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Instructor's Name

ENGL 1013

Date

The Energizer Razorback

Sweat was pouring down his face, his heart was pumping, his muscles were burning, and his lungs screamed for air; Darren McFadden had just run eighty yards up the middle against Louisiana State University's top-rated defense. With this run, he brought more than fifty thousand screaming fans to their feet at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock, Arkansas. That day, people swore he stood seven feet tall. Darren McFadden uses not only his groundbreaking athletic versatility on the field but also his persona off the field to revolutionize the way the game of football is perceived in his home state.

"D-Mac," as most call him, is a daunting presence. When he puts on the number 5 jersey for the Arkansas Razorbacks, his tattooed biceps and imposing physicality come to life. Even though he has chicken legs, he runs over linebackers like diesels run over road kill. If that is not enough, he possesses the most imposing stiff-arm in college football today.

McFadden exhibits a plethora of traits that make him seem unbreakable. He is the type of man who could have the flu, wretch violently on the sidelines, and then go break for a sixty-yard run for a touchdown. McFadden leaves a trail of dust behind him as he blazes to the promised land. Like any superhero, he carries his own trademark by flexing his arms to show off the "501 Boy" tattoo on his biceps after scoring a touchdown. McFadden lacks any real weakness because defenders can catch only a glimpse of his cape as they drop behind in his trail of smoke.

McFadden is the ultimate triple threat: he can run, pass, and catch. The Little Rock native is the Doak Walker Award recipient for the nation's best running back, and many consider him the front-runner for the Heisman Trophy. Every time McFadden touches the ball, shivers crawl down the spines of the spectators. They know that in three strides he could be past the secondary and charging towards the end zone for a touchdown.

D-Mac has gained in popularity since his coaches have installed a package called the "wildcat," where he lines up at quarterback and takes the direct snap. He has been featured on the cover of virtually every major sports magazine. Children see him as a superhero.

Despite his fame, Arkansans cannot forget that first and foremost Darren is humble. Even with all the acclaim and spotlight, he is the first person to give credit to his teammates. For instance, in all of the post-game interviews, McFadden heaps praises on the offensive line for blocking.

As hard as it may be to believe, McFadden is also a playful practical joker. Last year for Halloween, he dressed up as a clown. His wig looked as if it had been dipped in a rainbow. The oversized polka-dotted pants, which were held up by suspenders, and exceptionally large clown shoes made it difficult for him to walk. He had gone to the store the night before, and that particular costume was the only one that would fit him. He modeled the costume in all of his classes and got many laughs and a few photo opportunities. His national fan base caught a glimpse of his goofiness when the picture was broadcasted on television during one of his football games.

If D-Mac is not flashy enough on the field, he most certainly is off the field. Whether it is on the field or off, he never goes unnoticed. He cruises the streets of Fayetteville in his red Crown Vic that is decked out in Razorback paraphernalia. McFadden's ride is complete with

twenty-six inch rims and the booming stereo system in the trunk. Also, despite his massive size, McFadden still manages to cram himself onto a miniature scooter that transports him to classes and around campus.

The Razorbacks eventually lost to Louisiana State University that day, but that does not keep McFadden from having his place in history and in the hearts of the Arkansans. Since his athletic versatility has proven groundbreaking, millions of fans across the country will watch him in the NFL because they know that there will not be another football player in their lifetime that is as unique as Darren McFadden. Furthermore, even if he never wins a Super Bowl or takes home an MVP trophy, the fans will still love him for the entertainment he brings off the gridiron.