

Idaho's Dezmon Epps will not rejoin team, Petrino says

Michael-Shawn Dugar/Moscow-Pullman Daily News

Suspended receiver Dezmon Epps “will not be joining the team,” Idaho coach Paul Petrino said on a Sun Belt Conference call Monday.

The Whitman County prosecutor’s office declined to file charges Friday against Epps, because “we could not prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt,” prosecutor Merritt Decker said.

Pullman Police forwarded a fourth-degree assault charge against Epps to the Whitman County prosecutor's office last Tuesday after it was alleged the 22-year-old slapped or punched his girlfriend at Stubblefields bar in Pullman the morning of Oct. 25.

“When things happened with Dezmon early in the year he had some very strict restrictions on what he could do and couldn’t do,” Petrino said Monday. “One of those things that we talked about he was not able to do was go out. He was out that night, so as of right now he will not be joining the team.”

Asked if it’s possible for Epps (who is still listed on the team roster) to rejoin the program this season, Petrino said: “Not as we speak right now, no.”

Epps still leads Idaho -- which just lost its second straight game in a 52-45 collapse Saturday against South Alabama -- in receiving with 61 catches for 762 yards, despite playing in just six of the team’s nine games.

Because Epps is a senior, if he is not reinstated this season that will mark the end of his collegiate career. The Sacramento, Calif. native would end his career with 140 receptions for 1,742 yards and six touchdowns.

Michael-Shawn Dugar can be reached at (208) 883-4629, by email to mdugar@dnews.com or on Twitter to @MikeDugar.