

Coaches

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this year they made up only seven of the 32 head coaches (22 percent), a number that's been gradually increasing. It was just 18 seasons ago when Art Shell was named the first Black head coach in the league's modern era, following a 64-year span of blatant shutouts.

Frederick Douglass "Fritz" Pollard, the first Black coach in the history of professional football, coached the Akron Pros (1919-21), Milwaukee Badgers (1922) and Hammond Pros (1923-25) before the league put a ban on Black coaches and later Black players for a period.

Despite the fact that Black head coaches in the NFL have won at a higher rate than their Anglo counterparts, Black coaches have experienced a history of strong resistance and underrepresentation in the league. Seven of the eight Blacks who have coached or are coaching in the modern era have taken their team to the playoffs at least once. Four of those coaches have reached either an AFC or an NFC title game, Dungy in both conferences.

A 2002 report titled, NFL Black Head Coaches: Superior Performances, Inferior Opportunities, collectively drafted by late attorney Johnnie Cochran and University of Pennsylvania labor economist Dr. Janice Madden revealed that Black coaches led their teams to the playoffs 67 percent of the time, compared to 39 percent for White coaches.

Five previous times, Black coaches reached either a NFC or AFC Conference title game, but fell short of reaching the Super Bowl. Twice, coaches came within one play of going to the Super Bowl.

Dennis Green and the Minnesota Vikings, after having amassed a highly successful 15-1 regular season, were tied 27-27 in the 1999 NFC championship game with the Atlanta Falcons, when Vikings field goal kicker Gary Anderson, who was 35-for-35 during the regular season, missed a makeable 38-yard field goal with two minutes left, causing the game to go into overtime. Atlanta got the ball first and went on to win 30-27 in overtime with Morten Anderson's 38-yard field goal.

In the 2000 AFC title contest, Dungy's Tampa Bay Buccaneers trailed the Los Angeles Rams 11-6, but were driving down the field in the final minute of play. Tampa Bay rookie quarterback Shawn King threw a pass to wide receiver Bert Emanuel, who made a dazzling shoe-string catch that was first ruled complete by the referees deep in St. Louis territory. During the review of the play, all of the camera angles showed no conclusive evidence that the ball touched the ground, thus making it incomplete. Nevertheless, the official rule overturned the catch, for all practical purposes killing the drive, and giving the Rams the win.

Dungy, this time at Indianapolis, took the Colts to the 2004 AFC title game against the New England Patriots, playing them tough but losing 24-14.

In Shell's first stint as head coach of the Oakland Raiders, he made it to the 1991 AFC title game, losing to the Buffalo Bills 51-3. Green once again took Minnesota to the 2001 NFC championship battle and got shut out by the New York Giants 41-0.

Some football advocates feel that Smith and Dungy's achievements will open even more doors for Black head coaches. That may include Dallas, who has never had a Black head coach and are now looking for a replacement for departing coach Bill Parcells. "This is a magical day for the sport and it just shows what can be achieved when talent is given a proper opportunity to shine," said Cyrus Mehri, counsel for the Fritz Pollard Alliance, a diversity advocacy group.



Mehri

African-American Read-In events slated

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

More than a million readers in 49 American states and abroad have signed on to participate in the 18th Annual African-American Read-In to be held Feb. 4-5.

Sponsored by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and endorsed by the American Reading Association, the Read-In aims to make the celebration of African-American literacy an integral part of Black History Month.

Many different kinds of organizations participate in the Read-Ins each year - from libraries, to churches, to community groups. Formats range from planned programs to impromptu readings by audience members.

The Delta Arts Center is hosting its second Read-In this year. At the center's first Read-In back in 2005, community members read excerpts from books by their favorite African-American authors. This year, Executive Director Dianne Caesar has invited three local authors - Alicia T. Massey, author of "Destined for Success," K.R. Spoon, author of "Bitter Sweet Deceptions" and Dwight Jones, author of "0600 Hours" - to come and read passages from their books.

