

Women vs. men

Outlook for athletes optimistic, says Ingram

By LONZA HARDY
Sports Editor

What does it mean to be an athlete, female and Black?

According to Garney Ingram, the "bit of soul" on the women's fencing team, to be a Black female athlete merely means struggling a little harder both academically and athletically.

"I have to spend more time on my academics because we practice both semesters and travel extensively," she said. "But all athletes are unique because we involve ourselves in the academic and social aspects of college and the athletic one also."

Ingram, a native of Morristown, N.J., stated that there is a striking difference in being a Black female athlete as opposed to being a Black male athlete. The outlook, according to her, seems more optimistic for the latter.

"Black male athletes are in great

demand at UNC because of their excellence in athletics. They can negotiate their talent," Ingram explained.

"But Black female athletes are more into sports for their individual selves since they aren't receiving any money," she continued. "Most females cannot look forward to continuing in their sports on a professional basis after college."

Ingram stated further that unless a female participated in sports in high school, once she gets to college her interests tend to be more academic and social rather than athletic. She appears optimistic, though, because of Title IX and societal changes which she believes will eventually make women athletics flourish due to the increases in opportunities for women athletes.

Females will tend to take athletics more seriously if there is a possibility of receiving a scholarship to attend college, added Ingram, and this has great implications for the Black woman.



Ingram: Black male athletes can negotiate their talent.

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