



DIVERSITY INCREASES IN NFL COACHING RANKS;
CRENNEL NEW HEAD COACH OF BROWNS

The NFL’s policy on diversity in the coaching ranks is working.

With the hiring this offseason of **ROMEO CRENNEL** as the head coach of the Cleveland Browns, there are more African-American head coaches – six – than in any time in NFL history.

Crennel joins **TONY DUNGY** (Indianapolis), **HERMAN EDWARDS** (New York Jets), **DENNIS GREEN** (Arizona), **MARVIN LEWIS** (Cincinnati) and **LOVIE SMITH** (Chicago) as minority head coaches.

The NFL Committee on Workplace Diversity, instituted in 2002 and chaired by Pittsburgh Steelers Chairman **DAN ROONEY**, requires, among other conditions, NFL clubs to interview at least one minority candidate when they have a head-coaching availability.

The committee also allows NFL assistant coaches whose teams are in the playoffs and have a bye week to interview for head-coaching positions during that week.

New Cleveland head coach Crennel took advantage of that opportunity in the bye week of his team, the New England Patriots, in the 2004 playoffs to interview with the Browns.

“My skin color is black, but I am a head coach,” says Crennel. “I hope I possess the qualities of a head coach in leadership, organization, and prioritizing. The best thing I can do for other minority candidates is to be successful and a role model.”

Also in the past offseason, two African-American coaches were appointed as assistant head coaches – **CHARLIE BAGGETT** in Miami and **MIKE SINGLETARY** in San Francisco. They join two other minorities in that role – **JIM CALDWELL** in Indianapolis and **JIMMY RAYE** in Oakland.

Three of the NFL’s six African-American head coaches – Edwards, Lewis and Smith – are graduates of the **NFL MINORITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**. The program, begun in 1987, annually provides NFL training-camp positions to minority coaches. Numerous present-day NFL coaches have partaken in the program, such as **JOHNNIE LYNN** of Baltimore, **RICKY HUNLEY** of Cincinnati and **DE WAYNE WALKER** of Washington.

Another graduate of the program, former NFL player **RUBIN CARTER**, who participated in the training camp of the New England Patriots in 1992, was recently named the head coach at Florida A&M.

One of Romeo Crennel's first moves in assuming the helm of the Browns was to hire **MAURICE CARTHON** as his offensive coordinator. “Maurice has a tremendous work ethic,” says Crennel. “I know he will be a great asset to the Cleveland Browns.”

Top African-American NFL coaching positions:

2005 NFL AFRICAN-AMERICAN HEAD COACHES,
ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES & COORDINATORS

Charlie Baggett, Miami, Ass’t. Head Coach *	Donnie Henderson, NY Jets, Defense
Greg Blache, Washington, Defense	Marvin Lewis, Cincinnati, Head Coach
Jim Caldwell, Indianapolis, Ass’t. Head Coach	Tim Lewis, NY Giants, Defense
Maurice Carthon, Cleveland, Offense *	Ron Meeks, Indianapolis, Defense
Ted Cottrell, Minnesota, Defense	Jimmy Raye, Oakland, Ass’t. Head Coach
Romeo Crennel, Cleveland, Head Coach *	Ray Rhodes, Seattle, Defense
Tony Dungy, Indianapolis, Head Coach	Mike Singletary, SF, Ass’t. Head Coach *
Herman Edwards, NY Jets, Head Coach	Lovie Smith, Chicago, Head Coach
Jerry Gray, Buffalo, Defense	* Appointed in 2005
Dennis Green, Arizona, Head Coach	

Another program to help **all assistant coaches** advance is the **NFL COACHES CAREER DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM**. The symposium, conceived by NFL Commissioner **PAUL TAGLIABUE** as a way to help assistant coaches and coordinators develop the unique skills demanded of NFL head coaches, offers a far-ranging agenda of career-enhancement topics tailored specifically to NFL assistants. The eighth annual Coaches Career Symposium was held this past May in Orlando.

The **NFL EUROPE LEAGUE** this past spring conducted for a third year a program similar to the NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship.

The **NFL EUROPE LEAGUE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM** included 11 active and 17 former NFL players who participated in the month-long NFLEL training camps in Tampa in February. Twelve of the former players continued coaching for the entire 10-week NFL Europe League season in Europe, and some joined NFL clubs during training camp as part of the NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship Program.

The twelve were **ANTONIO BANKS, JOE BOWDEN, CRIS DISHMAN, KURT GOUVEIA, JAY HAGOOD, ALVIN HARPER, ROBERT HUNT, E.J. JUNIOR, MARVIN MARSHALL, JAMES ROTHUS, CHRIS WARD** and **MILTON WYNN**. The NFLEL Internship Program is a joint effort of the NFL and the NFL Players Association.

