



## **TOMLIN LATEST MINORITY FELLOWSHIP GRAD TO JOIN HEAD-COACHING RANKS; MAKES IT A FOURSOME WITH EDWARDS, LEWIS & SMITH**

The **NFL MINORITY COACHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM** keeps producing head coaches.

In 2007, it will be **MIKE TOMLIN**, new head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers who is only the third head coach in the past 38 years for the club. Tomlin interned with the Cleveland Browns in the summer of 2000 when he was the defensive backs coach of the University of Cincinnati.

He joins three other minority coaches who partook in the fellowship program who are now NFL head coaches – **HERM EDWARDS** of the Kansas City Chiefs, **MARVIN LEWIS** of the Cincinnati Bengals and **LOVIE SMITH** of the Chicago Bears. These four make up the majority of the six African-American head coaches in the league this year.

The NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship Program, instituted in 1981, provides training-camp positions for minority coaches at NFL clubs. Nearly 1,000 minority coaches have participated in the program since its inception.

Tomlin definitely feels that the fellowship prepared him for his new job. “The coaching fellowship gave me an opportunity to learn what I needed to do if I wanted to coach in the NFL,” he says. “As a head coach, I plan to utilize the fellowship to the fullest to give others the same opportunities that were afforded to me.”

Tomlin recently promoted Steelers defensive line coach **JOHN MITCHELL** – the first African-American assistant coach to be a defensive coordinator in the Southeastern Conference when he was at LSU in 1990 – to be the Steelers’ assistant head coach.

Tomlin’s ascension was just one of many notable appointments for African-American coaches and administrators in the NFL and colleges in the offseason:

- **HUE JACKSON** was named the Atlanta Falcons’ offensive coordinator by new head coach Bobby Petrino. Jackson partook in the NFL Minority Coaching Fellowship in 1995 with the Washington Redskins when he was an assistant at Arizona State.
- **RANDY SHANNON** became the first African-American head coach of the Miami Hurricanes. Shannon, a linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys in 1989-90, participated in two Minority Fellowships as an assistant with Miami – with Dallas in 1993 and Chicago in 1994.
- **REGGIE BARLOW**, a wide receiver for the Jacksonville Jaguars and Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1996-03, was named head coach of his alma mater, Alabama State. Barlow tutored Minnesota Vikings starting quarterback Tarvaris Jackson as ASU’s quarterback coach.
- **GEORGE KOONCE**, a linebacker for the Green Bay Packers and Seattle Seahawks from 1992-00 and the Packers’ director of player development in 2006, was appointed senior associate athletic director of Marquette University. Koonce has a master’s in sports management from East Carolina.
- **JERRY REESE** was named only the New York Giants’ third general manager in the past 27 years. The team’s director of player personnel, he learned of his elevation on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 15). “I thought about that a lot, and it was perfect timing,” says Reese.

### **2007 NFL AFRICAN-AMERICAN HEAD COACHES, ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES & COORDINATORS**

Keith Armstrong, Miami, Special Teams *	Ron Meeks, Indianapolis, Defense
Greg Blache, Washington, Defense	Winston Moss, Green Bay, Ass’t. Head Coach
Jim Caldwell, Indianapolis, Ass’t. Head Coach	Clarence Shelmon, San Diego, Offense *
Ted Cottrell, San Diego, Defense *	Mike Singletary, SF, Ass’t. Head Coach
Romeo Crennel, Cleveland, Head Coach	Jim Skipper, Carolina, Ass’t. Head Coach
Tony Dungy, Indianapolis, Head Coach	Lovie Smith, Chicago, Head Coach
Herman Edwards, Kansas City, Head Coach	Sherman Smith, Tennessee, Ass’t. Head Coach
Perry Fewell, Buffalo, Defense	Brian Stewart, Dallas, Defense *
Leslie Frazier, Minnesota, Defense *	Mike Tomlin, Pittsburgh, Head Coach *
Hue Jackson, Atlanta, Offense *	John Williams, Pittsburgh, Ass’t. Head Coach
Marvin Lewis, Cincinnati, Head Coach	* Appointed in 2007