

ALL THE WAY CHOO CHOO!



CHARLIE JUSTICE
All America

The American public is constantly choosing an idol in the field of politics, athletics, movies, and what-have-you. The public wants a man to put higher than itself — one to marvel at and to root for when the going gets rough.

Schoolboys in their teens, college students, old folks — they all pick someone that is capable of doing the things they always wanted to do, but could never achieve greatness in. This is the basis of "hero worship" as we know it today.

The most recent object of the public's affections is a native Tar Heel, one we can always be proud of. His name, Charlie Justice, the redoubtable Choo Choo.

Charlie, a quiet, serious, young man from Biltmore in Western North Carolina, achieved initial fame as an All Southern halfback on the powerhouse Asheville high school teams in the early 40's.

Shortly after his graduation from Asheville High, Justice answered the call to colors, was sent to Bainbridge Naval Training Station and proceeded to share the Naval headlines with Nimitz and Halsey.

The war over, Justice was flooded with professional football offers and scholarship offers from over 20 of the nation's leading colleges and universities. He turned down all pro football bids, cast aside all but one of his many collegiate offers and enrolled in his own state university along with his wife, the former Sarah Hunter of Asheville.

This was one of his first acts that caused Tar Heels from Manteo to Murphey to swell their chests with pride over the favorite "native son." Many other things followed to make the Old North State justly proud of the young man that the entire nation was to adopt as its "hero."

Justice gained All America honors for four consecutive years while wearing the

blue and white of the University, was hailed as one of the greatest players in the history of the game, and received a national buildup, the likes of which would put Hollywood to shame. Through it all, he was the same Charlie.

He gave unselfishly of his time and efforts, helping charitable organizations put over big campaigns, appearing at civic and club affairs throughout the state, and making personal appearances at numerous banquets held in his honor throughout the state and nation.

He read the thousands of inches of magazine and newsprint that admiring newsmen reeled off about him, listened while they debunked him when Lady Luck dealt him one off the bottom, and then came back like a champion to prove that he was still All America in anybody's book.

More than this, however, he was All America in the hearts of his fellowmen. He won the approval of critics and old friends alike. He never lost his head, never placed himself above his teammates and friends, and never lost sight of the fact that he owed thanks to the many people who helped him reach the pinnacle of success.

Today Justice ends his active football career. He has turned thumbs down on professional football. He played his final regular season game for Carolina against the University of Virginia back in November, bowed out of Carolina football for good earlier this week in the Cotton Bowl, and now comes up to his final collegiate battle in Jacksonville's first annual Senior Bowl game.

It has been a long and glowing career for Justice, one that he and the nation can never forget. With this in mind, we, the merchants of Chapel Hill and Carrboro bid Charlie goodbye and wish him well in whatever endeavor he decides to undertake after graduation in June. This issue of the Daily Tar Heel is dedicated to him.

this tribute is given by the following merchants

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