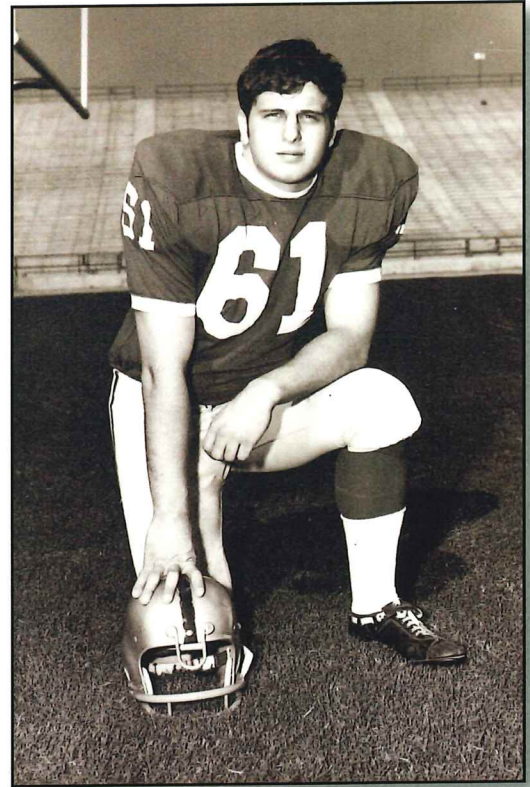


DON ALEXANDER

DON ALEXANDER PLAYED FOOTBALL AT CARBON HILL HIGH SCHOOL 1963 THROUGH 1966.

Don played offensive guard and linebacker. After his 9th grade year playing JV ball he moved to varsity. As a 10th grader he was assigned the role as second string behind a senior considered to be one of the toughest players on the team. That was not acceptable. Don challenged the senior in a one-on-one drill. The coach let them go at it over and over again. When the skirmish was done. Don was moved to a position on the first string. In the three years Don played he was awarded recognition as all county twice, all conference twice, all state twice and selected honorable mention All American by the Coach and Athlete Magazine in 1966. Don also played in the Alabama State All-Star game in 1967.



Don was awarded a scholarship to Kansas State University. He followed Coach Jerry Elliot who left Auburn to be Defensive Coordinator at KSU. Immediately after signing Don went to Manhattan, Kansas where he assisted in helping recruit additional players to KSU. He recruited players from Alabama, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. One player made a condition of signing that Don would be his roommate. Don played exclusively defense at KSU. He lettered 3 years at Kansas State playing as linebacker and nose guard.

Don credits three people, all coaches, for his success. First coach L.C. Fowler who did so much for Don promoting his football career. Coach Fowler spent a lot of effort calling college recruiters and sending film to schools. Every weekend there was another college to visit. Coach Fowler even arranged for a part-time job for Don. The second was Coach Doug Key. Coach Key took Don into his home when his family relocated to Ohio. Coach Key and his wife provided room and board, making it possible for Don to remain in Carbon Hill and have a college career. The third was Coach Jerry Elliot. Coach Elliot was responsible for bringing Don to Kansas State. Coach Elliot provided guidance and support both on and off the field.

Don graduated KSU and worked as manager with Kmart for years. After leaving Kmart Don took a position as Executive Director of the Crossville Housing Authority. In his time in the affordable housing world, Don grew the housing authority from serving 300 families to serving 1250 families. He started several nonprofit organizations. Don served on the board of numerous other nonprofits. Don founded the Tennessee Statewide Affordable Housing Coalition. He was recognized by the Tennessee Housing Development Agency on several occasions. July 19th, 2007 was proclaimed Don Alexander Day in Cumberland County, Tennessee, for his many years of exemplary work locally and across Tennessee. In 2016 Don was elected to the Tennessee Affordable Housing Hall of Fame.

Don recognizes his teammates and classmates from Carbon Hill High as having a profound positive influence on his life. Many of those classmates still are in close contact today. No one had a better friend than Bobby Noles and other classmates from CHHS.

Don is married and has 3 children and 9 grandchildren. Don makes his home in Crossville, Tennessee.