

SPORTS REVIEW

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SHORTS? MORE LIKE PANTS

I want to talk about shorts.

Long shorts.

OK, it's nice to not have shorts climbing all into your private parts like they used to, but this Very Baggy Trend is kind of funny.

No matter how long the shorts are, players are tugging them down further and further toward the knee and calf or in some cases, like Johnson C. Smith Lady Golden Bulls guard Shani Baraka or Michigan's Jalen Rose, towards their sneaker tops.

Some of these players look like they have a dress going out there to play.

OK, it's the "in" thing and it's cool to do it. But go to a high school game and the players are doing it, too. Only the high schoolers don't have the new shorts that are designed to swing low, sweet chariot. Many of them are still wearing the high-and-dry ones that guys like Isiah Thomas still likes to wear. You know, the ones that remind people that basketball players still have thighs. The do, really.

But these high school kids will keep tugging and tugging and tugging and realize that their Fruit of the Looms are showing and begin to push them down just a little. Others, sensing that since the rappers and hip-hopppers are showing their BVDs, leave the shorts down and drawers out.

Some parents think it's funny. Some sportswriters, too.

Why do they do it? Why do players beg and beg coaches to buy an entire box of 44-waist britches with extra-wide legs? Well, I'll tell ya. The baggy shorts are more comfy and more cool. Really.

But I wonder where we're going with all this. Baggy pants are being striped in all kind of funky ways. Have you seen Arkansas or Georgia Tech play this year? Boy.

At the rate we're going, the pants are going to be so long that:

A.) The players won't need warmup pants anymore, or;

B.) Someone is going to trip over their shorts on a fastbreak and not get to attempt one of those ESPN-friendly, Dick Vitale-loving, Slam Bam Jams, Baby.

Now what in the world would it be like then? Hey, it's just a thought.

— Langston Wertz Jr.

McNair Returns to Alcorn Next Year

Alcorn State wide receiver Kobie Jenkins is ready to proclaim the 1994 Braves Southwestern Athletic Conference champions.

And sports information director Derrick Hackett is planning another big Heisman Trophy push.

Why? Because quarterback Steve McNair will be back next season.

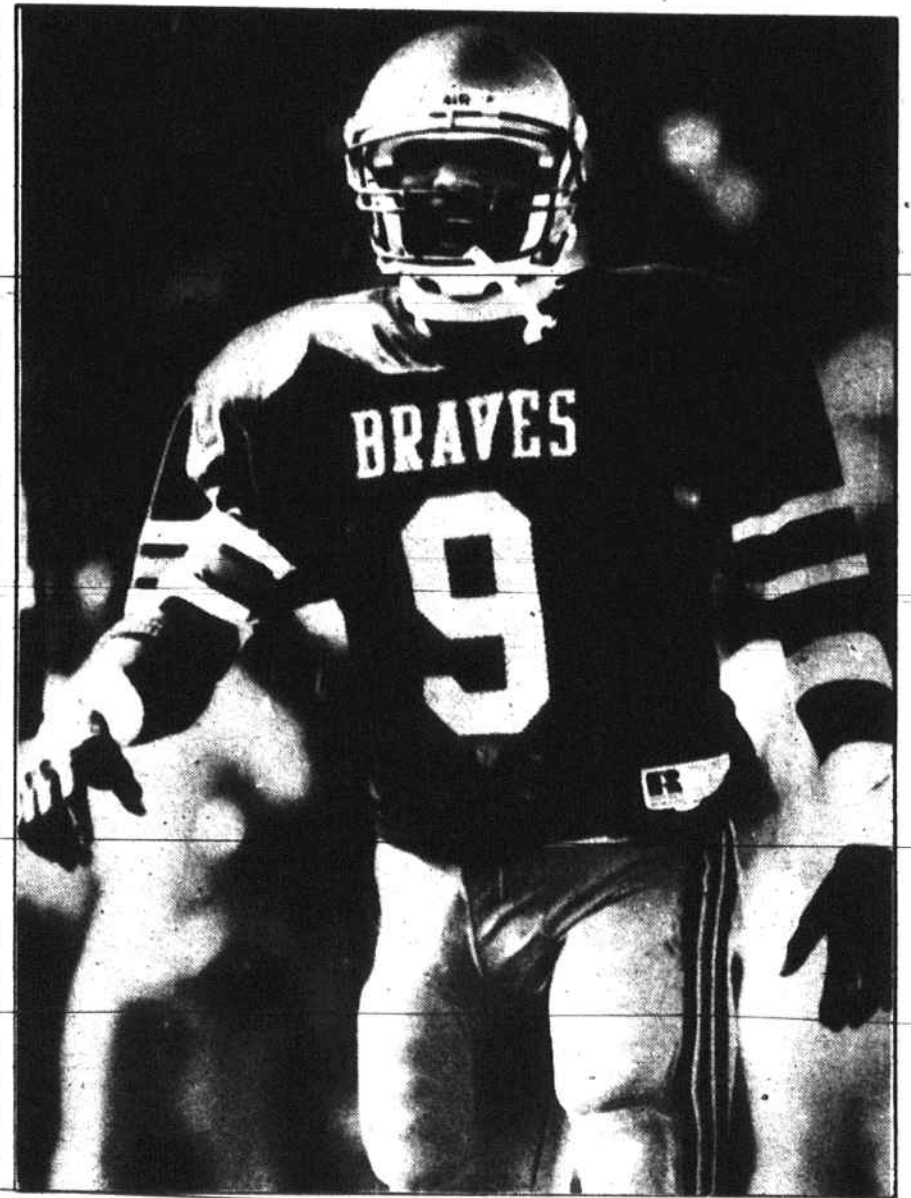
McNair announced Wednesday that he will return to Alcorn for his senior season. He had considered entering the NFL draft.

