

MILLER SCRAMBLES THROUGH INTERVIEW

N.C. A&T redshirt junior quarterback Herb Miller is probably my favorite college quarterback this year. He'd like for me to say that he's the best quarterback to come from Winston. I always tell him that a former Mt. Tabor quarterback is the best high school QB from Winston-Salem.

But Herb is definitely one of the best student-athletes to come from the city, hands down. He's got everything that you want in a student-athlete. He makes good grades. Miller is a great leader. He's very coachable and willing to learn. Herb isn't that bad of a quarterback either.

I caught up with one of the best quarterbacks to come from the city after he helped his Aggies to that big win over Winston-Salem State last Saturday. We actually talked on Tuesday, right after Miller got out of practice. He and I talked about the big game, Mike Vick, Tory "Hollywood" Woodbury, Carver and an all-county JV team that he was still kind of salty for not making years ago. That was pretty funny.

Take a look at some of the other things that Number Eight and I discussed earlier this week.

Anthony: Herb. (Smiles.) What's good my boy?

Herb: Nothing. Chillin', chillin'.

Anthony: I hear that. I'm glad to see that you finally got that W over the Rams. You know I'm happy for you.

Herb: No doubt. It felt great, man. I felt great to finally get one.

Anthony: You kind of did your thing too. Kind of tell me how you think you did during the game.

Herb: Uh, it wasn't what I wanted it to be. It was good enough to win. And, that's all we're looking for — the win.

Anthony: I heard that you were asking if Thad (Griffin) was still out there a couple weeks ago. (Both laugh.) I know you're happy that No. 45 wasn't back out there for the Rams this year.

Herb: (Laughs.) Yeah. I was extremely happy that he wasn't out there. He was a pretty good player for them last year. He gave me fits last year. Less people to worry about is a good thing for a quarterback.

Anthony: I know you're the type of guy that's gonna go straight home and watch film if you lose. How good did it feel to be able to actually celebrate after a game?

Herb: (Laughs.) Oh, that was great. I hadn't done that in so long. It felt so good to get that burden off my back. It felt so good to be able to celebrate one time.

Anthony: I heard why you changed your number. (Smiles.) But you've got to tell everyone else why you changed your number from number 18 to number 8.

Herb: I changed my number because a lot of times the announcer would call out Shelton's name when I did things. (Both laugh.) He's the other guy at quarterback. I had 18. He had 19. I'd throw a touchdown pass and they'd call his name out. He was getting his name called all over the radio and stands, and he wasn't the one throwing the touchdowns. (Both laugh.)

Anthony: (Smiles.) That's funny to me. So, what did you



Miller

like about number 8?

Herb: It was just open. There really wasn't anything about it that intrigued me. It was just open. I did it Pop Warner style. I just got what number was left. I would've played in 54.

Anthony: I heard you planned on breaking some records this year. Was that just talk, or do you plan on really breaking some records?

Herb: Yeah, I'm planning on it. I'm trying my best. I mean, I'm not going out there looking to break records. But I am doing what I can to get more wins. No one wants to break records and lose. So, that's my focus.

Anthony: How heated was that quarterback battle during

classroom. Everything is good there. I'm always in my teacher's faces. You have to make sure they know your face.

Anthony: Who are some of the players you look at to kind of take things from to incorporate into your game?

Herb: (Smiles.) It has always been Vick. Uh, coach Wood (Tory Woodbury). I'm also looking at Peyton Manning and Tom Brady a lot more.

Anthony: Speaking of Tory Woodbury, you know he's about to get inducted into the WSSU hall of fame?

Herb: Oh yeah. That's my boy. I talked to him this past week. He was on the field. I also talked to him on Saturday night. He even called me before the game, talking about "Chew tobacco, chew tobacco, spit..." (Both laugh.)

Anthony: What do you think about Tom Brady being out for the season?

Herb: Oh, that's gonna hurt the Patriots. That's gonna hurt them bad. You surround your team with good people, but you always have that one that you can't lose.

Anthony: No doubt. Have you been keeping up with your Carver Yellowjackets?

Herb: Yeah. My granddaddy tells me every Thursday what's going on. I went up to the Dudley game. I saw their new offense. I was like, "what if I was in that offense in high school." They spread it out a lot more than we

say. Hey, I saw your granddad rolling on some nice looking wheels, man?

Herb: They're mind. (Both laugh.) I couldn't pay the rent last summer and I sold them to him. He won't give them back. He keeps them clean and everything. (Smiles.) Gets on my nerves every time he comes up here.

Anthony: (Smiles.) He's looking good in them. Let's finish with free association. Uh, North Carolina A&T Aggies.

Herb: On a come up.

Anthony: Herb Miller.

Herb: One of the best players to ever walk this earth.

Anthony: Number eight.

Herb: Better watch out for him.

Anthony: Chevy Jones.

Herb: My momma. Love of my life.

