

GARY BERNARD DORSEY

GARY DORSEY WAS BORN IN DORA, AL, ON JUNE 4, 1967, TO RUBY AND EDDIE DORSEY. HE

grew up in the small community of Yerewood near Dora. Gary began participating in sports at seven years old, and played football, basketball and baseball in the youth leagues around East Walker County. During his early playing days, he acquired the nickname "Fly" because of how fast he could run bases in baseball. His junior high football team never lost a game.

Dorsey was a multiple-sport athlete at Dora High from 1982-1985. He was a starting outfielder for the baseball team that played for the state championship. He was also a decathlon participant in track due to his overall athletic abilities. In football, Gary played free safety, receiver/running back and he kicked field goals. Jim Crump, former principal at Dora, remembers the night Dora hosted Glenn High School led by Bobby Humphrey: "That was a great night, Humphries dominated the first half but in the second half, Gary took over the game. Unfortunately, most of the scouts had already gone." He helped lead Dora to the state playoffs in 1984 and 1985. In 1985, Gary was selected to the All-State Football Team as a safety.

Gary was an excellent student at Dora and was selected as president of the student body in his senior year. He was also awarded the "Andrews Award," which is given to a student athlete who excels in academics as well as athletics. In 1984 and 1985, Dorsey was listed in "Who's Who" for American Students.

Gary was recruited by Auburn University, whose football coaches were impressed by his overall athletic ability and actually scouted him playing basketball and baseball. After his senior year, Dorsey signed with Auburn to play football. While at Auburn, Gary played wide receiver and his team participated in the Cotton Bowl in 1985, the Citrus Bowl in 1986, and the Sugar Bowl in both 1987 and 1988. The 1988 Auburn team was SEC Conference Champions. At Auburn, he was one of the strongest and fastest players at his position. His roommate was former major league baseball player, Frank Thomas (nicknamed the Big Hurt), who was a tight end on the football end. Gary was also a teammate of "Bo" Jackson who gave Gary the nickname "Jerry Curl" due to his hair style.

In an article printed by the *Daily Mountain Eagle* upon graduation from Auburn, Dorsey reflects that when he signed with Auburn, he made up his mind to use football as a vehicle to get his education. He indicated it would have been a struggle to go to college if it had been for the opportunity football offered. The article eluded to the number of college athletes failing to obtain a degree and that Dorsey had taken "the road less traveled."

In 1990, Dorsey graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts and Criminal Justice. Gary has worked in the pharmaceutical industry since 1995. Gary now resides in Smyrna, GA, and is the proud father of two girls, Nyah and Symone. He enjoys coaching his girls in soccer and basketball and playing softball and being a football fan on the weekends.

