

Manque Winters  
Los Angeles Southwest College

## **What So Proudly We Hail**

The appearance of Black College football players at the college and professional levels is not by mere chance or coincidence. It is a legacy of both black coaches and former players from the black communities and others who embraced the historically Black Colleges. Sport history rarely gives due justice and proper recognition to these pioneers even though it was they who established the precedence for the present achievers and contributors.

Consistently moving blacks into the mainstream of life, historically black colleges have been steadfast in their mission, philosophy, and goals. From the ranks of their football program have come numerous world-renowned competitors and leaders. Out of what they have done, they have given a vision for the world of their capability. Their strength is not only in athletics but also in moving blacks into the mainstream of life. From their sacred halls have come the Martin Luther Kings, Thurgood Marshalls, Andrew Youngs, Langston Hughes, Toni Morrisons, Mordecai Johnsons, Booker T. Washingtons, Elwood “Bingo” DeMosses and Reverend Jesse L. Jacksons.

Historically Black colleges have a unique calling and mission. They consistently do what other institutions of higher education have said could not be done. They embrace those that others reject, they teach those that others label ‘unteachable,’ they give late-bloomers the time to bloom. At Black colleges and universities, both the average and the gifted Black child now knows that she or he can aspire to many esteemed careers.

Among the accomplishments of the players and coaches of Black colleges, as with other students, one salient fact is that they achieve, academically and professionally. For years and even today, burdened by inadequate funds and meager facilities, like the phoenix, “out of the ashes they have arisen and they are continuing to arise.” The purpose of this paper is to confirm the viability of the football players and coaches of historically Black colleges who struggled and persisted in spite of many obstacles to achieve triumph over failure in and out of sport.