

Ridin' into Texas Southern

Here come the Cole brothers

BLACK COLLEGE
SPORTS PAGECHOWAN,
COLES
SET FOR
DEBUTSSWAC & CIAA PROFILES; HOMECOMING
SCHEDULES; BEIJING OLYMPIC UPDATES

QB Bobby Reid
LB Dejuan Fulgham
BCSP Photo

KEY COGS: Oklahoma State transfer QB and outstanding LB key to Coles' turnaround at TSU.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

JACKSON SCORES BRONZE:

Saint Augustine's student and 400-meter hurdler **Bershawn Jackson** claimed a bronze medal at the Beijing Olympics Monday completing a 1-2-3 sweep of U. S. athletes in the event. Jackson was clocked in 48.06 seconds to finish behind teammates Angelo Taylor (47.25) and Kerron Clement (47.98), who took home gold and silver medals respectively. The three Americans had posted the best times in the event's semifinals.



JACKSON

In news regarding other black college products at the Olympics, former **Howard University** hurdler **David Oliver** had the best time in round one of the 110-meter hurdles Sunday. Oliver ran 13.30 seconds, the best time among hurdlers in six first-round heats. World record holder Dayron Robles of Cuba clocked 13.39 seconds to win his first round heat. The 110 hurdles second round was Tuesday (8/19) with semifinals on Wednesday (8/20) and the finals Thursday (8/21) at 9:45 a.m.

Southern University product **Brian Johnson** did not make the finals in the long jump competition, won by Irving Jahir Saladino Aranda of Panama. Johnson's best first round jump of 7.79 meters was 11th in his heat and 22nd overall and did not advance him to the final round.

Former **Norfolk State** sprinter **Chandra Stirrup**, running for her native Bahamas, made the semifinals of the women's 100 meters and was just nudged out from a spot in the finals. Her time in the semis of 11.22 tied teammate Debbie Ferguson for the eighth and final spot. Ferguson advanced to the finals. St. Aug's **Barbara Pierre**, running for Haiti, did not make the semifinals of the event after clocking a 11.56 time in her second round heat.

COPPIN STATE'S NEW AD:

Derrick Ramsey, a former player in the National Football League with previous experience in collegiate athletics, has been appointed as the new director of athletics at **Coppin State University**. Coppin State's president, **Dr. Reginald S. Avery**, who appointed Ramsey to the position on July 1, 2008, introduced him at a news conference held on campus on Monday, August 18, 2008.



RAMSEY

In his more than 10-year career in intercollegiate athletics, Ramsey has served as an athletics administrator at **Kentucky State University** and the University of Kentucky as well as having been a student-athlete while attending Kentucky. He also served as the Deputy Secretary of Commerce for the state of Kentucky under the direction of former Governor Ernie Fletcher.

The 52-year old Ramsey served as the Director of Athletics at Kentucky State from 1999-2003 and was the Director of Community Relations at Kentucky from 1998-99. From 2003-07 Ramsey served as the Deputy Secretary of Commerce for the state of Kentucky where he oversaw the Fish and Wildlife Department, the Kentucky State Fair and Exposition Center and operated a budget in excess of \$50 million.

During his tenure at Kentucky State, Ramsey significantly reorganized the athletic department's budget, administration and academics. Over 24 percent of the student-athletes at Kentucky State earned a grade-point average of at least 3.0 and he also oversaw the implementation of a 5,000-square foot academic and fitness center. On the field, five teams won conference championships and the Kentucky State football team posted its highest win total in 25 years in 2003.

"I plan to bring accountability to Coppin State athletics," said Ramsey. "When you have accountability then things begin to happen. Academics are my main priority and we will improve in that area. Also, I am focused on improving our Olympic sports and bringing them to a championship level."

Ramsey spent over four years working at his alma mater, the University of Kentucky. He worked as a community relations officer before being elevated to the position of Director of Development and Community Relations where he coordinated fundraising strategies.

