

CATEGORY FIVE MINUTES WITH Coach Ronnie Cottrell

By: Brian Bosarge

BRIAN BOSARGE: First off let me congratulate you on being named Head Coach. Tell us what it means to you, to be the coach at Alma Bryant.

RONNIE COTTRELL: Well I am very excited, Brian. I don't know if this community really knows how special this place is to me. In '98 when I was at Alabama, I spent a lot of time down here. I grew to love this place. I also think it has the potential to be one of the top total athletic programs in this state. I am very excited to be the head coach.

BB: For those reading this that may not know a whole lot about you, tell them about your coaching background.

RC: I grew up in Brewton, AL and I played and coached in a pretty good program at T.R. Miller. I know a lot about this area, and I feel like I know what it takes to be successful. Also, after being a college coach at Florida State and Alabama, and being a successful high school coach before, I think this has prepared me for this opportunity. I think we will bring a very fun style of football; hopefully we will have good participation and help unify this community through Bryant Football.

BB: Coach, this being an election year, they always talk about a president's first "100 Days" in office. What are your plans for your first "100 Days" in office?

RC: That's a very interesting question. Well I officially start here on June 1st, so I will have to do a lot of stuff on the run and part time. My first 100 days, I hope to establish a program here and have the correct way of what we want done. I want to get as many people involved in this program as we can, and too get as many athletes as I can to represent the Bryant High School Hurricanes. Hopefully, at the end of 100 days we are seeing progress.

BB: Not only are you the head coach here, but you were also hired to be the athletic director. Tell us about some of your plans for the athletic department as a whole.

RC: First of all I grew up in a program where we were taught to play all sports. I want kids to participate in all sports if they can. The number one thing is to establish a base where we can raise the necessary funds to have really good programs in all sports. We just want Bryant High School to compete at the highest level in all sports.

BB: Coach, at this time I will give you a chance to speak to your players. What can they be ready for?

RC: I hope Brian that they are going to raise their standards. I have very high standards for our players. We have a philosophy that when we are in the fourth quarter that is what we call "CANE TIME". I want our team to be the best-conditioned four-quarter team in

this region, in this state. So I think they can expect a lot of conditioning, a lot of hard work. I think they can also expect a very unified team. I just hope that they are going to buy into the system. I think they can expect a very outstanding coaching staff. I think they can expect to be very well coached. I just hope they can expect more victories and more success.

BB: What can the parents be ready for?

RC: I think the parents need to be prepared to support this program and to be involved. I hope they will be prepared to see an improved program, to continue to do the things that Eric Collier started here.

BB: What can the community be ready for?

RC: I hope the community will be rallying behind Bryant Football. I hope we can break down some barriers and get everybody to support Bryant. I know our tradition of Alba and Grand Bay. In this area we have had two schools, but now we are one. I hope the community can be involved with a very enthusiastic and very unified team. I just hope they can expect a really fun environment at the games.

BB: Coach, it has been a pleasure and I thank you for your time. I look forward to not only working with you for the website, but also with the development of the Hurricane Radio Network.

RC: Well since you brought that up, we are excited! That is one thing hopefully our fans can expect; a very good radio network, led by you and Dewayne Lavelle. I think it will be a good thing to broadcast our games on the radio, and hopefully soon we can find a station to broadcast our games. GO CANES!

BB: GO CANES!

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