

Exhibit A

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
3 OAKLAND DIVISION

4 IN RE COLLEGIATE ATHLETE NIL
5 LITIGATION

Case No. 4:20-cv-03919-CW

Hon. Claudia Wilken

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8 **DECLARATION OF EDDIE REESE**

9 I, Eddie Reese, hereby declare as follows pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746:

10 1. I was the Head Coach of the Men’s Swimming and Diving team at the University
11 of Texas for 46 years, through the end of the 2023-2024 season. During my time at Texas, we
12 won the national championship in men’s swimming and diving 15 times, and we were ranked as
13 a top 3 program for 36 of those 46 seasons. I coached 76 NCAA DI individual champions and
14 55 NCAA DI champion relays. During this time, I also was head coach of the U.S Olympic
15 men’s swim team three times, and I coached 35 Olympic swimmers who collected a total of 68
16 Olympic medals.

17 2. I submit this declaration in support of the filings by the Menke and Weidenbach
18 Objectors to the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement and the Injunctive Relief Settlement, as
19 amended, that were filed in this proceeding on January 31, 2025.

20 3. Texas has already told 13 swimmers on its men’s swimming and diving team that
21 they are being cut. I know these young men well because I recruited all of them, and coached
22 most of them, and they have continued to communicate with me. Texas told them that these cuts
23 are a result of roster limits that were announced as part of the class settlement with the NCAA
24 and the conferences.

25 4. At Texas we created a successful program, and they currently are ranked the
26 number one Division I team in the NCAA. I say this to help convey the quality of the 13 men
27 being cut – they all have the potential to reach a finals race in a national competition. They all
28 should continue competing.

1 5. Unfortunately, not all of them can continue. The only way they can do that, under
2 the existing Settlement Agreement, is by switching to another team through the portal, but this
3 presents a difficult “Sophie’s Choice” for each of them. These athletes chose to attend Texas
4 not only because of the quality of our team, but because of the excellent academics. This balance
5 is difficult to achieve and will not be possible for most or all of them at another school. Leaving
6 Texas also requires pulling up roots that come with belonging to an institution for one or more
7 years, many important relationships in their lives will be affected. Even just testing the waters
8 of a possible transfer presents a dilemma -- if an athlete enters the portal, their current school
9 can end their scholarship immediately and regardless of whether the athlete ends up changing to
10 another school. Whether that would happen here presents another risk. I know that some of the
11 13 men will leave Texas and face these risks to compete at another school.

12 6. I also know that some of them will stay at Texas and take the academic route,
13 unfortunately without being allowed to compete. For every one of these young men, it is a pre-
14 mature ending to their athletic career, even though they are superb athletes who would continue
15 to improve if allowed to stay on the team. None of them will know their “personal best,” a time
16 remembered by all competitive swimmers, and their family, friends, and coaches like me won’t
17 be able to congratulate them. It is a terrible loss for each of them.

18 7. More broadly, the problem will be even larger. Presently there are over 140
19 Division I men’s swimming and diving teams. Based on my decades as a coach, including the
20 numerous discussions and meetings I have had with leading coaches, athletic directors,
21 conference officials, and NCAA executives, representatives, and committee members, I believe
22 that if the proposed settlement is approved by the Court without change, then within five years
23 the number of Division I men’s swimming and diving teams will be reduced to under 50. This
24 is because schools will prioritize the sports that currently earn them the most revenues and
25 because there are no safety nets being placed around other college sports teams. Nobody is
26 taking the side of the great majority of college athletes who just want to compete, including the
27 thousands of swimming and diving athletes who will be cut, first individually and then when
28 their entire team is eliminated.

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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Travis County, Texas

March 14, 2025

Signed by:
Eddie Reese
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Eddie Reese