BLACK COLLEGE REPORT

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July 1. Danzy will assume his new duties at Alcorn on the same date.

The 55-year-old Danzy has had three coaching stints at Alcorn, beginning in 1964. He stayed there until 1972, returned in '74 and stayed until '77. He began his latest stint in 1982, serving as the Braves' linebacker coach.

His other coaching stops have included Prairie View A&M, Alabama A&M and Miles College. He has been head football coach at Prairie View and Alabama A&M and athletic director at Prairie View and Miles.

UMES Hires Williams

Maryland-Eastern Shore has hired former Florida State Assistant Coach **Steve Williams** as its basketball coach.

Williams, 36, replaces **Howie Evans**, who resigned after going 8-49 in two seasons.

A former University of Florida standout, Williams was an assistant under **Joe Williams** at Florida State. His duties included recruiting, scouting and the development of post and perimeter players.

As a high school coach, Williams compiled a six-season record of 128-48 at Washington High in Pensacola, Fla. That included a state 4-A championship in 1980.

Steelers' Signings

The Pittsburgh Steelers have signed a pair of free agents from black colleges in North Carolina A&T's **Jesse Britt** and Albany State's **Chris Sheffield**.

Britt is a 6-foot-4, 198-pound wide receiver who was one of all-star quarterback **Alan Hooker's** favorite targets last season. He caught 52 passes for 908 yards and eight touchdowns. Sheffield, a cornerback, played in the Freedom Bowl.

USFL Notes

• Former Delaware State standout **Gene Lake**, the NCAA Division I-AA rushing leader in 1984, has signed with the Baltimore Stars of the United States Football League.

After being drafted by the USFL's New Jersey Generals last year (a selection subsequently voided by the league) and later given an unsuccessful tryout with the Washington Redskins of the National Football League, Lake faced an uncertain future. Now, after a year's absence from football, the former all-America is eager to get another crack at the pro ranks.

The Stars' training camp at Colt Complex is scheduled to open the first week of August. Their first game is Sept. 14 at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium ....

• Several black college players were drafted by USFL teams. Delaware State's **John Taylor** went in the second round to the Baltimore Stars, who also took Elizabeth City State's **Eddie Cofield** in the sixth round.

The Birmingham Stallions took three black college players in Alabama A&M's **Mark McCraney**, Grambling State's **James Polk** and Prairie View A&M's **Darren McCallister**.

The Tampa Bandits selected Alcorn State's **Wayne Dillard**.

The NFL Snub

Trying to argue with National Football League teams' tendency to overlook black college talent is as frivolous as "I'm Not Herb" bumper stickers.

The bottom line is that black college talent is plentiful and cheap. NFL teams seem to feel they might as well not draft most deserving black college players because they can sign them as free agents.

So nobody needed to be shocked when the NFL drafted only nine black college players in the April draft. Following is the roll call:

Delaware State's **John Taylor** to San Francisco (third round); Grambling State's **Leonard Griffin** to Kansas City (third); Mississippi Valley's **Carl Byrum** to Buffalo (fifth); Fort Valley State's **Eddie Anderson** to Seattle (sixth); Hampton's **Ike Reedon** to Kansas City (ninth); Mississippi Valley's **Joe Thomas** to Denver (ninth); Florida A&M's **Merlon Jones** to New Orleans (ninth); Alcorn State's **Wayne Dillard** to St. Louis (11th) and Bethune-Cookman's **Sebastian Brown** to New Orleans (12th).

Notable non-selections included Mississippi Valley's **Willie Totten**, Jackson State's **Jackie Walker**, Tennessee State's **Gilbert Renfroe** and Elizabeth City State's **Ed Cofield**.

MEAC HOF

Donnie Shell, who has played in four Super Bowls with the Pittsburgh Steelers, and **Barney Chavous**, a 14-year veteran with the Denver Broncos, head the selections to this year's MEAC Hall of Fame.

Shell set a conference single-season record at South Carolina State with eight interceptions in 1973. Chavous, a defensive end for the Broncos, has been a mainstay on a Denver defense that has built a reputation for being among the stingiest units in the league.

Former New Orleans Saints defensive back **Maurice Spencer** will also be inducted. Spencer, who played at North Carolina Central from 1974-78, suffered a neck injury in 1978 and retired. He now works for CBS.

Sprinter **Larry Black** of NCCU enters based on his performance in the 1972 Olympics and his holding several NCAA and NAIA records. He won the gold medal as part of the 4x100 relay team in the '72 Olympics and captured the silver in the 200 meters.

