

## Transcript



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## HAROLD WHITE ORAL HISTORY

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**Prepared for:** The South Carolina State Department of Education

**Prepared by:** The Auntie Karen Foundation

**Date:** June 15, 2017

**Project:** Documenting South Carolina Civil Rights Oral History from 1950 – 1979

*Funding provided by The South Carolina General Assembly, authorized by the 2016 General Appropriations Act, Proviso 1A.2, and administered by the South Carolina Department of Education.*

Dedicated the memory of SC House of Representative

**Joseph “Joe” H. Neal**

August 31, 1950 – February 14, 2017



## Civil Rights Oral History Interview with Harold White

Interviewee: Harold White

Interviewer (s): Tre Tailor  
Karen Alexander  
Ricky Taylor  
Tony Kenion

Location: Columbia, SC

Interview Length: 45:54

Supplemental Material: Includes transcript, interview release form, select photos, video, art rendering by Rodgers Boykin, music by Byron Counts

## Abstract

Harold White was born in Columbia, South Carolina on August 3, 1940. Harold attended Carver Elementary School and C. A. Johnson High School in Columbia, South Carolina. He went on to Orangeburg, SC to attend college at South Carolina State.

In the interview, Harold describes his childhood memories of growing up in Allen-Benedict Court. He gives an insight into the world of coaching in the early 60s and 70s. Sharing her journey from coach at Lakeview High School in West Columbia to the first African American coach at the University of South Carolina.



**Harold White**

## Transcript

Tre Tailor: Today is Friday, March 3, 2017, I'm here with Coach Harold White, and we are gonna talk about his life as an instructor during the time period of 1950 through 1979. Coach Harold White, please tell us your name.

Harold White: Harold Andrew White.

Tre Tailor: And where and when were you born?

Harold White: I was born in Columbia, South Carolina on August 3, 1940.

Tre Tailor: And where did you grow up?

Harold White: Again, in Columbia, South Carolina, was born on Warner Street in Columbia. We moved to Allen Benedict Court in 1948, and from there, I went finished my elementary school at Carver, then to C.A. Johnson high school, graduated from C.A. Johnson in 1958, also was the same year we'd moved out of, but at that point, I went to South Carolina State for my college work.

Tre Tailor: Why did you want to go into the teaching profession?

Harold White: Well, I wanted to be like my high school coach. My high school coach was Charles Bolden Senior at C.A. Johnson. And in 1954, the highest in C.A. Johnson high school played Reed High out of Belmont, North Carolina for the first game of the season, I had a brother who's a year older than I be on that team. And they beat Reed High school 38 to 6 the first game of the season. For the next eight to 10 games, whatever it was, no one in South Carolina school scored on C.A. Johnson, and of course, we had the pleasure of beating our across town rival that year.

That following Monday was a big assembly for the new state champs there. Coach Bolden, the football coach introduced the brother tendons that was on the team, there was the Parsch brothers, the Portee brothers and a few more. And I sat there as a ninth grader, and my brother James who was on that team, I said, "Next year, dog gone it, it's gonna be the White brothers, too!" So I went out.

And 1955, and I made a team, and played a little bit that year, but that was my introduction, I guess, to Coach Bolden. Coach Bolden knew of our family conditions and circumstances and so forth. And at that time, he allowed me to come and help him run the house and do those shows for him, and give me spending money. Well, at that time I didn't

know exactly what was his motive, but I appreciated it. As I got older, I learned that Coach Bolden enjoyed working around his house, his beautiful bride Ethel, she didn't cook, he did the cooking, he did the cleaning of the house, he did the yards and so forth.

But yet, he allowed me to come and do some of those things and paid me way more than I deserved, and I knew that at the time. But what Coach Bolden taught me coming out of high school, "Boy, you can be somebody, you can be somebody in spite of circumstances, don't tell me where you've been, tell me where you're going." Type thing. And with that, for the rest of my life, I've taken that with me and shared it with many youngsters out there, I had the opportunity to work with, through the years.

