

Former football player writes book on USC life

By ERIKA JOHNSON

Former USC halfback Alex Hawkins hasn't written "another one of those boring, hum-drum, as-told-to books about a sports person," the author said.

My Story (And I'm Sticking To It) has no sex, drugs or violence," Hawkins said.

Nor is it a "kiss and tell" book, he said. "It is humorous, easy reading about a football person whose purpose is to entertain."

Hawkins will be autographing books in the University Bookstore in Russell House from 2 to 3 p.m. today.

My Story begins at birth; well, actually a little before birth. But have no fear. This is no tedious, lengthy family history. Hawkins tells of the West Virginian coal-mining life, how his dad, Catfish, "danced away" the family inheritance, and how his mom, Big Lou, handled the family finances.

Hawkins started his tough guy life at the eight-year-old "Junior Enforcer" on the block. He beat up kids who got out of line, but he admits he hates to fight. After a fight he always went somewhere to cry.

At South Charleston High School in West Virginia, Hawkins lettered in basketball, baseball, track and football.

When he was a senior at the

All-Star football game, USC recruiter Ernie Lawhorn told Hawkins that he was to find the two best halfbacks he could. He said he had already "signed the best halfback in the nation, a boy named King Dixon."

In August of 1955, Hawkins became the second-best halfback and signed to play for South Carolina on full scholarship, \$15 a month for laundry and other enticing violations.

"I wasn't quite sure what a Gamecock was, but I was ready to become one," he recalled.

He encouraged the use of the forward pass in the 1958 season, but an end of the season loss to Maryland kept the Gamecocks out of the Orange Bowl. In protest, Hawkins stopped going to class.

After the final game, he came back to his dorm to find his bags packed, and due to excessive absences, he was no longer a student.

In December 1958 Hawkins was signed to the Green Bay Packers and during the preseason was traded to the World Champion Baltimore Colts. From there, Hawkins goes on to describe the hectic, demanding and sometimes comical life of a professional football player.

Hawkins' description of 1950's life at USC is only one-third of the book.



"An Innocent Man"

On parole, Jimmie (Tom Selleck) decides to settle an old score with Mike Parnell (David Rasche), one of the crooked cops who put him behind bars for three unnecessary years. The Touchstone Pictures release opens today in Columbia at the Movies at Polo Road and Bush River Mall. It is rated R.

'Tartuffe' not great, but performers are

By ROBERT THOMAS

Carolina Life Editor

The USC production of Moliere's *Tartuffe* showcased some excellent student actors, but the play itself does not deserve a standing ovation.

Tartuffe's plot develops in the courtyard of a New Orleans family in the 19th century, where there is the typical villain entering the storyline as well as other stereotypical characters to the period.

Melanie Parrent's portrayal of the sassy, high-spirited Dorine was captivating. Parrent's sarcastic lines spoken directly to the audience added enormously to the character's scheming and conniving.

Portraying his character with loveable but sometimes phony mannerisms, Dale Simonton played his father role comedically and enthusiastically.

Simonton tries to "marry" off his daughter, Mariane (Lisa Rhoden) to Tartuffe, helping propel the storyline toward mass confusion.

Rhoden appropriately displayed the irritatingly perfect daughter, helping to show her character's naivete. Her facial expressions throughout the production were unsurpassed.

The villain, Jan Notzon as Tartuffe, occasionally overdramatized his character, but gave an overall

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excellent performance.

The most humorous — and explicit — scene in the production involved Robin Edwards as Elmire, Simonton and Tartuffe in a scene that amused as well as shocked the audience with the sexual overtures that persisted throughout the story.

Edwards' dialect added to her character's uniqueness, and her appearances in the play made for some of the play's most entertaining scenes.

The cast seemed to overcome any complexities of performing with the audience sitting around it rather than in front of it.

The set was an excellent creation with a mixture of the ornate and simple. The weeping willow over the set and the reflecting pool with live fish inside gave it a realistic touch.

Tartuffe continues tonight and Saturday night at 8 with the final performance on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Longstreet Theater. Tickets are \$5 for students and may be reserved by calling 777-2551.

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