

# TIM BROWN

HEISMAN  
TROPHY  
WINNER

## HIS PURPOSE IS ALL-PURPOSE

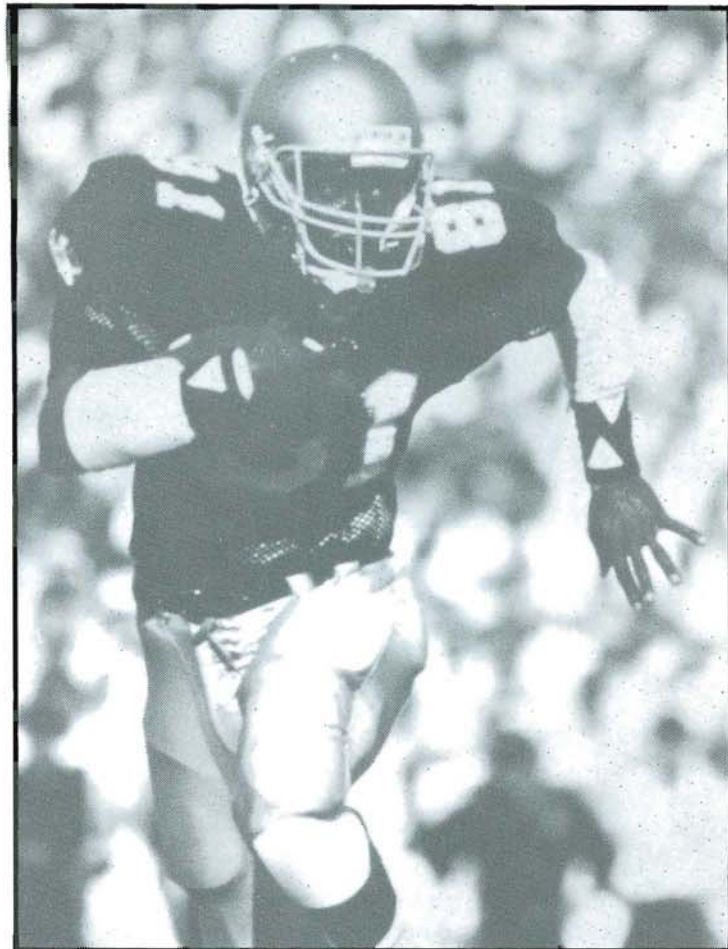
By Kurt Mattison  
BFS Rep and Staff Writer

One opposing coach commented, "He's the best all-around player in the country." Another said, "We knew what was coming and we couldn't do anything about it." Another said, "We just saw too much of him today. He's a great one." His own coach, Lou Holtz of Notre Dame, says, "It's scary to think of the number of ways he can affect a game."

Scary? Couldn't do anything about it? Saw too much of him? At Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas, Tim Brown was the sports editor of the school paper and vice-president of his class. As a freshman he saw playing time every weekend on the football field — as a drummer in the marching band! "My mom didn't want me to play football," explains Tim, "she always wanted me to be in the band. Plus, I was really small, and she never thought I'd be big enough." But before graduating from high school in 1984, Timothy Donell Brown was a prep All-American, a Top 100 incoming freshman, All-Metro and a Dallas All-Star. By then he had established himself as an all-around athlete of rare quality. In football he played running back, wide receiver, wingback, free safety, and quarterback. He amassed over 4,000 all-purpose yards in 3 seasons on teams that produced only 4 wins! Eight of his 25 touchdowns were on kick returns, and he scored on every 12th carry. In basketball, his favorite sport, he was All District. "I grew up thinking I would be a basketball player," Tim remembers, "I never dreamed I would ever play football, because I was so small and thin. I still love to play basketball though, whenever I get a chance." In track at Woodrow Wilson, he long-jumped over 24'3" and ran at 46.9 400 meters.

