I first met Court Coley when I was touring my current college Birmingham Southern College. I knew a few things about him before meeting him. I knew he had just finished his last year playing football for Birmingham Southern College (BSC), that he was great friends with one of my hometown family friends, and that there were a lot of talks about him becoming BSC’s position coach for football. Upon first meeting Court I wondered how and why he decided that he wanted to become a football coach and what challenges he faced when stepping into this new role for him. I had long thoughts about becoming a football coach myself and questioned what type of challenges came abroad and how much different it is from coming straight from a player to a coach.

Just recently I was able to actually sit with Court Coley in his office and ask him some questions that I had and ask him his views on a couple of different things. I wanted to know what made him so invested in being a coach and see if his interests were the same as mine. These were some of the different questions I have asked him.

**Where were you born and raised? What was your hometown like?**

Gadsden, Alabama Born and raised and come to your typical mid-small town in Alabama kind of rule and country but it was a pretty cool place to live in my opinion.

**What is your current or intended professional position and any other jobs that you have held? What also got you into your current profession?**

I am the linebackers coach for the football team at Birmingham Southern College. It was something that I always wanted to do and before I graduated the staff extended me the job for as soon as I graduated I would be hired onto the staff.

**What made you decide to choose this profession and what about it draws you to stay with it?**

The game of football in general kind of draws me to it but what made me decide to do it was just because there was something always changing, there was something always to work towards whether it just be constantly getting better or the days are really never the same or whether it be preparing for a game or at practice and then the relationships too. Just as a player I loved the relationships of former teammates and coaches, so as a coach I know that I’m going to build the relationships that are very similar and I just kinda like building bonds with the guys and seeing them mature and grow up.

**Who in your life has served as a mentor or support?**

The former defensive coordinator for BSC, John Paran. For the four years I was here as a player he just kind of helped me grow up and was always there for me. He was more than just a coach, he was just always there to talk with me about really anything. I even babysat his daughter and dogs. He still to this day reaches out and we talk every week.

**When was a time that you experienced a roadblock or failure and how did you navigate it?**

I wouldn’t say I had a roadblock externally but more of myself during fall camp before school started just doubting myself just because it was really hard and I’m still so young I just didn’t know if this would work out or if I would do good. Especially this season with being so young and having so many responsibilities. It was more of self doubt was my road block.

**How do you think your life experiences have shaped you where you are today?**

I think going through my own self doubt as a player but also dealing with family stuff or something as simple as girlfriend issues or just the fact that class and managing social life and football responsibilities kind of all shape me into being able to handle time management, being able to kind of get over adversity also helped me mature emotionally but also physically.

**What recommendations would you have for your younger self now that you look back from where you are today?**

Don’t let things that are out of your control dictate the way you go throughout your day. Early on I think external factors whether it be something that didn’t go my way, I didn’t like the way somebody talked to me, or whatever it may be, all external factors of letting myself just fold and crumble. So mainly just still being able to push through the day, be productive,have a good day, treat people nicely, not let that be dictated by me just letting one bad thing happen to me that was out of my control.

**Finally, how would you define or describe what it is to live a life of significance?**

I think living a life of significance is all about perspective as how you view it honestly. The way I view it is the impact that you made on other people. You could essentially fly under the radar or you may not feel like you are doing anything significant, but how did you impact other people? Were you thinking about others , were you always trying to better yourself, were you always trying to bring out the best in people? And that’s what I think living a life of significance means is what are you doing to be the best person that you could be, what are you doing to be the best person to others, how do you make others feel, and are you selfless. That is my perspective of that.