

McClain Seeks to Break Stereotypes

By Jaime Cruz-Morales

From the first day of Kindergarten, children are classified as gifted, average, or remedial. To leave behind those children that are not classified as gifted is truly a tragedy, especially considering the fact that some of these children have the drive to succeed which vaults them past many of the so-called "gifted" children.

Sterlin McClain has broken through many of these labels to become a senior at FSU. He is in a

determination.

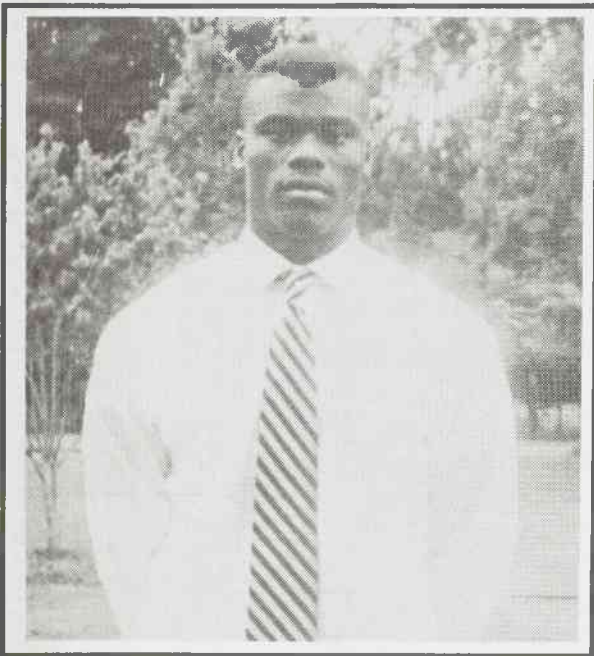
McClain's mother, father, and stepfather have formed a triangle of love, support, and happiness which McClain admits is a major factor in his success. Sterlin had these comments concerning his mother, "In high school, my mother instilled the fundamental learnings that a child needed. She guided me throughout high school and college just by telling me the pros and cons about everything. I took that to heart because everything that my mother has told me has been right. She has been perfect for me."

McClain's work ethic has made him a formidable scholar in his years at FSU. He admits, however, that Computer Science is a major "that will get you down at times, but if you work hard enough at

it, you will eventually catch on to the algorithms and problems. You don't have to have a high math background to make it in Computer Science because a lot of it is self-study. If you can sit down, read a book, and do the examples, you can do it."

McClain notes that the drive and determination that helped him to succeed in football as a young child also helped him in academics later in life. McClain explains, "I have always had the determination and willpower for playing football, from little league to college. When I got here as a freshman in college, I turned the

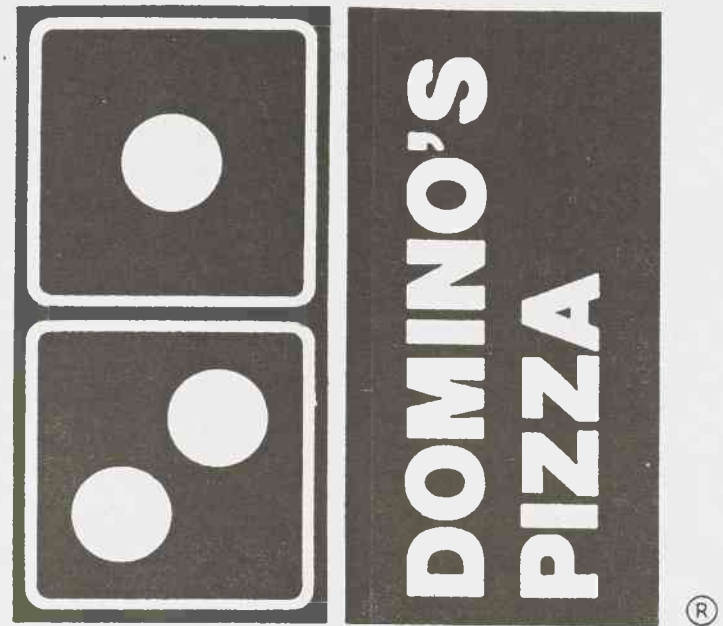
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Sterlin McClain

position that many people would envy, contributing his talents to the football team and majoring in Computer Science with a Cumulative G.P.A. of 3.08. He is scheduled to graduate at the end of spring semester.

McClain was an athlete at Monroe Comprehensive High School, where his performance earned him a football scholarship to Fayetteville State. His sub-800 score on the SAT and football affiliation, however, presented him with the challenge of breaking through the stereotype of the "dumb football player." McClain has succeeded with a mixture of parental guidance and his own



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