Black and Gold & The Soul of New Orleans
Black and Gold and the Soul of New Orleans

Saints Make Run For the Super Bowl

Edwin Buggage
Editor

The Boys in Black and Gold

This has been a banner year for the Boys in Black and Gold. With a regular season record of 13-3, they are the number one seed in the NFC headed into the playoffs. Meaning that the Saints will have home field advantage throughout the playoffs. The 2018 season has been reminiscent of that magical 2009 season when the Saints went on in 2010 to win its first Super Bowl in franchise history.

This year the team is still being led by Head Coach Sean Payton and future Hall of Fame Quarterback Drew Brees. Many observers are saying the Saints are arguably the best team in the NFL and are predicting they will make it this year to Atlanta to the Super Bowl.

Unlike recent years, they are doing it on both sides of the ball where their offense continues to be virtually unstoppable at putting points up on the scoreboard. Also, this year, the Saints’ defense has been stellar, led by all-pro defensive lineman Cam Jordan.

Unlike recent years, they are doing it on both sides of the ball where their offense continues to be virtually unstoppable at putting points up on the scoreboard. Also, this year, the Saints’ defense has been stellar, led by all-pro defensive lineman Cam Jordan. This year the team has the balance they need to win against any opponent as evidenced by them defeating many of the best teams in the league including last year’s Super Bowl Champion the Philadelphia Eagles, who they will...
Saints and the Sounds of a People

As a city with many amazing traditions and festivals that bring the city together, football season and the Saints games bring people together for the usual recipe for a New Orleans party: Good food, great music and amazing people. Bo Dollis Jr., Big Chief of the Wild Magnolias and son of legendary Big Chief, the late Bo Dollis said, “It is amazing how the Saints bring so many people from different back-grounds together to support the team. In these moments we are all one. People laughing, talking, second-lining, our fans are like no other because being from New Or-leans we have so much pride in our city.” He continued, “I am a diehard fan; even during our worse seasons when we were wearing bags on our heads. I am glad to see them winning this year and I am glad to see them going this far; I am proud of them whether or not they win the Super Bowl this year.”

Local Anthems Keeping People Dancing

Over the years many local art-ists have written Saints anthems. In every genre there have been songs that have kept the ‘Who Dat Nation’ dancing. One artist that’s carrying on this tradition is local rapper 5 Star Hero, whose song “They Ain’t Ready” is being played on local ra-dio and being shared by Saints fans nationwide on social media.

“Motivated for a better New Orleans,” she says speaking of the Saints, “After Hurricane Katrina we fought to keep them here because we’d lost our home. It’s all around me born and raised and I believe in the Saints. It is always Saints season and waiting for Saints games. He started when the Saints played their first game after the Katrina and is a Saints fan and advo-cate for a better New Orleans.”

The Fleur De Lis: Bigger than Football It is a Symbol of Local Identity

For New Orleans, the Saints and the Fleur De Lis that is emblazoned on their helmet symbolizes not only the football team, but local identity. Yadhira Pagan is an educator teach-ing (ESL) English as a Second Lan-guage and is a Saints fan and advo-cate for a better New Orleans. Yadhira Pagan...
Mayor LaToya kicked off an historic Carnival Season as the City’s first female mayor, preparing for Mardi Gras by hosting the traditional King’s Day Ceremony at Gallier Hall on Sunday, Jan. 6th. The ceremony, held in the morning, served as the first of several events for Twelfth Night, and was capped off by a traditional cutting of the King Cake.

The event was moved from Mardi Gras World, where it has been held in previous years, back to Gallier Hall following a $3 million renovation of the former City Hall and site of the Mayor’s parade-viewing grandstand, as well as the Mayor’s Ball on Feb. 22nd.

Mayor Cantrell pointed to the season’s cultural, economic and historical significance for the City. While she recognized the Rex and Zulu organizations, she also took a moment to honor the women of Carnival, from the krewe queens and Mardi Gras Indian queens to the Baby Dolls and women who serve as the backbone for the city’s social aid and pleasure clubs.

