



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **According to the NBA, Van Gundy Admits He Lied** *National Basketball Referees Association (NBRA) Announces Findings*

**WASHINGTON, D.C., May 9, 2005** – Earlier today, the National Basketball Association issued a brief press release stating that Houston Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy has admitted to league officials that no NBA referee spoke with him regarding unfair officiating bias towards Rockets center Yao Ming during Round 1 of the playoffs.

In response to the NBA's press release, Lamell McMorris, who represents all the NBA referees, stated: "Van Gundy flat out lied to the public. And in the process, he called into question the reputations of all NBA game officials, and the integrity of the game itself. These are challenges that can not be overcome with a simple apology."

"Because of Van Gundy's ill-advised comments, many fans have been enraged over the possibility of game-fixing. There has even been a witch-hunt aura emanating from league headquarters, with threats of investigations, lie detector tests, and dismissals of the responsible referees."

"I think that it is naïve to think that the matter is closed, as the league suggests in its press release. The matter will truly be closed only when Van Gundy is fired, and the league and teams stop blaming officials for their woes."

"Are referees perfect and do they never make mistakes? No, that is equally absurd. But they are out there on the court every game trying their best to apply their training and experience fairly and honestly."

#### **About the NBRA**

The National Basketball Referees Association represents 62 active and 14 retired referees who officiate all of the games for the National Basketball Association.