

# EAST'S O'BRIEN CHATS ABOUT SEASON

I still remember when I first saw East Forsyth's talented quarterback, Danny O'Brien. He was an eighth grader playing AAU ball for coach Andre Gould, who's now the head basketball coach at Winston-Salem Prep.

Gould always had some talent on his Kappa Magic squads, but something was different about O'Brien. Some of you might've guessed the difference was the fact that O'Brien is white. But he played tough, smart basketball. And, his outside range was crazy. O'Brien stood out and fit in at the same time. I had no idea that he'd turn out to be one of the best football players around.

O'Brien is arguably the best quarterback in Winston-Salem this year. He recently committed to play ball for Maryland. He and I sat down earlier this week to talk about his decision to play for the Terps, as well as a number of other things. Danny and I also talked about his top five players in the county, D.J. Adams, Mt. Tabor, coach Andre Gould, coach Todd Willert, Jeremy Peterson, basketball and Lil' Wayne.

Check out some of the other things Danny and I talked about on Tuesday evening.

**Anthony:** What's going on, Danny?

**Danny:** Nothing much. (Smiles.) Just getting out of practice.

**Anthony:** I hear that. (Smiles.) You've got a big game this week. That might be the game of the night on Friday. What are your thoughts heading into that big showdown against Mt. Tabor?

**Danny:** (Smiles.) We're excited. This is going to be our first big test around here. We're really looking forward to it.

**Anthony:** You all are 4-0, but you actually lost the first game of the season. Do you really think of yourself as being unbeaten, or do you still think about that one loss?

**Danny:** We definitely got beat. Rocky Mount is a really good team. They're rolling right now. (Smiles.) I'll take a win any way that I can get it. I'll take 4-0. (Smiles.) I think that loss actually got our heads straight. I mean, they pounded us. They were more physical. We saw where we needed to be.

**Anthony:** When we first met you were playing basketball heavy. When did football become the sport for you?

**Danny:** I would say my ninth and tenth grade year. It just seemed like that would be the path I would take as far as college. I just stuck with it. Basketball is still a passion. I still love it, and I'm still going to play my senior year. I love basketball. But football is the main thing for me now.

**Anthony:** Most people know that you committed to Maryland. What made that the school for you?

**Danny:** Everything. The coaching staff, the area...

**Anthony:** They got a big win over the weekend too.

**Danny:** (Smiles.) Oh yeah. They put it to Cal. They needed that one after losing to Middle Tennessee.

**Anthony:** Why did you choose Maryland again? Did Wake recruit you?

**Danny:** Uh, a little bit. It was between, Maryland, Duke, ECU and Virginia. But I wanted to go somewhere that I knew I was wanted.