Today, as a sleek and strong 6'0", 195-pound receiver/ball carrier/kick returner, Tim is the nation's best "all-purpose" athlete in college football and was a pre-season favorite to win the Heisman Trophy. As a junior All-American flanker in 1986, Tim set a Notre Dame record with 1,937 all-purpose yards (910 receiving, 254 rushing, 698 returning kick-offs, and 75 on only 2 punt returns). After the '86 season Tim held 10 school records and is close to breaking several others this season. He averaged 176 yards per game last season, and 212 in his last 6 games. And this was against one of the toughest schedules in college football!

And what about the 1987 season? Before the season began, Tim Brown stated, "Personally, I just want to play the best football I can play and be satisfied with my effort." He admits he placed high expectations on himself last season, "That was my problem at the beginning of last year — I was trying to live up to everyone else's expectations for myself. **Once I stopped thinking about living up to expectations, my game really improved.** If I don't score a single touchdown all year, I'm not going to worry about it, as long as I feel I've played the best I can play."



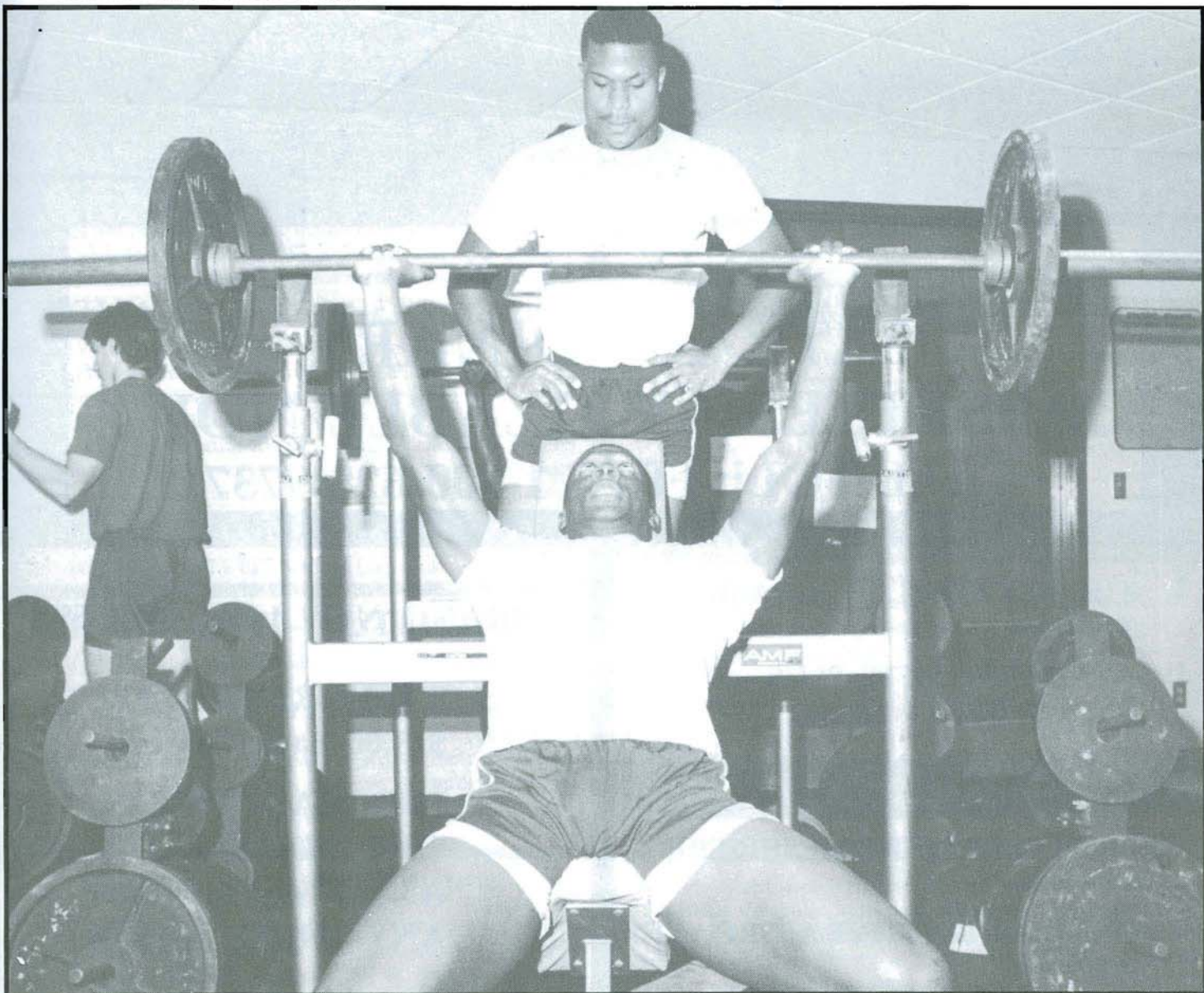
Mr. All Purpose Tim Brown took a giant step toward his Heisman Trophy with a 275 yard performance (including 2 punt returns for TD's!) against Big Ten Champ Michigan State in September.

