

Ben Coates runs for a touchdown during his days as a New England Patriot.

Coates named Livingstone football coach

Former NFL player excited about opportunity

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Livingstone College has a new head football coach.

Livingstone officials named Ben Coates as the new head coach last Friday. Coates, a 2002 inductee into the Blue Bears Athletic Hall of Fame, will become the school's 32nd head coach.

"I am grateful for the opportunity," Coates said. "I thank the administration for the faith they have entrusted in me. It is my goal to return the program back to the previous success we had in the past. I will be out immediately recruiting student-athletes who want to play college football and graduate. Hopefully, one day they will want to give back to the program."

Coates is returning to his alma mater after serving an

internship with the NFL's Dallas Cowboys. Under the tutelage of his former NFL coach, Bill Parcells, Coates assisted with the tight ends. Prior to the Cowboys, Coates served as the offensive line and tight ends intern with the NFL Europe's Frankfurt Galaxy.

Coates began his coaching career when he retired from the NFL after winning the Super Bowl with the Baltimore Ravens in 2000. In 2001 he became the tight ends coach for Livingstone under former head coach Gregory Richardson. Since, he has had responsibilities over tight ends and receivers, quarterbacks, and offensive linemen. He has also been the offensive coordinator under Richardson and former coach George Johnson.

In 1991 Coates was drafted

by the New England Patriots with their second pick in the fifth round. From the time span of 1991 to 1999, Coates became the Patriots' all-time leading receiver at tight end and he has played in several Pro-Bowls.

In 2000 he teamed up with Shannon Sharpe and the Baltimore Ravens for the Super Bowl championship. Afterward, he retired from the NFL, becoming the fourth all-time leading receiver at tight end in NFL history. He played in 158 games with 499 receptions for 5,555 yards. His longest catch was for 84 yards, and he scored 50 catching touchdowns.

He is a native of Greenwood, S.C., and has a degree in sports management from Livingstone College.

Paul

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ing athletes for this award," said USA Basketball Executive Director Jim Tooley. "Sean May and Chris Paul share honors as their outstanding performances at the U21 World Championship Qualification Tournament propelled the team to its undefeated record and gold medal."

"To me, it's probably the greatest accomplishment I've had so far in my basketball career," said May. "I was extremely excited, and the first thing I did was call my dad to let him know."

"It's a great honor to me — for one, to make the team and be able to play for the USA; but to be named co-Player of the Year is a great honor. It's great because Chris is a really good player, but more because we're really great friends and we played on a USA Basketball

team together. Hopefully we'll play on another one down the line."

Paul added: "I'm still trying to figure out how this happened. This is such an honor. Sean is so deserving of this. He had a great summer. He was huge for our team. But I know that neither Sean nor I could have done this without our teammates. Everything we did over the summer, we did together. My teammates made it a lot easier on me, and this wouldn't have happened without them."

Only three times previously has USA Basketball selected multiple recipients for one of its awards. In 1982 Cindy Noble and LaTaunya Pollard were co-honorees for Female Athlete of the Year. Two years later Olympic gold medalists Michael Jordan

and Sam Perkins collected the accolade on the men's side, and in 1992 the entire U.S. Men's Olympic Team was dubbed the USA Basketball Male Athlete of the Year.

As the co-USA Basketball Male Athletes of the Year, May and Paul have been nominated by USA Basketball to the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) for consideration of its 2004 Male Athlete of the Year Award, which will be announced at a later date.



May

In its 25th year, the USA Basketball Athlete of the Year award has been garnered by notable athletes such as Ray Allen (1995), Tim Duncan (2003), Jordan (1983, 1984), as a member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic Team, Reggie Miller (2002), Alonzo Mourning (1990, 2000), Shaquille O'Neal

Hill

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diac arrhythmia, an irregular heart rhythm.

This whole thing is just unbelievable. I mean, he was young, saved and living his life for God. What else do you need to do to live longer? Life has me worried sometimes, but I really get concerned when things like this happen to individuals that I know are

good people. It's like waiting in the line to go to heaven and seeing the holiest person you know get turned back at the gate. Then you're like, "I know I don't have chance now."

I mean, I know that any life can be taken away at the drop of a dime, but we'd all like to think that we may have either contributed to a longer life or early health problems. We know that things don't just

happen. This seemed as if it just happened. And it just happened to a great person. To me, this is truly one of the most tragic deaths.

