

# Kobe Bryant suffers from broken nose and concussion essay



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Kobe Bryant, guard to the Los Angeles Lakers, had his nose broken during the third quarter of the All-Star Game of the National Basketball Association on Sunday. Dwyane Wade, Miami Heat guard, happened to foul Bryant right across his face, and Dr. John Rehm, a specialist on ear, nose and throat conditions, confirmed the nasal fracture on Tuesday morning. Since Bryant manifested other symptoms that were also linked to the nose injury, he was referred to Dr.

Vern Williams, a neurologist who diagnosed Bryant as having suffered a concussion. Dr. Williams will apparently re-evaluate Bryant on Wednesday. His status is currently day to day.

On Wednesday night, Los Angeles will be facing up to the visiting Minnesota Timberwolves. The league set a new policy on concussions in place before the 2011-12 season, which had been shortened by the lockout. When a player was found to have suffered a concussion, he will need to go through a set of tests, in order to confirm that he is really well enough to get back into the game. When there are no more symptoms linked to the concussion, he will then have to go through several physical challenges in progressively increasing exertion stages: starting with riding a stationary bike, then jogging, then agility work, and then to team drills with no contact, and making sure that symptoms do not recur after each activity. The player will not be cleared until the neurologist in charge of leading the concussion program of the NBA is consulted.

In the case with Bryant, Dr. Jeffrey Kutcher, who is a neurology associate professor at the University of Michigan, is the pioneer director of the

concussion program, and will need to be consulted by Dr. Williams. Wade shared on Tuesday that he sent his apologies to Bryant, explaining that it was all he could do. He said that Bryant knew he did not have any ill intent when the foul happened. He said that he never intended for the outcome to come to this.

Of course, Bryant's teammates were not too eager to accept the apology, as they doubted what motivation Wade had behind the foul. Andrew Bynum, who had been on the bench of the Western Conference All-Star when the foul happened, commented that he did not understand what it was all about. Pau Gasol commented that the foul seemed out of place, although he conceded that he didn't think Wade intended to break Bryant's nose. He then expressed confidence that Bryant would be around to play against the Timberwolves even if the 14-time All-Star did not show up at practice. Prior to the diagnosis of a concussion, Gasol had commented that he did not think a broken nose would keep Bryant from playing.

Mike Brown, Lakers coach, was less eager to assume on Bryant's availability for the game against Minnesota, even before the concussion was diagnosed. Brown said that he knew Bryant was "tough as nails," but that he was not sure about the extent of the nose fracture, so he preferred not to speculate about his playing on Wednesday. Brown explained that after Sunday's game, Bryant reported feeling dizzy. Despite that, the coach continued to prepare for Wednesday's game with the idea that Bryant would still be playing.