Texas Longhorns offensive lineman Christian Jones (70) carries the team flag as they take to the field to take on Rice University at NRG Stadium in Houston on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019.

Photo: Elizabeth Conley, Houston Chronicle / Staff photographer
Regarding “UConn becomes first in FBS to cancel football season,” (C6, Aug. 6): Since attending college I have been an enthusiastic fan of college athletics. For three years I served as a faculty representative on the University of Texas (UT) Men’s Athletics Council. During that time my appreciation of student athletes, administration and coaches grew substantially—and I became aware of the need for a careful balance between sports revenue and the welfare of student-athletes.

In addition I enjoy watching football games on Saturday, especially my Texas Longhorns and Iowa Hawkeyes, and sometimes this is my favorite day of the week. As unpopular as this will be for football enthusiasts and alumni, I believe more colleges and universities should follow the lead of the University of Connecticut and cancel the season—or at least avoid beginning the season until it is safe. Our current COVID-19 environment demands we place health above entertainment and revenue. Anything less is an exercise in self-delusion and greed.

I hope, therefore, presidents and athletics directors will re-think their decision to schedule football games this season. Doing so will illustrate true leadership and moral fortitude—the very thing we want students to learn.

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