

HOSEA COLLINS

HOSEA COLLINS WAS BORN NOVEMBER 4, 1933, TO HOSEA DEAN AND BIDDIE BROCK COLLINS IN FAYETTE COUNTY, ALABAMA.

Collins began his coaching career in 1959 at Carbon Hill High School. He served as assistant football coach and head B-Team basketball coach. While at Carbon Hill, Collins developed a friendship with former Alabama basketball coach, Wimp Sanderson.

He left Carbon Hill after one season to take his first head football coaching position at Palmetto High School in Pickens County. Following his first year at the school, Collins was named "Coach of the Year" in the West Central Athletic Association.

Collins left Palmetto in 1962 to accept the head football coaching position at Oakman High School. His record during this first stint at Oakman was 41-15-1. Collins was selected "Coach of the Year" in 1965 and 1966, as well as the *Daily Mountain Eagle* "Coach of the Year" in 1965 and 1967. The Oaman Wildcats were Wal-Win Champions in 1966 and 1967. Collins also served as basketball coach in 1962 and the Wildcats won the Wal-Win Championship in basketball.

Collins left Oakman to return to Carbon Hill in 1968. In five years, Collins compiled a record of 27-22-1. He was selected the West Alabama Conference "Coach of the Year" in 1969.

After five years, he left to take over as head football coach at Fayette County High School. In 1977, Collins was selected "Coach of the Year" by both the conference and *The Tuscaloosa News*.

Collins returned to Oakman in 1982 as head football coach. His record during this stretch was 55-33. Coach Collins was selected as the *Daily Mountain Eagle* "Coach of the Year" in 1984 and again in 1989. In 1989, the Wildcats were the Class A Area 11 champions.

He retired from Oakman and accepted a head coaching position in Georgia. Prior to Collins' arrival, the school had not won a game in several years. Collins led them to several wins before permanently retiring.

In 2007, Oakman High School's stadium was named in his honor. Coach Collins retired as the winningest Coach in Oakman football history.

Coach Collins passed away November 16, 2007, in Nauvoo, Alabama. He was married to Sarah Louise Gay, who passed away in 2003. He also had a son, Hosea Dean Collins, who passed away in 2015. He is survived by sons, Dale Collins and Dennis Collins.

