

UNC AD Steps Down

Written by Mike Kelly
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Just one day after head football coach Butch Davis was fired by the University of North Carolina, Dick Baddour has announced that he's stepping down as the school's athletic director.

Baddour, who has been the AD at North Carolina the last 14 years, says he will leave as soon as the university hires his replacement. Baddour is in the final year of a three-year contract that expires in June of 2012. Baddour also said that it was important that his successor should hire the school's next football coach.

Chancellor Holden Thorp said Baddour will be in attendance at the school's hearing before the NCAA infractions committee on October 28. And that Baddour will finish out the final year of his contract in another position. Baddour took over as AD at North Carolina in 1997 after John Swofford left to become commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Baddour's departure is the latest development in what has been a bumpy year for the Tar Heels. The NCAA began its investigation last July looking into improper benefits, but that probe later expanded to include academic misconduct. In all, 14 players missed at least one game last season and seven more were forced to sit out the entire 2010 season. The NCAA sent a notification outlining nine potential major violations within the program to the school in June. Thorp also said the university could owe Davis as much as \$2.7 million in contractual obligations. But Thorp also stated that he didn't believe Davis knew anything about any potential violations, but that the investigation was doing too much damage to the school's reputation.