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KEVIN KLEPS BLOG

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Tri-C suspends fall and winter sports; coaches in six programs are part of institution's layoffs

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Cuyahoga Community College

Tri-C is suspending its six fall and winter sports programs because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Calling the risk "too great" because of the COVID-19 crisis, [Cuyahoga Community College](#) has suspended its fall and winter sports seasons.

In a news release on Monday, June 8, Tri-C said "it would be challenging, if not impossible,"

The decision affects six programs: men's and women's basketball, women's cross country, women's indoor track and field, women's volleyball and men's soccer. Two of Tri-C's Ohio Community College Athletic Conference rivals – Owens Community College (based in Perrysburg) and Sinclair Community College (headquartered in Dayton) – also have suspended athletics for some or all of the 2020-21 school year.

Tri-C said it will honor scholarships and work with student-athletes on their "academic and athletic pursuits."

The coaches in the six programs, though, will be out of work, a Tri-C spokesperson told Crain's. The coaches are among the layoffs that the school is implementing as it works to address a projected shortfall of \$25 million for 2020-21.

Last month, when Tri-C **announced** the estimated hit to its budget, it said nonbargaining employees making at least \$100,000 will have their salaries reduced on a sliding scale. President Alex Johnson will take a 10% pay cut, and staff reductions and consolidations will be implemented.

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Employees with at least one year of service have also been offered a voluntary separation package.

Tri-C said on Monday that a decision regarding the 2021 spring sports season will be made in the fall. That decision will impact the Triceratops' baseball and softball programs.

CSU's athletes set record for GPA

Cleveland State's impressive streak of its student-athletes posting a cumulative grade-point of at least 3.0 is now up to 27 semesters.

The Vikings, in fact, set an athletic department record with an average GPA of 3.66 last spring. The impressive semester improved the average career GPA of CSU's 330-plus student-athletes to 3.37.

For the first time, the Vikings' 18 sports programs all posted a GPA of at least 3.0 in the spring, the school said. The women's soccer program led the way with a norm of 3.89, followed closely by volleyball (3.88), men's tennis (3.87), women's golf (3.86), women's

CSU had 155 student-athletes named to the Dean's List, which requires a GPA of 3.25 and a minimum of 12 graded credit hours, and 46 placed on the President's List, whose honorees have GPAs of at least 3.9 and 15 graded credits.

"The late-semester transition to remote delivery of classes presented unprecedented circumstances, and Viking student-athletes more than stepped up to take on the challenge," CSU director of athletics Scott Garrett said in a news release.

Cavs executive named CHC board chair

Kevin Clayton, the Cavs' vice president of diversion, inclusion and community engagement, has been named the board chair of [Community Health Charities](#).

Clayton, who was hired by the Cavs in 2019, was a unanimous selection for the new role at Alexandria, Va.-based CHC, which has partnered with almost 2,000 nonprofits and works with 1,600 businesses and organizations.

In a news release, Clayton said it's "humbling and a great honor to lead such a diverse board of talented executives."

Clayton leads the Cavs' inclusion, diversity, engagement, awareness and leadership team, which played [an integral role](#) in the organization's response following the killing of George Floyd by former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin.

Clayton is a former executive at Bon Secours Mercy Health, the American Cancer Society, the U.S. Tennis Association, Russell Corp. and Procter & Gamble.

"Kevin's leadership and guidance have already had a profound impact on our awareness and understanding of the urgent need to use our resources and the power of our nonprofit and corporate partners to address health disparities in communities," CHC president and CEO Thomas G. Bognanno said.

You can [follow me on Twitter](#) for sports information and analysis, and you can go [here](#) to read a Q&A with Clayton on his role with the Cavs and his Northeast Ohio roots.

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