

A Brief History of the Nicholls Mascot

1948—Francis T. Nicholls Junior College of Louisiana State University established.

1950—Francis T. Nicholls Junior College fields a football team that calls itself the Buccaneers. Team lasts only one season.

1956—Francis T. Nicholls Junior College becomes Francis T. Nicholls State College. The students select red and gray as the school colors and, because ROTC is a part of the curriculum, and the highest rank a cadet can achieve is the rank of Cadet Colonel, the students select the Colonel as the mascot. Ms. Muriel Rogan of the library designs a cartoon character depicting a boy colonel dubbed “Colonel Nick.”

1957—Mrs. Rogan designs a little Colonel decal featuring “Colonel Nick” in a red and gray uniform with a sash at his waist. In the same year, Mrs. Rogan designs a uniform for a young boy, selected by the SGA, to wear while sitting on the bench with the Nicholls State University basketball team to bring the team luck. The uniform was not modeled after a Confederate uniform.

1957-1963—Boy colonel participates in activities in addition to sitting on the bench at basketball games: serves as the starter for the annual pirogue races, marches in parades with the Little Colonels, a female drill unit, and greets both home and visiting teams during their introductions at home basketball games.

1962—Jim Leonard, a professional artist, draws a colonel who was “comical yet dignified.” The SGA adopts this drawing as the official symbol of Nicholls spirit.

1963—The *Picayune* publishes an in-depth feature story in full color on the boy Colonel. For the first time, the Colonel mascot is criticized. The handshake at mid court at basketball games is discontinued.

1970—Boy Colonel no longer appears at Nicholls State College events.

1980’s—Student starts wearing the Tillou costume at athletic events and pep rallies.

1998—Ricardo Wilson, an African American student elected president of the SGA, takes issue with the Colonel as mascot but changes his mind as a result of a discussion with Dr. Bonnie Bourg, retired charter member of the Nicholls State University faculty and Vice President of Student Affairs Emeritus.

The history of the mascot never refers to it as a Confederate colonel.