

RONNIE SHAW

RONNIE WAS BORN MAY 7, 1955, TO VERNON AND GAYE SHAW. HE WAS THE YOUNGEST OF 3

children born to a tall father, and it was evident from an early age that he was destined to be a basketball player. During his junior high career, he was coached by three distinguished coaches: Lelton Grey, Pat Upton, and James Fowler. They won two consecutive Walker County Tournaments, but then were not allowed to compete after that. Ronnie was blessed to play for two more outstanding coaches at Walker High School; Herman Davis and legendary Coach Herbert Greene, of Columbus College. The 1972-73 Walker team was considered one of Coach Greene's and Walker's best ever. Ronnie was selected as All-County and All-District his senior year.

After high school, Ronnie was recruited by several colleges, but chose to play for legendary Walker College Coach Glen Clem. At this time Walker College was the third best basketball program in the state of Alabama, behind only Alabama and Auburn. The Rebels were plagued with injuries his freshman year and by the Christmas break, they were starting 5 freshmen, yet they still won the Northern Division before losing to a red hot Alabama Christian team that played in the finals of the National Tournament. Ronnie led the Rebels in rebounding both his freshman and sophomore years, as well as, averaging 12 points per game over his career.

After Walker College, he attended the University of Alabama majoring in Real Estate Finance. Upon graduation, he returned to Jasper to work for First Federal Savings & Loan, now Pinnacle Bank, where he was a real estate appraiser for 40 years. Ronnie has been everything with Walker College: a kid, a fan, a player, a TV and radio announcer, and an assistant coach. He and Karen remain life-long fans and supporters of Walker College. Ronnie says the only thing he has not done is officiate a game, and that might be a problem with opposing teams. He is married to the former Karen Tate of Jasper.

