

Knicks fire coach Thibodeau after first Eastern Conference loss

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

NEW YORK — Tom Thibodeau just took the New York Knicks to the Eastern Conference finals, the deepest playoff march in 25 years for a franchise that reemerged as a contender after he became their coach.

For that, he was fired. The Knicks made what they called a “difficult decision” to move on from Thibodeau on Tuesday, believing it was a necessary step in their chase for a championship.

“We can’t thank Tom enough for pouring his heart and soul into each and every day of being the New York Knicks head coach. He led us not only with class and profession-

alism for the past five seasons, but also to tremendous success on the court with four playoff berths and four playoff series victories,” team president Leon Rose said in a statement.

“Ultimately we made the decision we feel is best for our organization moving forward. Tom will always be a part of our Knicks family and we truly wish him nothing but the best in the future.”

The Knicks were eliminated by the Indiana Pacers with a loss in Game 6 on Saturday night, falling two games short of their first NBA Finals appearance since 1999. Thibodeau was then asked what the Knicks needed to do



Michael Conroy | AP Photo

New York Knicks head coach Tom Thibodeau yells from the sideline during the first half of Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals of the NBA basketball playoffs against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis on Saturday.

this summer to go further.

“Like you would do after every season, you take a step back, I think decompress,” Thibodeau said. “You do a deep dive on the

team and then you analyze what you think you need to improve upon.”

The Knicks decided it was the coach.

The move was made by

Rose with approval from owner Jim Dolan, according to a person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because that detail was not included in the announcement. The firing was first reported by ESPN.


It’s a strange decision by the Knicks, who had been one of the league’s worst franchises for most of the 2000s until Thibodeau was hired in 2020. He promptly led the Knicks to the playoffs in his first season, winning his second NBA Coach of the Year award, and they have been a solid contender in the East in recent seasons. They gave Thibodeau a three-year contract extension last summer.

Their big breakthrough came in 2024-25, when they knocked off defending champion Boston in the second round to reach the conference finals for the first time since 2000 — when Thibodeau was an assistant under Jeff Van Gundy.


After they were eliminated Saturday, captain Jalen Brunson expressed his support for Thibodeau, bristling at a question about whether he believed the coach was right for the team.

“Is that a real question right now?” Brunson said. “You just asked me if I believe that he’s the right guy? Yes. Come on.”

Three days later, SEE **KNICKS/PAGE B5**



LEGAL NOTICE



ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Independent Auditor's Report

To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Stan Humphries, Trigg County Judge/Executive
Members of the Trigg County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions
We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances – Regulatory Basis of the Trigg County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Trigg County Fiscal Court's financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting
In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances – regulatory basis of the Trigg County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2024, in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the Trigg County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2024, or the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions
We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Fiscal Court Audit Guide* issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Trigg County Fiscal Court and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Trigg County Fiscal Court on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement
Trigg County Fiscal Court's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. This includes determining that the regulatory basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Trigg County Fiscal Court's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trigg County Fiscal Court's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Trigg County Fiscal Court's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters
Supplementary Information
Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole of the Trigg County Fiscal Court. The Budgetary Comparison Schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statement; however, they are required to be presented in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws.

The accompanying Budgetary Comparison Schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement or to the financial statement itself, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Budgetary Comparison Schedules and are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statement as a whole.

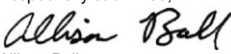
Other Information
Management is responsible for the other information included in this report. The other information is comprised of the schedule of capital assets but does not include the financial statement and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the financial statement do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statement, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards
In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 7, 2025, on our consideration of the Trigg County Fiscal Court's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Trigg County Fiscal Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.


Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses included herein, which discusses the following report findings:

2024-001 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Materially Misstated Outstanding Debt Obligations
2024-002 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Did Not Prepare A Financial Statement For The Public Justice Center Corporation Fund
2024-003 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Did Not Have Adequate Controls Over Disbursements
2024-004 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Did Not Maintain A Complete And Accurate Schedule Of Leases
2024-005 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Failed To Implement Adequate Internal Controls To Ensure Complete And Accurate Accounting Records Were Maintained
2024-006 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Failed To Implement Adequate Controls Over Reconciliations And Off-Site Collections
2024-007 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Did Not Have Adequate Controls Over Payroll Processing
2024-008 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Failed To Properly Reconcile The Payroll Revolving Account
2024-009 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Failed To Implement Adequate Controls Over The Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Program
2024-010 The Trigg County Fiscal Court's Investments Did Not Comply With KRS 68.020


Respectfully submitted,


Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, Ky

March 7, 2025
State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.



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- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
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- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Trigg County Fiscal Court's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

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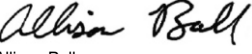
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Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses included herein, which discusses the following report findings:

2023-001 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Failed To Implement Adequate Internal Controls To Ensure Complete And Accurate Account Records Were Maintained
2023-002 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Materially Misstated Outstanding Debt Obligations
2023-003 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Did Not Prepare A Financial Statement For The Public Justice Center Corporation Fund
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2023-007 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Did Not Have Adequate Controls Over Payroll Processing
2023-008 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Failed To Properly Reconcile The Payroll Revolving Account
2023-009 The Trigg County Fiscal Court Does Failed To Implement Adequate Controls Over The Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Program

Respectfully submitted,


Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, Ky

March 7, 2025
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