

## Donald Trump continues to use sports to fuel his misguided politics

Carron J. Phillips

February 7, 2018

For the second time in seven days, President Trump has used the pain of others as a ploy to push his racist immigration policies.

Last week during his State of the Union address, Trump used grieving parents of color whose children had been killed by the MS-13 gang during his speech as examples of why his ideologies on immigration should be put into action.

It was another example of how there isn't a level too low the President will stoop to incite and fire up his base of supporters.

And on Tuesday, Trump took to Twitter to share his thoughts on Edwin Jackson, a member of the Indianapolis Colts who was killed early Sunday morning by a suspected drunk driver who is in the country illegally.

"So disgraceful that a person illegally in our country killed @Colts linebacker Edwin Jackson. This is just one of many such preventable tragedies. We must get the Dems to get tough on the Border, and with illegal immigration, FAST!" he wrote.

"My prayers and best wishes are with the family of Edwin Jackson, a wonderful young man whose life was so senselessly taken. @Colts."

Trump's next two tweets included a poll from The Daily Caller explaining that seven in 10 Americans support immigration reform and a statement on why the country needs a merit-based immigration system because "chain migration and the visa lottery are outdated programs that hurt our economic and national security."

But here's the question in all of this.

If Manuel Orrego-Savala, who was a citizen of Guatemala and had been deported in 2007 and 2009, was white and from Norway, would Trump have used Jackson's death as a springboard to launch this social media rhetoric on immigration?

The answer is no.

How do I know?

Because Colts owner Jim Irsay has a history of driving under the influence of drugs, and Trump has never mentioned him before.

Back in 2014, Irsay was arrested and charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated and four counts of possession of a controlled substance. And according to reports, two officers "continuously had to support Irsay in order to prevent him from falling over." Officers also

"recovered numerous prescription medication bottles containing pills," along with \$29,029 in cash in Irsay's car. He also admitted to having hydrocodone, oxycodone and, alprazolam (Xanax) in his system when he was arrested.

According to information from recent Gallup polls and research from the Cato Institute, the data is proving that the President is wrong as American's feelings on immigration have changed for the positive over the last decade, on top of immigrants being less likely to commit crimes in America compared to native-born residents.

Those facts can be proven by remembering that recent violent shootings like Las Vegas, Sandy Hook, and ones in movie theatres in Colorado and churches in Charleston and Texas were not committed by immigrants, but white American-born terrorists.

"We were heartbroken to hear the news of Edwin Jackson's passing," the Colts said in a statement. Irsay recently announced that he will be paying for the funerals of both Jackson and Uber driver Jeffrey Monroe, who was also killed in the accident.

"Edwin was loved by all in the Colts organization. We admired his outgoing personality, competitive spirit and hard-working mentality. He was well-respected among all with whom he crossed paths, and he will be greatly missed in our locker room and throughout our entire organization. We also understand that another person lost his life in the accident, only adding to our sorrow on this day. We are shocked and saddened by this tragedy, and our thoughts and prayers are with the families of both men during this difficult time."

In a time in which the Jackson and Monroe families and the Colts should be grieving, the President has interrupted their sacred time by yet again using sports to fuel his politics.

Unfortunately, it's nothing we haven't seen before, and something we should be used to.