"There is such a wealth of talent here in the community," Caesar said of her motivation to promote local authors. "One author may have her following and another may have his following, and they don't know what each other's doing, so we become a center where all of these different writers can come together."

Hosting the Read-In will be beneficial to the gallery as well, Caesar says.

"It's a way of introducing



Reynolda House Photo

Dr. Felecia McMillan leads a Read-In discussion last year at Reynolda House.

the center to a new audience," she remarked. Caesar says she is expecting about 100 guests at the Delta Arts Center Read-In this year.

The annual Read-In is part of a long-standing tradition for the Reynolda House, according to Adult Programs Director Phil Archer, who estimates that the museum has been involved with the event for about a decade.

Archer, who has helped to organize the program for the past three years, says that the Reynolda House Read-In tends to focus on amateur writing.

"We invite the whole community to bring their favorite poem, piece of prose, letter, personal memoir of their favorite writer, or - if they have a family story or something of their own - to read that," he explained. "That's been especially memorable in the past, when some poets or writers have brought their own work and shared it."

After the reading is com-

plete, participants disperse into the museum to view the art on display there.

"Having people to read American literature in the museums and then look at paintings is very much in keeping with our mission. It's also a way to look at the African-American past, which is reflected in parts of our collection and some of our artists," said Archer. "This time, we really want to look at a painting

by Horace Pippin, who is an African-American, self-taught artist."

The Reynolda House Read-In, which typically draws a crowd of 30-40 people from various backgrounds, has become a favorite for many staff members, Archer says, including himself.

"It's always a really warm, friendly event," he remarked. "It ends up being a nice social event as well as a sharing of literary works. People don't just come in and read theirs and leave. It's really a chance to listen and to dialogue."

The Forsyth County Public Library will be participating in

the 2007 National African American Read-In on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 2:30 - 4 p.m. in the Central Library Auditorium. The event will be open to all ages.

Both the Delta Arts Center Read-In and the Reynolda House Read-In will be held on Monday, Feb. 5.

The Delta Arts Center Read-In will take place from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For more information, contact Dianne Caesar, at 336-722-2625.

The Reynolda House Read-In will take place at 11:00 a.m. For more information, contact Phil Archer, at 336-758-5033.

Eaddy

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Eaddy is a 1979 graduate of the Harvard Law School, where he served as an Editor of the Harvard Law Review. He was graduated summa cum laude from Furman University in 1976, where he majored in Political Science and received numerous honors and awards, including election to Phi Beta Kappa, the Blue Key National Honor Society, and Furman's Quaternium Society.

Eaddy - who chairs

Kilpatrick Stockton's Diversity Council - and is recognized as a thought-leader on diversity in the legal profession, is the principal author of the chapter on "Diversity" in the Thomson/West multi-volume treatise "Successful Partnership Between Inside and Outside Counsel." He has published several articles in legal journals, chaired or served as a lecturer and panelist on numerous programs for the continuing legal education of lawyers, and participated as moderator or discussant for academic symposia.

Gatewood

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Hart for making significant contributions to entrepreneurship and small business research as individuals and as partners of the Diana Project. According to a joint statement issued by members of the Diana Project, policy makers, practitioners, investors and educators have used Diana Project findings to develop programs and initiatives that have enhanced women entre-

preneurs' access to and attainment of growth capital. The project is funded by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the U.S. National Women's Business Counsel.

In order to enhance the impact of its research, the Diana Project team partnered with the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Research Institute, Sweden (ERSBI), to organize international gatherings of scholars to develop a

global plan for the advancement of women's entrepreneurship. During the last three years, more than 35 researchers from 20 countries have met to present research to help establish and implement policy, training and resources that help improve the practice of women entrepreneurs.

In addition to the cash award, members of the Diana Project will receive a miniature copy of "The Hand of God," a sculpture by the late Swedish sculptor Carl Milles.

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