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#### **OPINION**

## **Player Faces Life Under Microscope**

ichael Sam has been proclaimed by a couple of analysts the most famous and/or most important football player on the sports landscape right now. That may be tremendous hyperbole, but there is no doubt that this kid has become a lightning rod.

Sam is the first openly gay man to be drafted by the National Football League. He came out this past winter after finishing his University of Missouri career by being named the Southeastern Conference co-Defensive Player of the Year. The defensive end was chosen in the seventh and final round of the NFL draft last Saturday by the St. Louis Rams.

His notoriety is unquestioned. If absolutely nothing else, consider reports that Sam's generic Rams' rookie jersey is already one of the five best-selling rookie jerseys on the market right now, even beating out the jersey of No. 1 pick Jadeveon Clowney.

Sam is clearly a trailblazer, whether he wants to be or not. But now he must live under a microscope. The scrutiny has already begun. When he received word Satur-

day that he had been drafted, a video of him kissing his partner was broadcast live on ESPN and immediately went viral. It drew a lot of reaction — some of it positive and some of it negative. And so it begins.

This will be Sam's life for a while — maybe a long while, maybe

He's going to be more than a football player, more than a professional athlete, more than just another man trying to make a living in a very brutal, testosterone-fueled profession.

In some ways, what has happened up until now has been the

It certainly took extraordinary courage to come out about his sexuality. While the acceptance of gays is becoming somewhat more prevalent in parts of our society, it is still a rare thing to see in the realm of professional sports — particularly pro football. Some will accept it, and some never will.

Ultimately, Sam's off-field notoriety will not and cannot matter if he hopes to have an NFL career. He must prove his value on the field and in the trenches, where he is currently regarded as an undersized lineman who makes up for that with smarts and a relentless motor. He will need those things to win a job with the Rams or with any other team.

But what happens if Sam is cut by the team? How would some media treat the Rams for making such a decision? That could prove ugly and perhaps off the mark.

What if Sam fails to catch on anywhere in the league? Would critics cite homophobic tendencies in the NFL's corporate founda-

Then again, what if he makes the cut and cultivates a decent career? Would he be hailed as something more than just a good football player? Would we make him out to be more than just a mere man? Would he change some minds?

Sam bears a lot of weight on his shoulders.

The greatest victory he could achieve is to play long enough in the NFL so that his off-field lifestyle is no longer an issue. If he someday leaves the game quietly and without note — other, perhaps, than for being a great professional football player — that might be a real milestone.

#### ELECTION LETTERS

■ During the election season, the PRESS & DAKOTAN is limiting any letter related to the political campaigns to 150 words. (A letter that exceeds that total by a small margin may be edited down to fit within that parameter.) Letters that surpass that limit will be referred to the advertising department, and author will be given the option of paying to have the letter printed in its entirety elsewhere in the newspaper. Send your letters or questions to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at views@yankton.net.

#### ON THIS DATE

**Bv The Associated Press** 

Today is Wednesday, May 14, the 134th day of 2014. There are 231 days

Today's Highlight in History: On May 14, 1948, by the current-era calendar, the independent state of Israel was proclaimed in Tel Aviv. On this date: In 1643, Louis XIV

became King of France at age four upon the death of his father, Louis XIII. In 1796, English physician Edward Jenner inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps against smallpox by using

cowpox matter.
In 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the Louisiana Territory as well as the Pacific Northwest left camp near present-day Hartford,

In 1863, Union forces defeated the Confederates in the Battle of Jackson,

Mississippi In 1900, the Olympic games opened in Paris, held as part of the 1900 World's Fair.

In 1913, the Rockefeller Foundation was founded in New York. In 1942, Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" was first performed by the

Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. In 1961, Freedom Riders were attacked by violent mobs in Anniston

and Birmingham, Alabama. In 1964, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev joined United Arab Republic President Gamel Abdel Nasser n setting off charges, diverting the Nile River from the site of the Aswan High Dam project.

In 1973, the United States launched Skylab 1, its first manned space station. (Skylab 1 remained in orbit for six years before burning up during re-entry in 1979.) The National Right to Life Committee was incorpo-

In 1988, 27 people, mostly teens, were killed when their church bus collided with a pickup truck going the wrong direction on a highway near Carrollton, Kentucky. (Truck driver Larry Mahoney served 9 1/2 years in prison for manslaughter.)