Mayor Cantrell was joined by leaders of the Rex Organization and the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club, both of whom revealed paintings by local artists heralding the new season. Officials from the two krewes also presented gifts to the Mayor and to each other. Members of several other crews joined Rex and Zulu by sharing table displays of this year’s parade throws.

Julius Feltus, Senior Advisor to the Mayor and himself the reigning 2018 King Shango of the Krewe of...
Local Vocalist Semaj Douglas and International Recording Artist Oba Lorrius united to create “Black & Gold Love” the #1 New Orleans Saints fight song and street anthem, enlisting all the culture and rhythms of the city.

“Black & Gold Love” is reflective of the joy, resilience, and unbreakable spirit of New Orleans as a city and the Saints as our team.

The NOLA anthem is hard-hitting like our Saints. Featuring New Orleans music and culture legends: Jamal Batiste, Mike Ballard, Caren Green, and Big Chief Shaka Zulu, “Black & Gold Love” is a reminder to not only rise above catastrophe but to also shine our light through the storm.
Happy New Year!!! As expected, New Orleanians rang in 2019 with plenty of food, fun, family and friends. This year’s celebrations were no exception. Celebrations at Prime Example and The Cove were filled with all of the above, and of course, Data was there!!! Happy New Year!!!
Oshun, served as the master of ceremonies. Feltus played off the royal tone of the proceedings in his introduction of the Mayor: “There’s a new queen in town, and it’s not just for a day or a season.”

He was assisted by Sonny Borey, the City’s Senior Projects & Protocol Coordinator and Co-Founder of the Krewe or Orpheus.

The Rex painting was provided by Alex Beard, while the Zulu painting was provided by Ted Ellis.

Music was provided by the Original Royal Players Brass Band and the Sons of Jazz Brass Band.

Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People’s Paper, is hiring in our New Orleans Office.

Sales Manager/Retail Ad Manager

About the Job

Data News Weekly Newspaper is the leading African American media company in New Orleans, publishing a weekly newspaper. Additionally, its website under ladatanews.com is the most read Black website in the region.

We are currently seeking a strong leader to proactively manage broad aspects of the advertising division. You will be working in a positive team-oriented atmosphere which has a modern press, leading website and award-winning newspaper.

Responsibilities include but not limited to:
• Prospect and develop sales leads for print and digital product lines
• Drive online and cross platform advertising sales
• Identify, create strategies, develop influential contacts, and help close new digital products
• Increase overall revenue opportunities in both print and online
• Develop a team sales atmosphere

Our ideal candidate will possess the following education, skills and experience:
• Minimum 5 years print and digital sales and manager experience
• Self-starter, capable of executing within all phases of sales cycle
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• Understanding of Analytics and ad serving technology
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• Recruit talent

Our company provides a competitive salary, and an environment that encourages personal and professional growth. We are an equal opportunity employer.

If you are interested in a rewarding career, email a cover letter and resume to: terryb@bellsouth.net or mail to: Data News Weekly, c/o Terry Jones, Publisher, 3501 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125
A More Diverse Congress, a More Perfect Union?

Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

The 116th Congress, sworn in on January 3, is the most diverse our nation has ever seen. There are more women – 102 – than ever before. More members of the Congressional Black Caucus – 55 – than ever before. Indeed, a former Congressional Black Caucus intern, Lauren Underwood (D-IL) is part of the incoming first-year class. At 32, she is the youngest Black woman to serve.

This Congress includes the first Native American woman, two Muslim women, openly gay representatives, and others. Much of this diversity was displayed at the ceremonial swearing-in of the Congressional Black Caucus, an inspirational event that preceded the official swearing-in on Capitol Hill. There, as I listened to speeches by the top Congressional Democrats – incoming speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA), incoming Majority leader Steny Hoyer (MD), and incoming Whip James Clyburn (SC), I was awash in hope and optimism. These leaders, along with outgoing Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Cedric Richmond (LA) and incoming Chair Karen Bass (CA) spoke of challenge, struggle, and optimism and focused on possibilities.