Eric Evans of Morgan State was a three-time all-conference basketball player who led the Bears to the league title in 1977.

One coach will be inducted in former North Carolina A&T football Coach **Hornsby Howell**. Howell had a 37-25-3 record from 1971-76.

Six others will be inducted in a special category for service to the league: **Jimmy Young**, former MEAC commissioner; **John McLendon**, former North Carolina Central basketball coach, a member of the NAIA Hall of Fame and an employee of Converse Rubber Co.; **Joe Black**, former Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher and an executive with the Greyhound Corp.; **Thom Shropshire**, retired Miller Brewing Co. executive; the late **John P. Price**, former president of the MEAC, and **Thomas P. Fraser**, former president of Morgan State.

Hurry Harrell

In a hurry, freshman **Tyrone Harrell** is emerging as one of the outstanding collegiate sprinters in the country.

The St. Augustine's sprinter captured four gold medals in last month's CIAA Spring Championships at Hampton, Va. He won the 100- and 200-meter dashes and was a member of the Falcons' winning 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams. He and his teammates advanced to the NCAA Division II Track and Field Championships in Los Angeles this month.

If there was a surprise in the CIAA Spring Championships, it was Winston-Salem State's winning a record third straight softball title. The Lady Rams entered the tourney with a 14-8 record, but got three home runs and 16 runs batted in from **Keenan Menefee** to win five of six games and the championship. Menefee had 12 hits in 21 at-bats, won all five games as a pitcher and tossed one no-hitter.

Jackson Hires Prince

Jackson State hired **John Prince**, an assistant at Alabama-Birmingham, to replace **Paul Covington** as its basketball coach. Covington retired at the end of the 1985-86 season.

That brought an end to the speculation that Mississippi Valley State Coach **Lafayette Stribling** might take the job. Of the Jackson State job, Stribling had said: "If I'm offered the job, I'm gone." He added that the MVSU job "isn't a bed of roses. I want people to know what I'm up against at Valley."

Stribling, in his third year at the Itta Bena, Miss., school, led the Delta Devils to a 20-11 mark last season, including the championship of the Southwestern Athletic Conference Tournament. Mississippi Valley lost to Duke 85-78 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Incidentally, ESPN analyst **Dick Vitale** spoke at the MVSU's sports banquet May 8. Vitale, who had said he would resign if Stribling's team beat Duke, was impressed with the Delta Devils' good sportsmanship after the NCAA game.

Howard AD

Leo F. Miles, athletic director at Howard University, will retire June 30.

Rumor has it that **Willie Jeffries**, HU's head football coach, is interested in the position, as is South Carolina State Athletic Director **Willis Ham**.

Baseball Notes

• Former Southern University standout **Vida Blue** registered career win No. 200 in April. The San Francisco left-hander became the 85th pitcher in major-league history to reach that plateau. Blue was put on the disabled list a week later after suffering a pulled hamstring ....

• Even though **Andre Dawson** is in the final year of his contract, the Montreal right fielder is letting the Expos know he can still play despite his painful right knee. Florida A&M alumnus Dawson was off to a sizzling start with a .338 average and 13-game hitting streak this season. He was second in the National League in home runs and slugging percentage ....

• Delaware State's **Charles Dailey** also was off to an outstanding start with a .420 average in 100 at-bats. Dailey had a 20-game hitting streak through April 23. The junior has played the outfield, first base, catcher and pitcher for the Hornets. "He does everything for us and he does all of that well," said Coach **Harry Van Sant**. The DelState coach expects Dailey to be chosen in the June draft of amateur free agents.

COVER STORY

To be Young, gifted and very fast on your feet

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE
Special To The Review

FOR A LADY who didn't attract much attention in high school and had no intentions of attending college, Dannette Young is proof positive of what determination can accomplish.

Young is a senior at Alabama A&M University and one of the nation's top sprinters in the 100 and 200 in any NCAA division. An all-America since her freshman year, she rose to prominence so fast that she'd make a good episode for "Amazing Stories."

In her first college season, she ran 11.82 in the 100 and 23.76 in the 200. Four years later her times are down to 11.12 and 22.85, respectively. What's more, she just missed winning the 200-in the nationals as a freshman, finishing second in a photo finish.

