

RMHS Alumnus Talbott Shines In Shrine Game

By BRUCE GURGANUS

"It makes no difference whether one's team wins or loses; a good athlete should still give everything he has to give at all times. He must sacrifice for the good of his team without consideration for his own pleasures." This statement was made by a well qualified authority on the subject, Danny Talbott.

Danny's athletic career has been personified by adulation and laudation from the time of his record-breaking performances for RMHS to the present, for he will soon make his athletic finale in North Carolina.

Throughout the years at Chapel Hill the publicity and praise have had only beneficial affects on Danny. They have changed the roughness of a small town high school boy into the polished finish of a soon to be professional athlete on the way to eventual success.

Once Lead Blackbirds

While leading the 1962-63 Blackbirds to an unprecedented triple state championship sweep, in football, basketball, and baseball, Danny was a high school all-American in all three sports. When asked how he felt that his years at RMHS had attributed to his college success, he replied, "I feel that RMHS is the finest high school in the state. When I was here the faculty and especially the coaches helped me greatly in my college preparation. Playing on winning teams with a lot of fine athletes also helped me as a college athlete."

He also said that his coaches in high school and college have had a great influence on his life. At Carolina Danny has played quarterback on the football team and first base on the baseball team. During his sophomore year he helped the Tar Heels to an 8-2 season and a victory over the Air Force in the Gator Bowl. Last spring, Talbott was the leading hitter on the Heels baseball team that finished a highly successful season with a berth in the national College World Series. Leading the tough Atlantic Coast Conference in batting and in football in total yards gained, Danny was named athlete of the year

in the ACC. He also won the Teague Award which is annually presented to the outstanding amateur athlete in North Carolina.

He Knows Defeat

The sweet taste of victory is a familiar one to Danny. But he also knows the agony of defeat. This year's football Tar Heels were ranked among the nation's leading teams, but finished with a dismal record of only two wins against eight losses. Danny attributed this poor showing to an unexpected rash of injuries to several key players. Receiving injuries in the Notre Dame and Air Force games, Danny played at top speed in only two games. At the close of the season veteran Tar Heel coach Jim Hickey resigned and was replaced by former assistant coach at Georgia, Bill Dooley. Talbott compared the Tar Heels to this year's Blackbirds in that injuries to some top players completely changed the complexion of the season.

Danny has received many attractive offers and much attention from professional football and baseball teams alike. He has not yet decided on whether to play football or baseball in the pros.

Danny Leads All-Stars

December 31, in San Francisco, Danny electrified a crowd of 56,000 and a national television audience with a dazzling passing shown which spearhead-

ed the East to a 45-22 victory over the West in the annual Shrine charity football game.

Talbott threw three touchdown passes to tie an East-West game record. The three pass plays covered 25 yards to All-American Gene Washington from Michigan State, nine yards to Minnesota's Ken Last, and 14 yards to Michigan's All-American end Jack Clancy. The East had a 17-0 lead at the half and led 31-0 before, the West finally got on the scoreboard.

Connecting on 18 of 24 passing attempts for 212 yards, Danny was named outstanding offensive player of the game. Talbott hit on his first 11 passes and in addition he set up a field goal with a spectacular run. Prior to the All-Star game Danny said that a decision on whether to play professional football could rest on the outcome of this game.

If the outcome of this game is to determine Danny's future, his future should be at least as successful as his many past awards and attributes.

Will Marry In June

Danny recently announced his engagement to Miss Cynthia Bird of Mount Jackson, Virginia. Miss Bird is a sophomore at East Carolina College.

Recently, when Danny received the Atlantic Coast Conference "Athlete of the Year" Award, he made this statement: "I'm sorry I let you down." He



—PHOTO BY KILLEBREW

FORMER RMHS athlete Danny Talbott reminisces about his award-winning performance in the annual East-West Shrine Bowl Game. Danny won the Outstanding Offensive Player Award in this game.

was referring to the past football season and the failure of the Carolina team to establish a winning record. But to his many fans throughout the country Danny needs no apology. Through his great display in the East-West game he proved what he is capable of doing. His tal-

ents were properly recognized when he was named quarterback of the United Press International's All Bowl Team. In this selection Danny was picked above many All-Americans. Perhaps in the long run the real quality and class will show through.

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