

RONNIE MAY

RONNIE MAY WAS BORN TO HUBERT AND GERTIE MAY IN 1944, IN DORA, ALABAMA.

Ronnie grew up in the Morgan Chapel community of East Walker County.

Ronnie attended Dora High School where he was a varsity star in both football and basketball. As a senior in 1963, he was named captain of the football team, All-County Football, All-State Football, All-American Football, and to the Daily Mountain Eagle Walker County Dream Team. In addition, Ronnie was a three year starter in basketball. He was a six-foot center for the bulldogs where he was recognized as a top rebounder in the area. He averaged 14 rebounds per game and had 18 against Curry in one stand-out tournament game. May lettered for three years in both sports.

Coach Wallace Reid called Ronnie a “do it all” for Dora High School. May was the punter, kick-off specialist, offensive tackle, running back, and occasionally threw the ball in the passing game. On the defensive side of the ball, he was one of the most feared linebackers around, defending passes and being involved in tackling every ball carrier that came in his direction.

When May was a senior, Walker County Hall of Famer, Coach David Campbell, was a sophomore. Campbell recalls May as being “big and could move, and would knock you plum out of your shoes.” Campbell relays that while playing football at Auburn, he did not encounter a single player more tough or impressive than his Dora High teammate, Ronnie May. He further stated that May was an example to him and helped him during his years at Auburn.

After high school, Ronnie May responded to the call of duty and enlisted in the military. During his military training, he was recognized as the top trainee in his group. Ronnie was sent to Vietnam in January, 1966. In January, 1967, he returned home to the USA with an honorable discharge. He was awarded the Grateful Appreciation Award by the Disabled American Veterans in sincere appreciation for his valuable and devoted service and performance of duty while serving. With regard to May’s military service, Coach David Campbell stated, “I went to Auburn and became an All-American; Ronnie May went to Vietnam, and in my eyes, became a greater All-American.”

After his military service, May worked in the coal fields and spent a lot of time playing softball. Softball was a huge pastime in the seventies and eighties and Ronnie played on one of his all-time favorite teams, Green Top, coached by Preston and Richard Headrick. In 1979, they won both the district and state championships in Class A Softball.

Ronnie May still resides in Walker County, Alabama. He has two daughters, Shante’ Miller and Amy (Chad) Chandler. His daughter, Shante’, has given him two grandchildren, Christian Lieger and Jessie Miller.

