A-A Honors for Strock?

College football odds 'n ends:

Don Strock has, at best, a very slim outside chance of winning the Heisman Trophy, a piece of hardware he insisted, "I'm not even thinking about."

The Virginia Tech quarterback does, however, rate at least an even bet to win first-team All-American honors, and as for the Heisman, given annually to the best college football player in the country, he said with a wry grin that "I'll take it if they give it to me."

The 6-5 senior from Warwick, Pa., national leader in passing and total offense, steps into the national spotlight tomorrow afternoon in Tuscaloosa when he throws against unbeaten and second-ranked Alabama. Strock said he is "in pretty good shape" as he prepares to face the rush of what Alabama publicists have termed "The Redwood Forest." Said Strock, "I've got a couple of bruised ribs and I'm stiff every Sunday, but aches and pains don't seem to bother me during a game."

Tech president T. Marshall Hahn, who in the past has shown no hesitancy in predicting glorious things for Hokie football, is making no forecasts for the Alabama game. "You'll get no prediction from me," said Hahn, "other than that I predict we will play very hard and that I'll be there cheering for Tech."

Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant said this Tide team has more talent and depth than the 1971 unit which finished the regular season 11-0. And since the Tide is engaged in a poll battle with Southern Cal for the No. 1

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Continued from 1st Sports Page ranking, Tech defensive coordinator George McKinney said, "I'm sure they'll try to beat us as bad as they can."

And speaking of bad, the Alabama sports publicity office purely bollixed up a quote from Tech coach Charlie Coffey on the subject of Alabama. Coffey said, "There ain't no horse that can't be rode and there ain't no rider that can't be thrown." After the Tide drumbeaters got through, it came out, "There ain't no horse that can't be roped and there ain't no hoss that can't be ridden."