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IMHOTEP APPOINTS DEV JOHNSON HEAD FOOTBALL COACH



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LOCAL SPORTS

IMHOTEP APPOINTS DEV JOHNSON HEAD FOOTBALL COACH



Coach Dev Looks to bring stability and toughness to Imhotep Program

When the 2020 Philadelphia high school football season rolls around, one of the top programs in the State will have a new, but familiar face leading the charge. After five years as an assistant, working under three head coaches, Devon Johnson was named the Head football coach of the 2015 PIAA state champion Imhotep Charter High School Panthers.

Johnson grew up in West Philadelphia, but got his career started playing in Mount Airy for the Ivy Hill Saints little league football team. He then went on to letter three years at Central High School, where he earned all-public and all-city honors before accepting an athletic scholarship to attend West Chester University. Shortly after graduating from West Chester and ending his playing career, he jumped into coaching after a former high school teammate accepted the head job at Martin Luther King High School. It wasn't until 2015, under former Imhotep coach and (current Neumann-Goretti coach) Albie Crosby, that Johnson found his home at Imhotep.

"Timing is everything. I want the job." After serving under three head coaches and twice being named interim head coach, Devon Johnson knew it was his time to lead the program. Johnson admitted he turned down a few head coaching jobs over the last two years in order to continue to build his resume for his "dream job" at Imhotep. "This

is really my dream job, I couldn't accept another job because my heart is at Imhotep." Coach Johnson knew that his vision and commitment to the program would put him above any other candidate that interviewed for the job, and he was right. On February 26 Andre Noble, athletic director at Imhotep announced on Twitter, "In a few weeks @Coach_Dev has hit the ground running... We are even more confident than we were when he was named interim head football coach....Today, he is no longer the interim coach. Congrats @Coach_Dev - Head Football Coach at Imhotep Charter."

In speaking with Johnson, he talked about what he's learned as an assis-

tant from his last three bosses."With coach Albie, it was swag, challenging players.. branding the school in a way that attracts people to the program," Johnson said. After Albie stepped down in 2016, Mark Schmidt took over and led the Panthers to the state title game. "Under coach Schmidt it was how to prepare week in and week out no matter if you were playing the best team in the country or the worse team inn the division, we never took any team lightly." In 2017 after a short tenure by Schmidt, coach Nick Lincoln was called to lead the program. "Coach Linc taught me creativity, being a coaches player. I learned to really be inclusive with my players and give them a say of what goes on with our football team"" said Johnson last week. Coach Dev will look to mold these qualities together and use them as he leads a program with sky high expectations after a season that wasn't up to the standards Imhotep has set in years past. "We want to put the city back on notice, we might've stumbled, but we didn't fall off," Johnson said with a fire in his voice.

If you plan to tune in to Imhotep this season, you can expect a Devon Johnson football team to be a, "disciplined, hard nosed football team that will make you work for 4 quarters and beyond if that's what it takes." Johnson explained a message he tells his players, "go 100 percent for 100 percent of the plays

that your in the game."

Coach Johnson's voice lit up when talking about his players we should watch out for this upcoming season. West Virginia commit, and star RB/SS, Saint McLeod lead the long list of players Coach Johnson spoke of over the phone. Class of 2022, and 5 star defensive end, Enai White is a player hoping to be "one of the top 10 players in the entire country when the rankings come out"" according to coach Johnson. White holds over 30 division 1 offers and is currently ranked as the #1 defensive end in the country for his class. Finally, 2019 public league MVP D'Shaun Seales looks to step into the role as a leader this upcoming season. "I just want to become a better leader and strengthen the rest of the team... We've been approaching the offseason with a different type of demeanor this year. Coach Dev is changing the energy," Seales said emphatically. "Once we found out he was the new head coach, everybody bought in from that second." Seales made sure to finish by stating, "last season was a minor setback for a major comeback. We know what the goal is and we have everybody bought in trying to achieve that goal." Under new head coach Devon Johnson the Imhotep football program seems to be headed in the right direction for years to come.

