

Millen's Time Should Be Over

By Matt Tjapkes

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You have to wonder when the Ford family is going to say, "You know what, that's enough" to Matt Millen.

In his latest outstanding move this week, Millen released wide receiver Corey Bradford. You remember Bradford, right? This past off-season's big free agent acquisition? The answer to our No. 2 receiver spot? The guy who was supposed to help mold these young receivers?

Apparently the Lions liked him so much, they decided to give him nearly \$1 million for each ball he caught for them this year. That's right - three catches, \$2.8 million, and the freedom to leave the Lions (which may be the greatest gift the Lions can give).

How much more can the Fords endure before they step in? Just in the last 9 months, they gave up on two top-3 picks (Charles Rogers and Joey Harrington), hired a coach with no head coaching experience, and then rattled off an 0-3 start.

And that's just scratching the surface of this Millen regime. Remember how he turned that 9-7 team that just missed the playoffs instantly into a 2-14 disaster? Or how about calling a player a "devout coward" on a sports radio program? Or that homosexual slur he yelled at Jonnie Morton?

Well, if embarrassing the organization and wasting it's money isn't going to do it, then it's time for the fans to step up. It's time to officially give up on the Lions.

The best things fans can do to get their message across right now is to not spend money or time on the Lions. Don't go to the games. Don't watch them on TV. Don't buy their merchandise. Save yourself the pain and sorrow, and the money.

There's plenty of other things to cheer about in Detroit right now. We've got playoff baseball for the first time in 19 years. Basketball and hockey are just around the corner. There are good things happening in the Detroit sports world, so why even pay attention to the bad?

The fans have always been the consistent factor for the Lions. The stadium is always sold out on game day. The support is always there. But what would happen if that support, and the money, goes away?

The Fords would have to notice then.

Quick Shots

Speaking of football, do you think Michigan State has Steve Mariucci's phone number on speed dial?

Did the Cowboys really think the circus that constantly surrounds Terrell Owens wouldn't follow him to Dallas?

I'm a huge White Sox fan for three days. Sticking the Yankees with the Twins in the first round would be a big boost to the Tigers' World Series hopes.

Questions? Comments? Insults? Email me at mtjapkes@grandhaventribune.com