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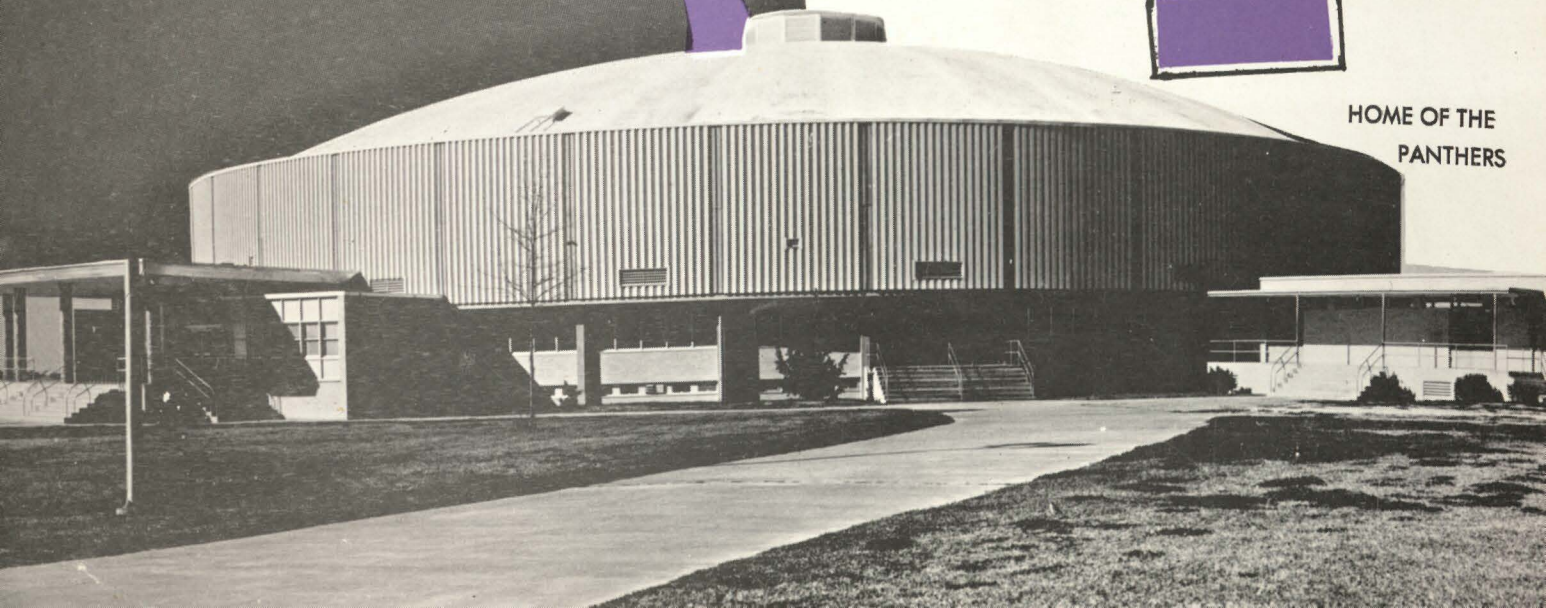
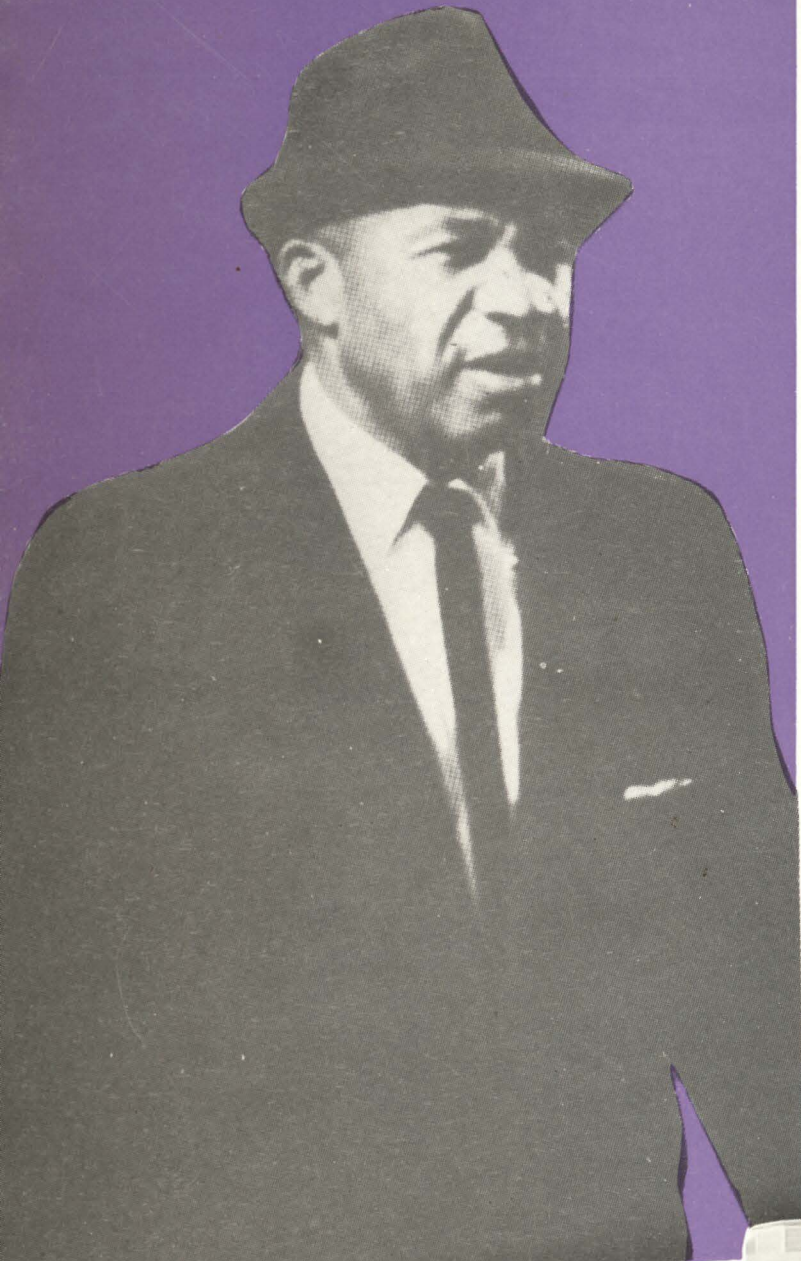
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THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

