

Wednesday, Dec. 05, 2012

USU Shares Updates On Danny Berger's Situation



LOGAN, Utah - Utah State Director of Athletics Scott Barnes and USU team physician Dr. Trek Lyons addressed the media Wednesday evening, updating the status of men's basketball student-athlete Danny Berger.

Berger, a junior forward from Medford, Ore., is still in critical condition at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray, Utah. According to Lyons, Berger is awake and alert, and he has been able to communicate with medical

personnel and his family.

“Our heartfelt prayers go out to Danny, his family, teammates and coaches as they have been most affected by this tragic event. His coaches and teammates have been by his side the entire time, and I know that means a great deal to him,” Barnes said.

Berger had a serious medical situation during practice Tuesday afternoon and was tended to on the court by USU Assistant Athletic Trainer Mike Williams. CPR was performed and the AED (automated external defibrillator) was used on him until ambulance personnel arrived. Intermountain Medical Center personnel is continuing to conduct tests and evaluations on Berger, and more information will be released when available.

“Our players, staff and coaches are extremely emotional and optimistic about Danny’s health situation,” said USU head coach Stew Morrill. “He feels our love!”

Wednesday night's scheduled game at BYU was postponed and a make-up date will be announced at a later date.

Utah State is scheduled to return to action on Saturday, Dec. 8 when it hosts Western Oregon in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum at 7 p.m. Barnes addressed the upcoming game and anticipates that it will go on as scheduled.

Further Statement from Utah State Athletics Director Scott Barnes:

"Thank you for being here today. As you are all aware, one of our student-athletes, junior forward Danny Berger, collapsed yesterday during practice. Danny was tended to on the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum court by USU Assistant Athletic Trainer Mike Williams. CPR was performed and the defibrillator was used, while Danny and all were waiting for the ambulance personnel to arrive. Danny was later Life Flighted to Intermountain Medical Center in Murray where he continues to be in stable, but critical condition. Danny is making good progress and is responding well to doctors, family and his coaches.

Our heartfelt prayers are with Danny, his family, his Aggie teammates and coaches as they have been the most affected by this tragic situation. In addition, I do want to thank the Aggie nation for their thoughts and prayers as well as an endless number of universities across the country who have reached out with their thoughts and prayers along with their fan bases.

Danny is a strong young man who is well loved by everyone. His teammates and coaches are deeply concerned about him, as demonstrated by their being by his side this entire time. As you can imagine, they were shocked by this incident and continue to hold each other up. It's at times like this when the actual athletic event takes a back seat. On that note, you are all aware that we have postponed our in-state rivalry game with BYU, which was to be played this evening. Coaches are currently working on a new date. I want to take this opportunity to thank BYU Athletics Director Tom Holmoe and Coach Dave Rose for their understanding and cooperation during this very difficult time."

Utah State Athletics Team Physician Dr. Trek Lyons:

"Right now, Danny is awake. He has been extubated, which means that the tube that was placed to help his breathing has been removed. He recognizes his family, his doctors and the instructions they're giving him. He's probably resting right now. He'll have more tests done tomorrow, but this is definitely a great sign of progress for him. Although his condition

has not officially been upgraded, the fact that he's in that position now clearly indicates medically that he is improving and doing much better."