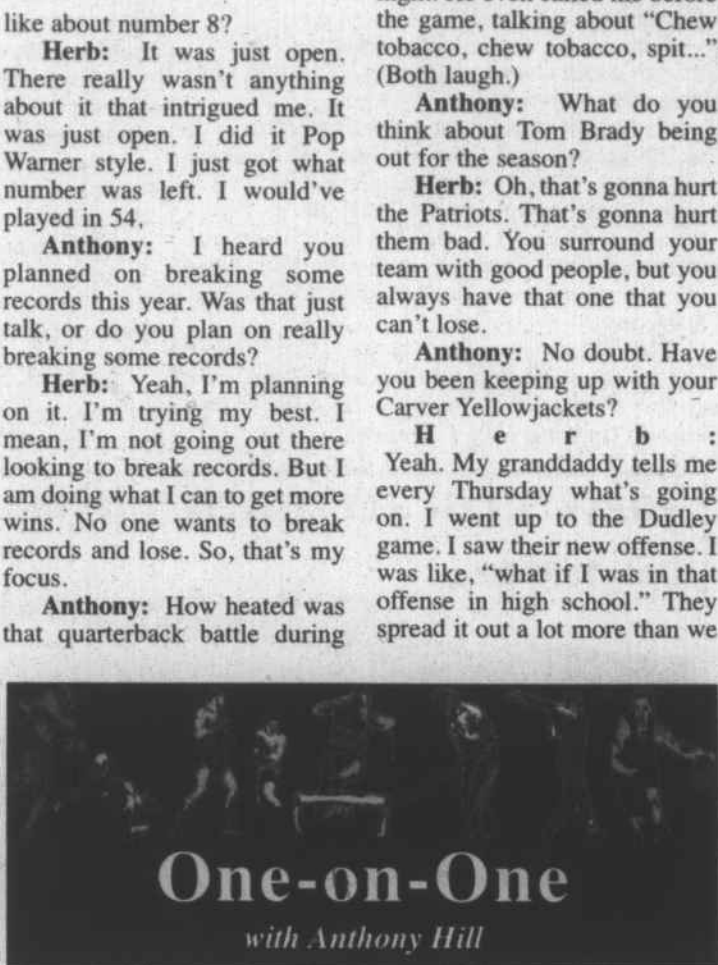
Anthony: Best high school.

Herb: Carver High School.

Anthony: Hands down.

Anthony: Best QB to come out of Winston-Salem.

Herb: Herb Miller, of course.



the off season?

Herb: Ah man. It was rough. I was one of the roughest ones that I've gone through. All of the quarterbacks have talent. I'm good, and all of them are on the same level as me. I just had to separate myself from them.

Anthony: How much better have you gotten since high school?

Herb: I'm 10 times better. I'm not just a runner anymore. That's all I wanted to do when I first got here. I'm a calm, cool and collected quarterback. The best part of my game is my head. I pride myself in knowing what we're doing, and what you want to do to stop us.

Anthony: I hear that. Let me ask you this: how do you get motivated for a season when you've gone through such a losing streak? We all know that you all came into the season with a 27-game losing streak.

Herb: Thinking about that 27-game losing streak motivated us. It motivated me. I don't like losing. We're not a negative team either. If we wouldn't have won this week then we would've come back ready to play next week. We're fighters. I feel good about this season.

Anthony: OK. I see that you cut your hair off too. What made you do that?

Herb: Ah, it's just time for a change. I'm getting older. It's about time for me to start looking for a job. You can't go in nobody's office with dreads.

Anthony: OK. How are things going in the classroom?

Herb: I'm good in the

did.

Anthony: Uh, yeah. (Smiles.) You play at a MEAC school. Ole boy that plays with the Minnesota Vikings... the quarterback, Jackson. Do you think people are so hard on him because he comes from an HBCU? I get tired of hearing they would be good if they had a better QB.

Herb: You're talking about Tarvaris Jackson. I think they're doing him like that because he's black. It somehow doesn't matter when a caucasian comes from a smaller school. He's smart enough to pick it up and everything. But they have something to say about him because he's African American.

Anthony: (Laughs.) Herb Miller tells it like it is. Not like it was or should be. (Laughs.)

Herb: (Laughs.) Oh yeah. And, you know I'm still mad at you for not putting me on that All-County JV team back in the day.

Anthony: (Smiles.) I know you're still not talking about that. That was votes, man.

Herb: Yeah. But you know I was way better than those dudes from West. You know that. I'll never forget that.

Anthony: (Both laugh.) I'm gonna make sure people know you're still tripping about that.

Herb: OK. And, tell people that I'm the best quarterback to come from this city. I already know that I'm the best from Carver.

Anthony: (Smiles.) I have to leave that for the people to



Photo by Michael Simmons

N.C. A&T redshirt junior quarterback Herb Miller, who's a former Carver Yellowjacket, scrambles against WSSU during the Aggies big win over the weekend.

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