

The Roster “Rebel Rouser” (Issue 2)

10/24/12 Well, did you know this about?.....JOHN COLES '65

Do you remember those metal basketball goals mingled in with the tennis courts? Well, the asphalt under those goals was worn down by a lone skinny kid named Johnny Coles. Day after day during the 60's there he was..... fake, turn, shoot....over, and over, and over. One more was never enough.

John attended Rice University on a basketball scholarship. Attending college encircled by those groomed hedges and under the eye of that Athenian Owl was “the best decision I ever made.” He feels such a strong bond to Rice that he is the Board President of the “R” Association for Letter Winners. He is also a member of the Women’s Athletic Advisory Board. Not an ordinary Owl, but a Rice Owl.

After graduation, he went into the Movie Theatre business for 18 years. He owned and operated 8 over that span of time. For years, his Inwood Theatre in Dallas was named the “Best Theatre in Texas” by Texas Monthly magazine. They did leading edge work like hosting film festivals, fund raisers for charity, showed foreign and independent American films, and hosting film makers. That sounds like the undertaking of a Renaissance man amongst us.

John still lives in Houston and works in the banking industry.

Let’s go back to John and his love for basketball. He coached youth sports until his kids reached high school. On his 40th birthday he threw down the gauntlet on himself and made a resolution of “I’m going back to shooting baskets.” Back to where it started.

Ten more years of practice shots and then a friend invited him to join up and play in the Senior Olympics. It’s 3 on 3 and takes real shooters. No big deal, the “Ball Hawgs” won the Houston Regionals, Texas State Championship, and the National Championship. In fact, they have won three National Championships. Yep, 3 times NATIONAL CHAMPS.

He still gets nervous, wary of the competition, and asks, “Why am I still doing this”. It’s the same rush, same energy, and same focus. He is still

into the zone and still winning. Maybe Owls are wise.....this one was wise enough to go back to the playground at 40 and start over. J.W.C's middle name is actually Wise, John Wise Coles. Go figure that bit of trivia.

ONE OF OURS, JOHN COLES, HUMILITY AND HOOPS