



Kiley Timperley/DN

LaTonya Rodgers takes time to reminisce the athletic careers of her family members.

## Namesake inspires competitive edge Rodgers' pride investment not left in Heisman trophy case

"Johnny Rodgers is your dad?" This is a typical response from people when they discover my lineage. I never thought much of it. When I was younger, he was just "Dad." I knew he played football, and he had a "nice" trophy sitting in a glass case in his living room.

As I became older and more sports conscious — which was almost inevitable in my family — I began to appreciate the great athlete my dad was and the significance of the Heisman Trophy in the glass case.

Johnny Rodgers is more than "Johnny the Jet," the football player — much more. He is the one who taught me to believe in myself. He taught me about priorities and the importance of education.

Though we've sometimes had our differences, he is a wonderful father. I've learned immeasurable things from him, and I am proud of to be his daughter.

On the same token, I am extremely proud of my brother Terry, for two reasons particularly. The pressure was on him since he was a little boy to follow in my father's

footsteps. When he decided to play football for Nebraska, I knew it would only be expected for him to get one of those "nice" trophies like my father. Yet, when the injuries arose and he made the brave and intelligent decision not to play anymore, as fast as the fans ran to get his autograph, they dismissed him.

I felt a lot of the hurt and fractured pride he felt. I think he has learned, as I have, that the hurt goes away and the pride heals, and family will always be there for him. He realized that it would be better to be healthy and strong than to be in pain for namesake.

I am most proud of him because he graduated from high school and college. Like my father, he is more than a football player who wore the No. 20 jersey for Nebraska. From him, I learned that sometimes we have to do things in life that may hurt at the time, but it will be much better in the long run. The hurt goes away and we go on.

I was an athlete as well. I started running competitively when I was 6 years old, for a track club called

the Colorado Sun. In middle school, I picked up volleyball and basketball, but my height became a factor.

Many times I reflected on my father's and brother's accomplishments and dug deep within myself to find the competitive spirit that could outweigh the norms of these sports I wanted to participate in.

I played on and played well. I played basketball throughout high school and one year in college. I continued running track through high school, but I chose to end it there.

I had the potential to do great things with my athletic career, particularly track and field. Instead I chose the field of mathematics to compete in. In my opinion that was, and is, the better investment. I find that even as a math major, the competitiveness still arises.

Once again, I have the potential to do great things. This time, though, I am going to capitalize on it. Just think, one of these days someone will be asking my father, "LaTonya Rodgers is your daughter?"

LaTonya Rodgers is a senior mathematics major and Diversions contributor

## Black students stereotyped as athletes

In Lincoln we have a stereotype that's going around. Black students here are always being associated with athletics.

There is no problem with the association, because I'm proud of what skills my body can perform. The problem deals with the treatment that goes along with the association.

Regardless of whether you are male or female, if you are a black student on this campus, you will be immediately confirmed as an athlete unless otherwise told. This bothers me to the highest level.

Yes, it's a fact that Nebraska is practically an all-white state with a small black (African-American) population, but just because the majority of the people are white does not mean that all other colors do not exist.

For people of all colors and creeds to come together and unite as a people, each race should come together as a unit.

It's so sad to say that the black race has problems that are not only caused by outside sources, but also within our own people, both of which help to keep us at the bot-

tom.

I'm not giving advice to anyone on how they should treat people, or even how they should act. I just want you to think about what I say. Hassan Muhammed guided me correctly to always think about it. And just because you're thinking doesn't mean the whole world is going to change, but somewhere out there some parts of it will.

Remember, what goes around just might come back around.

Will Thomas is a senior criminal justice major and a Diversions contributor.

## Caveman

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QUESTION 2: Why do men watch sports?

I have a theory for that as well. A lot of things in life make people horribly angry, and people are often made more angry because they can't do anything about the thing that made them angry in the first place.

And people like watching somebody go up to whoever pissed them off and do something about it. Somehow, the fans like to think that the athlete on the field is bashing the opposing team for the fans themselves. (This is partially correct, because the athlete bashes his opponent so that the spectator will come back next week and pay \$40 to watch the athlete again.)

QUESTION 3: If men like things requiring physical prowess, why don't they like things like the ballet?

Men don't like the ballet for two basic reasons. First, ballet dancers, although in excellent condition, don't kill each other. They lift women and whirl around all night to classical music.

QUESTION 4: Why would men rather watch the Super Bowl than perform The Ultimate Sport with women?

The Ultimate Sport can be done any time, any place — The Super Bowl comes only once a year.

QUESTION 5: Why do athletes do disgusting things like grab their crotches in front of 80,000 people?

Because they want to. Anyone who thinks what they do is disgusting can by all means go up to them and say it.

QUESTION 6: Do these answers apply to all men?

No. Some men don't like violent sports. Some men like the ballet. On the other hand, some women like violent sports and wouldn't go to a ballet if their lives depended on it.

The men these answers apply to are called Real Men, or men who still have some Cro-Magnon in them. For more information on Real Men, I'd suggest Bruce Feirstein's "Real Men Don't Bond." And now to our last question:

QUESTION 7: Can women ever turn Real Men away from sports?

No, but they can always get revenge. Sitting in front of the television, burping, and scratching during an episode of "One Life to Live" is the best way of doing this.

Or women could always tackle their boyfriends during the Super Bowl and order the other men out of the room.

That's all the time I have. I'm pretty tired from answering questions. And anyway, the Cubs are playing in 10 minutes.

Jan Calinger is a freshman news-editorial major and a Diversions contributor.

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