

Stevenson stars in track and academics

David Squires
Sports Writer

Karen Stevenson is an anomaly. The UNC female sprinter may be the most talented Black personality on campus.

With a sparkling 3.7 Q.P.A. to complement her other credentials—Phi Eta Sigma, Alpha Phi Omega, Attorney General staff, Morehead Scholar—it's a wonder the Washington, D.C. native has time to do anything besides study and run track.

Yet, the sophomore who went to Taft prep school in Watertown, Conn., says that time is no problem. "I have time to do a lot of stuff. I have enough time to do the things I want to do," she said.

"I see my friends a lot. As a matter of fact I think I spend maybe too much time with them. My friends are very important to me and if it comes to being with my friends or studying, depending on the situation, I'll devote my time to my friends."

This is the first year for the girls' track team and after a year layoff, Karen is doing well. In the 60 low hurdles she runs 8.6 and runs 7.2 in the 60, and 11.5 in the 100. Karen also runs the 220, the 440, and relays.

If you don't know Karen maybe it's because she lives in Granville Towers and has never been to a par-

ty in Upendo. In her two years here she's only been in Hinton James once. And that was for a meeting of the counselors for Project Uplift.

"I'm a child of convenience," she said. "I like the carpet, the air condition, it's close to campus and it's free," the Morehead scholar said of Granville. "South Campus is so far away. I don't party a lot because track has cut down on my partying." She added that she still has an active social life and as she put it, "I see who I want to see."

Being Black, female, Phi Eta Sigma, and a Morehead Scholar certainly puts one in a minority. But Karen says she doesn't really feel like a minority.

"I've been to Japan and to go out of the country gives you a totally different perspective on the world. You realize that you're such a small part. I came back to the States with just a tremendous feeling of being a person in a much larger spectrum than a Black and white world."

As for stereotyping, Karen feels she's most stereotyped as being a Morehead scholar. "Most people say, 'Morehead scholar, wow!' A lot of people do that to me."

But that doesn't awe one as much as the fact that Karen placed out of English I and II, French I, II and III and Chem 11. This defi-



Staff photo by Wayne Lomax

Stevenson: "Most people say 'Morehead Scholar, wow!'"

nitely puts her in a limited class.

Stevenson glows with kindness and her warm charm captures your thoughts. But she has some pretty good thoughts of her own, some of which pertain to the plight of the present day Black student.

"When kids are in high school who can't read and write, their parents should go to school and demand an explanation. Black students have as good an opportunity now as ever and it's improving."

Karen agrees that Blacks today should party less and study more, instead of making a mediocre effort and then blaming poor grades on the man. "When you're out there partying, the man is in his book," she said.

Like most newcomers to this

area, Karen is impressed. She loves the small town atmosphere of Chapel Hill.

"I love Chapel Hill. In Chapel Hill I feel safe. You get the feeling that the rest of the world is as idealistic as Chapel Hill. It's a safe and secure place and people can let it become a Utopia."

The Political Science major is aware that there are problems here in Chapel Hill. But so far she's had unlimited success on her march toward Law School.

She's prototypical of what it's like to be young, gifted and Black. Believe it or not, like it or love it, whether in Hamilton Hall or on Fetzer Field, Karen Stevenson is a star.

Readers' Rap

Fans say Davis great as athlete and person

Compiled by
Gregory Clay
Sports Writer

"Walt has always come across to me as a down to earth person. I've seen him at parties and other places and rapped to him a few times. He speaks to everybody and he's an excellent ball player. Although Coach Smith stresses playing team ball where you don't have great stars, I think Walt still stands out. And Walt has stood up under a lot of pressure especially in the NCAA tournament with the broken finger. He's just a helluva ball player."

Allen Mask

"For one thing, I think Walter has been an asset to the Black history of UNC. Black people need to be inspired in all aspects and he adds inspiration to the athletic role for Blacks. I see him at the gym sometimes and he appears to be Walter Davis and not King Glory. I admire him as a person for the determination shown which has been a great tribute to the team and school. He seems to be playing for the love of basketball and not the love of glory. I think Walter knows where he came from so there's no limit to where he can go."

Wayne Davis

"Since I don't know him personally, I just have to go by what people tell me and seeing him on TV. I think the image he projects is positive. First, I see him as an athlete and then a student because that's the capacity that I know him in. I think his inspiration is good for kids who are growing up. Since Carolina is known for academics as well as basketball, this is a good example for kids seeing a player like Walter Davis here. Although I see him more on TV than on campus, Walter seems to be a friendly guy."

Harold Woodard

"For the past two years, I have had the opportunity to personally know Walter Davis since he has lived in my dormitory. Most of you probably just see "Sweet D" as a serious player on the basketball court. However, there is another side of Walter Davis. As a person, Walter is very outgoing. He can always be counted on for a friendly smile and greeting, even to people he does not know. Among friends, Walter is viewed as a leader, always wanting to be involved. In Granville Towers, he is admired and respected as a person, not just a basketball player."

Michael Kennedy

Future looks promising for Black trackster

Ray Perry
Sports Writer

To say that Girard Miller is a valuable member of the UNC track team would be a gross understatement. Just as Walter Davis does a variety of things well for the Tar Heel basketball team, Miller does a number of things well for the UNC track team.

Miller runs the 120-yard high hurdles, participates in both the long and triple jumps and still finds time to run on a leg of the 440-yard relay team. What makes all of this even more startling is the fact that Miller is a walk-on.

"I've always felt that I could compete on this level," stated Miller. But it took the earnest persuasion of UNC long jumper Spencer Wynne to convince Miller to tryout for the Tar Heel team.

Miller first started running track in the seventh grade.

"But I wasn't into it seriously until the tenth grade," reflected the freshman business major. "I concentrated more on football and basketball."

Miller had some impressive times in the 120-yard high hurdles at North Forsyth High School in Winston-Salem. He also went over

22 feet in the long jump.

"But my performances lacked consistency," admitted Miller. "I had to become more consistent this year. I was up against stiff competition, so I had to improve a lot just to stay competitive."

And improve he did. Miller placed fourth in the long jump at the recent ACC Indoor Track and Field Championships in College Park, Md. with a leap of 22' 7½". This was the best leap of any freshman participating in the long jump.

Following the precedence of other ACC sports, Miller noticed the presence of more Blacks on the conference's track team.

"Most of the freshmen are Black," Miller said. "Blacks play an important role in track and it would be virtually impossible to win without them."

"It has always been a dream of mine to be a scholarship athlete, to get through school on a track scholarship." Miller added, "The coaching staff has been good to me. They gave me a fair shake and I really appreciate it."

If Miller keeps on running, jumping, and improving as he has in the past, there's nothing but scholarship money and first-place finishes in store in the future.