ROSCOE NANCE

BCSP Contributing Writer

'Cole-Blooded' football is on the horizon at **Texas Southern** with the arrival of **Johnnie Cole** as the Tigers' new head coach and his brother, **L. C. Cole** as his top assistant.

The 'Cole-Blooded' moniker came to be used in the midst of the duo building impressive track records turning around downtrodden programs at **Tennessee State** and **Alabama State**, where L.C. Cole was head coach and Johnnie Cole was his top assistant, and at **Lane College** where the roles were reversed.

And Texas Southern certainly qualifies as a downtrodden program. The Tigers are 4-40 over the last four years under former head coach **Steve Wilson** and were 0-11 in 2007, their second winless season in that span. They have finished last in the Western Division of the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** three of the last four years.

Johnnie Cole, a 1986 Texas Southern graduate and former Tigers quarterback, is undaunted by the task ahead.

"I got a five-year contract, and if you know anything about (the) Coach Cole(s), we turn it around real quick," he says.

This year, Johnnie Cole joins **Ernest L. Jones** at **Alcorn State**, who is also returning to his alma mater, and former NFL linebacker **Monte Coleman** at **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** as new coaches in SWAC. But none of the others has head coaching experience or a brother in the fold with championships under his belt.

With L. C. at the helm, The Cole brothers won back-to-back Ohio Valley Conference championships at Tennessee State in 1998-99 and two SWAC East titles at Alabama State in 2001 and 2003. Under Johnnie's direction, Lane had back-to-back winning seasons for the first time in school history (8-3 in 2006 and 7-3 in 2007).

Johnnie has earned a reputation for offensive ingenuity and will coordinate the TSU attack. He'll use what he calls the HOB0 (High Octane, Big-play Offense). Alabama State was No. 6 in scoring (37.5 ppg.) in I-AA and No. 3 in total offense (486 ypg.) in 2001 with it. Tennessee State led the OVC in every offensive category in 1999 while ending the regular sea-



THE BROTHERS COLE: Head coach Johnnie (l.) will run the offense while brother L. C. (r.) handles the defense as the Coles try to turnaround the moribund Texas Southern program as the No. 1 ranked team in NCAA Div. I-AA football, a first for a black college program. Lane was second in scoring in the SIAC behind Black College national champion **Tuskegee University** last season.

Texas Southern averaged 14.0 points last season, ninth in the 10-team conference.

"It's premature to say how we will do," Cole says. "It's one thing we will do. We will score."

Senior quarterback **Bobby Reid**, a highly touted Houston high school player who transferred from Oklahoma State for his final season, will be the triggerman.

Reid started 27 games at Oklahoma State and passed for 3,123 yards and 28 touchdowns. He also rushed for 654 yards. Reid is still getting a handle on the Tigers' offense and adjusting to the personnel around him, but Cole is confident Reid will have full grasp of the playbook by the time Texas Southern faces arch-rival **Prairie View** in the Labor Day Classic Aug. 30.

"He's a big-time player," Cole says. "We're going to predicate our offense on what he does. He'll be a major part of our success. I don't think we're where we want to be, or where he wants to. On scale of 10, he's about eight right now. But we got time."

L.C. Cole is the Tigers' defensive coordinator. He inherits a unit that was last in the conference in total yards allowed (399.4), rushing yards allowed (208.6) and points allowed (39.5). His forte is the 3-4 alignment, which requires solid linebacker play in order to be successful, and the Tigers have a strong nucleus at that position, led by sophomore **DeJuan**

CIAA PROFILE

Chowan ready for CIAA
debut, CIAA ready for change

BONITTA BEST

BCSP Contributing Writer

Tim Place looked as nervous as a guy who's about to ask the prettiest girl in high school on a date.

Place and **Chowan University** were making their official debut as members of the CIAA family at July's preseason football luncheon on the campus of **Virginia State University**, about to be forever engraved in black college sports history as the first predominately white institution to join a historically black conference.

"We understand the significance of being the first, and we take it very seriously," Place said.

