

Pearl Leaves Coaching---For Now

Written by Mike Kelly

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Former University of Tennessee men's basketball coach Bruce Pearl is leaving the coaching ranks to take a job in the grocery store business.

Pearl, who was dismissed from Tennessee last March for failing to provide initial truthful statements about a backyard cookout at his house in 2008 that included high school juniors on an unofficial campus visit, has taken a job as Vice President of Marketing with H.T. Hackney, a wholesale grocery company based in Knoxville, TN. Pearl accepts this job less than a week after receiving a three-year, show-cause penalty from the NCAA's committee on infractions. He received the penalty on August 24. The show-cause penalty limits his ability to get another NCAA Division I coaching job for three years. If he were to be hired while serving this penalty, the school that hires him would receive recruiting restrictions during that period.

Pearl turned down an opportunity to coach the Texas Legends, an NBA Development League franchise of the Dallas Mavericks.