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## Head Men's Basketball Coach Jimmy Collins To Return For 2007-08 Campaign

Collins to resume full-time coaching duties later this spring after a full recovery from an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Feb. 13, 2007

**Chicago, Ill.** - University of Illinois at Chicago Head Men's Basketball Coach [Jimmy Collins](#) announced on Tuesday that he will return to full-time duties later this spring in preparation for the 2007-08 campaign.

Collins underwent a procedure on Jan. 4 to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm and has not been on the sidelines since the squad's contest at Penn on Dec. 21.

"First and foremost, I want to thank everyone for the tremendous support I have received from UIC, the athletic department, the media and all those associated with the Flames family," Collins said. "This has been very difficult and I appreciate the space I have been given to convalesce and get healthy.

"I am very eager to get back into the swing of things, but at the same time I am not yet physically able to return to the day-to-day activities of a head basketball coach, especially the rigors and stress of a competitive practice and game day atmosphere."

Associate Head Coach [Mark Coomes](#), who has led the team during Collins' absence, will remain in that position through the end of the season.

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"I can't applaud Coach Coomes' efforts enough in leading and teaching this squad in my absence, even though I know our record is not where we want it to be," Collins said. "This year is far from over, though, and I hope everyone will continue to support this team and this coaching staff."

While Collins will not resume full-time coaching duties until at least March, he currently is working as he is able to support the coaches this season and in recruiting efforts for next year.

"The next few weeks will not only give me the time I need to fully recover physically, but will allow me to refocus on how to best prepare this program for a successful 2007-08 and beyond," Collins said.

The Flames will be back in action on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at home versus UW-Green Bay at 7 p.m.



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Head Coach Jimmy Collins

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