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[Terrell HS](#)



[C.L. Whittington](#)
[South Houston HS](#)



[Mike Jinks](#)
[Steele HS](#)



"You get a bond with the players and they begin to trust you. It's that way in every city. There just aren't enough fathers around. I'd guess 75 percent of my kids, the last few years, didn't have a male figure in the home. We blame them for antisocial behaviors, such as not showing respect to women, but they're not being taught. You have to invest the time with them and show them you care."

-- [Ray Seals, Houston Madison \(Retired, 2011\)](#)

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACH

By Glenn Johnson

Unfortunately, the first and only father figure for a lot of African American young men is their high school athletics coach. Having matured during the time of racial segregation, [Prairie View A&M University](#) grad Glenn Johnson has seen the positive effect of black coaches on athletes, specifically, and students, in general.

“Back in the day, so to speak, the coach served as a surrogate father,” Johnson said. “Unfortunately, today, because of a dearth of African American head football coaches, in the over 1300 football playing high schools in the state of Texas, I feel that African American male students are, too often, left to their own devices, without guidance that the black coach could provide. The African American male student is no longer being guided by strong black male images that were available to them when, for instance, the Prairie View Interscholastic League was in existence.”

From 1920 to 1970, the Prairie View Interscholastic League governed

athletic and academic competitions for the 500 Texas high schools with predominantly black enrollments, coaches, and administrations before integration. Black mentors were available and in abundance, especially for athletes. And beyond high school, black athletes could find guidance through their coaches at historically black colleges, which were the only available options for blacks seeking to pursue higher education and athletics in the South.

For these and other reasons, Johnson and other alumni of PVAMU are working to inform student-athletes, across the nation, that Prairie View and other [historically black colleges](#) are institutions where they will find African Americans able and willing to help guide them to successful personal and professional lives.

To emphasize that message, and as a reminder and acknowledgement of the importance of coaches, Johnson has put together a [photo gallery](#) identifying many of the black men (and women!) who are guiding some of the 1,300 high school football programs in Texas.

“The football coach in Texas has become, all too often, the only father figure that many of our young men encounter in their daily lives and therefore these coaches, these men, are an integral part our community’s efforts to raise quality young men of good character,” Johnson said. It goes without saying that the Panther Nation whole-heartedly supports the efforts of Texas’ fine high school coaches in their efforts to not only win athletic contests, but even more importantly, to cultivate good character traits within the student-athletes of their respective teams.

“It is our hope that all of us who comprise the Panther Nation will make sure, in our many and varied interactions with these fine coaches, to let them know that we appreciate their efforts toward the development of the many student-athletes within the school settings.”

Johnson is a native of Marlin, Texas where he participated in sports at Booker T. Washington High School, and graduated in 1967. He graduated from PVAMU with a bachelor of arts degree in business management in 1970 and a master’s in economics in 1971.