

News in brief from Philadelphia

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PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sports radio host Howard Eskin was suspended for 30 days as part of the settlement of a lawsuit brought against him last year by an attorney for Philadelphia 76ers star Allen Iverson. Eskin, a host on the sports-talk station WIP-AM, had accused attorney Richard Sprague of tampering in 2002 when Iverson was facing charges in connection with a domestic dispute with his wife. Iverson was accused of threatening two men with a gun, but all 14 charges were either dismissed or dropped.

Eskin claimed on the air that summer that Sprague paid a witness to lie in court and that Sprague spread a false rumor that another witness had failed a lie detector test.

In a written statement, Eskin admitted neither assertion was true and that he'd known no such lie detector test took place, but never said so on his show.

"I apologize to Mr. Sprague and his family for making false statements that disparaged his reputation," Eskin said. "I also apologize for not correcting the record for over two years, and, instead doing so only after Mr. Sprague sued me."

Infinity Broadcasting, the station's owner, will pay "substantial compensation" to Sprague, the company said. WIP-AM on Thursday broadcast an apology, which will air eight times over a four-day period.

Eskin also works for WCAU-TV, Philadelphia's NBC affiliate.