



Kenia Cole, Hampton University- c/o 2015, Sports Management & Becoming a Pro-Athlete



Name : Kenya Cole

Your HBCU : Hampton University

Graduation Year : 2015

Major : Sports Management & Becoming a Pro-Athlete

1. Where are you from? Who introduced you to HBCUs?*

I am from Silver Spring, MD. I knew a few things about HBCUs because I had cousins who went to Bowie State University, but I did not know the actual difference between HBCUs and PWIs. I played basketball in high school and my high school coach instructed me to send out some film to all of the Division I MEAC schools. Hampton (along with a few others) responded to me and came out and watched me play.



3X Mid Eastern Athletic Conference Champion

2. Why did you choose an HBCU over a pwi?*

I chose Hampton over two PWIs because I felt more at home at Hampton. My visit was great. I went during a Battle of The Bay, which is HU vs. NSU and I had never been around so many people that looked like me outside of my family. My high school was pretty diverse, so just being around other black people really made me feel comfortable.

3. What is the story of your "experience" at Your HBCU given its heralded status as a stellar and prestigious institution?*

As an athlete at Hampton, I had the opportunity to participate and compete with many Power 5 institutions. We won the MEAC Championship several years in a row and I had the opportunity of playing on television a lot. We had a sense of swagger to us, with a hint of "boujie" that made us unique. Wherever we were, people who we were and where we came from and I enjoyed embodying that.

4. "First time" experiences at your HBCU?*

Because I played basketball, I had the opportunity of traveling all over the United States. We went to the US Virgin Islands for a Thanksgiving tournament which was a remarkable experience for myself and my teammates.

5. Who are the professors that have impacted your life in and out of the classroom? How did they do that?*

Dr. Mark Whitaker and Mr. Sharrieff DeJohnette. Those two professors truly taught me the essence of working hard and doing things the right way. It's quite ironic.



MEAC Champs!

6. What sports do/did you play at your HBCU? What positions?

I played basketball at Hampton, I was a point guard and a shooting guard and I wore #1.

7. Sports accomplishments in high school? at your HBCU? (records, medals, articles, et cetera)

At my HBCU, I am a 3X Mid Eastern Athletic Conference Champion. I experienced postseason play in all of my years of college. That is a tremendous accomplishment.