



F-I-R-E-D!

Tom Collins speaks out about his departure

by Ben Goff
News Editor

The recent and sudden firing of AD Tom Collins has left many wondering just what happened. This week I sat down with the former AD at his home to talk about why he was fired and what he plans to do now.

The Clarion: What were the reasons for your dismissal from the Athletic Director position?

Tom Collins: "It was a power struggle between myself and [the administration] over financial aid [for student

athletes] and recruitment... I felt like because we didn't meet our enrolment goals this year... they were unfairly making athletics the scapegoat, and that really became a point of contention."

"In a meeting [with President Van Horn to discuss financial aid for student athletes on Wed. Oct 17] things got tense. I rose to leave and the president said that if I opened the door I'd be fired. I opened the door. I was fired"

"I knew when I left the office that I was fired. I realized that and I made that decision...It was a legitimate decision on

the president's part. I support the president. I don't necessarily agree with him, but I support him." Collins described to me how there had been building tensions between himself and administrators, with several volatile meetings leading up to his being fired. In one meeting with administrators he stated that he "...acted rudely. I shouldn't have done it, it was childish, it was inappropriate... I get very passionate [about my job], and sometimes when things get heated I get testy and agitated and can seem aggressive or rude."

Clarion: Is it true that campus security was called to remove you from campus?

TC: "I heard the president say 'Call security' to Cherie [the president's assistant] as I left his office... Stan [Jacobsen] came by... my office. He asked me to leave, so I just went home."

Clarion: How did you react to this sudden firing?

TC: "F-I-R-E-D! Frustrated – Insecure – Resentful – Empty – Depressed. Those are the

See Collins, Page 3

Final Home Game



photo by J. Billingsley



photo by J. Billingsley

(Left) Derek Church runs through the Catawba defense. (Right) John Taylor hurdles a Catawba defender for a touchdown. The football team played their final home game last Saturday, falling to Catawba 56-21. The final game of the season will be this Saturday at Newberry.

What's Inside?

News.....	2
Sports.....	6
Opinion.....	10
Arts & Life.....	11
Costner.....	14
Lifestyles.....	15
Class.	16