"My condolences go out to his family and loved ones," said Muhsin Muhammad. "We mourn his death. What a sad day, but how glorious it is because Reggie was a man of God. Reggie is in a better place. He's with the Son and the Father."

I surely hope so, because if anyone deserves to be in heaven, it's Reggie.

Congrats to the area's best

Congrats to Derrick Nicholson (Mt. Tabor), Antonio Jacobs (Parkland), Antonio Wardlow (Parkland) and

Wake women beat Alabama A&M 70-50

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Wake Forest women's basketball team pocketed its 10th victory of the season Tuesday night, beating the visiting Alabama A&M Bulldogs 70-50.

Juniors Liz Strunk (19 points) and Cotelia Bond-Young (15 points), as well as senior Erin Ferrell (12 points) paced the Deacons with double-figure scoring. Head coach Mike Petersen's squad improved to 10-1 on the season, while the Bulldogs dropped to 4-4.

All Deacons saw playing time that game, with the exception of Melissa Washington, who is red-shirting the year due to a knee injury. Christen Brown, who missed eight games this season with an ankle sprain, notched her first 3-point career bucket. Meredith Bell stuffed two Bulldog attempts, a career high and her first two blocks this season. Bell also offered her first assist on the year.

Wake Forest took over possession first, as Bond-Young gave her team the 5-0 edge. The Bulldogs answered, keeping the game within 10 until Ferrell's 3-pointer with 1:01 remaining extended the Deacon lead to 13. Wake Forest shot 12-26 from the field in the first 20 minutes and shot only 57.1 percent from the line. The Deacs took a 32-21 lead into the break.

Alabama A&M pulled within 7 with 18:52 remaining in the second half, but the Deacons outscored the Bulldogs 14-3 in the next six minutes of action. Wake Forest never looked back, going 6-12 from beyond the arc in the second period. Strunk scored three of the Deacons' 3-pointers, giving her four for the game, her best mark since the



Wake's Liz Strunk was one of three Deacs to score in double-figures during the team's 70-50 win over Alabama A&M on Tuesday night.

Princeton and Hampton games to open the season.

The Deacs were also more accurate from the charity stripe in the second half, converting on all but one attempt, good for 85.7 percent.

Wake Forest will travel to Kentucky for a 7 p.m. match with the Wildcats in Lexington

today. The game will conclude Deacon action for the 2004 year.

Conference play will begin with a road game in Raleigh against N.C. State on Jan. 3 at 6 p.m. Wake Forest will return home for the Deacons' second game of the new year to face ACC rival Virginia. Game time with the Cavaliers is 7 p.m. on Jan. 6.

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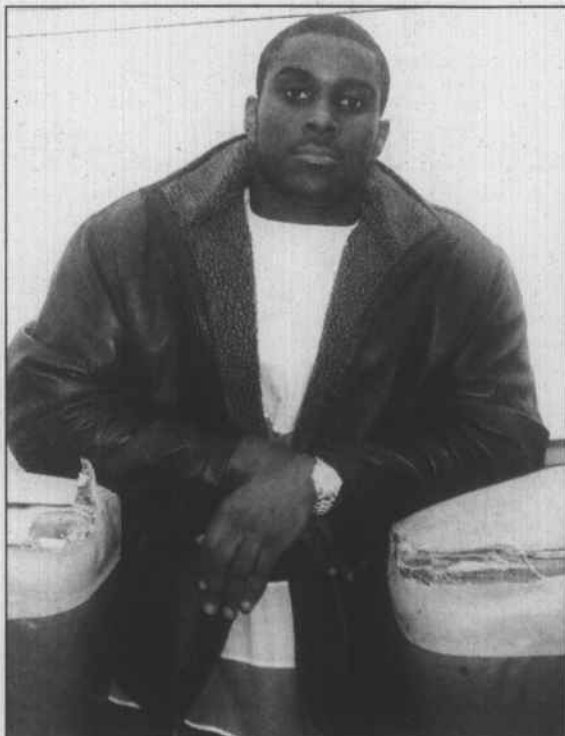
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Mt. Tabor's Derrick Nicholson was selected first team all-state linebacker.

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