



By John Harris Jr.
VILLAGER Sports
Columnist

Coach Prime Large And In Charge at Jackson State



Jackson State University players, led by coach Deion Sanders, prepare for their entrance into Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium at the Southern Heritage Classic on Sept. 11, 2021, in Memphis, Tennessee. Gerry Melendez for The Undeclared

(VILLAGER) - Sadly, history could very well repeat itself.

Deion Sanders (a.k.a., Prime Time or Coach Prime, take your pick) is well on his way to becoming the new Eddie Robinson. He's done a remarkable job elevating Jackson State's football program.

So remarkable, in fact, that Sanders has been mentioned as a legitimate candidate for Power 5 coaching openings, including Auburn in the SEC.

"I'd be a fool and a liar to tell you I'm not going to entertain those things because I am," Sanders said in a 60 Minutes interview. "But I have no plans to move or go anywhere."

Don't go, Deion. Stay.

Finish what you started.

I want Deion to be the king of Black College Football. In three short years, he's already made HBCU football relevant

again. Not since the days of Robinson and Doug Williams at Grambling, Jerry Rice at Mississippi Valley State and Walter Payton at, yes, Jackson State, has Black college football generated so much excitement.

It would be a shame to see Deon leave Jackson State for a bigger bag of cash and take all that excitement with him.

Coach Prime at Auburn won't be the same as Coach Prime at Jackson State.

Coach Prime IS Jackson State.

That won't be the

case at Auburn, where an eight-figure contract raises the ante, and the level of competition is much steeper.

"Too many African American coaches from HBCUs have been attached to anything concerning the Power 5," Sanders said in the same 60 Minutes interview. "We love to do the things that have not been done around Jackson State."

Top recruits who previously didn't consider playing football at a Black college now want to play for Sanders at Jackson State, an HBCU

program coached by a Pro Football Hall of Famer who's restoring pride in self and Black college football. Coach Prime sells recruits on why go to a Power 5 program when you can play for me at Jackson State, win big and still impress NFL scouts. He loses that edge if he coaches at a Power 5 program.

It takes me back to the great Rube Foster,

A native of Calvert, Texas born in 1879, Foster founded the Negro National League. To this day, it remains the only sports league owned, managed and played by

Blacks. Foster wanted entire Black baseball franchises to join the white Major Leagues, not just individual players like Jackie Robinson. Unfortunately, Foster's mental breakdown in 1926 and his death four years later led to Major League teams raiding Negro League rosters and capitalizing on the Black community's desire to integrate.

While Major League baseball eventually welcomed players from the Negro Leagues, beginning with Robinson in 1947, its refusal to integrate and accept Ne-

gro League teams eliminated every Black person involved in baseball - owners, coaches, trainers, lawyers, and accountants - except the precious on-the-field talent.

I fear that's what will happen if Sanders leaves Jackson State for a Power 5 opportunity, that HBCU football will go back to being irrelevant.

I want the best for Coach Prime. Let's hope he finds everything he needs at Jackson State.

John Harris Jr. can be reached at jdharrisjr@yahoo.com.

WELLS FARGO

Avoid online shopping scams

Four tips for safer holiday shopping online



Watch for red flags

Pressure to purchase immediately, rude or pushy language, or unusually specific ways to pay such as gift cards, crypto, or payment apps. Pay with a credit card if you don't know the seller.

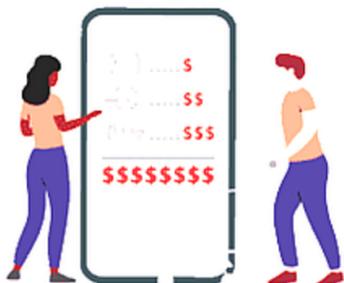
Know who you're buying from

Check out the seller before checking out — remember, anyone can set up an online shop or social ad. Do an online search for information or complaints and be sure they are legit.



Make sure it's the real deal

Be wary of hidden costs like shipping, insurance, special handling, fake COVID-related costs, or product shortage related fees.



Pause before you buy

If an online deal seems too good to be true, take a moment to talk to a trusted friend or family member before you decide to buy.



WELLS FARGO WANTS YOU TO AVOID ONLINE SHOPPING SCAMS

Whether you're shopping online to buy a used car, jewelry, or even clothing, it's important to guard against online shopping scams. According to the FTC, online shopping scams were the second most common fraud category reported by consumers in 2021¹.

Online scammers are smart. Be prepared to identify potential scams with the following online shopping safety tips.

10 Tips to Identify and Help Protect Yourself From Online Shopping Scams

1. Only shop on secure websites with good reputations.
2. Do not shop using public wi-fi connections.
3. Be suspicious of deals that are too good to be true.
4. Avoid sellers who use pressure tactics to get you to buy.
5. Be wary of social media ads that may take you to an unfamiliar shopping site.
6. Use a credit card to purchase instead of debit cards, prepaid cards, or wire transfers.
7. Set up bank account alerts and notifications to monitor your accounts.
8. Never give out sensitive information like your account or social security number.
9. Search for the seller and the word "scam" to vet them before sending money
10. If something doesn't feel right, trust your gut and walk away

Shopping online is convenient, fast, and easy. However, it's important to know how to shop safely so you don't fall victim to online shopping scams. By putting these tips into practice, you can feel more confident that you will recognize the signs of a scam.

Remember, it's better to be cautious and risk losing a deal rather than lose your money. If you've already sent money, report the scam right away to your bank and the Federal Trade Commission.