

Ryan relents; Uthoff wins part of appeal

Written by Mike Koolbeck
Thursday, 19 April 2012 14:15 -

Uthoff won part of his appeal against Wisconsin Coach Bo Ryan Thursday and now is free to transfer anywhere he wants without penalties, except for other Big Ten schools.

The University of Wisconsin athletic department has removed all the restrictions on Uthoff transferring to Iowa State, Marquette, Florida or any of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) schools.

Uthoff announced last week that he had decided to leave the Wisconsin basketball program after one year and transfer to another school. Ryan imposed restrictions, but Uthoff appealed and met with Wisconsin athletic director Barry Alvarez and associate athletic director Justin Doherty Thursday to discuss the situation.

Wisconsin issued a release Thursday afternoon, saying all the restrictions had been lifted except those on other Big Ten schools.

Alvarez, Doherty and Ryan met Thursday and the decision was reached to lift all of the restrictions, except those on Big Ten schools. That means Uthoff will not be eligible for a scholarship at Iowa or any other Big Ten school during the 2012-13 school year if he transfers there, but he could receive a scholarship the following year.

Uthoff could transfer to Iowa this coming school year as a walk-on, then receive a scholarship the following year. He will not be eligible to play at any NCAA Division I school in 2012-13 due to NCAA transfer rules, but will have three years of eligibility after that.

"Ryan is supportive of denials of Big Ten institutions only and has wanted the appeals process to serve as a means for dialogue to occur between Uthoff and UW Athletics administration," the statement from Wisconsin maintained.

Uthoff can appeal the restrictions on Big Ten schools to the Wisconsin Athletic Board if he wants.

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Uthoff could not be reached for comment as of 3 p.m. Thursday.

Uthoff, a 6-foot-8 forward, starred at Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School and was named Iowa's Mr. Basketball in 2011. He was redshirted at Wisconsin this season as a freshman.

Uthoff told the Metro Sports Report last week that he decided to transfer to find a better "fit" at another school. He is scheduled to visit Creighton on Monday and has other schools on his list as well.

Ryan added Florida to the restricted list this week, making a total of 26 schools that were on the list. Now only 11 Big Ten schools are on the restricted list.