



By John Harris Jr. VILLAGER Sports Columnist

Dawn Staley: Modern-Day Game Changer

college Black basketball coach to win multiple national championships, what other coach in sports right now is doing what Staley just did without flinching?

Nobody.

A few weeks ago, Staley canceled a two-game basketball series against BYU - one game scheduled as this season's home opener and one scheduled for next year at BYU - following a situation between the BYU student section and a Black Duke University volleyball player who said she was called the N-word during a match.

"As a head coach, my job is to do what's best for my players and staff," Staley said on Sept. 2 in explaining her

decision to not travel with her predominately Black basketball team to the Mormon university in Provo, Utah. "The incident at BYU has led me to reevaluate our home-and-home, and I don't feel that this is the right time for us to engage in this series."

BYU initially banned the accused fan and then conducted an "investigation," backed by the West Coast Conference, which determined that no racial slur was used and lifted the ban against the fan. Whatever.

In case you're curious, Google the racial history of BYU.

Staley stood by her decision, regretting only that her athletic director, Ray Tanner, and other

school officials were drawn into her controversial but heartfelt decision.

"It wasn't a knee-jerk reaction. I don't knee-jerk anything," Staley said.

"I vetted it. I talked to various people that were a part of the situation. I slept on it a few nights and I woke up with the same gut feeling that I shouldn't put our players in the situation... If something were to happen in that manner, I don't have the words to comfort them."

That's when all hell broke loose.

Something called the South Carolina Freedom Caucus, which includes over a dozen state lawmakers, fired off what could best be

described as an angry retort to the Black women's basketball coach authored and endorsed by a group of conservative White politicians - all in full support of BYU.

"Given the totality of the circumstances, it seems the University of South Carolina rushed to appease the loudest voices of the far-Left by 'canceling' BYU, both literally and figuratively, without respect for the truth," the letter read.

It gets worse.

In conclusion, the letter demanded that South Carolina's state university issue a public and immediate apology to BYU. "If our citizens are to have faith in our public institutions, then they must not kowtow

to counterfeit outrage. Doing so only hurts and weakens those who have been truly harmed by bigotry and discrimination."

It gets crazier.

Black State Sen. Gerald Malloy criticized the South Carolina Freedom Caucus, questioning why the group would support a private university in Utah rather than addressing more important issues facing taxpayers in South Carolina.

What a mess. We're talking about the greatest women's college basketball coach in South Carolina history being treated like a common criminal.

So much for Black Girl Magic.

I'm glad I don't live in South Carolina.

(VILLAGER) - Forget Black Girl Magic appearing in the form of The Woman King starring Viola Davis. I'm about to show you what it's really like to be a Black girl living in America.

I believe South Carolina women's basketball coach Dawn Staley is one of the most important and influential college coaches in sports history. Outside of being a walking monument for her gender and race as the only major

Fed attacks inflation with another big hike

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER | AP NEWS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Intensifying its fight against high inflation, the Federal Reserve raised its key interest rate Wednesday by a substantial three-quarters of a point for a third straight time and signaled more large rate hikes to come — an aggressive pace that will heighten the risk of an eventual recession.

The Fed's move boosted its benchmark short-term rate, which affects many consumer and business loans, to a range of 3% to 3.25%, the highest level since

early 2008.

The officials also forecast that they will further raise their benchmark rate to roughly 4.4% by year's end, a full point higher than they had envisioned as recently as June. And they expect to raise the rate again next year, to about 4.6%. That would be the highest level since 2007.

By raising borrowing rates, the Fed makes it costlier to take out a mortgage or an auto or business loan. Consumers and businesses then presumably borrow and

spend less, cooling the economy and slowing inflation.

Falling gas prices have slightly lowered headline inflation, which was a still-painful 8.3% in August compared with a year earlier. Those declining prices at the gas pump might have contributed to a recent rise in President Joe Biden's public approval ratings, which Democrats hope will boost their prospects in the November midterm elections.

Speaking at a news conference, Chair

Jerome Powell said that before Fed officials would consider halting their rate hikes, they would "want to be very confident that inflation is moving back down" to their 2% target. He noted that the strength of the job market is fueling pay gains that are helping drive up inflation.

And he stressed his belief that curbing inflation is vital to ensuring the long-term health of the job market.

"If we want to light the way to another period of a very strong la-

bor market," Powell said, "we have got to get inflation behind us. I wish there was painless way to do that. There isn't."

Fed officials have said they are seeking a "soft landing," by which they would manage to slow growth enough to tame inflation but not so much as to trigger a recession. Yet most economists are skeptical. They say they think the Fed's steep rate hikes will lead, over time, to job cuts, rising unemployment and a full-blown recession late this year or early next year.

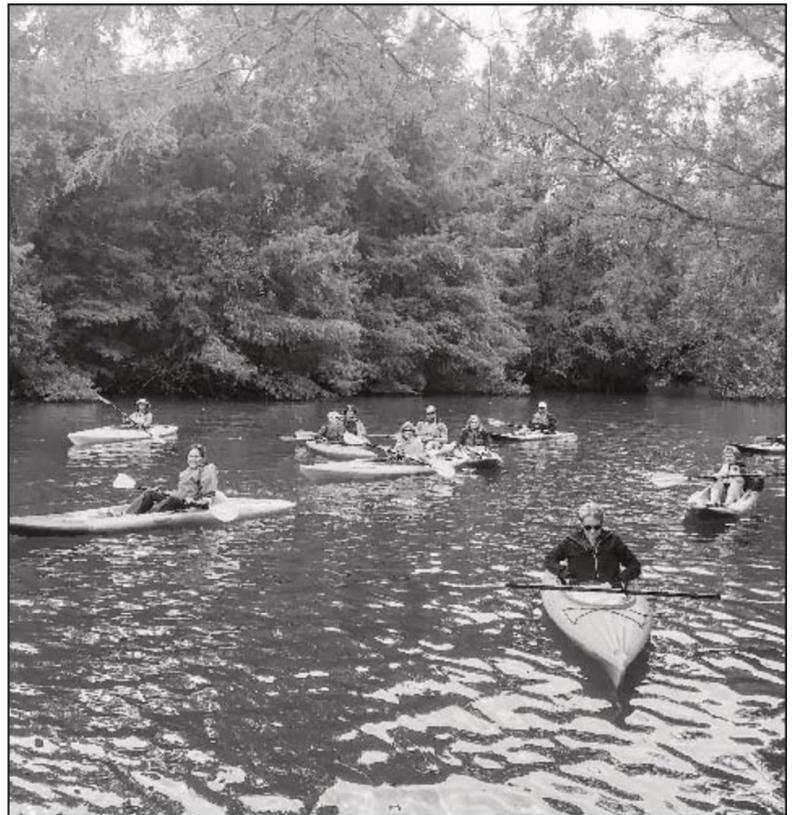


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