*"There Were A Lot of Games Where Tim  
Earned An Extra Dessert!"  
Lou Holtz, Irish FB Coach*

It might be easy to say, "This guy's too good to be true," right? So I asked a few of the people who work closest to Tim, what impresses them about him, other than his athletic abilities? Scott Raridon, his strength coach, comments, "Tim came back this year in great shape." Coach Raridon notes that Tim's main concern is the team's success, "I think he really does care more about the team than his own personal success."

Receivers coach Pete Cordelli admires Tim's work habits most. "He wants to be the best, and he always works hard to be the best, always going full strength. It's the fact that he goes

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With a schedule that includes 12 months of football and track, Tim still knows the value of intense strength training.

full strength during the week that enables him to go full strength on Saturdays and do the things that he does."

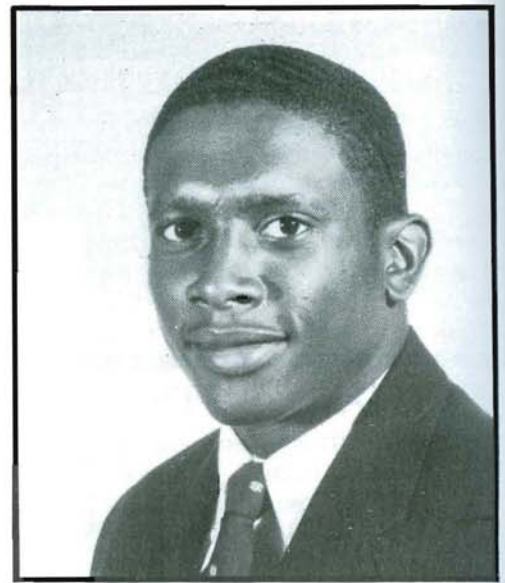
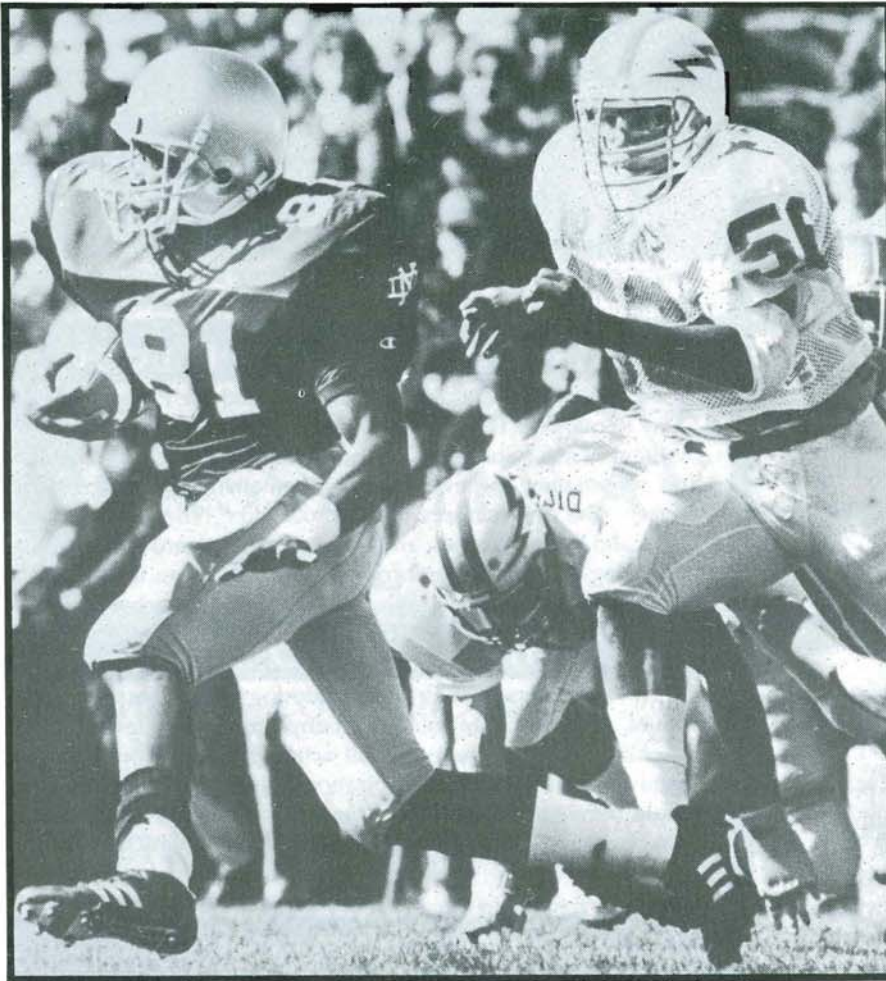
Tim is rare in another regard. He is a two-sport athlete, something unusual at the division I-A level. Though football is number one in his athletic life right now, his coaches have made it possible for him to compete in track also, something he excels in despite limited participation. Last spring he practiced football and track, and competed in the indoor and outdoor seasons, setting school records in the 60 (6.20) and 300 (30.06). He has also set several meet records in both events. His track coach, Joe Piane, says of Tim, "I've seen him do some amazing things in track and yet, he has barely scratched the surface as a sprinter. If he ever decided to devote all his time to track, it's tough to imagine how good he might become." Tim would recommend the combination of track and football, "Coming out of the blocks is alot like coming out of my stance at flanker. It helps my explosion, and when I want to go deep on someone, it helps me to shift gears."

Despite all this time spent in uniform and practice gear for most of the year, Tim still knows the value of strength training

