

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ricardo Patton

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Patton, Ricardo, 1958-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ricardo Patton,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 18, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:05:20).
<b>Abstract:</b>	College basketball coach Ricardo Patton (1958 - ) was the head coach of the University of Colorado basketball team. Patton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 18, 2002, in Boulder, Colorado. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_118
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

College basketball coach Ricardo Maurice Patton was born on October 23, 1958 in Nashville, Tennessee to Juanita Patton and Leroy Reed. After his 1976 graduation from Nashville's Hume Fogg High School, where he lettered in basketball, Patton attended Belmont College in his hometown and studied physical education. He earned two athletic letters and was named a small college All-American during his senior year, paving the way for his induction into Belmont's Sports Hall of Fame. Patton earned his bachelor's degree in 1980 and went to work as a studio cameraman at Nashville's CBS affiliate, WTVF-TV. In 1985, his passion for sports began to blossom into a career when he accepted a coaching position at Two Rivers Middle School and Hillwood High School, both

in Nashville.

Moving into the arena of college basketball, Patton served as assistant coach for Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee for two seasons between 1988 and 1990. He obtained an M.A. in Administration and Supervision from Trevecca Nazarene College in 1989. In 1990, Patton accepted a post as assistant coach at Arkansas-Little Rock University, but returned to Tennessee in 1991 to assist head coach Frankie Allen at Tennessee State University. Patton achieved the title of head coach at the University of Colorado in 1996. In his first season, he led the Golden Buffaloes to win 22 games - their most wins ever - resulting in their first NCAA Tournament since 1969. The team has continued to play extremely well under his direction, and the recognition Patton earned gained him the title of head coach for the 2000 Big 12 All-Star Team during a tour of Austria. However, Patton prizes good character and determination above basketball skills. To encourage these qualities, he requires his team to take an etiquette class prior to each season.

Patton golfs avidly and holds a fifth-degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do. He is a member of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Patton and wife Jennifer have two sons, Ricardo, Jr. and Michael.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Ricardo Patton was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 18, 2002, in Boulder, Colorado, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. College basketball coach Ricardo Patton (1958 - ) was the head coach of the University of Colorado basketball team.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The

## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Patton, Ricardo, 1958-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Patton, Ricardo, 1958---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

SportsMakers

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Custodial History**

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### **Preferred Citation**

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Ricardo Patton, June 18, 2002. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## **Other Finding Aid**

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

## **Series I: Original Interview Footage**

Video Oral History Interview with Ricardo Patton, Section  
A2002\_118\_001\_001, TRT: 0:28:52 2002/06/18

Ricardo Patton talks about his family history. Patton was born on October 23, 1958 in Nashville, Tennessee to Juanita Patton and Leroy Reed. When Patton was nine months old, his mother left him and his sister to be raised by their paternal grandmother, August Reed. Patton met his mother for the first time in 1981. Patton's father was the disciplinarian but was not otherwise involved in his life. Patton went to Glen Elementary School where teachers encouraged him to do well in school. Patton attended the Pilgrim Emmanuel Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee and made a pact with God that he would not use drugs if he could have a successful basketball career. Growing up in poverty, Patton felt sad during meager holidays and constantly thought about how he could improve his life.

Video Oral History Interview with Ricardo Patton, Section  
A2002\_118\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:53 2002/06/18

Ricardo Patton talks about his experiences in high school and his college athletic career. A 1978 graduate of Hume Fogg High School in Nashville, Tennessee, Patton lettered in basketball and earned his black belt in taekwondo. Patton took the advice of his mentors to change his negative attitude and instead embrace the principles of hard work and self-improvement. Patton attended John C. Calhoun Community College in DeCatur, Alabama for two years before being recruited by Belmont College's basketball coach, Don Purdy. Despite a disagreement with the coach during his senior year that led to him briefly quitting the team, Patton had a successful basketball career at Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee and was named a small college All-American.

Video Oral History Interview with Ricardo Patton, Section  
A2002\_118\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:16 2002/06/18

Ricardo Patton describes his college basketball coaching career. After graduating from Belmont College in Nashville, Tennessee in 1980, Patton worked at a local

television station and earned his M.A. degree in Administration and Supervision in 1989 from Treveca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1985, he accepted a coaching position at Two Rivers Middle School and Hillwood High School, both in Nashville, Tennessee. Patton then coached at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee before moving to the University of Colorado at Boulder where he was named head coach in 1996. In his first season, he led the Golden Buffaloes to win twenty-two games resulting in their first NCAA Tournament since 1969. As a coach, Patton prizes good character and determination above basketball skills and mandates that students attend class and graduate.

Video Oral History Interview with Ricardo Patton, Section A2002\_118\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:00 2002/06/18

Ricardo Patton describes his time as the head basketball coach at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Patton faced challenges recruiting players because the program does not have a tradition of winning championships. Additionally, injuries, harsh media critiques, and losing talented players like Chauncey Billups to the NBA created additional struggles. Despite the obstacles, Patton enjoys mentoring his players and wants to be remembered for his determination and helping others. While he knows that his children cannot relate to his own childhood struggles, Patton wants to instill the value of giving to his two sons. Patton concludes by narrating his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Ricardo Patton, Section A2002\_118\_001\_005, TRT: 0:05:19 2002/06/18

Ricardo Patton narrates his photographs.