

Lucas Black

The Decatur-born *NCIS: New Orleans* actor reminisces about sports, nature, and barbecue

BY BEKAH WRIGHT ■ PHOTOGRAPH BY NINO MUÑOZ/CBS

Any favorite Alabama locales? I love the terrain, especially areas like William B. Bankhead National Forest and Lewis Smith Lake. My family lived 30 minutes north of that lake, so most weekends, you'd find us camping and fishing there.

What are some fond memories of Alabama? Playing sports—baseball, football, and basketball. There's nothing like being in a gymnasium with a packed crowd, especially for basketball tournaments in Moulton, which were a big deal.

Where do you stand on Alabama football? Crimson Tide! Last year, my wife took me to the Iron Bowl for my birthday. That was my first time inside the stadium watching the Iron Bowl. Usually, I'm outside tailgating with friends over good food.

Do you crave specific Alabama foods? Chief and Snoogie's Hickory Pit, a barbecue stand in Lawrence County. I'm a big fan of the pulled pork and the ribs.

What does Alabama signify for you? It's the foundation of my character and a big reason for my success. Growing up in a Christian family in the Bible Belt, my upbringing was based in Southern hospitality—being kind and generous to all, putting other people first, and making them feel at home in our state.

Check out Lucas Black as Special Agent Christopher LaSalle in *NCIS: New Orleans* on CBS.

To read an extended version of this interview, visit AAA.com/alabamians.

