

Ex-Rebel joins NBA coaches unemployed

Theus canned as Kings leader

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Reggie Theus got barely more than 100 games to lead the Sacramento Kings before they headed in yet another direction with yet another new head coach.

Theus was fired by Sacramento after a 6-18 start to his second season with the club.

Assistant coach Kenny Natt took over the last-place Kings for Monday night's game against Minnesota.

Natt, a first-time head coach who has the job on an interim basis, is the fourth coach in less than three years for the Kings, who are in disarray after a prolonged run as one of the NBA's elite clubs earlier in the decade.

Assistant coach Chuck Person was fired along with Theus, who went 44-62 in his brief tenure with Sacramento.

The Kings lost 10 of their last 11 to fall into the Pacific Division cellar, with only a win over the Los Angeles Lakers in the last 3-1/2 weeks.

Sacramento's 24-point home loss to the New York



Former UNLV player Reggie Theus was fired as head coach of the Sacramento Kings after coaching about 100 games.

Knicks on Saturday night — the ninth loss in 10 games at Arco Arena — was Theus' final game.

"When you look at the overall level of performance that we've experienced this year, it's just not where we want to be," said Geoff Petrie, the Kings' top basket-

ball executive. "Sometimes you just need to try a different voice if you want to try and change things. It's not about just any one game."

Theus is the sixth coach fired in the NBA already this season, following P.J. Carlesimo (Oklahoma City), Eddie Jordan (Washington),

Sam Mitchell (Toronto), Randy Wittman (Minnesota) and Maurice Cheeks (Philadelphia), who was dismissed Saturday.

Theus said he was grateful for the opportunity to run an NBA club early in his coaching career, claiming he wouldn't change anything about his short tenure in Sacramento. "It was a great experience, and I just wish I could have seen it through," Theus told KHTK-AM, the Kings' flagship radio station. "For it to have been better, a lot of things would have had to have been different... I think we were entertaining. Good and bad, when people came to games, it was fun."

Theus played 13 seasons in the NBA, memorably scoring the first basket for the first Kings team in Sacramento after the club's move to Northern California in 1985. He went 38-44 in his debut season as head coach after the Kings hired him away from New Mexico State, where he built a solid program that marked him as an up-and-coming coaching prospect.

Pro hoops' icon preaches health

By Ayana Jones
Special to Sentinel-Voice

PHILADELPHIA (NNPA) — For almost two years, Earl "The Pearl" Monroe was unaware that he was struggling with an enlarged prostate. Back in 1998, Monroe was diagnosed with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), also known as enlarged prostate.

"When I was in my early 50s, I developed symptoms of BPH," Monroe told a group of men during a presentation at Urban Solutions, Inc.

He had urinary symptoms such as a weak stream, difficulty urinating and getting up frequently throughout the night to use the bathroom. He mistakenly attributed the symptoms to getting older until his wife Marita encouraged him to seek medical help.

"More than half the men 50 and older have BPH. A lot of us don't know it, or they are like me — thinking it's only attributed to getting older," said Monroe, who is traveling around the country to educate men about the condition. "It's important that we do see our doctor and dialogue with our doctors about what's wrong. If something is not right, you got to go see your doctor," he told his attentive audience. "Don't be like me and wait two to three years to get something checked out."

Years of being an active athlete have taken quite a toll on Monroe's body. He has undergone 26 operations. Earlier this year, he underwent a laser procedure for his prostate condition.

According to the National Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse, severe BPH can cause serious problems over time such as urine retention and strain on the bladder that can lead to urinary tract infections, bladder or kidney damage, bladder stones and incontinence — the inability to control urination. When BPH is found in its earlier stages, there is a lower risk of developing such complications.



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