But later, I wanted to be like Coach Bolden, so I wanted to coach someone, when I went to South Carolina State, I was too small to play college football, but I was physical education major, and my major reason for physical education, 'cause I wanted coaching. And when I finished South Carolina State, worked my first year in Beaufort and I became assistant coach there and physical education teacher.

And then the next year, which is about 1964, I became the head football and basketball coach at Lakeview high school, the black high school, in West Columbia, South Carolina, and a physical education teacher, and for the next four years, I was at Lakeview, at the end of that tenure when intergration started coming about, and desegregation, they closed Lakeview, and so the boys and girls from there, then ended up going to Airport and Brookland Cayce.

What I had the honor, the time that Coach Bolden offered me a job, come and join his staff at C.A. Johnson, my Alma Mater. And I became his defensive coordinator, and I had the pleasure of being his defense coordinator for the next three years, so from there, that's how I got into my desire, that's where I got my start, and from Lakeview, I ended up, like I said, back at C.A. Johnson, and then I ended up, in 1971, becoming the first black coach at the University of South Carolina in football.

Tre Tailor: Well, before we go there, let's go back to Lakeview High School, what did you teach at Lakeview?

Harold White: Physical education, and one year I taught biology also, but basically, the physical education and was the football and basketball coach.

Tre Tailor: Now that was, of course, during the 60s, correct?

Harold White: That was the 60s.

Tre Tailor: So that was right smack dab in the middle of, like you said, de-segregation, what were some of the challenges that you, as a faculty and staff member faced?

Harold White: Well, at Lakeview, they built a stadium on the campus of Airport High school. And prior to that, Lakeview played all these games in the back of the school, which was an interesting situation because it was a hilly area, and sometimes before our visiting team, they didn't realize how deep that hill was sometime when you have to go up that hill, and so forth. So we always regard flipping the coin, we wanted to be going down that hill in the fourth quarter, and by and large, most other our opponents realized that also.

When they built the school, they stayed in an airport, then Lakeview, Airport and Brookland Cayce, all three of us used the same stadium, well, in the spring of this year, we would have to get together, the head coaches from those three schools and decide who's gonna play on Thursday nights, who's gonna play on Friday nights and so forth. Well, in that meeting, I was the only black and with my school, and the coach at Brookland Cayce would never refer to me by my name, he never referred to my school by it's name, it was "that school over there" type thing.

Airport coach was a little bit more communicable on them then that. So when they closed Lakeview, they wanted to assign me to be his assistant coach at Brookland Cayce but here's a guy who would never call me by my name, never looked me straight in the face, and you'd want me to go and be his assistant coach? And no. But Coach Bolden, again, came to the rescue, he helped me get the physical education job at C.A. Johnson and I became his defensive coordinator and I coached the JV basketball team for that.

Tre Tailor: Well there were obviously, as you said, some racial tensions, and through peoples' actions, but was there a conversation that you guys would have with the students about some of the challenges they were facing? And some of the challenges, maybe, they would be facing?

Harold White: Yes, you know, coming up, as you said, during the 50s, my mother, like most black parents, made sure we understood the facts of life. And that we were in a segregated society, and that you behave yourself, don't run your mouth off and so forth and so on, I think we all had that lecture from time to time. And I guess, the most striking thing

was, I think 54 or 55 forgot the exact year, Emmett Till was killed in Mississippi, Emmett Till and I were the same age, at that time, that became a sit-down with mom, let me tell you all about some facts of life, y'all heard about that, and she told us about that, and how we're supposed to act.

Now, when you tell that story, sometimes, now, I hear young people say, "Oh, I wish I was back there, I would've done ..." No, you would've kept your mouth shut, you'd have cross that street, and you would follow your mother's instructions, otherwise you'd have a pretty good chance of being the next Emmett Till, so to speak. So we had those kind of experiences, so, but while I was at Lakeview, I got on the, Coach Bolden, again, he got me at the University of South Carolina as a teacher in the summer program called Upward Bound.

