



Tiny L. Laster, Jr
Class of 1967

As a youngster, Tiny grew up in Enid Oklahoma. His Uncle, Johnnie Laster, was the early guiding force in his life and encouraged him as an athlete and a student. He attended Tuskegee Institute High School and graduated in the top ten of his class. After graduating from Tuskegee Institute High School, he enrolled at Tuskegee University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry in 1967 and Master of Science degree in 1980. Later he earned a Master's Degree in Sports Management from the United Sports Academy.

After graduating from Tuskegee University, Laster was commissioned second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He completed his tour of duty in 1971 earning the rank of Captain. His coaching career began in 1971, while he was a graduate assistant in the Chemistry Department at Tuskegee University, when Mrs. Rebecca Jackson invited him to assist with the women's basketball team and the rest is history.

Laster's exemplary teaching and coaching career spans some thirty-three years and continues. He has left his mark at every station he stopped - Talladega, Tuskegee and Hampton. At Talladega he took his team from a 5-10 record in the 1973-74 season, to the first of two consecutive AIAAW championships from 1974-76. In addition, the Lady Tornadoes finished second in the First National Small College Tournament during the 1974-75 season. Laster returned home to Tuskegee in 1976 where he served as instructor of physical education, Coordinator of Women's Sports and coached women's basketball and volleyball until 1988. He also was the head coach of the women's and men's track and field/cross country teams. At Tuskegee, Laster took the Tigerettes to the top of the NCAA Division II charts and into the uncharted waters of the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Tournament play in 1981-82 and again in the 1982-83 season. One of the most memorable games in the school's history was during the 1981-82 season when the Tigerettes advanced to the NCAA title game, taking home second place. Along the way, he won three consecutive AIAAW State Championships, one Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference title (SIAC) and registered four consecutive 20-win seasons with the Tigerettes...including a 30-win (34-5) in 1978-79. Laster's prowess as a coach and teacher continued with his move to Hampton University and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. He guided the Lady Pirates to win two CIAA Championships (1993 & 1995) and one very memorable MEAC Championship in 1996.

Laster, a man so deeply rooted in the science of education and coaching with perfect formulas for both, has played an important role in the development and progress of women's intercollegiate athletics. A pioneer in women's athletics his teachings will live forever throughout three illustrious conferences, two NCAA Divisions and his published articles.