and conditioning to keep this performance at a peak level. "He reported to camp in excellent condition," relates Coach Raridon. "He has improved his physical strength since winter, despite participating in track and spring football. He has run the 40 in 4.31, bench pressed 290, and has a vertical jump of 31"."

Of course, I had to ask the inevitable question, "What about the Heisman Trophy?" It was September and I was certain it had to be on his mind, and I was right. But he has an attitude that seems different than most athletes who are thrust into fame and possible fortune at a young age. "It's hard not to think about it," confesses Tim, "But if I win it, I win it. If I don't, I don't. It's not going to change my life one way or the other, at least I don't believe it will. **I'm honored just have my name mentioned for the Heisman. It's a credit to my teammates and my coaches that I'm even being considered for the award.**"

Tim obviously enjoys playing football. "I like running with the ball more than anything. It's exciting to me to get the ball in my hands in the open field." Considering that he averages 14.8 yards every time he gets the ball in his hands, it's under-



## TIM BROWN'S FINAL 1987 STATS

Heisman Votes

Tim Brown — Notre Dame: 1442

Don McPherson — Syracuse: 831

Gordon Lockbaum — Holy Cross: 657

Passes Caught: 39

Kick Return Yards: 797

Yards Rushing: 142

All Purpose Total: 1748

Tim's 4.37 speed and participation in Track have helped him become the focus of every defense he plays against.

standable why his teammates, coaches, and fans get excited too! His biggest thrill came in the final game of the season in '86 against UCLA. Trailing by 2 points with only seconds left, Tim went back to receive what was only the second punt of his career. "I was nervous," Tim understated. "But once I caught the ball, the rest came easy. I knew I could run with it, I was just worried about catching it." And he may have entertained briefly the memory of his first kick return his freshman year, when he fumbled the opening kickoff over to Purdue, which turned into the field goal that ended up being the margin of victory for them. But this one had a different ending. He ran through and around the UCLA kickoff team for a 56 yard return that lead to the game winning 19 yard field goal by John Carney. Tim gained 254 all-purpose yards that day.

