

## BOBBY RUSSELL

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**B** **OB**BY WAS BORN IN 1946 IN CORDOVA, ALABAMA, TO P.C. AND WILLIE RUSSELL. HIS

family including brothers, Bruce and Jimmy, and sister, Mary, have always been a huge influence on his life. His mother still lives in Cordova at age 95. He attended Cordova High School from 1960-1964 and played football, basketball, track and baseball. His football team was state champions in 1963 and he was selected to the *Birmingham News* All-State team at running back.

After graduation from high school, he attended Florence State University playing football from 1964-1968 and lettering his last three years. His senior year he was selected All-Conference as defensive back.

After graduation from Florence State University in 1968 with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry, he was employed as assistant football coach at Emma Sansom High School with head coach Don Bulger. He only worked until December due to being drafted into the U.S. Army. He served in Vietnam as an interrogator of prisoners of war and received two Bronze Stars.

After leaving the army, he began his career in coaching and entered graduate school at the University of North Alabama where he worked as a football graduate assistant. He coached high school football for ten years - five years as assistant coach and five years as head coach - at Emma Sansom High School, Muscle Shoals High School, Cordova High School, and Central of Florence High School.

After coaching he worked in school administration as assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and the last eight years before retirement as superintendent of Gadsden City Schools - a total of thirty-eight years in education.

He says that the best thing in his life is his family. Martha, his wife of forty-six years, and his children: Robin (Scott Coleman), Mandi (Chris Cooper), and Blake (Susan Jordan Russell) with his eight grandchildren make his life complete and happy.

