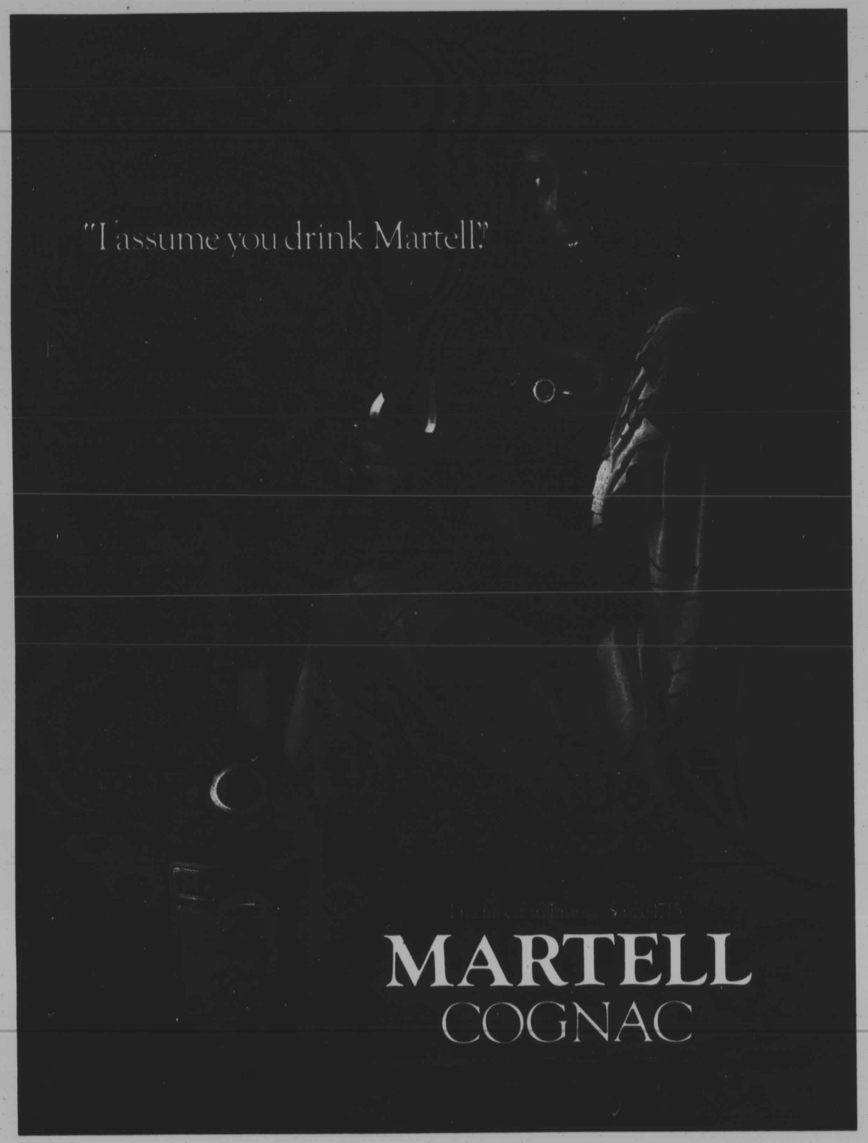

COMMENTARY

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Jones appears to be in the next-best category. Although the scouts question his borderline speed, they rave about his daring as shown in his kick-blocking ability.

"We like them (defensive backs) no slower than 4.6," explained Razzano, "but he has courage and is a competitor. He's quick at coming off the mark."

Says Daniels: "He has the ability to cover man-to-man, but he would be better at safety."

Added Wooley: "That's a knack (blocking kicks). That's a God-given talent. You can't coach blocking kicks as much."

• Roger Robinson, cornerback, 6-1 1/4, 183, Tennessee State. The senior made 82 tackles, intercepted eight passes for 176 yards and returned two for touchdowns in '84. He made *The Sporting News* Division I-AA preseason All-America first team in '84. Robinson's fastest time: 4.69. His slowest: 4.81.

"What he lacks in speed, he'll make up for in instinct," said Wooley. "He has intelligence and an instinct for the football."

• Ladell Wills, linebacker, 6-1, 206, Jackson State. The senior led his team in tackles with 107 in '84. He also had seven quarterback sacks and four fumble recoveries. He made 106 tackles his junior season and had 12 1/2 quarterback sacks. He hits like former Jackson State linebacker and now NFL star Robert Brazile of the Houston Oilers. Wills was drafted by Houston of the USFL in the third round. He runs a 4.7 40-yard dash.

"He runs good, but is light," said Wooley. "He's a specialist, can play on punt and kickoff teams or in situation substitutions. We'll be looking for guys for the specialty teams."

Added Razzano: "He has excellent speed. He's one hell of a football player. He's an 'in-betweener.' He's a good player, but it's hard to find a spot for him on the pro level. He's too small for linebacker, but too slow for defensive back. The most he can weigh is 215."

Jackson State also has an offensive guard, 6-2, 250-pound Frank Sutton, who is highly regarded by the scouts.

• Bruce Manley, cornerback, 6-1, 180, Norfolk State. The senior made 59 tackles to lead Norfolk State's secondary. He broke up 16 passes, intercepted four and made one fumble recovery this past season.

"He should be a safety," said Daniels.

• Sherrod Finn, defensive tackle, 6-2, 267, Grambling. The senior made 38 solo tackles and 20 assists, and had 9 1/2 quarterback sacks in '84.

"He's quick," said Daniels, "and has the knack to rush the passer. There's no question he'll be drafted. But he could be a little faster."

• Reginald Pugh, running back, 6-2, 222, Grambling. The senior gained 571 yards on 122 carries for a 4.6-yard per carry average and scored four touchdowns during his final season. Pugh, who missed the last two games of the season, was chosen by Portland of the USFL.

"He's a very productive guy," said Daniels. "(I) like him because of his size and strength. He has the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield. He is a willing blocker, but he has to change his blocking technique (for the pros)."

• Barry Collins, tight end, 6-2, 195, Tennessee State. The senior caught 59 passes for 908 yards, scored 12 touchdowns and averaged 15.4 yards per reception in '84. He was 20th in Division I-AA in receiving and 21st in scoring. Collins runs a 4.7 40-yard dash and may be switched to wide receiver in the pros because of his lack of size.

• Curtis DeBardlabon, wide receiver, 6-0, 170, Mississippi Valley. If Jerry Rice was the .357 Magnum for Valley, then DeBardlabon must be the .38 Special. The senior caught 50 passes for 743 yards and eight touchdowns for a 14.7-yard average in '84. He averaged 67.5 yards in receptions per game. DeBardlabon was drafted in the sixth round by the USFL's Houston Gamblers, with whom he signed a contract.

• Dale Browder, kicker, 5-10, 170, Norfolk State. The barefoot, soccer-style senior made 21 of 22 extra-point attempts, 9 of 12 field goals for 48 points in '84. His longest field goal of the season was 43 yards, and he is the all-time leading kick scorer for a single season at Norfolk State. His longest was 43 yards, and he is accurate up to 45 yards. He beat N.C. Central 29-26 and Winston-Salem State 20-19 (for the conference title) with late field goals.

Browder also punted for about a 37-yard average; his longest was 61 yards.

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