

# BURNING SANDS ALUMNI FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Burning Sands Alumni Football Foundation to Honor VUU Legendary Coaches with Adopt-A-Street Signs**

The Burning Sands Alumni Football Foundation (Burning Sands) is a nonprofit organization that raises money to support various educational and athletic initiatives of the university's football department. Membership is comprised of men and women who are either former VUU football players, coaches, athletic trainers, cheerleaders, or just loyal supporters of the university.

Members, many of whom are former Virginia Union University football players, elected to pay tribute to these four coaches because of the indelible imprint they left on their lives. The sign bearing the organization's name is strategically placed at the Admiral Street site to serve as inspiration to VUU football players as they head to the workout room from the practice field.

Willard Bailey, a 2021 inductee into the National Black College Football Hall of Fame, is the winningest coach in VUU history. Coach Bailey holds a school record of 151 wins between 1971-83 and 1995-2003. His teams won six CIAA conference championships. Jesse "Bad News" Chavis is touted as the best defensive coordinator Virginia Union has ever had. His 1973 defensive line, known as "The Wrecking Crew," posted six shutouts en route to an undefeated season and the first CIAA Championship in 50 years. "Tricky Tom" Harris coached football, basketball, and track between 1950-1983 at VUU. He won 99 football games during his career. Joe Taylor, another legend in college football, has won four national championships, 14 conference championships, seven bowl games, and has a lifetime win-loss record of 233-96-4. Coach Joe Taylor, current VUU Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, was inducted into the National Black College Football Hall of Fame in 2020 and was recently appointed to serve on the national College Football Playoff Selection Committee.

Coaches Willard Bailey and Joe Taylor, Jesse "Skeet" Chavis, son of Coach Chavis, and a representative from the Tom Harris Alumni Chapter will be present as honorary guests. Coach Alvin Parker, along with members of the VUU football team, will also attend this event.

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