



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Cherise McDaniel displays her prowess on the soccer field. Below, McDaniel flexes defensive skill in front of the goal.

McDaniel

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One more potential obstacle for McDaniel was her survival and recovery from a serious car rollover accident two years ago when, among other injuries, she broke both hands.

Despite adversity, McDaniel has been successful at anything she's put her hand to. Since age six, she has participated in sports, including basketball, but soccer has been her sanctuary.

"Sports can be your outlet," she explained. "It can allow you to build a family."

Building a family with her teammates and coaches, McDaniel's hard work is evident.

She has earned positions as soccer team captain, won awards as team MVP, and she played on the Nevada State Team in 2002. These are only a few of her achievements during her playing days.

Soccer, family, school — and now, she plans to change the world! Okay, maybe one person at a time, but her heart seeks to help others less fortunate. Yes, there are more dimensions to young McDaniel.

"It's not my dream to play professional soccer. I never thought about pursuing it as a career," McDaniel explained.

As a recent recipient of a full-ride scholarship, McDaniel plans to major in pre-med at Texas Southern next year. Her sights are set on accomplishing something that many can benefit from, including her mother.

"I want to open my own practice," she said.

Her career choice was evident to her once her mother became ill. She knew then that she wanted to care for her one day. So, with her head on straight and her heart in the right place, McDaniel steps out into life where the road may get rocky, but be confident she'll be fine.

"My parents told me to never give up on anything you start. Sometimes you have to throw in the towel and put it to the side for a while, but pick it up later," she said.

Before ending an interview with such a remarkable young lady, I had to tap into her thoughts: "So, where do you see yourself in ten years?"

McDaniel flashed her elegant smile and replied:

"In ten years? Well, I'll have my degree; I should have my own practice; and my family [and I] will be living in a big house, living it up," McDaniel exclaimed.

Her spirit shines brightly. She has achieved so many things, but she has given back even more.



High court won't hear Clarett's appeal

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court declined to consider the appeal of Maurice Clarett, the former Ohio State running back who challenged the eligibility rules of the NFL draft.

The justices on Monday, without comment, let stand a lower court ruling that said federal labor law allows NFL teams to set rules for when players can enter the league. Regardless of how the high court acted, Clarett is eligible for this month's draft.

Clarett was two years out

of high school when he sued the NFL, contending the league rule requiring that a player be at least three years out of high school violates federal antitrust laws. He said the stipulation was arbitrary and robbed young players of the opportunity to earn a living. Clarett lawyer Alan Milstein said the case remains important even though his client is part of the April 23-24 draft. He would not comment further, but Milstein has said previously Clarett believes other young

players deserve the right to go to the NFL early.

Reached at her home, Clarett's mother, Michelle, declined to comment. The NFL also had no comment.

U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin in New York ruled in Clarett's favor in February 2004. But a three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed, blocking him from entering the 2004 draft.

On the eve of that draft, Clarett filed an emergency appeal with the Supreme

Court, but Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and John Paul Stevens each turned him down, saying there was no reason to let him in the draft while his challenge of the rule was unresolved.

Clarett rushed for 1,237 yards and 16 touchdowns as a freshman in 2002, leading Ohio State to the national championship. He was suspended before the 2003 season for accepting money from a family friend and lying about it to NCAA and Ohio State investigators.

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