McNair's decision came five days before the deadline underclassmen have to declare themselves available for the April draft.

"I'm still an Alcornite," McNair said. "I signed a four-year scholarship, so I will be back. It was a tough decision. In my heart I wanted to come back to Alcorn."

Said Jackson State coach James Carson, whose Tigers have lost three straight games to Alcorn. "McNair can beat you single-handedly. I'm sure there is a lot of jubilation on the reservation."

For the first time, the NCAA allowed underclassmen to solicit advice from an NFL advisory committee about their draft worth without losing their eligibility. McNair, a 6-foot-3, 218 pound Mount Olive native, said he received a letter from the committee on Jan. 3 informing him he was a possible first- or second-round selection.



Steve McNair

"I can't count the number of times I changed my decision. In the long run I will be happy with the decision"

— Steve McNair

"I can't count the number of times I changed my decision," McNair said. "It was a seesaw battle through the whole decision-making process. In the long run I will be happy with the decision. Part of my decision was based on what I got from the NFL, but not all of it. I think I made the best decision."

McNair said some of his decision was based on other junior quarterbacks who have made themselves eligible for the draft. Fresno State junior Trent Dilfer, who three an NCAA record 271 passes without an interception, announced Tuesday he was entering the draft. Tennessee quarterback Heath Shuler announced his decision to the pro team this month.

Alcorn coach Cardell Jones said an extra year in college would put Steve McNair "in much better position in the NFL draft."

"It is a very happy moment for the entire Alcorn family," Jones said. "We would have given him our support either way. He will have a little more bargaining power next year."

It also makes the Braves, who are 22-9-1 with McNair, a title contender.

"He gives us an extra, extra boost," Jenkins said. "We should be the front-runner for the title."

"We will be real good," junior-to-be backup quarterback Jerry Fletcher said after McNair's decision. "We could win the national championship. Most definitely we will win the SWAC."

With the return of McNair, Fletcher lost his chance to become the starter.

"Steve and I are good friends," said Fletcher, who will be a junior next season. "Whatever decision made I was behind him. It did lessen my chance to be a starter. We will work with it. Something has to change."

"I'm not disappointed because I figured he would stay. I was looking forward for my chance to shine. My time is getting short. I'm thinking about my future as to stay at Alcorn or leave. I will make a decision after baseball season."

Said Marcus Hinton, the team's leading receiver. "At once time I thought we were going to lose him (McNair). Our offense will still be strong. It will make all the guys on the team work harder. I think Steve still feels he has a little more to prove. After next year his stock will go up."

In three years, McNair has passed for 9,633 yards and 75 touchdowns and rushed for 1,478 yards and 24

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