TWILET MALCOLM

When Twilet Malcolm was ready for college, the women's track coach at the University of Texas at Austin came to Jamaica on a recruiting trip. For academic reasons, Malcolm enrolled at San Jacinto Junior College, and the Texas track coach no doubt intended that she would eventually become a Lady Longhorn. But when the time came, Malcolm turned down such schools as LSU, Auburn, Arizona, UNLV and Texas in favor of UTA. UT's loss was USL's gain, as Malcolm went on to become the best female track athlete in school history.

Here's a brief summary of her career:
- member of the Jamaican Olympic team - 1992; first female All-American track performer ever at UTA, 5th in the 100-meter dash at the NCAA outdoor meet in 1993; finalist in the 100-meter dash at the indoor meet; MVP at the Sun Belt Conference indoor and outdoor meet; holder of USL school records - some indoor, some outdoor, some both - in the long jump, 55 meters, 100 meters and 200 meters; and member of the school record-setting relay teams in the 4 x 100, 4 x 200 and 4 x 400.

Last spring, Malcolm, 24, graduated with a degree in English and turned professional. Having given up the long jump, she's running the 100- and 200-meter sprints on the European circuit while in graduate school in elementary education at USL. She was born in Lauderhill for most of the first thirteen. So how will she combine an international track career with graduate school? "I'm about to find out."

During the summer, Malcolm lived in Italy, where her European manager is located. Her best professional showing was a third place in the 100 at the prestigious Gran Prix meet in Nice, France, and she won a couple of smaller meets.

Malcolm never ran until she was about 12, and was inspired to go out for track by her older sister. "She ran track, and I just said to myself, 'If she can do it, I can do it.'"

But the Carshalton school she attended in Jamaica had no track coaches. During her first year, Malcolm learned by running. "I finished last in all the heats," she says. But by 1984, when she was only 14, Malcolm began representing her country at junior meets.

She chose USL after junior college in part because of assistant track coach Tommy Radon, who recruited her. "He looks for me as a person, the athlete as a person. He's concerned about school," she says. The food was another factor; it reminded her of home.

Malcolm had begun to think about the Olympics while at San Jacinto, but she says it

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19