

Jones On Comeback Trail

December 30 serves as a birthday and anniversary for Reggie Jones.

The captain of the University of Tennessee track team didn't have the time or much of a reason to celebrate last year. He spent the day in surgery to repair torn ligaments and cartilage in his knee and it's been an uphill struggle ever since.

"I thought the operation would help me," he said. "I didn't think it would take so long to get back to where I was."

Jones, whose best time in the 100 meters is 9.9, was eliminated from the 60-yard dash in the semifinals of the ETSU relays last weekend. Disgusted with his finish, Jones didn't wait to hear the time.

A nine-time All-American and two-time NCAA champion, he red-shirted last year and is starting his final season for the Vols.

His doctor told him that a year from the date of his operation would mark the start of his rehabilitation.

Jones said, "I didn't think it would take that long."



Kathy Perovich

On Track

"But now I can feel a lot of rough spots."

It's been more difficult getting over the mental rough spots than the physical ones.

"I have a lack of confidence," he said. "The more I run the better I'll probably feel."

The opportunity to compete goes hand in hand with Jones' performance. "If I do well then I'll be invited to different meets," he said.

The Saginaw, Mich., native played football in high school (where the injury occurred), and he looks big enough to be the fullback on the Vol football team. The 6-3, 185-pounder appeared sturdier than most of the other sprinters who competed in the relays.

"You have to remember that a lot of these guys are freshman and sophomores," he said. "At the meets with the world class sprinters, I wouldn't look so big."

One of the most interesting facets of a track meet is watching the competitors psyche themselves up for an event. It seems that each individual has a little ritual he



Reggie Jones is working toward rebuilding his confidence following surgery.

performs for mental and physical preparation.

Jones tries to get as far away from the action as possible. He twists, stretches, jogs and prays.

"I think about the Lord before a race," he said. "I ask him for the faith I need."

His commitment to God has enriched his life in other ways.

"I feel like it helps me to communicate in a more meaningful way and it also helps me to accept things as they are," he said.

Tennessee track coach Stan Huntsman calls Jones, "one of those super human beings who comes down the road every now and then."

"In 1976 he was one of the best sprinters in the world. It's hard for him to start from scratch and he's dealt with it beautifully," Huntsman said. "He's really got his life put together."

Broncos' Miller, Morton Slated Honors By Touchdown Club

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Denver Broncos Coach Red Miller and quarterback Craig Morton will be among several sports and political figures honored Jan. 28 at the Touchdown Club's 43rd annual awards dinner, it was announced Saturday.

Redskins punter Mike Bragg and kicker Mark

Moseley will also be recognized at the dinner.

The club noted that Bragg had only one punt blocked in the last six years and led the NFL last season by punting inside the 20-yard line 29 times. He was tied with the Chicago Bears' Bob Parsons in averaging 38.5 yards.



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