

Wade Leads HHS Hall Class

HARRISONBURG — Former NFL offensive lineman **John Wade** leads the 10-member Harrisonburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame class of 2011.

Wade, a 1993 HHS graduate, was an all-state football player for the Blue Streaks and spent 12 seasons in the NFL, playing for the Jacksonville Jaguars, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Oakland Raiders after helping Marshall to the 1996 Division I-AA national title.

Joining Wade in HHS's fourth Hall of Fame class are **Don Burgess Sr., Don Burgess Jr., George Kostis, Patrick McNelis, Sam Mitchell, Joey Morris, Valerie Sampson, Weldon "Dutch" Simmons** and **JJ Updike**.

Don Burgess Sr. — who graduated from Lucy Simms in 1964 — was a member of the 1962 state championship team. Don Burgess Jr. (class of 1990) played three years of basketball at HHS before continuing his career at Radford, where he finished second on the Highlanders' career scoring list. He's now Bridgewater College's basketball coach.

Kostis (1978) was a two-time state champion wrestler. He also wrestled at Appalachian State.



McNelis (1986) starred in football, basketball and track before playing football at Air Force, later becoming an F-15 pilot.

Mitchell has spent 32 years as an HHS coach. He's been the head softball coach and an assistant for football, wrestling and baseball.

Morris (1976) starred in football, wrestling and track. He went on to pole vault at Virginia Tech.

Sampson (1981) is HHS's career rebounding leader with 1,006. She ran track at the University of Virginia.

Simmons (1947) was a three-year starter on HHS football teams that won half-state championships in 1943 and 1944. He served in World War II.

Updike was the head girls' track coach from 1975-2006. Her teams won 11 district, three regional and two state titles. She's also a member of the Virginia High School League Hall of Fame.