And in that summer program, I met a young man who was a graduate assistant football coach at the University. Well, this is farther, I think, in mid-to-late 60s is when colleges in the South started recruiting black athletes, black students, for an example, I think it was 56 or whatever year, by the, when the first blacks went to the University of South Carolina, and I was there, shortly there, after.

Well, I told this young fella who was a graduate assistant with the football team, he was telling me how great the football coach was, and what a great man he was, good Christian guy, and so on and so on, so I told him just how my community felt about the University of South Carolina, I told him what we wanted, their colors are garnet and black, and I said, "Well, we want, where I come from, we want a football game in which the garnet team is gonna play the black team, and we want both of them to lose." And he went on to tell me about how great Coach Diesel was, and Coach Diesel was this and that and the other, and I said, "Well, he's not felt that way in my community."

So he made an arrangement for me to meet Coach Diesel, and Coach Diesel invited me to lunch, we went up to the top of Capstone, and he had a beautiful lunch out there for me, and we talked, and so forth and so on, he was very nice to me, you think. Well, what happened, in 1969, I think it was, Carolina was supposed to have a great football team, and something happened to that team, and if I'd be very frank, it got infested with marijuana, their players thought it was more important, they were trying to win football teams.

Tre Tailor: White players.

Harold White: White players, yep, this time it was basically white there, the first black

players to University came, I think, in 69, it was Jackie Brown and Carlton Heyward, football. Couple of them came to couple of the other sports. Well, we didn't have a really good team, at that time, and Freddie Solomon, the best high school football player that ever come out of the State of South Carolina, then, now, and even in the future. Sumter High school, when Freddie graduated from high school, he was being recruited from across the country. University of South Carolina was part of the ACC. The ACC had a ruling of that rule at that time that in order to get the athletic scholarship, you had to have 800 on the college board.

Well, the year prior to that, the University pulled out of the ACC and became an independent school, so we are no longer under that 800 requirement, and so, Freddie, who had some challenges school-wise, I think, didn't have the 800, but we don't need an 800, 'cause we're no longer in the-

Tre Tailor: In the ACC.

Harold White: The ACC. We're gonna take Freddie, another coach went to Coach Diesel and convinced him not to take Freddie, because if we took Freddie, people will look at us as a outlaw school because they-

Tre Tailor: Because you had a black player.

Harold White: A player with less than 800. Well the issue, again, we're no longer under requirement of 800, so Freddie went to Tampa, the rest is history, later played for the San Francisco 49ers, and I think maybe a couple other in his career, and made all everything. Well, following that, graduate assistant who I'd met, where I work in summer program University, Upward Bound, wanted me to meet Coach Diesel, and I did, and we talked, and he later offered me a position at the University, and by this time, I realized, the chance of me becoming a head coach in schools in the south, in South Carolina, at that point, was kinda scarce because all the black schools have now become secondary schools, high and junior high schools, so forth, and all the black high school kids were going to, now, integrated schools.

Tre Tailor: Integrated, right.

Harold White: And the chances of me becoming one of the coaches at one of those new-type schools at the age, I'm a little bit older now than I was a few years ago, so it was .... So I went to Benedict, I got a job offer there, and this person I met, who was a graduate assistant working athletic department, told Coach Diesel about me, and he arranged it for us to



have that lunch up at-

Tre Tailor: Capstone.

Harold White: Top Capstone, and then that summer, Coach Diesel called me and wanted me to come in and talk to him, and I did. And he offered me a position on the staff.

Tre Tailor: Now, did he say why he wanted you to come aboard?

Harold White: Well, he heard, yeah he, what he told me, he told me how great I was, how well-respected I was, how I was beloved in the community and so on, so on, and he also made show, because we are now beginning to recruit black kids, and that's what I mean, he said to tell me, I believe, in no uncertain terms, we need to recruit black kids. And we need help, we got a staff here that needs help on what we're doing.

Tre Tailor: And he felt like you would be helpful in that area.

