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## Wiggins completes drug rehabilitation

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Houston Rockets guard Mitchell Wiggins, banned from the NBA for life because of drug abuse, has completed a rehabilitation program and says he is ready to resume playing basketball.

His smile was back and said he hoped to sign with a Continental Basketball Association team.

"I want people to know that I'm on the path back, not just in terms of basketball but in terms of getting my life straightened out," Wiggins said Tuesday in a brief visit to the Rockets offices.

Wiggins, who tested positive for drug use and was banned on Jan. 13 along with teammate Lewis Lloyd, said he did not want to leave Houston before giving Rockets General Manager Ray Patterson a progress report on his recovery.

"Ray has been influential in my career and in my life," Wiggins said. "He has been a good friend, and I couldn't go away without seeing him face-to-face and letting him know how I was doing."

Wiggins, 27, won't be allowed to seek readmission to the NBA until January 1989 at the earliest and then would have to win approval from both the league and the players' association.

In the meantime, he hopes to play in the CBA.

"I don't foresee any problem in getting into the league," he said. "I know I'm coming back a better player."

Carl Scheer, the CBA's commissioner, said no decision had been made on whether Wiggins would be welcome.

"I heard from his agent, and I told him our policy mirrors the

NBA's and that I would have to review the circumstances which resulted in his being terminated in the NBA before making any decision," Scheer said from his Denver office.

Wiggins says he has no bitterness at the system that banned him from the NBA although former teammate John Lucas, twice suspended for drug usage, is now playing for the Milwaukee Bucks.

"I have only myself to blame," Wiggins said. "Mitchell has to get Mitchell out of this."

Under the NBA's policy, players who volunteer for drug rehabilitation are not banned from the league. Neither Wiggins nor Lloyd volunteered for treatment, and the NBA said it learned about their problem through other sources.

"A guy like Lucas has nine lives," Wiggins said. "He suffered through a lot of mistakes. I'm determined that this will be my only mistake. I still consider myself fortunate, because I've got my health and I've been awakened to this problem."

"The rehabilitation is more important than basketball."

The Rockets did not practice Tuesday so Wiggins missed seeing his former teammates. Some of them, as well as players on other teams, have expressed little sympathy for Wiggins or Lloyd.

"It's kind of an awkward situation, but in time I'm sure I'll get the opportunity to talk with all of the guys," Wiggins said. "I leave behind a lot of good friends on this team. I wish them the best, and I know they wish the best for me."

Wiggins said his goal is to return to the NBA.

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COLOR OF MONEY (R) 7:35 9:55  
\$ DOLLAR DAYS \$  
This Week's Features Are:  
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TOP GUN R 7:10 9:40  
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## Use of Bosworth in ads may break NCAA rules

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — The use of photographs of Oklahoma linebacker Brian Bosworth in advertising for a group of fitness centers appears to violate NCAA rules and could make him ineligible for a final season with the Sooners, a school official said Wednesday.

But the president of the Tulsa-based fitness center that used the pictures said Wednesday the promotion, which included Bosworth's scheduled appearance at a Broken Arrow club Saturday, was planned without Bosworth's knowledge or permission.

"We didn't realize what a commotion or stir-up could be caused," said Jim Benien, president of the All American Fitness and Racquetball Center. "We never even talked to Bosworth. We didn't want to do anything to endanger his eligibility."

Benien's comments appeared to contradict those of Gary Reall, director of advertising for the fitness center, who said earlier Wednesday the photos were used with Bosworth's knowledge.

"We do have permission from him to use it," Reall told *The Tulsa Tribune*. "It's being handled by some people out of Norman for us. He's coming down here Saturday. He's going to be working out in the club and greeting some people. He's not being paid. He's doing it out of friendship to us."

Bosworth, whose flamboyant style made the All-America linebacker one of the nation's best-known players last season, has yet to say formally whether he intends to stay with the Sooners.

He has a year of eligibility remaining, but if he graduates this spring as expected, he can play in the NFL. Bosworth must make his decision by April.

Dan Gibbens, Oklahoma faculty representative for the National Collegiate Athletic Association, said the advertisements may mean Bosworth has forfeited his remaining year of college eligibility.

"It is a violation for a player to allow his picture, name or person to be used for a commercial purpose," Gibbens said.

Gibbens said the school would conduct an internal inquiry.

He said payment is not a factor in the NCAA rule.

But Gibbens said a key element is whether Bosworth gave his permission for his name and photograph to be used.

If he did not, "strictly speaking, it is no violation at all," he said.

Benien said club officials were told by a friend of Bosworth's that he would be using the Broken Arrow club Saturday and decided to capitalize on his presence there. Benien would not identify the friend.

Earlier this month, Bosworth said he would like to return for a final season with the Sooners. He turned down an invitation to participate in the television Superstars competition to preserve his eligibility.

Bosworth was unavailable for immediate comment about the advertising that appeared in the *Tulsa World*, *The Tulsa Tribune* and on at least one Tulsa television station.

Mike Treps, Oklahoma sports information director, said players' pictures and names sometimes are used "without our knowing they're going to be used in that vein."

Coach Barry Switzer said last month he is convinced Bosworth will not return for a final year at Oklahoma.

However, Bosworth said Feb. 7 he wanted to return to Oklahoma.

"I don't see why I should leave a place where I'm comfortable to go to a place where I might not be as comfortable," Bosworth said at the time. "I've gotten used to winning too much, and with next year's schedule, climate and atmosphere we have a chance to win the national championship."

The ad for the All American Fitness and Racquetball Center shows three photos of Bosworth and says "Come see the 'Boz' you've read so much about. Saturday, Feb. 21st at the All American Fitness Broken Arrow Club."

Gibbens said the NCAA rule has some "fuzzy edges" and is the subject of frequent inquiries, but he said the advertisement appeared "on the surface" to be a violation of the rule.

If Bosworth is found to be in violation of the rule, Oklahoma officials could petition the NCAA for a return of his eligibility, Gibbens said.

## Meyer voted top nominee for AP Coach of Year award

NEW YORK (AP) — DePaul Coach Joey Meyer laughed at the news that he led nominations announced Wednesday for the Associated Press Coach of the Year in college basketball.

"I'm flattered," he said. "I never really thought about it. This is just my third year. I'm so used to the shadows, it doesn't jibe with my mentality."

Meyer received 316 points and 12 first place ballots to 308 for Iowa's Tom Davis, who also had 12 first place votes. John Chaney of Temple was third with 11 firsts and 296 points followed by Jerry Tarkanian of Nevada-Las Vegas, who had 16 first place votes and 268 points. Paul Evans of Pitt was fifth with 167 points and three first place votes.

Balloting was conducted among the college basketball poll writers and broadcasters who participate in the weekly AP Poll. They voted for five coaches, with a first place vote worth 10 points. Nominees got 8 for second, 6 for third, 4 for fourth and 2 for fifth.

Bob Knight of Indiana (96 points), Purdue's Gene Keady (92), Cliff Ellis of Clemson (75), Providence's Rick Pitino (74) and Dean Smith of North Carolina (72), completed the top 10 finishers, who all appear on the final ballot. Last year's winner, Kentucky's Eddie Sutton, did not receive a vote.

The same panel will vote next month for Coach of the Year and the winner will be announced at the Final Four in New Orleans.

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