

Texas Southern Athletics Mourns the Loss of Former Bowling Head Coach Robert Powell

Written by Forward Times Staff
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Texas Southern Athletics said goodbye to a longtime coach, colleague and friend. TSU former women's bowling head coach Robert Powell passed away last week, after a long battle with cancer. He was 62.

Coach Powell's head coaching career at Texas Southern University was one of the most successful in TSU and the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) history.

Coach Powell became the women's bowling head coach in 1999. Since then, the Lady Tigers won four SWAC Championships and one runner-up finish. His teams won back-to-back SWAC Championship Titles in 2000 & 2001 and again in 2005 & 2006. In 2005, Coach Powell's team went 11-0 in conference and was ranked 10th in the nation.

Coach Powell coached six SWAC Bowlers of the Year, dozens of All-SWAC bowlers and one SWAC Most Valuable Player. His latest SWAC Bowler of the Year was Chantel Jefferson who captured the title in 2011.

Coach Powell's most prized accomplishment was that nearly all of his student-athletes graduated on time.

Powell has bowled in the Lollipop League for 10 years and holds a Team USA Bronze Certification. Powell belongs to the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association (NCBA).

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He was the first African-American coach to vote for NCBA Female All-American. Powell was also counselor with the Educational Opportunities Center, on the campus of TSU.

He was a 1996 graduate of TSU in Social Work. Powell is survived by his wife Toni Harris-Powell, mother Loretta, brothers Stacy and Allen, seven children, 11 grand-children and one great grand-child. Funeral Services will be held Saturday, November 10, 2012 at Mabrie Memorial Mortuary, 5000 Almeda Rd., Houston, TX 77004 Viewing 12 noon, service will begin at 1:00pm