



The Game Changers: Abner Haynes, Leon King, and the Fall of Major College Football's Color Barrier in Texas (Hardback)

By Jeff Miller

Sports Publishing LLC, United States, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The accepted narrative in football-crazy Texas is that racial integration came to the state's national sport in the mid-1960s, generally associated with Jerry LeVias' celebrated arrival at SMU in Dallas. But the landmark achievement actually took place quietly almost a decade earlier only about an hour north of Dallas. In the town of Denton, two black football players from Dallas' segregated public school system boldly walked on to play for what was then called North Texas State College--known today as the University of North Texas. Abner Haynes and Leon King didn't know what to expect, and neither their dozen or so teammates on North Texas' freshman team. The players' arrival came only a few months after North Texas first welcomed a black undergraduate student in February 1956. The school worked its way through both that episode and the integration of its most public face--the football team--with no fanfare and without the hostility on campus that accompanied similar events at many other colleges and universities across the South. There were, though, tense situations when a racial-integrated football team played road games in small,...



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