In 1994, the West Bank town of Jericho saw its first full day of Palestinian self-rule following the withdrawal of Israeli troops, an event celebrated by Palestinians.

Ten years ago: Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper published a front-page apology after photographs supposedly showing British forces abusing Iragi prisoners turned out to be fakes. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to step in and block gay marriages in Massachusetts. A South Korean court reinstated impeached President Roh Moo-hyun. Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik married Australian commoner Mary Donaldson. Actress Anna

Lee died at age 91. Five years ago: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi accused the CIA of misleading her and other lawmakers about the waterboarding of detainees during the Bush administration, disputing Republican charges that she'd been complicit in its use. Chrysler announced plans to eliminate 789 dealerships as part of its restructuring. A pair of spacewalking astronauts installed a new piano-sized camera in

the Hubble Space Telescope. One year ago: In an op-ed appearing in The New York Times Oscar-winning actress Angelina Jolie said she'd undergone a preventive double mastectomy after learning she carried a gene that made it extremely likely she would get breast cancer. Flamboyant Texas huckster Billie Sol Estes died in DeCordova Bend at age

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Patrice Munsel is 89. Photo-realist artist Richard Estes is 82. Former Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., is 72. Rock singer-musician Jack Bruce (Cream) is 71. Movie producer George Lucas is 70. Actress Meg Foster is 66. Movie director Robert Zemeckis is 63. Rock singer David Byrne is 62. Actor Tim Roth is 53. Rock singer Ian Astbury (The Cult) is 52. Rock musician C.C. (aka Cecil) DeVille is 52. Actor Danny Huston is 52. Rock musician Mike Inez (Alice In Chains) is 48. Fabrice Morvan (ex-Milli Vanilli) is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Raphael Saadiq is 48. Actress Cate Blanchett is 45. Singer Danny Wood (New Kids on the Block) is 45. Movie writer-director Sofia Coppola is 43. Actor Gabriel Mann is 42. Singer Natalie Appleton (All Saints) is 41. Singer Shanice is 41. Actress Carla Jimenez is 40. Rock musician Henry Garza (Los Lonely Boys) is 36. Rock singermusician Dan Auerbach is 35. Rock musician Mike Retondo (Plain White "s) is 33. Actress Amber Tamblyn is 31. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is 30. Actress Miranda Cosgrove

Thought for Today: "The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity." — Dorothy Parker, American author, humorist, poet (1893-1967).

#### FROM THE BIBLE

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



# The 6 Principles Of The New Populism

Robert

REICH

BY ROBERT B. REICH

Tribune Content Agency

We're five years into a so-called recovery that's been a bonanza for the rich but a bust for the middle class, which is fueling a new populism. "The game is rigged and the American people know that. They get it right down to their toes," says Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

Left- and right-wing populists remain deeply divided over the role of government. Even so, the major fault line in American politics seems to be shifting, from Democrat vs. Republican to populist vs. establishment those who think the game is rigged vs. those who do the rigging.

The two sides are coming together around six principles:

1. Cut the biggest Wall Street banks down to a size where they're no longer too big to fail. House Republican David Camp, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, recently proposed an extra 3.5 percent quarterly tax on the assets of the biggest Wall Street banks (giving them an incentive to trim down). "There is nothing conservative about bailing out Wall Street," says Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.

2. Resurrect the Glass-Steagall Act, separating investment from commercial banking and thereby preventing companies from gambling with their depositors' money. The Tea Party Tribune criticizes establishment Republicans for not getting behind this: "Of course, the establishment political class would never admit that their financial donors and patrons must hinder their unbridled trading strategies.'

3. End corporate welfare — including subsidies to big oil, big agribusiness, big pharma, Wall Street and the Export-Import Bank. Populists on the left have long been urging this; right-wing populists are joining in. Camp's proposed tax reforms would kill dozens of targeted tax breaks. Says Sen. Ted Cruz: "We need to eliminate corporate welfare and crony

4. Stop the National Security Agency from spying on Americans. House Republican Justin Amash's amendment that would have defunded NSA programs engaging in bulk-data collection garnered votes from 111 Democrats and 94 Republicans last year, highlighting the new populist divide in both parties. Rand Paul warns: "Your rights, especially your right to privacy, is under assault. ... If you own a cell phone, you're under surveillance.'

