

## **Mbakwe May Face Additional Punishment in Miami Felony Case**

October 13, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS -- According to Minnesota Gophers men's basketball coach Tubby Smith, Trevor Mbakwe is "lucky to still be around here." Smith's comments were in response to questions about a DUI arrest this summer.

The DUI arrest triggered probation violations in two other criminal cases, one of which could cause Mbakwe to miss time.

Mbakwe was found guilty of second degree felony assault in Miami this past February and now faces the possibility of additional penalties in that case.

*LateNightHoops.com* spoke on Friday with Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office spokeswoman Terry Chavez who said that Mbakwe "is scheduled to personally appear in our Court to answer to the violation" next Wednesday, October 17.

Ms. Chavez also said that her office did not have an offer to resolve the matter, so it is doubtful that Mbakwe will take a plea on Wednesday. Therefore, the State Attorney's Office anticipates that on Wednesday the case will probably have a future date set for a probation violation hearing.

The DUI arrest was made on July 1, 2012 and Mbakwe, 23, pled guilty on September 10, but the university had not disclosed the matter publicly until questions arose after *LateNightHoops.com* broke the story early Friday afternoon.

Since Mbakwe suffered a season-ending knee injury last winter, he has been found guilty in three separate criminal cases.

Coach Smith did say Mbakwe was initially suspended from all team activities when the DUI incident occurred, but he is now being allowed to participate. The senior forward took part in the team's scrimmage Friday night and was moving around well in his first action since undergoing ACL surgery late last December.

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