

SWAC Hall Of Fame

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dent.

"Prez", as Jones was affectionately called, also served Grambling in a host of other capacities, including mathematics teacher, band director, dean of men and head baseball coach. Those positions included, his entire tenure as an employee at Grambling spanned some 51 years.

Jones nurtured a student body of 120 students and 17 faculty members with a \$55,000 budget at the Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute. His leadership and intellect saw the institute rise to prominence as Grambling State University with a student body of 5,000 and a faculty/staff of over 300.

Eddie Robinson, Grambling

Robinson became Grambling's head football coach in '41 and has since reached nearly every attainable plateau imaginable in his profession as dean of coaches in the "Super Eight."

Robinson's teams have won 16 conference championships and four national black college crowns. His overall record with 49 teams is 372-132-15, the most wins by a single coach in the history of college football.

In the process of becoming the winningest college coach, Robinson had to break the records of such legends as Amos Alonzo Stagg (314) and Paul "Bear" Bryant (322).

In addition to his all-time record, Robinson has won more honors than he or anyone else can remember. Included among his countless numbers of honors are several hall of fame honors and numerous citations. The annual NCAA Division I-AA Coach Of The Year Award is named in his honor. Grambling's football stadium also bears his name.

Lem Barney, Jackson State

There's no question that Lem Barney was born to be one of the best defensive backs to ever play the game collegiately and as a professional.

As a cornerback at Jackson State from '63 to '66, Barney was the personification of a coach's player. In his four years at JSU, Barney played for three different head coaches (Edward Clemons, Roderick Paige and Ulysses McPherson) and was named All-SWAC under each.

Barney's first year as a member of the Tigers secondary was outstanding. This was the season that he set a school record for interceptions (11). He concluded his college career with 26 interceptions, which is still a school record 25 years after the fact.

Another JSU record that has stood the test of time, and which indicated the immense skills of Barney, is his all-time career punting average of 42.1 yards. He reaped All-America and All-SWAC honors as a collegian and was recently inducted into the NFL Hall Of Fame.

Tellis Ellis, Jackson State

Ellis' career and the development of intercollegiate athletics at Jackson State are inextricably joined. Ellis' start as a coach (39) pre-dates his appointment as Jackson's AD in '46. From that year until his retirement in '77, the growth of athletics at JSU reflected the knowledgeable leadership of Ellis.

When Ellis became Jackson's AD, the school had only two full-time athletic coaches (football and basketball). A third was added in '54 and head coaches in track, golf and tennis were added in '70. By '77, there were 15 full-time coaches in the Tigers program.

As a head coach, Ellis won a South Central Athletic Conference track championship in '49, the same year that he was tabbed SCAC football Coach Of The Year after JSU finished 7-3. He surrendered the football duties to John Merritt in '52 and was then instrumental in hiring every JSU head football coach over a 30-year period.

Ellis initiated JSU's memberships into the Midwestern Athletic Conference ('51), the NAIA ('54), the NCAA ('57) and the SWAC ('57). During his 38-year administration, JSU won a total of 25 championships in the sports of baseball, football, golf and track as well as five NAIA track titles. Moreover, the school captured the SWAC all-sports trophy twice.

Parnell Dickinson, Mississippi Valley State

Dickinson is a four-time All-SWAC quarterback who held several SWAC and school passing records during his days as a Delta Devil. Reaping honors was something that he did on a regular basis. For example: Mutual Black Network Player Of The Year; NAIA, *Pittsburgh Courier*, Kodak, *Jet* and *Ebony* All-America. He also participated in the Senior Bowl and Blue-Gray Classic all-star games.

Dickinson was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in '76

and he played in every game during his initial NFL season. In his final season as a pro ('78), he played for the New England Patriots.

Following his pro career, Dickinson served as an assistant football coach at Tampa Catholic High School from '86 to '90 before turning to the corporate world. He now owns the Tampa-based Parnell Dickinson Insurance Agency.

Ulysses Simpson McPherson Jr., Mississippi Valley State

McPherson coached at several current and former SWAC universities. Schools he coached at include: Mississippi Vocational College (now Mississippi Valley State) from '54 to '58; Arkansas AM&N from '60 to '68; Jackson State from '69 to '71; and Alabama State from '71 to '75.

McPherson graduated from Tennessee State in '48 after gaining all-conference honors on the gridiron. Following a three-year career as a junior college head football coach (Morristown, Tenn.), he became Valley's head mentor.

At Valley, McPherson's 28-8-1 record in four years remains a source of pride among the Delta Devils' faithful. What's also remembered of his years were his back-to-back wins over Alcorn State, an 80-0 defeat of Tougaloo and the 101-0 devastation of Rust College.

In '69, McPherson became Jackson State's head coach. In his first year as coach of the Tigers, his new team defeated Mississippi Valley State, 51-2.

Edward Evans Sr., Prairie View A&M

A career that covered 58 years of service to Prairie View, embodies the life and times of Evans. The development of Prairie View, as folk view it today, began when he arrived in '18 after receiving a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine the same year from Iowa State.

Evans served PVU in the following capacities: vice-principal, acting principle, active registrar, dean of the college and director of the agriculture division.

Evans was elected as Prairie View's principle in September of '46. A little over two years later, he was inaugurated as the university's first president. His interest in athletics was evident. He was one of the founding fathers of the SWAC in '20 and he served as president of the league in '40.

In '35, Evans joined with other officials of black colleges in the southwest to form the Coaches And Officials Association, serving as secretary-treasurer from '36 to '44.