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LOCAL SPORTS

IMHOTEP'S NYASHIA COOPER TAKES 7TH AT INDOOR TRACK STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



After capping off Junior year Indoor Track & Field Season taking 7th place at the PTFCA State Championship, Imhotep's Nyashia Cooper is looking for a big showing in the upcoming Outdoor Season. Her jump of 18-8.75 feet is the 5th best jump was the 5th best jump in the state in indoor track and field. Not to mention she ran the 5th fastest time in the state in the 55m dash. She competed in both events along with the 200m at the state championship meet held at Penn State University.

While looking back on the season and what she felt was the best meet she said the following "My best meet would be public league champs at the armory." At this

years indoor public league champs she placed 3rd in the 60m dash, 6th in the 200m, and she placed 2nd in the long jump. When asked what was her goal for the coming into the Indoor Season she said "My goals coming into the indoor season was to try my best get all personal best in my events and make it to states such as nationals. Also to become a stronger runner come outdoor."

Currently she is being recruited by; Penn State University, Rosemont University, Bloomsburg University, East Stroudsburg University, Temple University, and Shippensburg University.

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MAYOR KENNEY PROPOSES TO MAKE TUITION CCP FREE

Mayor Kenny proposes to make CCP Free for full-time students. Over the next five years the Octavia Catto Scholarship will help ensure that over 6,500 students will receive \$1500 a year to offset the cost of college which federal and state aid, doesn't cover. The scholarship will assist with books, transportation, and meals. In a city with as much deep poverty that inflicts Philadelphia this is a big step in providing key essentials that students need to have a successful college experience.

In addition, the Mayor looks to provide new faculty and staff, including career coaches and advisors. Which are essential in connecting students with all of the resources at their disposal from childcare, public benefits, and housing.

"Building off our historic investments in quality pre-K and the School District of Philadelphia over the last four years, the time has come to strengthen the pre-K to College continuum in our city," said Mayor Jim Kenney. "A post-secondary degree or credential is essential for the good-paying jobs of today and tomorrow, yet the rising cost of higher education and the student debt crisis have made it virtually unattainable for far too many of our students, especially students of color. The Catto Scholarship will change these circumstances, putting Catto Scholars on a path to prosperity. At the same time, it will strengthen our economy since increasing two- and four-year college degree attainment is a major driver of inclusive, economic growth."

The Mayor has proposed \$63.2 million between fiscal years 2021-2025, to fund his plan. If approved by City Council the Mayor initiative will launch in the Fall of 2020.

"At Community College of Philadelphia, our students know that a certificate or associate degree can change the course of their lives and have a seismic effect on their lifetime earnings," said Community College of Philadelphia President Donald Guy Generals. "We are thrilled that Mayor Kenney is proposing to invest in the city's college, as the best partner to make the transformative power of education available to even more Philadelphians."

Eligibility for the program is based on the following;

- Be a first-time or a returning full-time student who graduated from a high school in Philadelphia. (This includes Philadelphia public, private, homeschool, alternative, and PA cyber schools, as well as individuals who earned the Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma by passing the GED or HiSET exam.)
- Be a resident of Philadelphia for at least 12 months.
- Complete the annual free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) and document an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) below \$15,000.
- Meet college readiness requirements assessed at the time of their placement exams with no more than one level below college-ready in reading, writing, and math.

To remain eligible, students must maintain Philadelphia residency, full-time enrollment (at least 12 credits per semester), a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) after the first year in the program, and meet milestones of credit attainment each of the three years for which they are eligible for the scholarship.

The Mayor added the following regarding why the initiative was named after Octavia Cato;

"Octavius Catto was a renaissance man; he was an abolitionist, activist, athlete, scholar, and educator. Catto exemplifies what it means to be a leader and public servant. He fought for our city's African American community who were subjugated to centuries of mistreatment and racism, and he worked to break down barriers through the incredible power of education. To me, Catto represents all of the qualities that we want to see in our scholars. It's my hope that naming this transformative new scholarship in his honor will inspire our city's future leaders to follow in his footsteps and carry on the incredible legacy he left behind."

