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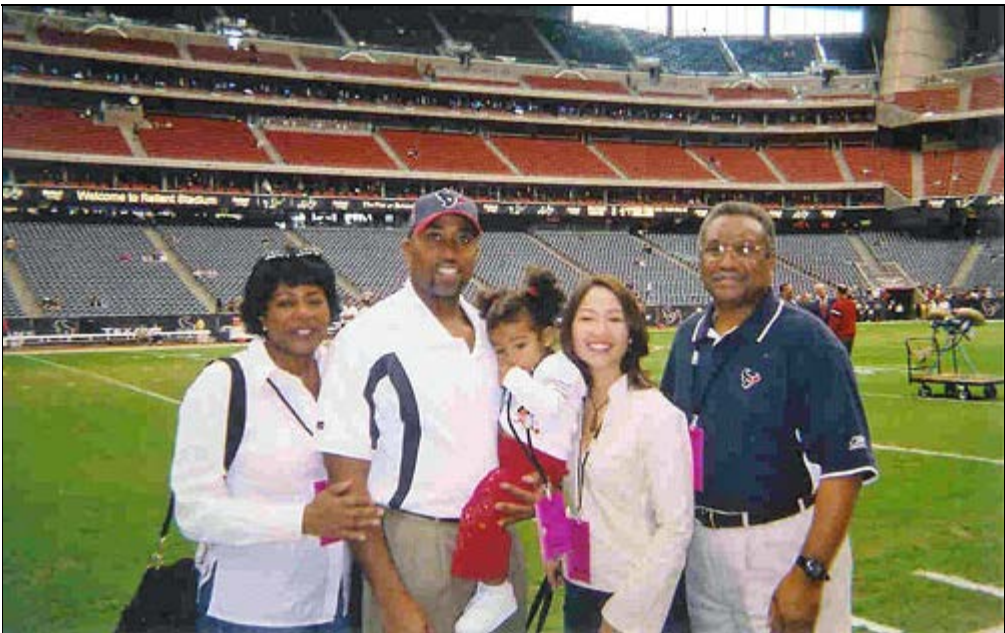
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NFL Coach Brian Stewart, son of engineer Alfred Stewart, center, pauses for a photo op before a Houston Texans game with mother Janet, wife, Kim, and daughter, Leila, father Alfred.



Photos courtesy of Alfred Stewart

Alfred Stewart Sees Son Overcome Bad Breaks to Excel as NFL Coach

- Despite injuries that ended his career on the field, he's now a defensive coach for the Dallas Cowboys

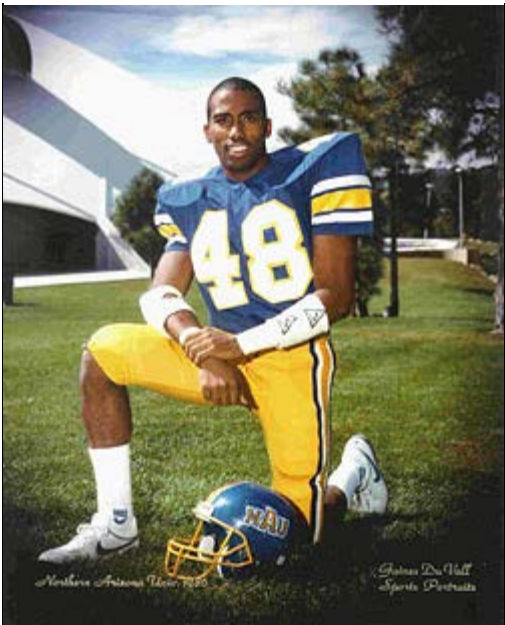
By NED RACINE

(April 18, 2007) Alfred Stewart anticipates watching his son coach the Dallas Cowboys defense this football season, although he seems most proud of the hurdles Brian Stewart has overcome to reach that dream.

Stewart, an engineer in Metro's Operations and Service Delivery Department, has watched Brian become defensive coordinator of the National Football League's Dallas Cowboys in only five years of NFL coaching, a meteoric rise.

What Stewart finds most remarkable, however, is Brian's recovery from having his initial dreams crushed on an Arizona football field.

Brian, then a 22-year-old defensive back, was injured on his first play in the first game of his senior year at



Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. “They broke his left leg in two places,” Alfred says. “They had to put a pin inside his leg. So his football career really ended that day.”

Brian Stewart, promising defensive back and running back at Northern Arizona University, before a severe knee injury shifted the course of his life.