Kenny Houston, Prairie View A&M

Houston is no stranger to athletic excellence. The NFL Hall Of Famer and SWAC All-American has had an illustrious career that spans over 20 years.

As a freshman at PVU, Houston played center. His adeptness at executing the long snap along with speed and quickness helped guide the Panthers to the National Black College Championship and the SWAC title in '63.

As a sophomore, Houston excelled as a linebacker and was a starter on the '64 team that repeated as black college and SWAC champions. As a senior, he reaped All-America and all-conference honors for the second consecutive year. He was also a standout performer in track and field.

When he graduated, Houston was drafted in the ninth round of the '67 NFL Draft by the Houston Oilers. He spent six years in Houston and seven with the Washington Redskins. By the time he retired in '80, Houston had played in 12 Pro Bowls and held several NFL interception records.

William Nicks, Prairie View A&M

"Billy" Nicks fashioned a winning tradition during his stay at PVU. He served the university as a professor, as a head coach and as athletic director for 28 years.

As head football coach in Pantherland, Nicks won SWAC championships in '51, '52, '53, '54, '58, '60, '63 and '64.

Panthers faithful have fond memories of Nicks-coached teams. They were treated to the exploits of former players Otis Taylor, Jim Kearney, Seith Cartwright, Kenny Houston, Alvin Reed, Charles Bracklins, George Hunt, Bo Farrington, Charles Wright and George Dearborn.

PVU teams lost every once in a while at Blackshear Field. In 18 football seasons, Nicks' teams lost only five home games. In post-season bowls, his teams won 10 of 11 games.

Mel Blount, Southern University

Noted as one of the finest cornerbacks to ever play pro ball, Blount started his NFL career in '70 when he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the third round of the NFL Draft. He

enjoyed an illustrious 14-year career as a prime member of the famed "Steel Curtain" defense.

Blount's accomplishments are well documented. In '75, he led the NFL with 11 interceptions and was named the NFL Defensive Player Of The Year by the Associated Press. He was also a member of the fabled Steelers teams that won four Super Bowls (IX, X, XIII and XIV) and is still the club's all-time interception leader (57).

Following his retirement in '83, Blount was inducted into the Pro Football Hall Of Fame. Recently, he was singled out for another accomplishment when President George Bush named Blount as the 524th "Point Of Light" for his efforts in aiding Pennsylvania's troubled children through the Mel Blount Youth Home, located in Claysville, Pa. and Vidalia, Ga., his home town.

Rodney Milburn, Southern University

After getting his high school diploma, Milburn became an All-American hurdler as a collegian and won nearly every possible award.

Milburn was All-SWAC for four years ('70-'73) and he set a new world record in the 120 high hurdles in '71 (13.0). In '73, he ran 7.0 in the 55-meter high hurdles to establish a new world indoor mark. Milburn put his personal stamp on world supremacy when he won the gold medal in the '72 Olympics with a 13.24 clocking in the 110 meter high hurdles.

Milburn's achievements are endless. He shares the world record in the indoor 60-yard high hurdles. He is the only athlete to win four major track titles — NAIA, NCAA Divisions I and II and AAU. In '71, he was voted the most outstanding athlete in the world and was also chosen the most outstanding athlete in Louisiana in '71, '72 and '73. In '71 and '73, Milburn won the Sugar Bowl's prestigious James Corbett Award.

Arnett Mumford, Southern University

The legend of "Ace" Mumford began in '36 when the football coach arrived at Southern. For the next 25 years, he coached the Jaguars to 169 victories in 226 games, although his 2-5-2 and 4-4-1 records in his first two seasons give little indication of his mastery as a football coach.

While chairing the physical education department from '36 until his death in '62, Mumford won at a 77.3 percent rate (169-57-14). The apex of his coaching career occurred from '47 to '50, a time when the Jags didn't lose a single game (42-0-3).

In '48, SU went 12-0-0, including a win over then 18-0 San Francisco State. In 36 years of coaching, Mumford compiled a record of 235-82-25, including four national black college titles and 11 SWAC championships.

Audrey Ford, Texas Southern

When Ford appeared on the TSU campus in '50, the school's football fortunes changed dramatically. By the time he graduated, the Tigers quarterback held a number of school records.

Ford was the first Texas Southern football player to win All-America honors ('52). He was also TSU's first two-time All-America ('52 and '55). He is the only quarterback to lead the Tigers to a national championship after an undefeated season in '52. He was the first and only TSU quarterback to pass for 21 touchdowns in a single season ('51) and for two seasons ('51 and '52).

Ford, TSU's present volleyball coach, was also the school's first athlete to letter in three sports — football, basketball and baseball — for three consecutive years ('50, '51 and '52).

Alexander Durley, Texas Southern

In '48, Durley became TSU's second head football coach and athletic director. With him at the helm, the Tigers established themselves as a collegiate football power.

A year after joining the Midwestern Athletic Conference, Texas Southern compiled a 10-0-1 record. This undefeated team was led by All-American quarterback Audrey Ford and halfback Edward Smith. Ford passed for 21 TDs while Smith rushed for 1,087 yards. In '52, TSU won the National Negro Championship after beating Prairie View 13-12 in the annual Prairie View Bowl. The Tigers joined the SWAC in '58 and finished the year as SWAC co-champions with Wiley College.

In 16 seasons, Durley posted a 101-55-7 record. He was always active in the Big Brothers organization and the Houston Business and Professional Men's Club. The Alexander Durley Sports Complex (track stadium) located on the TSU campus, is a permanent reminder of coach Durley's contributions.