



JAMES F. COLE
Class of 1949

James F. Cole, exceptional athlete, outstanding coach, physical educator, and community leader. His participation in athletics began in high school. He was an all-around player receiving letters in basketball, track, football, and baseball. Later, at Tuskegee, his abilities as an all-around athlete continued to be exhibited. He was a two-letter man, "Triple-Threat" in football (running, passing and kicking), winning All Conference in 1948-49. He was All-Conference baseball catcher for three years, 1946-49, and was scouted by the Boston Braves in 1949.

Upon graduation from Tuskegee, he returned to Beach High School as teacher-coach and remained from 1949-1961. His next assignment was principal-coach at Effingham County High School, Pembroke, Georgia, 1961-63. He left Pembroke to become teacher-coach in Columbus, Georgia, and from there he served in teaching-coaching positions throughout Georgia, including a tenure at Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Georgia from 1969 until he retired. At Fort Valley he served as physical education teacher, assistant football coach, track coach, and baseball coach.

In addition to his teaching-coaching assignments, he managed to participate in numerous other community and professional activities, such as supervisor of student teachers, recruitment, baseball clinics; directed talent search; served as a member of the Peach County Board of Directors, America Red Cross; taught CPR classes; Sports Editor, Columbus Times, and many others. He wrote short articles on "Safety for Swimmers" for the Fort Valley Times. He also wrote an article, "Exercise, The Secret Killer," which was published in the NTEA Journal in 1951.

Cole received many awards and recognitions, including Teacher of the Year, 1967; Outstanding YMCA Volunteer, 1969; Citation from the Mayor of Columbus, 1973; Kappa Alpha Psi Achievement Award, 1967; and service awards from Fort Valley Student Government Association and the Blue Bird Body Company.