

By Any Means Necessary

Junior Tailback Natrone Means Strives For Improvement

By Corey Brown
Ink Co-Editor

Around the nation, thousands of young boys participate in little league football. From this exposure to competitive sports, many dreams of greatness are forged in their minds.

Harrisburg, N.C. was the home of one such kid who dared to dream. That seven-year-old youngster turned out to be Tar Heel halfback Natrone Means.

"I got started playing football because it was fun and it was just something to do," Means said.

Like any boy at age seven, Means was simply into cheering on his favorite team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and idolizing his favorite player, Walter Payton.

Thirteen years later, his dreams became reality: Means was on the verge of becoming one of the greatest running backs in Carolina's history.

As an underclassman, Means was second in balloting for ACC Rookie of the Year. In his sophomore year, he became only

the 20th runner in Tar Heel history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season, and was selected as a first Team All-ACC player. As it stands for his

upcoming junior season, he's been named a preseason All-American.

Having achieved so much in only two years of college football, Means could cave into the pressures of high expectations, but he refuses to let that happen.

I never put too much pressure on myself. In high school I used to let things get to me, but now I just go out and have fun," Means replied.

Means said that he tries to stay



Natrone Means heads for paydirt against the Maryland Terrapins.

focused going into each season. He added, "It might sound crazy, but I just set one goal for myself, and that's to do better than the previous year."

Improving on a 1,000 yard year will prove to be a tough task, but with a healthy season, nothing should stand in the way of his achieving that goal, he says.

The anticipation of another successful year has led some to

replied, "How did I know you were going to ask that question?"

"Well, I can't say anything definite. It really depends on how the cards fall into place for me this year."

On the surface, the 230-pound Means seems somewhat intimidating. But once he opens up, he's like a big-make that a very big-teddy bear.

Means cited his mother and

speculate that Means will forego his senior year and turn professional after the '92 season. When asked about this possibility, Means laughed and

grandmother as main influences on his personal achievements in football.

"Back when I wasn't that serious about football, they told me the things it could do for me, like pay for an education."

Coming out of Central Cabarrus High School, Means was recruited by every school in the ACC as well as national powers Penn State and Notre Dame. But he said that the University was a natural selection. "Where I'm from, everybody was a Carolina fan. I especially enjoyed the years Lawrence Taylor and Kelvin Bryant played."

Means still has the spirit of that 7-year-old dreamer he used to be. He offers this advice to kids today: "There will be times when you feel like quitting, just giving up, but stick in there and things will pay off in the end. This goes beyond just football. Anything you want to achieve in life will take perseverance."

What Black College Men Want in the 90s

By Lee Richardson
Ink Staff Writer

Now that summer romances have come and gone, there is an air in the minds of black men (those of us who are not "dogs" and who have yet to find the right young lady to date steadily) which has us quite eager to scope out the female that will nurture and allow a promising relationship to develop and blossom into something special. Now that the fall semester has commenced, the match-making and dating desire is rigorous. A number of my constituents created a survey of what black college men are looking for in a mate. These are the seven criteria that stood out in the survey (in no particular order):

Future Aspirations/Goals- I assume that most black males on campus have an idea or are in the

process of determining exactly what they are planning to do after the undergraduate years, and even beyond. Naturally, in the search for a compatible mate, these men are interested in young ladies who know where they're going in life or at least have a plan of such. A lady who has prepared thoroughly for her future is definitely a mental attraction to black college men.

Confidence- There is no one more unaccepted or abused by black college men than an insecure woman-a woman without backbone. You will find most men saying they like a woman with a bit of an attitude-not conceit-just confidence or knowing that they are something to be reckoned with. These days men are looking for an action woman who can endure the pressure and sometimes confusion that comes along with being involved in a relationship. Men have even gone

so far as to say women who are sure about themselves look good-even sexy. That, in itself, states what confidence does for a woman.

Style- If a relationship hinges on what you have, you shouldn't be in that relationship. Black college men are not expecting their colleagues of the opposite sex to sport the most expensive clothing. It's all in the way you wear what you have, and the way that you carry yourself counts. Dress is important to most young ladies also. (Therefore, this criterion is highly accepted, orderly fashion balanced with a casual style.) This works well with guys who have an eye for good taste and finesse.

Talent- A woman who seems to have a unique interest in things like music, singing, sports, and cars, and who can display that interest without "holding back" or being tender are deemed as very attractive. Interpret

it how you want, but talent appeared on the questionnaire quite often.

Personality- Respect of self, good humor, caring, sharing, and sweetness seem to be attributes of a lady with a wonderful personality for black college men. Judging character encompasses a lot more than simply stating that someone has a good personality. In fact, it, for most people, probably goes beyond the aspects that surfaced in the survey. Black college men acknowledge this fact by often expressing that "personality" is so abstract.

Communication- Relationships are not known to exist long without a firm foundation in trust accompanied by good communication. In the survey, black college men recognized that maybe they were not the best at communication, but they understood its importance in any

relationship. Also mentioned was the unattractiveness of "loud" and shy females.

Physical Appearance- Ok, Ok. Yes, looks are considered highly. But I think we can agree that it goes both ways. Guys genuinely want an attractive mate. But remember, there's different yolks for different folks, and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I'm here to tell you if you think you're holdin', you're holdin', and you have something to offer black college men who are honestly in search of a plutonic relationship.

Thank you to all the Black College Men who contributed to this article, and good luck in finding Ms. Right.