

Matheson Is Interested In Playing Pro Football

By LONNIE FALK

RALEIGH (UPI)—While Duke faces a job Saturday against Notre Dame as hard as Custer did at Little Big Horn and with very similar results likely, one Blue Devil has a good chance of making an impression where it counts.

Blue Devil linebacker Bob Matheson, who practically won the game for Duke against the Navy last weekend, will be one player who can do nothing but benefit from the national spotlighting of the game Saturday at South Bend.

Matheson is hailed as one of the top prospects in the ACC for post-year honors and a nice pro contract. His play at Navy shows why he is rated so highly.

Matheson made 24 tackles in the Navy game. Five of those tackles were solo jobs and 19 were helped by other Blue Devil teammates.

The Boone native also blocked a Middie punt and then kicked the winning field goal from 21 yards out to snap a four-game losing streak for Duke.

Matheson wants to play pro ball and he does not care where.

"I'm not associated with any team, living here in North Carolina, but I sure would like to play for someone," he says. "I don't care who drafts me as long as someone does."

Although Matheson won the Navy game with his toe, he never kicked until he got to Duke.

"I was a fullback in high



BOB MATHESON
... Duke linebacker ...

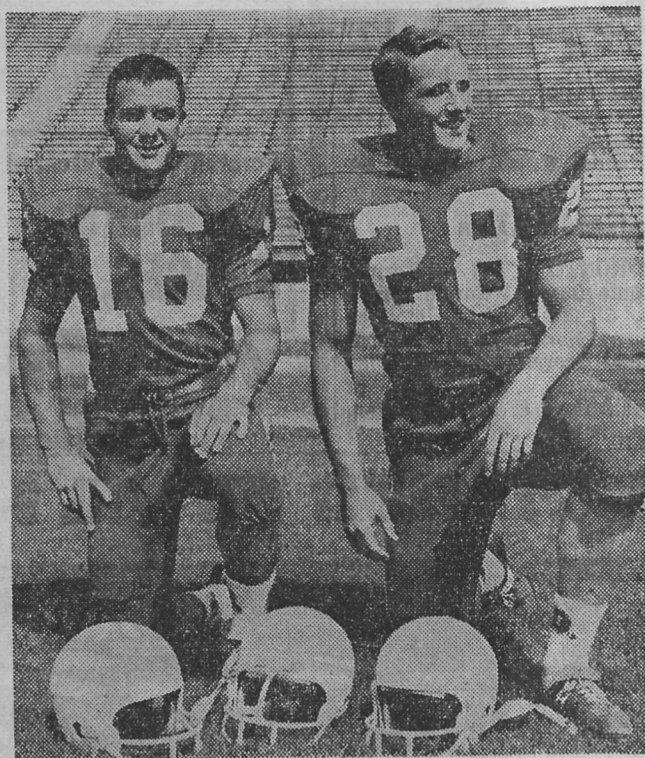
school and we never kicked extra points," he said. "We didn't do any place kicking in high

school either, but I did kick off twice."

Although the 230-pound Matheson likes to score on place kicks, he gets his biggest thrill from backing the line and stopping opposing backs.

"My favorite play is the isolation play," he says. The isolation comes when the team on offense sets up its blocking so a runner and a defensive back meet in a one-on-one situation with no one else to bother them. A sort of duel between two players.

"I just go in there and hit him," Matheson says. "I get a good lick on him and try as hard as possible to get him down." As Duke's opponents will tell you, Matheson does this par excellence.



Determined to play well against North Carolina at Chapel Hill Saturday afternoon are Duke co-captains Mike Shasby, left, and Bob Matheson.