The initiative will also expand dual enrollment for high school students who are taking college credits. Currently 700 students in Philadelphia are in dual enrollment programs. The City Catto Scholarship investment of \$500,000 will provide opportunities for an additional 200 students.

Superintendent Dr. William Hite, School District of Philadelphia had the following to say about the Mayors initiative:

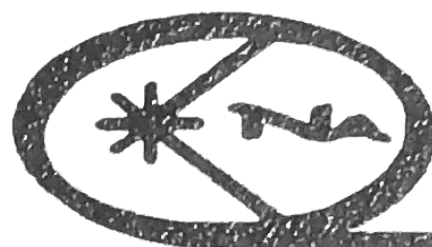
"Mayor Kenney's continued investments in education demonstrate his ongoing commitment to our students and the future of our city. The Catto Scholarship will continue the pre-K to College continuum that Philadelphia students deserve. The District has been proud to partner

with CCP on dual enrollment programs. The administration's pledge to provide over \$700,000 in new funding for dual enrollment and summer bridge programs will ensure that Catto Scholars are poised for success in college and beyond."

Congressman Dwight Evans, U.S. Representative, CCP Alumnus has the following to say about the Mayors initiative:

"As a proud alumnus of Community College of Philadelphia, the Octavius Catto Scholarship announced by Mayor Kenney gives me great joy and hope for the future of Philadelphia. CCP is our region's predominant gateway to a prosperous future for Philadelphia high school graduates and other adults who return to the classroom to advance their careers. The program not only makes CCP tuition-free for first-time, full-time students, it also provides significant wraparound supports to remove barriers that keep many of our students from completing their degree program. I know firsthand the power of a community college education, and I commend the Kenney Administration and CCP for developing such a thoughtful program that's sure to have a tremendous impact on our city."

The Mayor has sweeping support across the area amongst political leaders, but he still has to get approval from City Council to make his dream a reality.



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TOWN CRIER

COUNCILWOMAN PARKER INTRODUCES BILL TO BAN NATURAL HAIR DISCRIMINATION



On March 12th, 9th District Councilwoman Cherelle Parker, working with the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, introduced a bill that would ban discrimination on the basis of hairstyle, in Philadelphia.

This type of legislation is trending nationally among Elected African American Democrats. In the US Senate Cory Booker of New Jersey has moved similar legislation.

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, D-NJ:

“Discrimination against black hair is discrimination against black people. Implicit and explicit biases against natural hair are harmful and must be rooted out. That’s why I led the effort in the U.S. Senate to ban discrimination based on hair textures and hairstyles that are commonly associated with a particular race or national origin. This is a violation of our civil rights, and it happens every day for black people across the country.”

In Philadelphia Congressman

Dwight Evans has moved forward similar legislation.

“I’m an original co-sponsor of the CROWN Act at the federal level because we need to stamp out hairstyle discrimination, which is often a back-door way to allow racial or national-origin discrimination. I commend Councilwoman Parker for pushing to make this change at the local level.”

The proposed legislation would move to amend Chapter 9-1100 of The Philadelphia Code. Councilwoman Parker’s legislation would give a clearer interpretation that race discrimination is also defined as discrimination of characteristics that are associated with a particular race; such as hair. This legislation is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, it would ban hair discrimination in all sectors.

Councilwoman Parker has the following to say regarding the legislation;

“Hair discrimination is a reality for too many black women and men. As a black woman, I personally understand how we have been forced to conform to mainstream standards of beauty for decades,” Parker said. “I am so proud to witness more and more women embrace their natural beauty and reject the need to fit into this makeshift frame that once de-

fined what was beautiful and acceptable. It’s about more than just hair; it’s about our culture. It’s accepting who we are and loving who we are, and no one should face discrimination because they are comfortable in their own skin and choose to identify with their culture.”