As President of Prairie View A&M University, I am delighted to express my congratulations to W. J. "Billy" Nicks on this evening's "Roast and Toast". It is always a pleasure for me to recognize persons for a job well done, and to share occasions upon which we can fellowship together as Alumni and friends of Prairie View A&M University.

"Billy" had a long and distinguished career at Prairie View A&M University. He touched the lives of countless young men; he counseled them, disciplined them, and they emerged from this tutelage as proud, productive, competent coaches, teachers, and professional athletes. They were made richer by having "sat at the feet of a master builder": William J. "Billy" Nicks.

"Billy" has had "Days to Remember." We, his friends, admirers, and supporters, gather here at the Astroworld Hotel on April 12, 1975, to honor him, to salute him, and to give him a "Night to Remember."

The students, faculty, staff, and administration of Prairie View A&M University join me in saluting "Billy," and in saying "Hail, "Billy", Builder of men and Productive Panthers."

ALVIN I. THOMAS, President
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Billy Nicks

THE RECORD

- **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (5)**
 - 1953, 1954
 - 1958
 - 1963, 1964
- **SOUTHWESTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1951	1958
1952	1960
1953	1963
1954	1964
- **COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS**
 - NAIA 1963
 - Pittsburgh Courier and Royal Crown
 - Atlantic Daily World and Coca Cola Company
 - 100% Wrong Club, Atlanta, Georgia
 - Several State and Local Awards
- **NAIA HALL OF FAME**
- **TOP COACHING RECORD (14 yrs.)**
 - Won 184
 - Lost 55
 - Ties 9



Nicks shown receiving NAIA's 1963 Coach-of-the-Year Award in California.



FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP —

PV retired the giant National football trophy (held by co-captains Seth Cartwright and Otis Taylor) in 1963. Representatives of the Coca Cola Bottling Company were on hand to make the presentation. The Panthers entered the first leg on the new trophy which will go to the first college winning the crown three years.



COACHING STAFF — L-R: Rettig, Nicks, Johnson, Moore and Gamble (not pictured).

The Billy



1959 Captains Charley Malone and Willie Garrett pose with Coach Nicks.



Jim Kearney receives NAIA Player of The Year Award in 1963.



Nicks with Assistant Coaches Hoover Wright and Hugh McKinnis.

W. J. "Billy" Nicks, is a native of Atlanta, Ga. He attended Morris Brown High School, where he was an outstanding athlete in football, basketball, baseball and track. He graduated from Morris Brown High in 1924.

He entered Morris Brown College on a football scholarship in 1924, and was named to several All American teams at halfback. He also won All Conference honors in basketball and lettered in baseball and track. After graduating from Morris Brown in 1928, he taught school at Booker T. Washington High in Atlanta, one year. From 1930-32, he was principal and assistant football coach at Morris Brown High School.

He was head football coach and Dean of Men at Morris Brown College from 1943-44, where he won two conference and two National titles.

He served as head football coach at Prairie View in 1945, where he compiled a 6-3 record. He stepped down as head coach, but remained as head of the Physical Education Department and assistant coach until taking over as head coach again and Athletic Director in 1952.

In his first year his team won the conference Championship. His teams won back-to-back National Championships in 1953-54. He also won National Championships in 1958, 1963 and 1964. He won 8 SWAC titles. It took him only 14 years to accomplish all of this. His team finished second in SWAC in 1955, 56, 57, 59. He won 14 State Fair games. He was named coach of the year four times by National Coaches Organizations and in 1964, he was inducted into the NAIA coaches Hall of Fame.

Nicks Era

He coached some of the finest athletes in the nation during his span at PV. Charlie "Choo Choo" Brackins, his quarterback from 1952-54, is called by many coaches the "greatest quarterback to ever play in college." Some called his 1953-54 All SWAC halfback John Payton, another Jim Brown. As a senior before getting hurt Payton scored 10 touchdowns in 5 games. Otis Taylor, Ken Houston, Jim Hunt, Alvin Reed, the late John Farrington, were some of his players to go pro.

There are many other of his former players who became outstanding high school coaches. Some are Calvin Scott, John Oliphant, Ezell Seals, Archie Seals, Jimmy Herron, Gentriss Hornsby, Carl Jackson, James White, George Dearborne, etc.

He will always be remembered as one of the finest coaches to ever coach in College.



Nicks and wife accept huge trophy along with Former President E. B. Evans.



Annual All-Sports Football Banquet with Jim Brown (center) as speaker. Pictured (L-R) are C. L. Wilson, Chairman, Athletic Council, Dr. E. B. Evans, Brown, Nicks and Dr. C. A. Wood, Director of Information.



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COACH W. J. NICKS

for his contribution to

Prairie View A&M





1964
PANTHER CHAMPIONSHIP
SQUAD

1958
PANTHER
CLUB



FIRST ROW: Left to Right, Jimmie Herron, Ollie Nelson, William Stell, John Oliphant, Charles Thomas, Charles Broussard, Calvin Scott, Theodore Fuller, Thomas Henderson.

SECOND ROW: Left to Right, Tommie Malone, Jimmy Hunt, Paul Young, Isaac Finley, James Clemon, Gentry Hornsby, Robert Marlin, Thomas Lewis, Clemmen Daniel.

