in a coach who properly represented and respected the heritage they sought to protect. They are Trustees, not people who have worked in college athletics their entire lives and know the reputations of coaches even if they were never linked to an NCAA violation.

Thanks for reading this. I reiterate this will remain strictly between us.