Tim believes his prowess for returning kickoffs is due in large part to his peripheral vision, "If you can't see that guy coming at you from the side, you're going to get nailed. A lot of times I'll be running and see someone coming at me from either side, and I'll just turn and go right at him, and he'll freeze." Not surprisingly, he explains another major factor in his success, "**People should realize that I've got the easy job; it's the other players who deserve most of the credit. They make it possible.**"

Tim knows where much of the credit for his success goes. "If it wasn't for my family. I don't know where I'd be today. They've done an awful lot for me, much more than I can ever

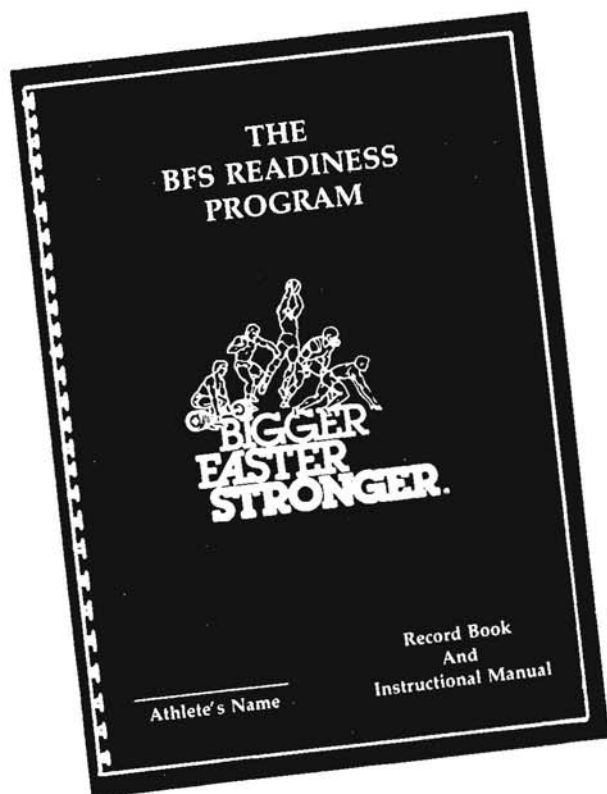
begin to describe." Being the 5th of 6 children of Eugene and Josephine Brown has undoubtedly helped develop him humble his manner. "Having their support and love means so much to me. They're very special people." One thing Tim misses a lot about being so far from home is playing the bass drums for his church choir back in Dallas. Coach Cordelli observes, "Tim's a very religious person. **He cares a lot about other people. He's very close to his family, very family oriented.**" But Tim wouldn't think of going anywhere else but Notre Dame, a school he chose over SMU at the last second at the urging of his brother, who was not happy with the illegal "extras" that were promised him by some alumni, the type of violations that eventually cost SMU its entire football program. "I came here because of the academic opportunity and the football," says the sociology major. "You can't get a better combination anywhere in the country."

And what about life after Notre Dame and the Heisman Trophy? "I'd like to play pro football for a couple years, maybe as many as four or five years. After that, I just want to go back to Dallas and work there. I really like Dallas, and that's where I'd like to settle down eventually." The possibility of doing both in Dallas must be music to Tom Landry's ears!

The fighting Irish have had a great season. Describing Tim's accomplishments this season, Coach Lou Holtz commented, "there were a lot of games where Tim earned an extra dessert." Now, Tim Brown has iced these desserts with his Heisman Trophy.

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Dr. Greg Shepard, BFS President

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