

SPORTS

POOL  
LITTLE LEAGUE

# Jones on long road back

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KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Reggie Jones is on the way back from a horrible year. A year he'd like to forget.

Jones underwent knee surgery last December which forced him to miss the entire 1976-77 season. He has scars running from each side of his left knee and lots of pain that is slowly going away.

He'll be ready for the indoor season in January which will start his senior year of eligibility.

"I'm about 75 per cent right now," says Reggie. "I've been working out with the team trying to get back into the swing of things."

The Olympic Trials in Eugene, Ore., were frustrating for Jones in June of '76. He just missed making the Olympics in the 100 meters.

Reggie's knee miseries started at Saginaw High on the football field. The knee didn't become a major problem again until last year when he needed it the most.

He plans to run the outdoor season next year and he wants to take another crack at the Olympics in 1980 in Moscow.

"I'd really like to continue running and try again," said Jones. "People around here and back home have



Reggie Jones

given me lots of confidence. Their confidence has been keeping up my faith."

The two incisions in his left knee were made to remove the cartilage and a hamstring muscle was rerouted to replace torn ligaments.

Reggie received fame as a freshman at the University of Tennessee when he was named the Most

Valuable Performer in the NCAA championships. The knee was giving him problems then, but he performed in fine fashion.

It would have been easy for Reggie to have thrown in the towel after dropping out of the picture in the Olympics and having knee surgery.

"I had some doubts about coming back, but because I've been away from it for so long. But there's something inside of me that tells me to come back."

Looking back on Jones' feats in track tells you why he hasn't given up. He ran his entire junior year in pain and anchored the Volunteers in the 400-meter relay to victory in the NCAA outdoor championships. He holds the school record in the 100-yard dash (:09.2) and the 100-meter dash (:09.9), the 220-yard dash (:20.4) and the 200-meter dash (:20.4).

He's anchored the record-setting 400-meter relay team (.39.16), the 440-yard relay (:39.4), the 800-meter relay (1.21.5) and the 880-yard relay (1.21.7).

Reggie is a nine-time All-American and two-time NCAA champion.

Reggie wants to be a part of track once again. The University of Tennessee and Coach Stan Huntsman couldn't be any happier.

Reggie will be back.