As I listened to them I could not help but think of the poet Langston Hughes, and his poem Let America Be America Again. Written in 1935, the poem was first published in Esquire Magazine in 1936. Though Hughes did not consider it one of his favorites, it captures the duality of our nation, the marked difference between our nation’s soaring estab-lishing rhetoric and the stark reality that many experience. In the words of Malcolm X, it is the difference between the American dream and the American nightmare. Here is what Langston Hughes writes in his poem:

“Let America be America again.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain Seek- ing a home where he himself is free. (America never was America to me.)
Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed.—Let it be that great strong land of love Where never knaves conneive nor tyrants scheme That any man be crushed by one above. (It never was America to me.)
Let my land be a land where Liberty is crowned with no false patriotic breath, But where opportunity is real, and life is free, Equality is in the air we breathe.”

(There’s never been equality for me, Nor freedom in this “homeland of the free”)

No freedom in this homeland of the free, but this Congress offers freedom possibilities. It offers the possibility of fixing the Voting Rights Act, even as the Supreme Court has attempted to erode vot- ing rights, even as at least two elections were stolen in 2018, those of Stacey Abrams in Georgia and Andrew Gillum in Florida. This Congress offers freedom possibilities in resisting the insan-ity of a “wall” that the Great Nego- tiator (and purported author of The Art of the Deal) swore that Mexico was paying for. Not. This Congress offers freedom possibilities in its efforts to preserve the Affordable Health Care Act and to move us to Medicare for all. This colorful Con- gress (the pictures tell it all) offers a sharp contrast to the dismal (as in grey and navy suits) set of Repub- licans, overwhelmingly white and male, and overwhelmingly staid.

It’s not about MAGA (Make America Great Again), it’s about MAF, or Make America Fair. This is what Congressman James Clyburn shared when he spoke at the cere- monial swearing-in. He opened with the words of French historian Alex- is Tocqueville, who observed when visiting this country: “the greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.”

Clyburn went on to list the many ways our nation has attempted to self-correct, from the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation to the Supreme Court Brown v. Board of Education decision declaring “sepa- rate but equal” to be “inherently unequal.” Clyburn talked about the Great Society legislation, another of our nation’s attempts at self-repair, and he concluded by saying, “America does not need to be made great again, she is already great. Our challenge is to make that great- ness apply fairly and equitably to all of our citizens.”

Can this diverse new Congress make our nation fair for many who have never experienced our nation in the way it is supposed to be? In the words of Langston Hughes, “It never was America to me.” We’ve come a long way since he wrote his 1935 poem, but we still have so much to do. After these last two dystopian years under the leader- ship of President Genital Grabber (let’s just call him GG), this new Congress offers us many possibiliti- es. May they not be lost!

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com

A Message to Presidential Candidates

A Winning Strategy Includes a Plan for Black America

Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

The nation recently experienced a midterm election of historic di-mensions: more than 47% of eligible voters cast a ballot in November – the highest percentage since 1966. Black voter participation drove that turnout, and in electing the most diverse Congress in history.

But, as the presidential primary cycle begins, candidates cannot expect to see an equal level of enthu-siasm unless issues of racial and economic justice are addressed. In fact, Black voter turnout fell seven percentage points in the last Presidential election, falling from a high of 66.6 percent in 2012 to 59 percent in 2016. National Demo- cratic Committee Chair Tom Perez blamed the drop, in part, on candi-dates’ failure to engage the Black community: “African-Americans – our most loyal constituency — we all too frequently took for granted. That is a shame on us, folks, and for that, I apologize. And for that I say, it will never happen again!”

The upcoming Congressional sessions will demonstrate whether incumbent lawmakers – most of whom will be running for reelec- tion in 2020 – truly are making an effort to engage the Black com- munity. Following an intensive campaign by the National Urban League to urge diversity in Sen- ate hiring, only two Senators have hired Black chiefs of staff – Doug Jones, who credited Black voters for his surprise victory in 2017 – and Elizabeth Warren, who has just declared her intention to run for President.