Harold White: Yeah, being a Columbia boy, I had coached at Lakeview for four years, had sent that one kid, one of the best guys I had at Lakeview was named Arnold Caller, and Arnold was being recruited from across the country his senior year. I gave my films to Carolina for them to look at Arnold, they came back and told me they thought Arnold was pretty good, but the ones they were recruiting was better. Well, Arnold took a visit to Purdue, and the next week, he was supposed to take a visit to Minnesota, and other Big Ten schools were recruiting Arnold, but when Arnold went to Purdue, Leroy Keys was the guy who showed him around, Leroy Keys was all American at Purdue, at the time, he was his person to show him around the campus.

Arnold came back, and next week, like I say, he was supposed to go to Minnesota, so after he got, said, "Well, Arnold, next we can go to Minnesota." Said, "Coach, I'm not going." I said, "Yeah, but we told them that you gonna come." Interesting thing about that one, the person who was recruiting him from Minnesota was Mike McGee, who later, joined us at Carolina, worked on the ... for a few years. But anyway, Arnold went to Purdue, and I think he still holds the record at Purdue for the longest interception for a touchdown, 109 yards, I don't think that record's been broken yet.

Now we were talking about something happen many, many years ago, so that's how I got to the University there-

Tre Tailor: Did you ever feel any discrimination while you were that at USC?

Harold White: I did, I did, but fortunately for me, at this point in my life, 31 years old. I grew up in Columbia, South Carolina, my mother did an excellent job of telling us about the South, our position, and keep your mouth shut, don't you dare do da, da, da, and I always, fortunately, we did pay attention to Mama, the whipping was too tough not to. But anyway, so I had this feeling about the University, but at this point, I realized this thing, and Coach Bolden, again, I went back to him, and he patted me on the shoulder and told me how you got to take it, and he said, "It's not because of you, you can help those black kids who are gonna come through the University of South Carolina, that's why you got to take it."

And so I went there and I said, I was working with football, but I was the defensive end and tackle coach on the freshman team, they had freshman football during that time. And then two years later, two or three years later, we started having trouble in the department, our academics weren't being what they should be, he fired the person who was kinda doing that, and I had always shown an interest in the area, particularly now 'cause we got several black kids, and I'm gonna make sure they go through it, and they get a degree, that's my role. And so, he asked me to become the over academics, and then that's how I got into the administrative part.

And I did that, and later on ended up, when it was all said and done, I was the Senior Associate Athletic for academics and student services.

Tre Tailor: How did you handle your kids, what would you tell them, the recruits, about coming to USC, which was, and still is, a predominantly white University.

Harold White: Well, I told them, basically, that we got everything here that can help you get what your major goal got to be. And that is to leave this University with a degree. And then, from there, you can take that, and no telling where it may take you, but that's what we gonna promise you, do it. And that's what we did. I tell you, my first year there, went there, like I said, I think September, began in the second semester, or at that point, when I went there, prior to my coming, there was two black athletes on the football team, and Casey Manning, who we all know, was on the basketball team, I think he was the only one, we had one guy, I think, in track.

Well, one Sunday afternoon, I had all the black kids who came in there as freshmen with me, and I think it was 13 black kids in the Athletic Department, and I had them out to my home, and my wife baked a

nice beautiful cake for 'em and so forth, and we talked about what life is all about. And they paid attention to me, one guy, in particular, I think about so much, C.A. Wilson, who was, at that time, the smallest college football player in the country, and C.A. he played with Freddie Solomon at Sumter high school. And C.A. was a defensive back, as I said, he was the smallest college football player in the country, but at that time, freshman was not eligible for Varsity. C.A. started as a quarterback his sophomore year, which not many sophomores during that time would start.

And he, also, was a pharmacy major, of course, guys with degree, and I think he's retired now, down in Sumter area. But at that meeting, I think there was, all together, it was 12 or 13 black athletes that my wife and I had out to the house, and we talked about what we gonna do. I am so proud of the fact, all but two of that first 13 got degrees from a University of South Carolina, and there was some issues and other things that happened to those two, but my role there, I knew what it was, I was there for them.

Then the female sports came into play, and then I made sure, again, that they were taken care of, I remember on one occasion, we had a young lady, you may remember her playing, her name was, and we called her Pee Wee Johnson, little point guard for the girls' basketball team. Well she came to campus one summer for summer school, and she got there too early for the dormitories to be open, so who she calls? Coach White.