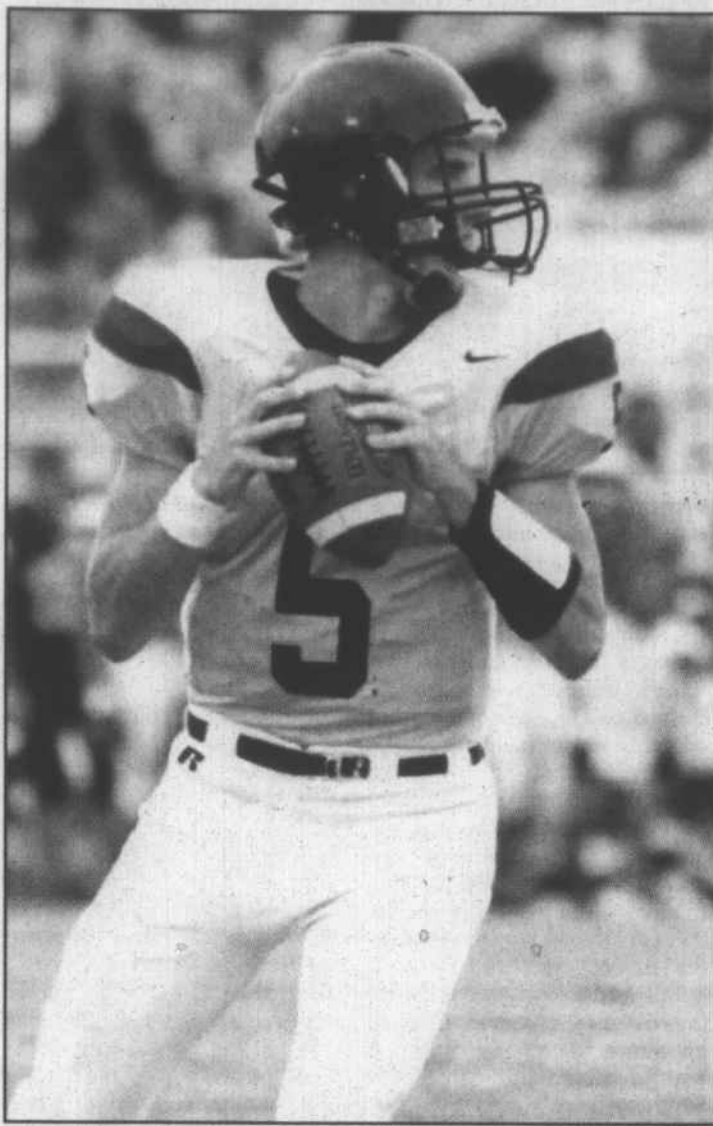
**Anthony:** Is the ACC getting a bad rap? The experts are calling it weak after some week one upsets.

**Danny:** Yeah. I think it's still a really good conference. UNC killing Rutgers, Maryland bouncing back against Cal. We started off a little slow. Now it's time to get going a little bit.

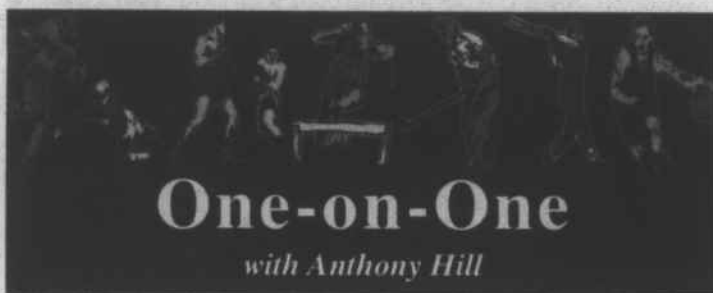
**Anthony:** (Smiles.) Do you see yourself as the premier quarterback in the city this year? Are you the best QB around?

**Danny:** (Smiles.) There's a lot of talent in the county. D.J. (Adams) is a great quarterback. We have a lot of good quarterbacks in the county. But I don't really compare myself to everybody else. I just try to do my thing.

**Anthony:** Do you feel like you have something to prove



East Forsyth's Danny O'Brien will lead his Eagles against Mt. Tabor tomorrow night.



## One-on-One with Anthony Hill

every Friday? You know some guys would just love to make you look overrated.

**Danny:** A little bit. I think you always have to have a little chip on your shoulder as a quarterback. That makes me play better.

**Anthony:** You know I ask all area guys who they think are the top five players in the city. Give me your top five of guys that can get it done.

**Danny:** I think Hunter Furr can get it done. Ian Thompson on our team gets it done.

**Anthony:** No doubt. Ian is probably the most underrated player around here.

**Danny:** I think so. He gets it done. He's gotten a touchdown in every game that we've won. And, D.J.

**Anthony:** You're going with D.J. Adams?

**Danny:** I mean, he puts up the stats — consistently. So, I'll put him up there. Uh, Jeremy Peterson is a baller at Reynolds.

**Anthony:** OK. You guys have Mt. Tabor on Friday. What about them worries or concerns you right now?

**Danny:** I wouldn't say worries. But they definitely have a winning tradition. We definitely have to come out real physical right away. We have to set our own tone at home. They're always a good team.

