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**Weber Relieved of His Duties**

***Bruce Weber Has Been Fired After Nine Seasons at Illinois***

**Champaign, IL-** The University of Illinois fired men’s basketball coach Bruce Weber on Friday after finishing the regular season with a 17-15 record.

Weber was 210-101 at Illinois. He led the Fighting Illini to six NCAA Tournament appearances over nine seasons that included a trip to the NCAA title game in 2005. Weber was named the National and Big Ten Coach of the Year in 2005. His Illini also finished the 2005 season with a NCAA-record 37 wins. However, Illinois was a disappointing 50-56 in conference play over the past six seasons.

“Fighting Illini fans should expect our basketball team to be a factor in the Big Ten race and in the national conscience each season,” Director of Athletics Mike Thomas said. “The tradition is extremely rich here at Illinois. We will begin a national search immediately to find the very best coach possible for the University of Illinois.”

The university has agreed to honor the terms of Weber’s deal, but also added that he would be relieved of his duties immediately.

“This is a bottom line business,” Weber said. “We all know it. It’s the reality of the coaching profession. But I leave here with no regrets. I believe this program is on solid footing. I am very proud of what this basketball program has accomplished in my tenure.”

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Corey Peterson is the Media Relations Director for the University of Illinois Fighting Illini basketball team.

If you would like more information about this topic, please call Corey Peterson at 918-845-2859 or email Corey at corey.peterson@okstate.edu