5. Scale back American interventions overseas. Populists on the left have long been uncomfortable with American forays overseas. Paul is leaning in the same direction. He also tends toward conspiratorial views about American interventionism, claiming that former Vice President Dick Cheney pushed the Iraq War because of his ties to Halliburton.

6. Oppose trade agreements crafted by big corporations. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, drafted in secret by a handful of major corporations, is facing so strong a backlash from

both Democrats and Tea Party Republicans that it's nearly dead. "The Tea Party movement does not support the Trans-Pacific Partnership," says Judson Philips, president of Tea Party Nation. "Special interests and big corporations are being given a seat at the table" while average Americans are excluded.

Tea partiers continue their battle against establishment Republicans in this month's Republican primaries. But the major test will come in 2016, when both parties pick their presidential candidates.

Cruz and Paul are already vying to take on Republican establishment favorites Jeb Bush or Chris Christie.

Warren says she won't run in the Democratic primaries, presumably against Hillary Clinton, but rumors abound. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders hints he might.

Wall Street and big-business Republicans are already signaling they'd prefer a Democratic establishment candidate over a Republican populist.

Dozens of major GOP donors, Wall Street Republicans and corporate lobbyists have told Politico that if Jeb Bush decides against running and Chris Christie doesn't recover politically, they'll support Hillary Clinton. "The darkest secret in the big money world of the Republican coastal elite is that the most palatable alternative to a nominee such as Senator Ted Cruz of Texas or Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky would be Clinton," concludes

Says a top Republican-leaning Wall Street lawyer: "It's Rand Paul or Ted Cruz versus someone like Elizabeth Warren that would be everybody's worst nightmare.

Everybody on Wall Street and in corporate suites, that is. And the "nightmare" may not occur in 2016.

But if current trends continue, some similar "nightmare" is likely coming within the decade. If the American establishment wants to remain the establishment, it will need to respond to the anxiety that's fueling the new populism rather than fight it.

Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. His new film, "Inequality for All," is now out on iTunes, DVD and On Demand.

#### YOUR LETTERS

### **National Day Of Prayer**

**Bob Mason, Yankton** Chairman, National Day of Prayer

May I take this opportunity to offer my deepest appreciation and gratitude to all who participated in the preparation and operation of observing National Day of Prayer on last Thursday, May 1. VFW Post 791 got us off to a proper start with the presentation of colors and we were also honored to have Corey

Briest and his wife Jenny join us at the County

Government Center. I wish to thank the committee members who gave much of their time and effort, the Yankton Area Ministerial Association for their support and Pastor Dani-Jo Ninke and Christ the King Lutheran Church for hosting the Prayer Breakfast. Mayor Nancy Wenande prepared for us an exceptional and well prepared Mayoral Proclamation; Roger Wenzlaff furnished us with an indispensable sound system and Mount Marty College sent us Dean Rettedal for sounding taps and bringing the cere-

mony to a proper conclusion. I must also mention my deep appreciation for the 21 pastors and business people who took part as prayer leaders. Over a dozen different churches from our community were represented. We also had excellent news coverage from our local media and an excellent picture on the front page of Friday's *Press* & Dakotan by Kelly Hertz. It was great to see Bob

#### ABOUT THIS PAGE

■ The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the PRESS & **DAKOTAN.** Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

Cappel join us, former president of the Chamber of Commerce and Associate Pastor at Yankton United Methodist Church. There are probably others I should mention, as we found support everywhere.

However, I cannot close this letter without mentioning that while we as pastors are burdened to testify to this community that God cares, we cannot close without saying that because God cared for us all, so much, that He spared not Jesus, His own Son, but sent Him to the cross to pay a ransom that we cannot pay. To Him belongs all the glory!

#### **Fine Program**

LeRoy Kuestermeyer, Yankton

To Doug Harr and Dave Hosmer: Thank you for a fine program and tribute to World War II veterans. I was very grateful.

#### PRESS & DAKOTAN LETTER POLICY

The PRESS & DAKOTAN encourages its readers to write letters to the editor and asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and

newspaper style in mind. ■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at views@yankton.net.