Research has shown that, more than ever, Black voters are basking in decisive their decisions at the polls on is-sues of racial justice and economic opportunity. A poll conducted by a coalition of civil rights groups just after the midterm elections found that “to have similar or greater wins in 2020, candidates must invest in and engage communities of color and the issues that matter most to these constituencies.”

Yet, only 57% of Black voters were contacted from a campaign, political party, or community orga-nization about voting in the months prior to Election Day. The poll further found that that Black voters support policies that unify and strengthen the nation: 1. Equal pay for men and women (88%)
2. Congress should pass the Dream Act (81%)
3. Strengthening the Affordable Care Act (79%)
4. Sexual harassment is a major problem (84%)
5. Congress should enact strict gun laws (81%)

Candidates across the politi-cal spectrum who are searching for a blueprint for a platform that will address the concerns of Black voters can find it in the National Urban League’s Main Street Mar- shall Plan.

The National Urban League and the Urban League Movement take seriously our responsibility to chal- lenge candidates for the highest office and remind them. Over the course of the 2016 election season, we invited all declared candidates to participate in a Civil Rights Brief- ing. We also hosted a number of presidential candidates, Republic- ans and Democrats, at our Con- ference. We were prepared to do the same, and we will expect every can- didate to explain his or her plan to address racial justice and economic opportunity and face questions about the above issues and more.

Marc H. Morial is President & CEO of the National Urban League. To connect with the NUL, visit www. nul.org
No More New Year’s — New You
You don’t need a New Year to get to a New You.

Morgan A. Owens
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Let’s be really honest, how often do we neglect our New Year’s resolutions after January? Many times, we set resolutions but don’t know where to start. We get stuck and revert to old habits that aren’t helping us bloom into the best we can be.

Often, we are our own worst enemy, second guessing, self-doubt and self-sabotage can get in the way of our success. We can try to blame others for our failures but sometimes we need to take a good look in the mirror and realize it may be ourselves.

Here are some of my tips on how to get to a better New You, right now.

Break the Rules
How many times have we looked at job descriptions for jobs we really wanted, seen one qualification that we weren’t well-versed at, and told ourselves, “why even bother applying? I won’t get an interview.”

How many times have we worked with a co-worker or manager and asked ourselves, “How did they get this job? They aren’t qualified at all.”

Many of our counterparts go after these positions without hesitation – maybe it’s a result of their sense of privilege, but it’s also fearlessness.

Go for it. Make a list of everything that you haven’t accomplished because you felt you weren’t qualified, or that it wasn’t the right time to pursue it. Once you see an actual written listing of the missed opportunities and chances you passed up, it really puts things in perspective.

Use the same list and pick something on it to go after, right now.

Self-Worth is Key
When you really think about it, why do we give OTHERS control or authority over our self-worth? It’s ours. Being fully transparent, you won’t find your self-worth in a day, a week or even a year. The journey can be long and is often emotionally painful, but it is necessary! I didn’t get the opportunities I wanted until I became a person that is ready to receive them.

While we are building our careers, taking care of our families, let’s remember our why and our worth.

Self-care is Not Selfish.

Learn to say “no.” As women, we tend to think we have to do it all but really, we don’t. We tend to take on other’s responsibilities and use them as the reason why we can’t pursue our own passions.

When I learned to start saying “no,” my life began to flourish. You can’t build a career or business from an empty tank. You just can’t. Learn to balance your career duties and your personal time. Easier said than done, right?

If you don’t have a schedule or a daily plan, create one now. Career without self-care is a recipe for disaster.

How can you expect to be your best if your mind, body and soul aren’t in alignment?

You’re Your Biggest Investment

We’re quick to invest in material things that won’t help our personal growth, but not in the personal and/or professional development tools that will. Investments can take the form of both time and money.

