## Costello's future at Milwaukee looks doubtfu

MILWAUKEE — He's one of five National Basketball Association coaches to top the 400-victory mark. This year, he has coached the Milwaukee Bucks to their fifth Midwest Division title in six years and into the NBA playoffs without 7-foot-2 center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, now with Los

But Larry Costello finds his future with the Bucks in doubt, despite a 407-249 record — that's a .621 per-

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Reports during the weekend told of a move by some of the team's di-rectors, especially cable television magnate James Fitzgerald, to fire possibly club president Bill Alver-Costello and give his job to Hubie Brown, coach of the American Bas-ketball Association's Louisville Colonels and a former assistant to Costello. And Costello said he thinks

there's some truth to the rumors. Fitzgerald, contacted Monday,

was attempting to sway enough of the 12 members of the Bucks' board

I just don't think these things belong being tried in the press," said Fitzgerald, who began buying into the club two years ago and now heads a group which holds the most shares, about 30 per cent. "The

make this decision."

Asked whether he could verify a

report that he had offered Brown the coaching job, without approval of the board of directors, he declined, adding: "I don't want to get going down that road." He also said, however, that management should have determined soon after last season, when the Bucks failed to make the playoffs, whether Costello would continue as coach, instead of "keep-

ing him on a limb."

Fitzgerald said he believed the board's next meeting would be May 4, although there always "could be

one sooner."

Costello, whose contract expires in June, commented on the situation after the Bucks ended the regular season Sunday night. The Bucks open a playoff series with Detroit here Tuesday night. "I guess it's true," he said of the

reports he's on his way out. "I just

wish some of those guys would say it to my face instead of knifing me from behind the scenes.

"I'm concerned, no question," he said, "but I'll be damned if it will get me down. I'm not the type of guy who quits. I won't quit. If anything, I'll work harder.

Costello had one vote of confidence Sunday night.

When the public address announcer at the Milwaukee Arena ended his introduction of the Bucks

Milwaukee Bucks . . Larry Costello," the o erupted in vigorous wild cheering that la nutes or more – from Costello.





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