

## **On the Houston Texans Hiring Lovie Smith**

By Cameron "Coach Cam" Campbell, Democratic Candidate for Texas HD 132

If you can see it, you can be it. That's what people who look like me believe. That's why historical figures from Frederick Douglass to George Washington Carver to Jackie Robinson to President Obama are so important.

Proof that our people can reach the highest level of achievement encourages more of our people to aspire to those levels. That's why, on a local level, I was thrilled this week when the Houston Texans hired Lovie Smith as their head coach.

Even against the backdrop of the NFL's latest reckoning with race – wrought by Brian Flores' lawsuit against the league – Lovie's hiring was no affirmative action response. He led the Chicago Bears to the Super Bowl in 2007, coaching there against Tony Dungy, his mentor, as the first two Black head coaches to reach that peak.

The Texans hired the best person for the job. Period. As a USA Football Master Trainer, a Texans fan and the team's Play Safe Coach, I'm thrilled with his hiring. The fact that Lovie is literally my lookalike (though a bit grayer in the beard) brings me even greater joy.

Too often, we've seen the pendulum swing back and forth and back and forth again in everything from hiring practices to voting rights, but Lovie's hiring is a pendulum swing in the right direction, because it's based on his excellence *and* because it sends a message of hope to all minorities who strive for the highest levels of their chosen endeavors.

That mentality drove my own effort a few years ago in launching FLAG (Football League All Girls) to give girls a chance to experience gridiron grit. A far cry from the insulting mockery of the 2009-2012 Lingerie Football League, FLAG was the real deal, showing girls what they could be as athletes, as leaders, as limitless examples of potential.

That's the root reason that I love the Lovie Smith hiring. In all my pursuits already mentioned here, as well as my Democratic candidacy for Texas HD 132, I live by "If you can see it, you can be it."