

ROBERT CLEMENTS

ROBERT WAS BORN TO THE LATE WILLIE AND EUNICE CLEMENTS ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1957. ROBERT GREW UP IN THE

Townley community and would become another in a long list of great Tiger basketball players. While he was in junior high, the Tigers made the county championship game two times, finishing first in 1971 and runner-up in 1972. After his freshman year, Robert went on to Carbon Hill to play for the Bulldogs. According to Coach Bruce Handley, Robert was ready to participate with the varsity team as a sophomore but in the end, he decided to leave him with the junior varsity to get more experience. Robert rewarded this decision by helping Carbon Hill's Junior Varsity win the County Championship in 1973. The following season, as a junior, Robert was ready for the varsity stage and he did not disappoint. His top performance was in a game against Hamilton, where he scored 34 points and brought down 20 rebounds. In the County Tournament, Robert poured in 24 and 25 points as Carbon Hill eased by Martin and Curry to set up the championship game with a great Oakman team. With under a minute to play and to preserve a 62-61 victory, Robert hit a short jumper and had a key defensive steal. Robert's performance netted him the MVP and the Bulldogs were 24-4 going into the area tournament. Although, just prior to the tournament, 2 other key players were unable to play due to illness and injury, Carbon Hill was upset despite Robert tossing in 32 points. Robert's senior year in 1975 was one of the best ever for anyone who ever wore the Bulldog uniform. Early in the season, Robert's 16 points, the final ones at the buzzer, along with 24 rebounds, secured a win over Hamilton. His best outing occurred against Walker, where he scored 33 points and grabbed 27 rebounds in a win for the Bulldogs. Carbon Hill met Oakman again in the County Championship game and Robert was held to 16 points, but the Bulldogs still managed to get the championship win. The Area Tournament began with a bang as Robert tossed in 23 points for the Bulldog victory over Fayette. Despite foul trouble and playing a great Russellville team, Robert led the Bulldogs with 22 points to almost pull the upset in the area championship game. Individually, he averaged 23 points and 17 rebounds per game and was awarded All Tournament at Hamilton, All WAC Conference, All County, All 3A Area 15, and All State by the *Birmingham Post Herald*. After being recruited by many teams, Roberts chose to take his basketball skills to Jacksonville State. Robert lettered all four seasons with the Gamecocks and was again, an all-star performer by being voted to the All Gulf South Conference team on 2 occasions. In the 1977 season, Robert grabbed 32 rebounds against Shorter University, which is still a school record. Robert completed his career at Jacksonville and was ranked as the 4th all-time leading scorer with 1,355 points, the 3rd all-time leading rebounder with 1,179 rebounds and the 3rd all-time in field goals made. Robert graduated from Jacksonville where he spent a few years as an assistant coach. He then went to coach at the high school level at Curry and Fairfield. Unfortunately, Robert's career was cut short by his sudden passing in 1995.

