

## **EXCLUSIVE: Milwaukee Vincent Football Team Forfeits All Games, Coach Was Fired For Similar Violations Two Years Ago**

**By Mark Belling, WISN-AM**

The Milwaukee Vincent High School football team has been forced to forfeit all of its wins this season and therefore is not eligible to compete in the state high school football playoffs which begin this weekend.

It is the second time in three years that Vincent Head Coach Shane Covington has been linked to wrongdoing. Covington was fired in 2017 from his job as head coach of Greenfield High School after an investigation into attempts to improperly enroll students so they could play on the football team. The Vincent decision again appears to involve ineligible players and questions about recruiting.

Milwaukee Public Schools hired Covington to coach Vincent, on the city's northwest side, after he was canned at Greenfield. While Wisconsin has an open enrollment policy, there are restrictions on athletic eligibility. Allegations of illegal recruiting swirl all the time in high school sports but only rarely does it result in sanctions. This is the second time Covington has been embroiled in this.

To my knowledge, no Milwaukee news outlet has chosen to report the situation at Vincent. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel this week reported that South Division was voluntarily skipping the playoffs because the coach felt the team wasn't able to compete against stronger suburban teams, but has reported nothing on Vincent being removed for wrongdoing.

WIAA Executive Director Dave Anderson tells me MPS self-reported the violation and took action itself to vacate Vincent's wins. MPS Athletic Director Bobbie Kelsey is unavailable for comment. I have not been able to reach Covington.

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