



32nd Soldier is ex football star

By LLT Brad Winchester

Do not argue with Private Russell Carter if he claims to be the best football player in the 22d Signal Brigade. Do not argue with Private Carter if he may claim to be the best football player in V Corps. Such claims could reasonably be considered bragging. But, to paraphrase Muhammad Ali: It ain't no brag if you can do it.

Although the soft spoken radio-teletypewriter operator, assigned to the 32d Signal Battalion, would most likely never make such claims, he has the experience to lend credence to such bold assertions.

Before Carter joined the Army he played varsity football for the nationally ranked University of Pittsburgh football team. The former Pittsburgh Panther fullback made the varsity team as a freshman and says probably his most exciting experience as a player was scoring a touchdown in the 1978 Tangerene Bowl. Although Pittsburgh lost to North Carolina State 30-17 in that game, the Paulsboro, New Jersey native played well as his excited parents watched from the stands and a large national television audience watched from home.

Carter exhibited exceptional athletic talent as a football and track star in high school. He accepted an athletic scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh even though he had other offers.

Carter says combining a college education and playing major college football has its drawbacks.

"Playing football was fun but I wasn't getting enough knowledge as far as the books were concerned.

Big time college football has become a profession and Carter says Pittsburg's program demanded more than five hours of each of his academic days with three and four day road trips

thrown in nearly every week.

Carter, who is assigned to the 32d's S-3 operations section, plans on using his time in the Army to continue his schooling. He says the bonus money he received for enlisting is part of a good educational package.

What are Carter's plans for the future? Besides perfecting his Military Occupational Specialty skills and enjoying Germany, getting married this month is definitely included in his plans. The 21 year-old soldier met his future wife, who is also a soldier, while attending Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. She is stationed in Germany.

The former Pittsburgh fullback is not ready to become "just another spectator." He has heard the military plays a bit of "tackle" football and plans to get involved. That could be very good news indeed for the Frankfurt football team and chilling news for their opponents. Private Russell Carter may very well be the best football player to "hit town" in a long time. Braggadocio? It ain't no brag if you can do it.

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