

## 'It's to Sam that David turns first whenever there's some crisis in his life...

A good-looking lad is Sam. David has written: "Our friendship started off just like any other friendship between schoolkids. We played baseball and football together. In the end, we'd go down on the beach and just goof around together. We'd go out surfing, and we'd ride our bikes for miles, just discovering the places near where we lived. In the end, you get to know a guy like that as well as you know yourself."

And Sam has seen David cry... with despair when things are getting just a bit too tough, and with happiness when it's all going much too well!

And Sam stands taller by an inch or so than David, and he has this deep-engrained tan and he has brown hair and he says: "I honestly don't think even now that David knows just what's happened to him in such a short time. We met when we were thirteen. He had this slight show-off tendency, like he wanted to entertain people, but was often likely to overdo it."

"Now we get into an airport and there are maybe thirty THOUSAND fans there and we wonder about it all. Him more than me. They're not shouting and screaming for ME. But I'm always being asked whether he's got big-time through all this adulation. Well, I can place hand on heart and I can say that there's very little difference in the basic David. But he

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sure has matured a lot. I guess that one year at the top in the music business can be the equivalent of ten years in some pokey old office, but David maintains his terrific confidence and drive, but keeps his ego hidden away right there, out of sight.

"When I first realized that he was going to make it big, I made deliberate steps to stay out of his way. I didn't want to be any kind of influence, but I for sure did want our friendship to stay just as it was."

"It was only when he wanted me to start travelling around with him that I entered his professional life. If anybody thought I was the type to cash in on him, to ride along on his bandwagon, well... I'd be real upset. But what we have going for each other is a kind of mutual respect and... just call it real friendship."

It's to Sam that David turns whenever there is some kind of crisis in his life. It's to Sam that David outlines what he plans to do, so he can hear anything that might turn the whole project sour.

Journalists who talk to David are amazed at how well he copes with the pressures of fame and fortune. Part of that coping comes from remaining friendly with old-time friends like Sam. And David himself says: "I have never, in my earlier days, even imagined that things could turn out like this. But you learn to