When I started my weight loss journey I had to invest my time into getting healthy by working out. Carving out time in my week to dedicate to my personal fitness goals and health. That sometimes meant saying no to other things such as hanging out with friends.

Try investing in a course to further your career, a workshop to help build your business or even time devoted to accomplishing a major goal. Your investment will pay off and more!

Let Your Haters Fuel Your Success

There will always be someone who has something negative to say about every goal or move we make to better ourselves. That can be a huge deterrent on why we don’t pursue something. Often, that person isn’t ready to grow themselves, so they are afraid of you growing. Sometimes, it comes from those closest to us. That can be very instrumental in making us give up on our dreams.

You have to stay committed and believe in your vision even when others can’t fully see it yet. Use that energy to prove them wrong.

Don’t wait until 2019 to be a better you. Start now. You’ll be glad you did.

To further connect with me visit www.morganaowens.comor follow me on IG at miss_morgan86

Learn to balance your career duties and your personal time. You have to stay committed and believe in your vision even when others can’t fully see it yet.
City Announces 2019 Mardi Gras Clean-Up Operations Job Fair

NEW ORLEANS — Mayor LaToya Cantrell today announced the deactivation of 20 out of 31 red light traffic cameras located outside of school zones. As of Jan. 1, 2019, these cameras have been turned off and will no longer ticket motorists. Additionally, all cameras located in school zones have been adjusted to only issue tickets during the hours of 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. on days when school is in session.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell’s 2019 budget began the process of restructuring the City’s traffic camera safety program to focus on enhancing public safety. Specifically, the budget called for the elimination of the majority of non-school zone cameras and the limiting of school zone cameras to operate only during school zone hours.

The cameras that have been turned off are in some instances located at intersections where other cameras may remain operational. In these locations, only motorists traveling in the direction of the operational camera will be ticketed but signage will remain posted around the intersection. This is expected to preserve many of the safety benefits of having cameras at these intersections while lowering the financial burden on residents.

The City is continuing to evaluate school zone locations to relocate deactivated cameras and anticipates converting some of these cameras to active school zone cameras in the future. Mobile cameras will continue to operate as normal. Lists of cameras that have been turned off, and of non-school zone camera locations that will continue to function, are included below:

City to Make 2019 Property Tax Bills Available on NOLA.gov

NEW ORLEANS – Today, the City announced that 2019 property tax bills will be made available on the City’s website tomorrow, Friday, Dec. 28, and paper bills are being mailed to all Orleans Parish property owners. (Mailing began Wednesday, Dec. 26.) Property tax payments are due on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019.

Property owners may view and pay their property tax bills in full online at www.nola.gov/pay-taxes/, starting on December 28. To view the tax bill online, you must provide the tax bill number located on a current or prior tax bill for that property. Property owners can use the assessor’s website, at www.nolaassessor.com, to determine their tax bill number by property address. There is no convenience fee to pay using your bank checking account (E-Check). Credit or debit card payments are accepted, but a 2.49 percent processing fee is added. Alternately, property owners may mail their payments to P.O. Box 60047, New Orleans, LA, 70160-0047. Using the payment stub provided on the bill will ensure prompt and accurate posting. Mailed payments must be postmarked by January 31, 2019, to receive timely credit. The City reminds property owners who intend to pay in person at City Hall (Bureau of the Treasury, Room 1W40), that coming in early or mid-January avoids the long lines that occur at the deadline. Paying on-line has no handling fee when bank checking accounts (E-Check) are used, and enables payments to post quickly (overnight as authorized). For questions about property tax payments, please call the Bureau of the Treasury at (504) 387-8027.

City Announces 2019 Mardi Gras Clean-Up Operations Job Fair

NEW ORLEANS — On Monday, the City of New Orleans Department of Sanitation and JOB1 announced the 2019 Mardi Gras Clean-Up Operations Job Fair to recruit 200 temporary employees during the upcoming Carnival season. The job fair will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 22nd, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., on the second floor of the JOB1 Business and Career Solutions Center (3400 Tulane Avenue).

