



Robert Dickerson, Sr.
Class of 1950

More than 20 years after he retired from coaching, Robert Dickerson is still a legend in the city of Birmingham and the State of Alabama. Robert Dickerson, Sr. or "Coach Dick", as he is affectionately called, is a graduate of Tuskegee University's (Institute's) Class of 1950. After serving in World War II, he arrived at Tuskegee with many other veterans who made up some of the greatest sports teams in the school's history. At just 19 years of age he was unable to compete for playing positions against athletes who in some cases were seven years his senior. However, his love for athletics and the knowledge he possessed regarding sports quickly caught the eye of legendary Tuskegee Coach Cleve Abbott, who made Robert one of his assistants. During his years at Tuskegee, Dickerson assisted with football, tennis, and track. One of his notable accomplishments was assisting with the women's 4 x 400 relay teams which competed in the Olympics.

After graduating from Tuskegee, Dickerson coached at several schools in the Birmingham area including Roosevelt Junior High School and Westfield, Wenonah and Jackson Olin High Schools. He coached some of the most successful teams and organized some of Alabama's most notable Junior and senior high school athletic programs. His talents as a coach, his leadership and organizational skills along with his ability to motivate, guide and encourage young men and women brought him many championships. Robert Dickerson was five times named junior high school coach of the year and high school coach of the four times. He coached and developed Cleophus Johnson, Parade Magazine's first black high school All-American. Many of his players earned positions with some of the most recognized college and professional programs in the United States.

"Coach Dick's" love for athletics is also evidenced by the fact that he officiated sports at the high school and college levels, including two "Orange Blossom Football Classics". He supports Tuskegee University and the athletic program. He recruits throughout the State of Alabama, especially the Birmingham area for prospects. He has encouraged and guided many students to Tuskegee and helped them to be successful because of his constant support and wise counsel.