Tre Tailor: You.

Harold White: And, come on, she spent the night at my house, thanks to my wife, good thing. And went to school the next day, well, my role, again, was to accommodate those kids, but I think if you were to ask the white kids who were part of that early stage, and throughout my career there, you would get as much from them as those black kids that I've been talking about.

Because I made it my business that I was going to make sure that everyone of them who came there had the best opportunities to graduate from there. And I tell you just to give us a little example, a week or two ago, I was all coughing, and hell, so my youngest daughter, told me, on a Saturday, two Saturdays ago I think, to go to a CVS on this industry, they have a ... The person's not a doctor, but a clinic.

Tre Tailor: A minute clinic.

Harold White: Yeah, so I went there. And so, the young lady who worked on me, in the close-up conversation, I, like you said, I run my mouth, and I said somehow, the University of South Carolina came up, so she said, "My daddy graduated from the University of South Carolina, he played football there." I said, "Girl, who's your daddy?" And she told me, I said, "Oh, my goodness gracious!"

Tre Tailor: You knew him.

Harold White: She called her daddy, and she said, "Guess who's in my office." He said, "Who?" Said, "Coach White." And I can hear him through the phone, "Coach White!" So he got on the phone, he just went on and on and on with me for a while, but I got that kind of reception from all of them, because I didn't care if you was black or white, girl, boy, whatever, my task was to make sure you make your mama proud, and the thing I end up telling young people often, still do it now, sometimes we are the big shot football player, basketball player we the star on campus, everyone telling us how great we are.

I have a little saying, I say, "Boy, let me tell you something, let me tell you who you are. You're your mother's child, that's who you are. And what you need to do, is make sure you make mama proud. Let me tell you something, boy. You know the best thing mama can say to you?" By this time they're bowing their head, "Hold your head up, brother, I'm talking to you, look me in the eyes. Best thing mama can say to you, son, is to say 'Boy, I'm proud of you.'"

Well I say, "Now, you cutting class, you doing this, you doing that, that won't make mama proud. You know what mama might say to you now?" He hold his- "Hold your head up, boy, told you to hold your head up, talking to you. The worst thing you can hear from mama, if mama ever say to you, 'Boy, I hate the day I brought you in this world.'" Said, "Man, it's over. Now, what you need to do, get your butt off of what you're doing, so on and so on, and make your mama-" "Coach White, I'm gonna do it." I've had so many youngsters, black, white, male, female, who are now coming back, matter of fact, I'm getting grandchildren now, matter of fact just met a grandchild who daddy played for us a few years back.

And that was my role there, and that's why the 37 years I spent down there, I feel proud, proud of it because I helped young people.

Tre Tailor: Well, Coach White, I want to ask you, you obviously were such a mentor to, as you said, black and white kids, you helped them

academically, you helped them with their transition, but were there ever any times where you had to have that black person-white person conversation, whether it be with one of the black or white students that you were close to, who you worked with during that time?

Harold White: Yeah, that conversation, whenever the opportunity was needed, I did that. And it was either, it could be black or white, and to this day, again, my pride, I'm getting some of those guys from their 60s or 70s now with grandchildren in college, who are come, when they meet me with their folks, remind them of what I said to them and how I straightened them out and so forth.

Tre Tailor: Can you tell me some of that, what you had to say to them, whether it was a black student who was having some problems dealing with being in a predominantly white situation, or maybe a white student who had a problem dealing with an African-American student that they had never been around before.

Harold White: Let me just tell you this story, because it happened recently to me, one of the fellas who, this happened to me with one of the black players who played back for us in played with us back in the 80s, I think it was. He was the speaker at his church, two Sundays ago, for Black History Month, and he asked me if I would come to his presentation, and he also invited his roommate who lives in Charlotte now, to come.

