

Scaps

Texan big on Days role

Jensen Ackles is the epitome of Lone Star Texan. Ackles, who isn't quite ready on *Days Of Our Lives*, knows his horse all right, but he would much rather be reuniting a girl. He finds it hard — really impossible — in Los Angeles.

The prerequisites are also must be a Dallas Cowboys fan. Must like fishing and hangin' out. And must like to ride horses and listen to country music.

Call me crazy, but I would love a girl who can ride a horse. I even moved near the equestrian center.

Ackles is a native of Richardson, near Dallas, and intends to hang on to his Texas roots. "I have too many not to," he explains. "I have two roommates from Texas; they're both high school buddies. We have Texas flags all over the place. We have a really easy case of Texas pride."

"I love Dallas. I miss it tremendously. L.A. is so big; it's so crowded."

What he really misses is the cooking back home.

The chili and barbecue just don't cut it in L.A. "If I go to a restaurant in L.A.," he complains, "they're 'Texan style' and I know it's not going to be as good as it is back home. It never is, but I still have to order it."

Back home in the Lone Star state, he grew up the middle child in a tight-knit family. His father is an actor who does commercials in Dallas. His mother is a housewife and seamstress. Ackles, who turned 20 on March 1, has a 20-year-old brother and 13-year-old sister.

He claims he didn't really want to be an actor. He just kinda moved along into it.


"I wasn't one of those guys who has wanted to be an actor all his life. Even after I got a few jobs, I wasn't sure. I know that's odd, but that's me. I've always been a bit with the unusual kind of guy. You know, whatever..."

Ackles auditioned for *Days* after the cancellation of *9½ Weeks*, the sitcom in which he costarred. He took it in stride. After all, he'd also appeared in the syndicated teen show *Severely Tally Ho!* and had a guest shot on *OH! My God!* as her godson, and then nothing. *Days* was his.

"I was like, 'Okay, sure what?' " he thinks. "I'm going to stick around for a little while longer. If something comes along great. If not, I'm not going to sit out here and wait my life out so I would've gotten the audition for *Days* a few months after *9½ Weeks*. I learned, 'Okay, cool, but I don't fear for two weeks. I was thinking, 'Well, damn, that I could always go back to Texas and go to school.'"

He'd always be welcome. His family has always been supportive. "They briefed me big time when I moved to L.A.," he allows. "It was kind of like, 'Look out for that. Mom was a little nervous and Dad was a little concerned, but they knew it was something I wanted to do. So my grandmother packed up a whole lot of cookies and my dad and I packed up all my stuff and we just drove out to L.A. in my '88 Pontiac.'"

Now if only his grandmother could send him some of that genuine Texas chili and barbecue.



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