

"Respect, Respect," was the Tennessee team chant after winning their first ever team title, and respect is what you have to have for Vol star Reggie Jones after his awesome Austin weekend.

Running 10 races in three days, the well-built (6-3½, 193) native of Saginaw, Mich. took first in the 100 (9.18w), second in the 220 (20.0w), and ran second leg on Tennessee's third-place 440 relay team.

This display, coupled with a 9.1w and four legal 9.2 clockings earlier this season makes Jones the most prolific producer of fast times in the country this year.

So much success should be heady stuff to any 20-year-old freshman, yet the

T&FN Interview

REGGIE JONES

by Tom Jordan

say it, but I could have won it. When I was coming to the finish line, I was surprised to see that I was out in front, and that Larry Black wasn't giving me no stuff. I went to raise my hand, but then I thought, "No, he might be closer than I think he is." Just as I went to change my mind, James Gilkes was

he'll get up again and Ivory will run another 9.0.

T&FN: How important is running 9.0 for you?

Jones: It was important to me at one time, but I was tightening up too much, and my time was going down to 9.4 instead of 9.0, so I said to myself that I was just going to have to relax and let it come natural, just like Ivory did. I feel that every year, my time should improve by a tenth or two, and next year, I want to get at least 9.1s and 9.0s.

T&FN: Are you going to run the AAU?

Jones: Yes, I am.

T&FN: Are you ready?

Jones: I'm just going to practice now; when I get there, I'll get my stuff together. See, if I worry about it, I freeze up. I got to let it come natural. When I go out there I'm going there to win, and I'm not going to worry about my time. First win, then worry about the time.

T&FN: What about the future?

Jones: I've got the Olympics on my mind, but I have to take things one at a time. I think that after the Olympics are over, I might go out for football. My whole life is dedicated around sports, and I want at least to go pro—pro track, pro football. Not until after the Olympics though. I'm taking no chances.

T&FN: Are you planning to play football at Tennessee?

Jones: I'll play my last year at Tennessee. My school has been on my back about it. That's why I don't go to see Coach Huntsman too much in his office. I have to wait until he comes out on the track, because everytime I go over there, they tell me they want me to play, even though they know I won't be able to play for another year.

T&FN: When did you start running?

Jones: I've been running ever since I was in about fourth grade. Used to get out on the sidewalks and race. I'd win the sidewalk races.

Racing, I dig it. Horse racing, dog racing; I like racing, period. Anything that has someone going against someone else, one-on-one.

I feel everybody should go out for some kind of sport. Roughen 'em up, make them tough, and make a better man out of you. That's the whole thing in life, competing, and learning how to compete. That's the way to be successful in life. □



Tennessee not only won its first-ever team title at Austin, it also produced its initial sprint champ, as Reggie Jones blasted a great 100 field that included Steve Williams

modest, matter-of-fact Jones seems quite capable of handling the pressure of the big-time.

T&FN: How much pressure did you feel from the tight NCAA team race?

Jones: To win the title, I knew I'd have to do good. There's this dude I practice with at school, Jon Young. He told me just to relax, and I felt that if I just relaxed and do everything I'm supposed to do, that I would be able to pull the race out. So that's all I did.

T&FN: Were you sure that you'd won the 100?

Jones: I didn't know that I had it won. I knew it was going to be a judge's decision, and that they were going to have to go to the films.

T&FN: Any after-effects from your races?

Jones: Right now I'm still practicing and I feel okay. I'm not sore or nothing.

T&FN: What happened in the 220? It looked like you had it.

Jones: Like I told my coach, I hate to

on me; he had his momentum up and it was too late for me to regain mine. If I'd have run on through the tape and not gone to raise my hand, I would have won.

T&FN: What do you consider your best distance?

Jones: I suppose I should say the 100, but after 10 races at 220, I'm surprised that I'm really up there in it.

T&FN: Which runners do you respect the most?

Jones: I have to respect Steve Williams and Ivory Crockett. In order to beat them, you got to come out there ready, and get your mind right. You can't make no mistakes.

T&FN: You ran in the 9.0 race. Do you think Crockett's mark is legal?

Jones: Yes, I do. He didn't make any mistakes. From the starting line on out, he was in front. I did not move an inch on him, and he didn't come back an inch, and I said to myself, "The man is running." He might not run 9.0 every time, but he did do it. I believe there will come a time when