And as excellent speaker, did a beautiful job, but he said to that congregation, in essence, "The person I give the most credit for you see me now, and what you all think of me at this school." And he pointed to Coach White. And then he said, "That man took care of us down there, he made us mad sometime, he did that that, this and another." And I had him laughing, because this particular guy, one day, he had always figured out how he could beat the teachers, how he could get around this, he didn't have to do this, he would tell other guys that, "Man, you just need to da, da, da, and so on." Well that one class, he flunked it good time.

So I said to him, "Young man." I called him by name, "You did it your way this semester, see what I mean? You did it your way. What you get in that class?" He bow his head, "Hold your head up, boy. Tell me, what did you get out of that class?" "He flunked me." "No, he didn't flunk you, you flunked yourself because you thought you were big and better than that." I said, "Okay." I called him by name, "You did it your way this time, for now on," And I used the little word, "You gonna do it my way, do you understand me, boy?" He bow- "Hold your head up,

son, look me straight in the eyes. Do you understand me? Who's gonna be the guy? You gonna do it my way."

And he told that story to the congregation, and he told them that, from that point on, Coach White never had to say another word to me about grades and things. And afterwards, I told him, I said, "Man, you didn't have to tell 'em." He said, "Yeah, I did, too." Because it's a lot of young fellas out there, he thought, that same message felt like he was when he was coming along there, he may well made a difference in them coming along.

So we get that a bit and I feel real proud of it.

Tre Tailor: Tell me about some of the obstacles that you may have encountered as an African-American instructor, employee, on this predominantly white campus.

Harold White: Well, let me tell you this story. There was a gentlemen who was assistant athletic director, at the time, this is my first year there, and on this particular day, we're in the coaches' conference room over there just shooting a breeze with each other, so this particular person came in, and he had started telling ... He had gone to the NCAA convention that year, and he came back, and he was telling those of us in the room what happened at the convention.

And one of the big issues in that convention was that they were going to start changing the rules for admission and thing, and that 800 was what was needed on the college board during that time, and they was changing that rule. So this guy, he was trying to get all of us to understand that issue, and how it was moving , going along.

So he got so caught up in what he was telling us, and he said, "You know what? If they pass that rule, and all it takes is a 2.0 and this to get some in school, the only people who are gonna be playing ball is them goddamn n\*\*\*\*rs."

Tre Tailor: And you were sitting there.

Harold White: I'm sitting there. It's about eight, 10 of us in there, I'm the only black guy, it took about two minutes, and I'm the only one in the room.

Tre Tailor: Anybody say anything?

Harold White: No, not at this point, they gone. Everybody had somewhere to go. So here they come, one on one, apologizing for this particular person-

Tre Tailor: Later on they came back to you.

Harold White: He's old guy, and he come from the old school and blah, blah, blah.

Tre Tailor: So he makes the statement, a hush falls over the room, and then everybody leaves.

Harold White: Everybody's gone.

Tre Tailor: And you just sitting there by yourself.

Harold White: I'm there. So they all come in, and then later that evening, afternoon, I think it was, he called me, said, "I'd like to talk, like speak to you." Said, "Okay. I'll come up-" He said, "Nah, I'll come up to you." My office was upstairs, and he came up there, "Harold, I really want to apologize, I don't know what happened to me and blah, blah, blah." And then he went on to tell me about he was, back in the 30s, he was a boxer in New York, and one of the persons he was with, was one his best friends was a black guy who was a boxer, and how they got along up in New York there when they were boxers, blah, blah, blah.

And he went on to tell me about how you really feel, and that "I don't now what happened to me." So I said, "Coach," And I won't call his name, I said, "Coach, let me tell you something." At that time, I think I was 32 years old, and I said, "I lived in Columbia, South Carolina all my life. I have been very well-schooled, and I am black. I have been very well-schooled by my parents about how, what we're living in."

I said, "I don't have a problem, let me tell you what my problem is. Here we are now, at the University of South Carolina, we are trying to recruit the best athletes, and yet, it's gonna be hard to recruit the best athletes, particularly the black athletes when we have, what you've shared with me today." And I said, "Coach, let me tell you something, if you had time to think about it, you would've never said it, but you got caught up in the moment, and you were trying to explain to us what happened down there, and you came out. That was you, coach."

