

Former basketball star returns home

5/29/97

By Worthy Evans
Staff Writer

Former University of South Carolina basketball star Ronnie Collins is back in his native Winnsboro.

Collins moved back home in February after leaving for the University of South Carolina in 1960 and living in Fayetteville, N.C. for over 20 years.

"I'm happy to be back here, to the best town in South Carolina," he said at the Fairfield County Gamecock Club meeting recently. "It's great to be in the same room full of Gamecock fans for a change."

Collins attended the meeting at the Old Armory with several other USC basketball standouts.

"Scotty Ward could dribble like Bob Cousy and was 86 percent on the free throw line, which isn't too shabby," he said. "Jimmy Collins had the quickest first step in basketball and averaged 17 points per game."

Ward, of Valparaiso, Ind., was a co-captain on the 1963 team.

"I used to come down from Winnsboro to see him play," Collins said. "He had an



Gamecock stars of the 1950s and 1960s, including Grady Wallace, Scotty Ward, Ronnie Collins, Bob Haney and Jimmy Collins met

again at the Fairfield Gamecock Club meeting at the Old Armory recently.

Photo/WORTHY EVANS

who played baseball as well as basketball, Ronnie Collins said.

"Not only is he in the S.C. State Basketball Hall of

nation's leading scorer in the 1956-57 season, averaging 23 points per game.

Wallace, Who Collins said was the best basketball

at Mt. Zion. As a quarterback, he led the Institute to a 13-0 season in 1959 with 26 touchdown passes.

As a catcher on the baseball

per game in his three-year career with the Gamecocks,

averaging 23.7 points in his 1963-64 senior season.

That year he