While the announcement made last September caught many by surprise, those who know CIAA Commissioner **Leon Kerry** weren't.

"I'm going to be on the bubble because I'm changing the perspective of the conference," Kerry said before the Chowan announcement. "I don't have a problem integrating. Time is passing us by." He was right.

Since the late 1990s, the NCAA Div. II conference has lost **Hampton, Norfolk State, Winston-Salem State** and **N.C. Central Universities**. The former three are members now of the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**, while NCCU is in its second year as a NCAA Div. I (FCS) Independent.

There was some question whether the conference could survive after the recent departures of WSSU and NCCU, which had two of the largest combined fan bases. But the conference is bouncing back.

Chowan is in for football only - for now - and **Lincoln (Pa.) University**, one of the original members of the CIAA, officially returns next year after moving up to NCAA Division II status. And there could be others.

"We've got a 75 percent chance of getting **Kentucky State**, and we're still talking with **UNC-Pembroke**," Kerry said.

Kentucky State is currently a member of the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference**, another historically black Div. II conference. UNC-Pembroke, a member of the Peach Belt Conference, has been named the most diverse state university in the country.

Both would be admitted for football only. **Pembroke** is a member of a conference that doesn't have football. Athletic Director Dan Kenny said last year that they were talking to



PLACE

all the conferences and a decision won't be made until 2009. So for now, Chowan is the star of the show.

Located in Murfreesboro, N.C., school officials are quite familiar with the CIAA. The Hawks are in the same region as **Elizabeth City State** - a rivalry ready to be born - and is only a short distance from the Hampton Roads, Newport News and Virginia Beach areas, all a hotbed for

CIAA fans and alumni. Chowan is a D-I member of the National Christian College Athletic Association and a member of the NCAA D2. Ironically, Chowan officials were ready to move to the CIAA before being invited.

"The president [**M. Christopher White**] and I talked about it in March 2006," Chowan Athletics Director **Dennis Helsel** said. "But we didn't meet the qualifications [historically black], and we felt we could not approach the conference for that reason. We never thought about asking them to change their requirements." Then a chance meeting changed the course of history.

"In May 2007, some of the [CIAA] presidents were out in San Diego at a meeting and our president happened to be there," Helsel continued. "They approached Dr. White and asked if we would be interested in joining. Whether they were asking in jest or whether they were serious, we took the ball and ran with it. We sent them a letter immediately, and the rest is history."

Anytime there is change, some dissension is sure to follow. On the CIAA side, supporters decry the death of exclusivity for black colleges. Will Chowan's entrance bring more? What will it do to the culture and "flavor" of the conference?

"The CIAA will always be the CIAA," Kerry said. "It's not like there are dozens of black schools out there for us take. And we're not going to let just anybody in. They have to come with the complete package."

On the Chowan side, well, white people moving into an all-black neighborhood is just too much. "If I'm a minority, and something that gave me and my children an opportunity, I think I would have concern over what does Chowan do to that," Helsel said. "I can't change that, but I want people to realize that, hey, we're here and we're here because it's an athletic conference, and we're thankful that we were given the opportunity. We're sure going to try to show people that maybe this world is more green than we think it is."

Fulgham.

But Johnnie Cole says that his brother's presence is what will make the difference.

"It's no doubt it's a plus that he's my brother," Johnnie Cole says. "But he's also a great coach. Getting him on my staff was one of the first things I talked to Texas Southern about."

The Cole brothers are almost as well known for running afoul of the NCAA as they are for turning around struggling programs. Johnnie Cole was banned from coaching in a game at Tennessee State during the 1999 season after an investigation determined there had been several rules violations. Tennessee State was later sanctioned. Alabama State fired the brothers before the 2003 season as the result of an internal investigation.

L. C. Cole has been exonerated of major violations at Alabama State, charges against his brother are pending. Johnnie Cole says those incidents are behind him and his brother.