And he just basically bowed his head, and said, "Well, I'm sorry." That's okay. And for the rest of our tenure we ate, but I had so many of the other coaches who were in that room came up to me trying to apologize on what this coach had done, so on, so on.

And so, to me, I took it as, maybe we'll grow from this, we had to experience this, and maybe now, maybe there's some sincerity in

Harold White: what they're doing. And over the years, we'll say, "We got better, we got better." And so now, I think the beautiful thing about it, it ain't perfect, as we all know, but the kids ... Our young people, my children have not had to experience some of the things there we've had to experience and go forth and that's progress.

Tre Tailor: What about some of the students? Did they face racism or criticism from fans or in other students?

Harold White: They did, they did. And as time went on, it got better, but you know, I think we living in 2017, don't forget it, don't forget it, still, you got to be alert, and when you start thinking it's all lovey-dovey, and everybody just feel this way and that way, it gonna hit you, and then when it hits you, you can't believe it.

Tre Tailor: How did you see it change, Coach White? How did you see the racism change into more of a spirit of inclusion? Not only for yourself, but for those black athletes?

Harold White: Well, I think we found, they eventually start off, "Man, we got a lot, we got a lot going for us. We aren't all dumb, we got some real smart ones, we got everything you got, and in many cases, in some, in many cases, I would say, even in a little more because of how we had to go about getting it and the importance of it to us." So I think now, I have, for an example, my oldest grandson, who's 27 now, he's the head soccer coach of both, now the boys and the girls, so he's with all school. He does the sports information work there, and he teaches the coach and with the year book and thing.

I went out to one of his games the other night, as a matter of fact, way got his 50th win as the coach at Heathwood Hall, they love him. Now, that's a private school. You know. But...

Tre Tailor: It's a private, predominantly white school.

Harold White: White school, yeah, yeah, yeah, well, you know, the thing, for an example, let me tell you this, A'Ja Wilson went there, and the year A'Ja was graduating, she was gonna announce on this day, at one 'o' clock, whatever time it was, which school she was gonna go to. So I called my grandson, 'cause like I said, he was the one who arranged ESPN was coming in and all these other things, and Andrew's job was, he coordinated all of that for them. So I call my grandson around noon time I said, "Andrew." "Hey, Pop, what's happenin'?" "Andrew, did we get her?" "Pop can't tell you." "What do you mean, Andrew?" "This Pop." "Pop we're sworn to, we all swore to, we're gonna let A'Ja



have that moment and let her enjoy that moment." And I said, "Well okay, Andrew."

And of course she announced she was coming to Carolina, so I called him up later on that day, I said, "Andrew, you don't know how proud you made your granddaddy, 'cause I know, if you didn't tell Pop, nobody else got it." And that was what you was supposed to, and I said, "Boy, you made me proud." He said, "Well, Pop, I'm glad you feel that way, 'cause I thought, first, I may have gotten a little upset with me." I said, "No." I said.

Tre Tailor: Coach White, I've got two more questions.

Harold White: Go ahead, please.

Tre Tailor: Do you think that sports can and did have an impact on racism and prejudice?

Harold White: Oh, by all means. Because you see, at the end of the day, we want to win, we want to win. And if you can contribute and help us win, then you all right with me, that has transferred, I was trying to say, also into other phases of American's life. If you're a business man, you want your end product to be a good product, and you want a profit from it. At one point, you may have not given this person, but now, if the person's gifted, if the person can increase that bottom line, that's what you want.

So I think sports in itself, and how we've ... And it's evolved over the last, I would say, 25, 30 more years, has, in our society has taken on that, I think, more, it's not perfect, now, I'm not trying to suggest at all that we made it. It's, we at the pinnacle of, still got some ways to go, but boy, let me tell you something, we're a long ways from where we were, and that's a good thing.

Tre Tailor: You talked a lot, today, about your influence and your relationship with black and white kids at USC, what do you think your legacy is?

