



# Black History Month All-Star: Rodney Page



Rodney Page had been a pillar for the Central Texas area for over 40 years. He is known as the University of Texas’ first African American head coach of any sport coaching the women’s basketball team. He was also Texas’ first varsity women’s coach. He coached Retha Swindell Texas first African American woman to play varsity sports for the school. He used basketball as a life lesson tool that teaches everything that happens on the floor references everything in real life.

Retha Swindell and Rodney Page Conversation with...



Page was a young coach only 24 years old in 1972 when Texas began playing basketball and once Texas started a varsity team, in the 1974-75 season, his Lady Longhorns hit the court full steam. In his two seasons as coach, the team went 38-17, making the AIAW National Tournaments both seasons. In his second season, 1975-76, they went 21-7 and 2-1 in the tournament.

Rodney Page NCAA Celebration of Champions



After his second season, Page was let go by the new women’s athletic director seeking a coach who could coach both basketball and volleyball, which volleyball wasn’t an expertise for Page. Page never coached again and in 1979, he left Texas to become an elementary teacher. Texas didn’t hire another African American head coach for over 15 years when they hired Bev Kearney to be their track and field coach in 1993.



In 2018 Page was honored at the NCAA Celebration of Champions. Currently, Page is a consultant at Success High School in the Round Rock Independent School District as part of the Life Coach and Mentors program for students and educators. Its promotional mission is building, empowering and inspiring the lives of others. In 2003 Page was named RRISD Teacher of the Year.

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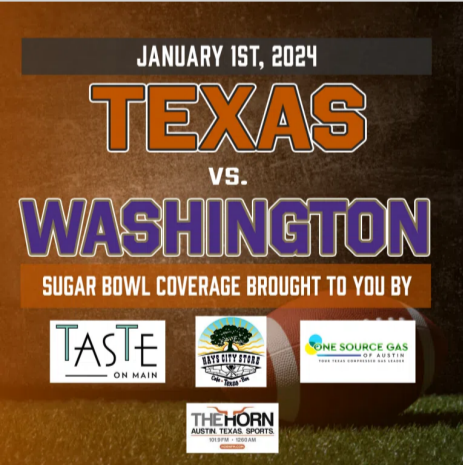
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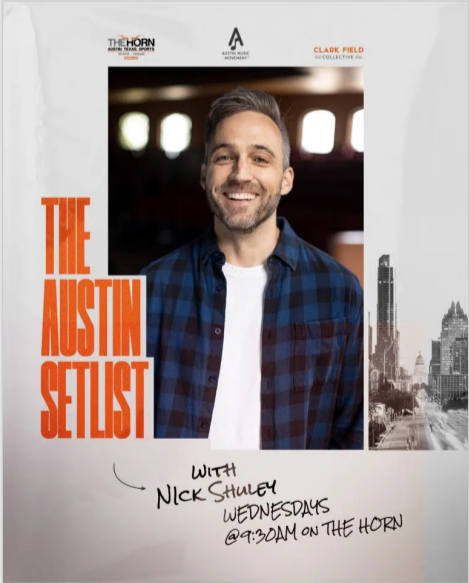
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