"That's exaggerated," says Johnnie, "a witch hunt. We have moved forward. I can't anticipate that happening here. We will use all precautionary measures to dot all I's and cross all T's. We're working hand-in-hand with the athletic director and compliance office. The spotlight is on us, no doubt."

Cole says returning to his alma mater as head coach is his "dream job." But he acknowledges that there is a certain amount of pressure that comes with being an alumnus, and that dream could become a nightmare if the losing continues.

"I have alumni backing and support," he says. "But along with that comes expectations. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Cole says having played at Texas Southern and coached against the Tigers gives him firsthand knowledge of what is needed to turn the program around.

"We've always had great players," he says. "But we never had great teams. I think one of the biggest things is we didn't have discipline. One of the things I know I have to do is establish discipline."

Cole has started by banning players from wearing dreadlocks, ear rings and gold plates in their mouth. Also, players are required to wear their pants up on their waist and wear a shirt and tie when the team travels, and he is adamant that players lift weights and go to class.

"If they can't do those two things, they can't play for me," he says.

2008 HOMECOMINGS

OCTOBER 4	
CLARK ATLANTA vs. Savannah State	1:30
EDWARD WATERS vs. George Mason	3
W. VIRGINIA STATE vs. Concord (WV)	1:30

OCTOBER 11	
ALABAMA A&M vs. Grambling State	3
ALBANY STATE vs. Clark Atlanta	3
BETHUNE-COOKMAN vs. Delaware State	4
BOWIE STATE vs. Elizabeth City State	1
CENTRAL STATE vs. Langston	1:30
CHEYNEY vs. Bloomsburg	1
CONCORDIA vs. Miles	2
KENTUCKY STATE vs. Fort Valley State	1:30
LINCOLN (MO) vs. Xavier	2
NC A&T vs. Morgan State	TBA
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M vs. Alabama State	2
SC STATE vs. Norfolk State	1:30
SOUTHERN vs. Texas Southern	5:30

OCTOBER 18	
DELAWARE STATE vs. NC A&T	1:30
FAYETTEVILLE STATE vs. J. C. Smith	2
FORT VALLEY STATE vs. Benedict	1
GRAMBLING STATE vs. Alabama State	2
HOWARD vs. Morgan State	1
LINCOLN (PA) vs. Elizabeth City State	TBA
LIVINGSTONE vs. St. Augustine's	3
MILES vs. Kentucky State	1
MISS VALLEY STATE vs. Savannah State	1
SAINT PAUL'S vs. Bowie State	1:30
SHAW vs. Chowan	4
VIRGINIA UNION vs. Virginia State	1

OCTOBER 25	
ALCORN STATE vs. Texas Southern	2
ARK.-PINE BLUFF vs. Lincoln (MO)	2:30
BENEDICT vs. Stillman	2
ELIZABETH CITY STATE vs. Saint Paul's	1:30
JACKSON STATE vs. Miss Valley State	4
JOHNSON C. SMITH vs. Chowan	1
LANE vs. Clark Atlanta	2
LANGSTON vs. NW Oklahoma State	3
MOREHOUSE vs. Albany State	2
MORGAN STATE vs. Delaware State	1
NORFOLK STATE vs. Florida A&M	1
VIRGINIA STATE vs. Lincoln (PA)	1:30
W-SALEM STATE vs. Bethune-Cookman	2

NOVEMBER 1	
FLORIDA A&M vs. Morgan State	
HAMPTON vs. Winston-Salem State	2
NC CENTRAL vs. Edward Waters	1:30
SAINT AUGUSTINE'S vs. Chowan	4
SAVANNAH STATE vs. Concordia	1
TENNESSEE STATE vs. Tennessee Tech	TBA
TEXAS COLLEGE vs. Bacone	7:30

NOVEMBER 8	
STILLMAN vs. Fort Valley State	1
TEXAS SOUTHERN vs. Miss Valley State	1
TUSKEGEE vs. Lane	1

NOVEMBER 27	
ALABAMA STATE vs. Tuskegee	1