Harold White: Well, I think it's in both black and white, and also, I was the one who started Omegas on campus, for their time, if you were gonna ask me all my athletes, basically went Omega of course, we have a couple who ended up, I think Kappa or Alpha, but anyway. My involvement with that, also gave me an inroad to that part of campus, and for those youngsters who were engaging in those kind of activities, I think, what I did at the University of South Carolina and throughout the community, more or less, was become one of which I was genuine, I

was real, and it came from my heart.

And I think when that happens, it touches folks, and they realize where it's coming from, now you can run that game down on me, but you know what? I figure out that's a game you running on me. Because you're probably trying to get something out of me, but when I realize, "You know? That guy is genuine." And that's ... I go back again, that's what Coach Bolden was, and I wanted to be like Coach Bolden. And so, to this day, I still pride myself to my parents and others and Coach Bolden.

With every little success I've had, I think I made them proud.

Tre Tailor: I think so, too. Thank you, Coach White. Did anybody have anything else you wanted me to-

Karen Alexander: The only question I have, This is Karen Alexander, coach. You had mentioned, when you were younger, you couldn't walk through the campus of Carolina. Can you tell us about that?

Harold White: As a youngster, living on Warner Street, which is right off of Heart street down in the Five Points area, we had a cousin, at least, we called them cousins, who lived over in, I think was called the University Terrace. Which is on Blossom Street there, and that was one of the projects for blacks at that time. And we had these cousins that lived there. Well, when we wanted to leave on Warner Street, the walk down through Five Points over to the University Terrace was, we always left with a lecture.

"Don't you dare go through Valley park. Don't you dare raise your tongue or trying to do something with white folks say something .You see 'em coming, son, you move to the other side of the street and things." So we got this lecture often during that particular time, and often times, we found that when we were about to encounter something that may've not been pleasant, we realized what that was, so growing up with that, and moving on through what I just got through sharing with, as we moved in, we've come a long ways.

But you know what? I think we still got a long ways to go, but it's better. And I can see it as I just told the story a little bit about my grandson, at Heathwood. That wouldn't have been ... I wouldn't have had that opportunity when I came out of state college type thing, and yet, with that, we still have a long ways to go, so the battle's not over.

Tre Tailor: What do you think needs to happen?

Harold White: Well, I think we need to just stay in the moment. And I think we got to continue to work hard with, first of all, our young people, and impress upon them the road to success, since there's some opportunities, but it's not easy. And you gonna have to still, sometimes, be better than some of the others, being equal, and so forth, may not get you there. And you're gonna still run into some encounters, but now you need to better, you should be better handling that, and as continue the evolve, that it gets better, and then maybe your kids would even have it better than my kids is having now, than I had it prior to it, so forth.

So once we think we've made it, once we think we are there, that's when we'll fail, we're not there, and I don't know if we'll ever get there, but we always work towards moving in that vain.

Tre Tailor: And that's what your answer was just really what we should do with African-Americans, or African-American young people, what do you think about the other races? What do you think about the Caucasian races, there's something that you think needs to happen on their end to quell the racism and the prejudice and the tension that is between the races?

Harold White: Yeah, I think they have a job to do, too. If we just look at America today and our political scene, even in areas of employment and so forth, we're not there, but I think as we continue to grow, then we get better, and that's an encouragement. There's opportunities that I didn't have because of the circumstances, my children and my grandchildren still got some obstacles out there, but they're not what I, and my generation's had to go through, and their relationships. And if they continue to grow and further develop, then for those great-great grandchildren that I won't see, they, too, will have it better.

Let's not forget, we have not gotten there yet, and for those of us who think we are now there, that's what our problem is, 'cause I think there are some who think, "Oh, this, that and the other." No, no, you're not there. And every once in a while, if you get into a discussion with some people, particularly the other race, old things slips, 'cause now they're coming out in their emotions, 'cause you like heated discussion, and they'll say things like, "You damn n\*\*\*\*rs." And now you're shocked. And they're shocked, "You know I didn't mean to say that." And think, "Well, okay." That's where we are.

Tre Tailor: Thank you, Coach White, thank you.

