

NOWLIN WINGFIELD

Amherst County High School started to enjoy athletic success in the 1960s, with its first district championship coming with the 1965 football team. A sophomore on that team, Nowlin Wingfield, later led ACHS teams to even higher levels in subsequent years.

Starting as a 7-year-old in baseball in Madison Heights, he was strongly encouraged by his father and others, two of whom are icons of Amherst County education and sports lore: Dick Holt and Amherst Sports Hall of Famer Glenn Ricketts. By the time Wingfield graduated with the Class of 1968 near the top of his class, he had also accumulated several championships and an array of individual awards in football, basketball, and baseball.



Coached by Hall of Famer Tom Berry, Wingfield played quarterback and defensive back on teams that won two district championships, while earning all-district and all-state honors. Coach Don Thompson developed him as a basketball center; the teams of that era experienced considerable success in district and regional competitions. He scored more than 1200 points in his four years at ACHS.

Wingfield's spring seasons were devoted to baseball, where he distinguished himself as a pitcher under Hall of Fame Coach Gerald Thomas, throwing a perfect game as a sophomore, followed by two other no-hitters in his career. His senior year, he was virtually untouchable, with a 9-0 record and 0.00 ERA. When not pitching, he played as an outfielder.

He moved to the college ranks at Lynchburg College and became an LC Hall of Fame basketball player. Playing on the varsity for 3 years, first for Coach Aubrey Moon, then Wayne Proffitt, he topped off his career there with an MVP award and all-conference designation, while balancing the demands of a combined major in physics and math.

Wingfield maintained his contact with high school sports, first with a coaching job, then almost thirty years in officiating in 3 sports. He recalls feeling honored to have been on the field as an official in high school games that featured some notable future NFL stars: Charles Haley, Tiki and Ronde Barber, and Thomas Jones.

Russell Nowlin Wingfield – October 19, 1949

Career Highlights

- ACHS: Football – 4 years, 2 District Championships (1965, 1967), All-District (1966, 1967), All-State (1967); Basketball – 4 years, District Championship (1967), All-District (1965, 1966, 1967, 1968), All-State (1967, 1968); Baseball – 4 years, All-District (1967, 1968), All-State (1967, 1968), perfect game (1966), no-hitters (2), 1968 9-0, ERA 0.00
- Lynchburg College: Basketball – 3 years, MVP and All-Conference (1972), 9th leading scorer all-time
- LC Sports Hall of Fame (2000)
- Coaching: Jefferson Forest basketball (1972-76)
- VHSL Official – 1974-2001, Football, Basketball, Baseball; playoff games; 1992 State Football Championship