To get an even clearer picture of what Young has accomplished in her four years, take these facts into account:

• She's the two-time defending national champion in the 100/200 for NCAA Division II, setting records for those distances in '84 and again in '85.

• As a virtual unknown in 1984, she was a finalist in the 200 meters at the U.S. Olympic Trials.

• She has anchored two record-setting relay teams at A&M. In the 4x100, the Lady Bulldogs were the '85 NCAA Division II champions and record-holders (44.83). She also anchored the 4x200 relay team that set a new record at the Sunkist Florida Relays this year (1:34.2). That time is the fastest in the nation this season, and the third-fastest in the world so far.

• As of this writing, her 11.12 and 11.18 times in the 100 are the fastest of any American woman this year.

• In four years of Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference competition, she never lost a race. Her hand-timed 10.97 in the conference meet this year would have placed her fourth in the *men's* SIAC 100 finals.

• Finally, she's been an all-America nine times in the 100/200, the 4x100 and the 4x400 relays.



Alabama A&M's Dannette Young.

However, perhaps the greatest measure of what Young means to the A&M women's track program is her showing in the '85 Division II nationals. The Lady Bulldogs trailed front-running Abilene Christian by 13 points on the final day of competition. Head Coach Joe Henderson told Young that the team needed to place three runners in the top five of the 100-meter finals. Leading by example, Young proceeded to run the second-fastest 100 ever in the Division II meet (11.35). Her double-win in the sprints plus a strong last leg on the 4x100 enabled A&M to close the gap to four points and the Lady Bulldogs finished third in the team standings.

The 21-year-old business major is quiet and unassuming off the track. But once she sheds her maroon warm-ups and steps into the starting blocks, it's a different story. Not that she's brash and cocky, but it's very apparent that she has a confidence on the oval that can't be shaken -- no matter who she's running against.

Before a race, it's not unusual for her to sit around leisurely, before competing, as if she's a spectator and not a participant. During a race, she's a sight to behold.

Watching Young run is like looking at a finely tuned sprinting computer programmed for fast times and finishes.

Her running style is effortless -- very little visible exertion, smooth stride, arms pumping rhythmically, gears shifting smoothly.

Young admits that she is very surprised with the accomplishments she's had during her four years, saying she never felt she would compete on the level she has.

However, Coach Henderson knew he was on to something when he decided to recruit Young as a senior at Ribault High School in Jacksonville, Fla. Henderson remembers her as "that little sway-back running kid" the first time he got a look at her. "But now she's learning more about her running form and being consistent," he says. "It's really been a matter of hard work and she's really come along."

When he first looked at Young, Henderson says, he saw great potential, even though she wasn't exactly one of Jacksonville's premier high school sprinters. He saw certain flaws in Young's running style that needed to be corrected, Henderson says, but he also saw what she could become.

"Sometimes you look at a kid and see how they run, how they move about," Henderson says. "You see certain things that will take some work to straighten out. We saw Dannette was very strong. Of course, her form was ragged, but that's just a matter of coaching. So we felt that, if we could change those things, we would have a very good sprinter and she is that."

Young feels that the major reason for her growth as a runner is an intensified training schedule that forces her to work harder and think more about what she's doing to produce faster times. As for her thoughts on her performances in the '85 nationals, she says they made her more determined to achieve loftier goals. "All I could think about was pushing myself more and more so I can make the 1988 U.S. Olympic track team," she says.

The rest of the outdoor season will see Young steadily chasing her current marks and replacing them with new ones. She's looking to run 11.0 in the 100 and surpass her 22.85 personal best in the 200, all before the nationals, which will be held later this month in Los Angeles.

Young says she hasn't had any bad days during her career, and that competing in the nationals is what stands out the most. "I really love the nationals," she says. "The competition I face there makes me run much better than I do at other meets and I really perform well."

Evidently so, say the record books.

With a definite eye on the '88 Games, Young is currently looking into arrangements with firms that can use her business degree and allow her to train. A possibility exists with AT&T in Atlanta, she says. However, that was still in the discussion stages at press time.

Young's other post-graduate options include the New York-based Atoms Track Club. The Atoms are well-known for their women's track program and include two former A&M sprinters on their roster -- Grace Jackson (200 meters) and Sharon Moffett (open 400, 400 intermediate hurdles).

Young makes no secret that, while her best times recently have come in the 100, the 200 is her first love. "The 100 is really too short for me because I have a slow start," she says, "but the 200 is just right. It's long enough so that I can gradually increase my speed as I go along."

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