



## **Rob Wicall** **Former San Antonio Spurs Coyote** **Mascot**

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Rob Wicall has always been a competitive, energetic, athletic comedian. He was playing soccer and running competitively by age 5 and at the same time was performing for anyone who would sit and watch (mostly gushing family members). He continued sports and performing all through school.

In 1996, Rob was selected as a performer for an interactive team the San Antonio Spurs were putting together. Soon after joining the team he began doing appearances as the Spurs Coyote. About a year later, Rob was hired to be the mascot for the Washington Capitals and then also donned the Wizards' mascot costume at the same time. But in 2000, Rob headed home to once again perform as the beloved Coyote. He kept at it until April of 2016, when he finally hung up the sweaty fur for good. During his mascot career, Rob was named Mascot of the Year by [gameops.com](http://gameops.com) in 2006 and won the NBA Mascot of the Year award in 2014. He also won Video of the Year in 2007, 2010, 2014, and 2015.

Part of the reason of his timing was that Rob was diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis in 2013, and had been struggling to continue an extremely physically active career and maintain his health. When he did decide to retire, he took the opportunity to become a face for those who suffer quietly with arthritis, and to be a reminder that a positive mental attitude is a powerful tool. Rob is excited about starting this new chapter in his life and he takes this next step as he always has, with a smile on his face and a positive attitude, but this time, he'll have pants on.

Rob is also very excited to spend game nights and more with his beautiful wife, and three extremely energetic boys.