THIRD ROW: Left to Right, Harold Grimes, Wendell Davis, Mosese Hill, David Webster, Robert Shaw, Albert Nunn, Jimmie Sanders, Forest Smith, Julius Ellis.

FOURTH ROW: Left to Right, Frank McKee, Elmer Wooley, Donald Pickett, Eugene Lewis, David Brown, Mae Alvin Collier, Rufus Granderson, James White, Harold Brackins.





THE 1958 CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Coach Nicks talks to top gridiron scorers Archie Seals and Calvin Scott in planning strategy for Florida Bowl.



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W. J. Nicks Head Coach
Morris Brown

1958-59 COACHING STAFF

W. J. Nicks Director of Athletics
and Head Coach

E. V. Rettig Defensive Tactician

Norman Johnson Freshman Coach

Leroy Moore Offensive Backfield

Donald Hill Defensive Backfield

William H. Wright Trainer

Prepared by The Publications Department
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Joe Booker, Sports Information Director
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Boothe, Gazella (Ms.)
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Boozer, Floyd (Ms.)
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Christopher, Joyce (Ms.)
Clark, Mary A. (Ms.)
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Charlston, Cube (Mr.)
Collins, Sam (Dr.)
Collins, Olberia (Ms.)
Davis, Irene
Daniels, Evelyn M. (Ms.)
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English, Leon (Mr.)
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Wilson, Dorothy
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Calloway, Edward
Higgs, George
Johnson, Robbie
Williams, Margie

COACH W. J. NICKS

and

MRS. NICKS

(Today)



Nicks with Pro-football players at TV station recently. Pictured (L-R) Alvin Reed, Ken Houston, Nicks and Benne Boone, PR Consultant.