Qualified individuals will be selected to attend an orientation session and register for a required, two-day job readiness class in advance of the Mardi Gras clean-up operations. Temporary employees will earn $11.05 an hour with the potential to earn, on average, $700 during the two-week Mardi Gras season, from Feb. 22 to March 5.

Red Light Cameras Deactivated

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City of New Orleans

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Camera Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Bound</td>
<td>ST CHARLES AVE @ LOUISIANA AVE</td>
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<td>North Bound</td>
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<td>ANNECY AVE @ ITALIAN ST</td>
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<td>South Bound</td>
<td>HENRY CLAY AVE @ LOUISIANA AVE</td>
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<td>ST CHARLES AVE @ MAURITIUS LEONARD KING JR BLVD</td>
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<td>West Bound</td>
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<td>5 CARROLTON AVE @ ELLPHANT BLVD</td>
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<td>West Bound</td>
<td>HARRISON AVE @ TOLLANDON DR</td>
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<td>North Bound</td>
<td>WILKINS BLVD @ HARRISON AVE</td>
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<td>East Bound</td>
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Operational Non-School Zone Cameras

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<td>West Bound</td>
<td>POPOLESKY ST @ CARMICHAEL ST</td>
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<td>West Bound</td>
<td>HARRISON AVE @ 5 CARROLTON AVE</td>
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Five African American NFL Head Coaches Fired

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Five of the NFL’s seven African American head coaches were fired on December 31st. Arizona Cardinals head coach Steve Wilks was fired after just one season. The Cardinals’ record was 3-13 — the worst record in the league — but over the last 18 years, there have only been ten head coaches who were fired after only one year. Three of them were African American.

This NFL season the following Black head coaches were fired: Marvin Lewis (Bengals, 6-19), Vance Joseph (Broncos, 6-14), Todd Bowles (Jets, 4-12), Hue Jackson (Browns, 7-8) and Steve Wilks (Cardinals, 3-13).

The firings mean there are now only two Black head coaches in the NFL: Chargers head coach Anthony Lynn and Steelers longtime head coach Mike Tomlin.

This NFL season the following Black head coaches were fired: Marvin Lewis (Bengals, 6-19), Vance Joseph (Broncos, 6-14), Todd Bowles (Jets, 4-12), Hue Jackson (Browns, 7-8) and Steve Wilks (Cardinals, 3-13).

The firings mean there are now only two Black head coaches in the NFL: Chargers head coach Anthony Lynn and Steelers longtime head coach Mike Tomlin.

The firing of Wilks in Arizona after only one season was one of the more curious firings this season. Though one of the coaches fired, Hue Jackson, has one of the worst win/loss records in the modern NFL, many point to the fact that there haven’t been enough hired over a long enough time to conclude that the hiring and firing pattern is biased one way or the other. Still others say that management above the head coaching position is actually often to blame for failing results and losing records.


“Despite owning one of the league’s worst rosters, the Cardinals fired their coach anyway, as Bidwill scapegoated Wilks — who became only the 10th coach to be fired after only one season since 2000 — for the franchise’s failures,” wrote NFL writer for Yahoo News, Terez Paylor, regarding Wilks’ firing.

Writer Dave Zirin, who writes about race and sports often, wrote, “In a league 70% African American, there are now two (!) Black head coaches after today’s firings. Shameful numbers. Failure of a Rooney Rule without teeth and owners who will nearly always bend towards whiteness.”

“Not a good look for diversity today in the NFL. In 2006, when Commissioner Goodell was hired, there were seven minority coaches and four minority general managers. Today there are three minority HCs and 1 minority GM after Ozzie retires,” wrote Jim Trotter.

The regular season in the NFL ended on December 30. As more changes are made over the off season there is likely to be more Black head coaches added. But for now, the debate on the numbers will focuses on the recent firing and whether those dismissed will find employment elsewhere for 2019.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist and writer for NNPA as well as a political analyst and strategist at Principle of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at lburke307@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.
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