“For too long, grooming and appearance policies have been written and enforced by white cultural standards that often perpetuate racist stereotypes,” said Rue Landau, Executive Director, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations. “The City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations want to make it clear that policies restricting or punishing people based on personal and cultural characteristics—such as hair styles or hair texture—are racist, discriminatory and illegal in our city, plain and simple.”

In the beginning of her second term Councilwoman Parker has been aggressive attacking issues around race and discrimination. She has also proposed a Charter Amendment that would allow the citizens to vote for or against, allowing the PPD to continue to practice Stop and Frisk.

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CHANGE MAKERS: GLORIA MCDANIEL



We had a chance to sit down with Rhonda McDaniel, who has been making a big impact in her community by helping to raise funds to assist kids in need at her local middle school, where her child attends.

What made you get involved with doing charity and developing programs for our youth?

Well my daughter started 6th

grade and she would come home with stories of being bullied. At the time, I had just had a stroke and was recovering.

When I asked my daughter what she was being bullied about, I found out that these groups of girls were foster children, so I decided to have a meeting with the foster parents. Finally, I decided to sit in class with my child. I wanted to find out why they were having so many fights and not getting along. I went around to different girls and boys just asking about their lives. Some were very intrigued by my interest and that's when I decided after some thought what I could do to help these groups of children come together. That Friday I threw a house party for all of them but mostly those who had issues with each other. To my surprise they all attended. I fried chicken, put out snacks made of nacho chips and ordered pizza. The parents dropped them off and picked them up. We had

a ball and from that day forward I was called Aunt Gigi and I started showing up at the school more frequently.

What are some of the challenges that our youth deal with in our schools today?

There are a lot of problems! Okay! some of these children are in placement or foster homes. After doing some research I found out there is a big difference between the two. Our youth is crying out for love and respect but instead I found out that 35% of these kids are coming from foster care, placement, and many are on medication. I've watched the staff at Wagner Middle School wash kids clothes, they are going beyond their work duties. I have spoken to teachers that told me to give up on these children. I've gone to State Rep Fitzgerald's Office, I've been to the School District, I've reached out to Concerned Black Men. I've funded some

things for the under privileged children at this school. Some of these kids are medicated and placed in public schools and the teachers and principal have to take on a bigger role and they are not equipped.

What do you feel should be implemented into our schools to help our children deal with these issues?

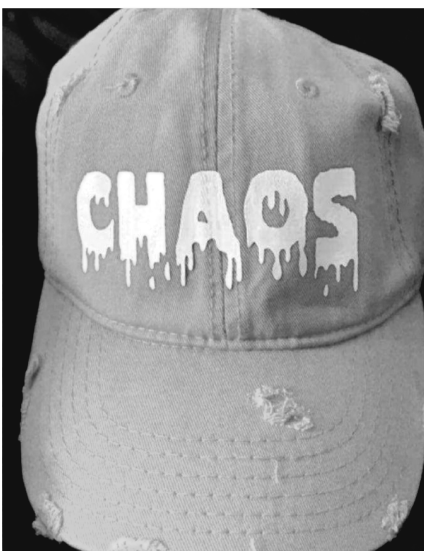
To be honest with you what my kids need are concerned politicians who have a voice. They need a safe haven. I've been to Rep. Fitzgerald's office and explained what I needed on multiple times, I wrote a three page letter to Rep. Dwight Evans. I say my kids because they matter to me.

How much help and resources have you received from our elected officials? If you have received help who was it from?

This such an easy question, none of my help came from anyone in elected city councilman or community activist. So, I asked different business owners such as Mr. Wright's Barber-shop, Nina Nichole Salon and Spa, Natasha who actually helped me out to Organization Dimples for days, RDB unisex Salon, Royal Blue Restaurant, and Baby Gurl Boutique. This was sprung on all of them but they had no problem helping me. From there I have funded everything with my savings.

By Uptown Standard Staff

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