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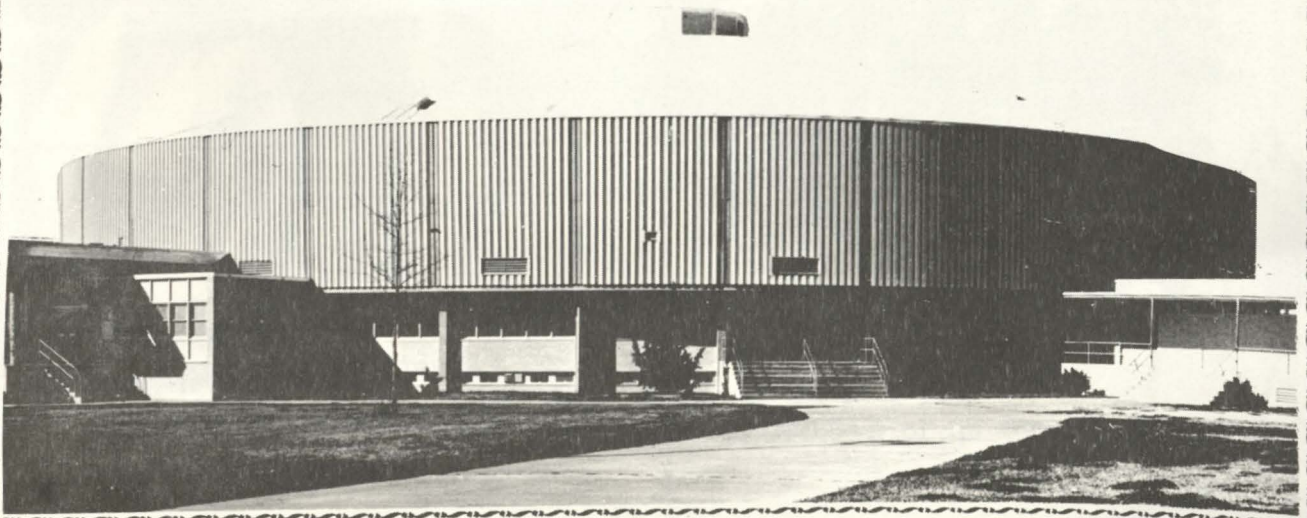
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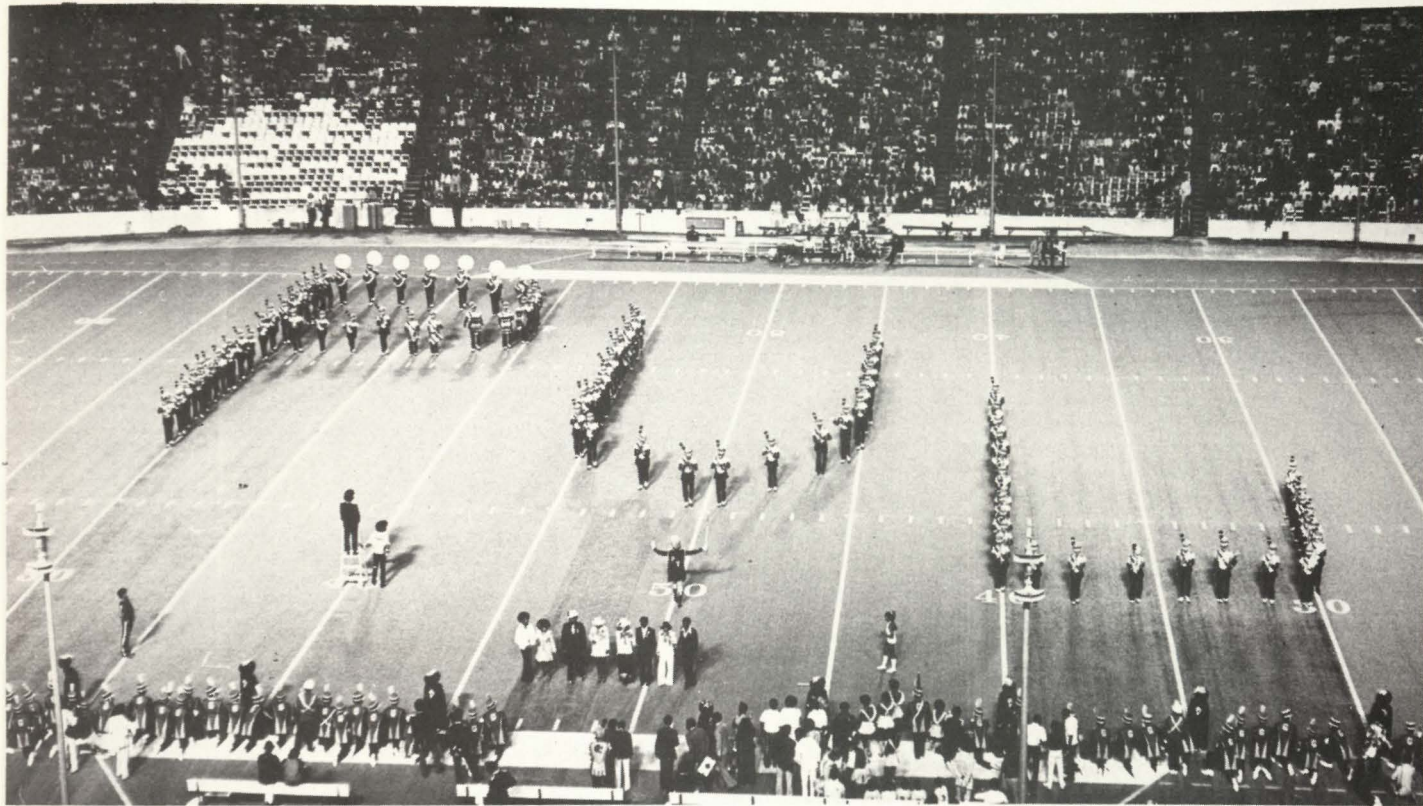
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