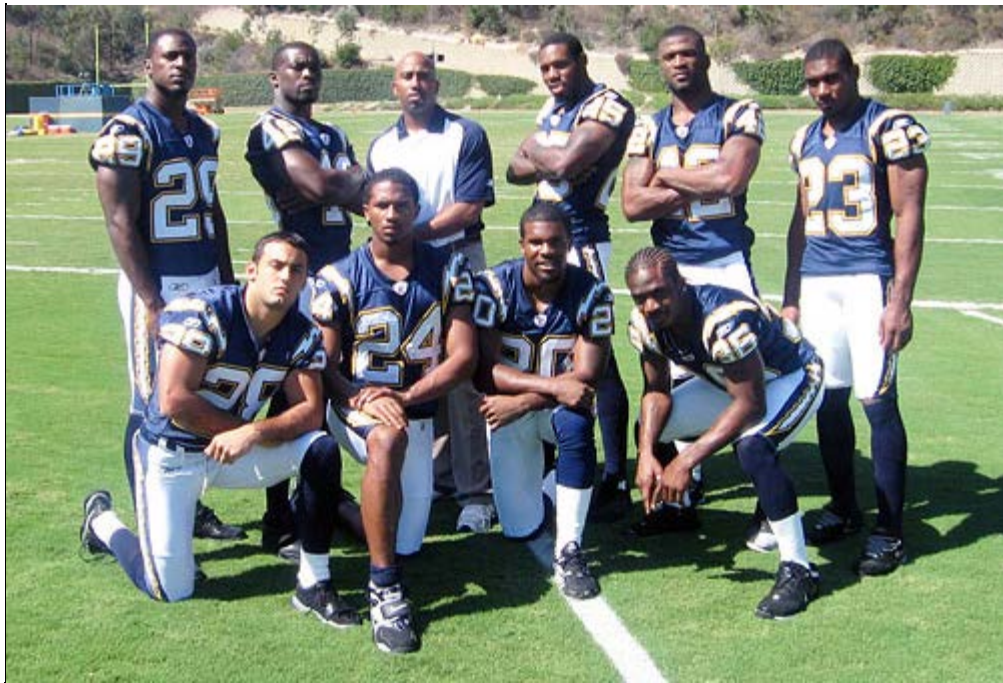
Not only did the injury end a promising football career, it also ended Brian’s dream of becoming an FBI agent or a Los Angeles police officer. After his injury, neither agency would hire him, even though he continued his college education and eventually received his degree in criminal justice.

Injury quite a blow

The injury was quite a blow for Brian, who always excelled at track and football, and began playing Pop Warner football when he was 12 or 13. Even then Brian knew more about football than his father.

“He would study the technical side of it, the ins and outs of football . . . the strategy,” Stewart says. “How coaches make decisions.”

Alfred recalls how the injury affected Brian. “In fact, he was devastated for that whole year and the year after because he knew that what he wanted to do—play in the NFL—was over.”



Brian Stewart surrounded by his San Diego Chargers defensive backs. Stewart has since been hired as defensive coordinator of the Dallas Cowboys.

"It's kind of hard when everyone says, 'You're going to be fine,'" says Brian, who still calls his parents after every game. "They want to sound positive."

Brian tried semi-pro football for a while, but, as his father says, "He didn't have it anymore. He didn't have that quickness and speed that he had had." Brian then pursued a career in security, working as a security analyst for the Walt Disney Company at its Burbank corporate office.

A Santa Monica City College coach told Brian that if he wanted to coach, he would help him. And so, years after his injury, Brian began his first coaching job at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1993. Coaching rekindled his dreams.

Later, when Brian coached defensive backs for the NFL's Houston Texans, he invited his father to walk on the field before the game and tour the players' locker room. Still, it took Alfred a while to understand his son's responsibilities. "The first time I watched . . . I was just watching a football game because I didn't really know what his main job was as a defensive back coach."

Giving to the community

Alfred points out that Brian believes in giving back to his community, citing the annual June football camp his son sponsors at Nogales High School in La Puente, Brian's alma mater.

"Every year, out of his own pocket, he pays for it; he puts on a free football game for [boys and girls] from 6 to 17," Alfred says.

Alfred is most proud that Brian "made his mind up and set certain goals for himself once he decided what he wanted to do in life, after the injury . . ."

Brian told his father, "I am going to be the head coach of an NFL team or a large university." In only five years in the NFL, he nears his goal. Alfred is amazed.

Now 43, Brian believes the biggest thing his parents did for him as an athlete was give him their support. "You get that support, it empowers you."

"Football is his life now," Alfred explained. "I'm definitely flying to Dallas and see some games."

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