

DAVID CANARY

David Canary is a quintessential hometown boy-makes-good story. An undersized over-achiever who becomes a football All-American and a multi-Emmy award-winning actor.

And through all the years of fortune and fame, Canary has stayed connected with his hometown—and its people—who relish the successes of their hometown heroes.

Through the years Canary has made a habit of returning home, whether it's for a

theatre performance, a class reunion, or to visit his father. He acknowledges the importance of the values he learned

while growing up in Massillon.

“The values were learned there,” Canary said of Massillon. “In my business I meet a lot of people who have wealth, some of them are genuinely sophisticated, worldly people. They’ve

been all over the world, they speak four languages. They’ve gone to Harvard, they’ve gone to the eastern establishment schools,



David Canary.

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they've gone to school in Paris. I meet people like this on a fairly regular basis. They talk to me and say, 'You're a nice guy.'

"That nice guy came from Massillon. If I was from somewhere else I would have been a different person. And I'm real glad it's the way it is. I think values and that common touch are something Massillon taught me. The people in Massillon are as good as anybody anywhere in the world. That's why I like it. I feel like David Canary from Massillon every day of my life.

"The values that were instilled in us in Massillon..."

Canary reflected, "I couldn't possibly enjoy something that I felt I hadn't earned—and certainly not if I cheated to get it or bent the rules somehow. The values I learned in Massillon were that I want to earn something or I don't feel it is mine. And I think that's a

good thing. I think that keeps the playing field level and the game interesting.

"My closest friends that I've developed through life

are my friends from Massillon High School. I don't have those feelings about the University of Cincinnati, I haven't maintained any friends there.

"The fact that the town has something to rally behind,

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something as clean and fair as football is. To have that be the rallying cry. That gets the people out and gets them together. It affects everything else in that school. Everyone else has a standard of excellence to which they aspire.

“ T h e Massillon football team infects and invades the whole town. If there were not something like that team, it would be a

different place to live. It affects so many kids at a very early age. That spirit is there. Everybody wants to be as good as they can be. I don't think there's anything at the school level that's quite as all-pervasive as an athletic program. In terms of the

town and the school. It's in the papers. It's something that everybody can get behind and root for. If you lose, the world doesn't come to an end, but you don't *want* to do that. You can have a wonderful mathematics program, you can have the best math

teachers in the state or country, but it doesn't have the same pizzazz to it that a football team will. And for that reason it's good press.

It's all pervasive, it's everywhere, it's good. I like it.

“I like going back. If I say 'home', I'm usually talking about Massillon. I have a very, very strong feeling about Massillon. A lot of people do.”

“It was always a tremendous challenge to me. I was always one of the smallest guys on the team...”

David Canary

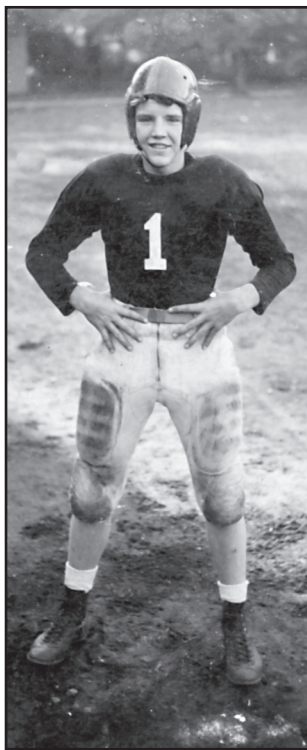
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Canary first gained notoriety while playing football for the Massillon Tigers, but it's his work as an actor that has brought him nationwide fame. Canary's credits include Broadway theatre, Hollywood movie roles, a starring role in the legendary western TV series *Bonanza*, and his signature dual roles of Adam and Stuart Chandler in the soap opera *All My Children*. Canary has won six Emmy awards and 16 Emmy award nominations as Outstanding Lead Actor.

Surprisingly, Canary's success on the gridiron seems

rooted in insecurity. He describes himself as an "undersized" and "slow" football player. But his gridiron achievements offer a more flattering biography. He was an All-Ohio end in high school and a scholastic All-American end at the University of Cincinnati.

At Massillon, Canary and Jim Houston were arguably the greatest defensive end tandem in school history.



David Canary, 1950.

"That's what they've said," Jim Houston said with a laugh. "Dave and I, we took a lot of pride. I was a little bigger than he was, I