**Anthony:** They have a lot of defense and offense every year. They kind of just keep reloading. But I think we can compete right with them. The entire team is confident. We work hard. There's no cockiness or big heads. It's a product of working hard.

**Anthony:** Where did that attitude come from, though?

**Danny:** I think it started right after we lost in the first round of the playoffs last year. We made an oath to get to work in the off-season. We've just been hungry for a long time.

**Anthony:** I hear that. OK. What are you doing when you're not playing football or studying?

**Danny:** I just hang out. (Smiles.) I just hang out with my friends. I just chill. I get on the PlayStation a little bit. I roll with Maryland on '09.

**Anthony:** (Smiles.) They're not that good on the game.

**Danny:** (Smiles.) I can win with them.

**Anthony:** I bet. Hey, what other high school might you

have gone to if you didn't attend East Forsyth?

**Danny:** I don't even know. Probably like Tabor or something like that. I'm glad I'm at East Forsyth.

**Anthony:** How's your relationship with coach Gould?

**Danny:** We're tight. We go back to like seventh grade basketball. He's real cool. We've been to Brazil together, and all that stuff.

**Anthony:** That's what's up. If you could trade places with anyone who would it be?

**Danny:** Take away the injury and it would probably be Tom Brady. He's my role model.

**Anthony:** How are the ladies treating Danny O'Brien around here?

**Danny:** I've got a girlfriend. She goes to (NC) State. I try to stay low key.

**Anthony:** Who gets more love: the football or soccer players at East?

**Danny:** (Laughs.) Before this year it was the soccer players.

**Anthony:** What type of music do you like to listen to?

**Danny:** Lil' Wayne is my favorite rapper. I listen to everything, though. I listen to everything except extreme country and heavy metal.

**Anthony:** What's your favorite TV show?

**Danny:** SportsCenter.

**Anthony:** Favorite cartoon growing up.

**Danny:** Spiderman.

**Anthony:** If you could date any celebrity who would she be?

**Danny:** (Pause.) That's a tough one. Jessica Simpson. She's fine.

**Anthony:** What's the best part about playing for coach Willert?

**Danny:** He's intense. He stays on you. He never lets you get a big head around him. He's a real humble guy. I just like playing for him.

**Anthony:** OK. Let's finish with free association. Uh, East Forsyth football.

**Danny:** (Smiles.) Hungry.

**Anthony:** Danny O'Brien.

**Danny:** A winner.

**Anthony:** Basketball.

**Danny:** First love.

**Anthony:** Three-pointer.

**Danny:** (Smiles.) My shot.

**Anthony:** 4A State Champs.

**Danny:** East Forsyth.

**Anthony:** Mt. Tabor.

**Danny:** Next opponent.

**Anthony:** (Smiles.) Next victim.

**Danny:** (Smiles.) Best team in Kernersville.

**Anthony:** (Both laugh.) East Forsyth.

## Warthogs, Ernie Shore Field to host auction

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem Warthogs and Ernie Shore Field will host an absolute auction at the ballpark on Saturday at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this special event, as all of the remaining assets in the ballpark will be sold.

After 53 years as the home of professional baseball, Ernie Shore Field will give way to a

new state-of-art stadium in downtown Winston-Salem that is scheduled to open in April of 2009. As a result, all remaining assets associated with the operation of the Winston-Salem Warthogs will be sold.

Among the numerous items available for auction include: all turf equipment (John Deere Gator and John Deere mower), picnic tables, tents, cubicle systems, desks and file cabinets, and all components of three fully fur-

nished restaurants.

All stadium signage including the entrance marquis and thousands of other collectibles such as souvenirs and gift shop items will be available.

For more information or to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, please visit [www.peggauction.com](http://www.peggauction.com) or call 336-996-4414 for additional details and to view photos of the auction items.

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