

WAYNE DAVIS

Wayne Davis' success in basketball validates the common thread among many athletes' lives – that family members can both encourage a person with words and push him to higher levels of achievement by setting a high standard of performance. Maurice Davis' basketball career at ACHS no doubt had a significant effect on his brother Wayne's emulating, then surpassing, his successes as a basketball player.

At a time that Amherst was playing at the AAA level in district competition, Davis led the Lancers to consistent contention in the Western District, which included bigger city schools. At 6'3", he often played as an undersized center or forward, especially when facing the larger schools, but met the challenge without fear.

Twice Davis was named first team All-District, and was selected to participate in the state high school all-star game held after his senior year at Amherst. He received the Most Valuable Player award for his play in that game, which also featured a future NBA player, Gerald Henderson from Richmond.

Davis credits his coaches, Don Thompson and Amherst Sports Hall of Famer Ernie Guill, with developing him into the player he wanted to be, one who tried to learn from NBA players, especially Walt Frazier, whom he studied from television. He was known as a highly competitive player, one who was eminently coachable, and who exhibited tenacity on defense in addition to his scoring prowess.

After graduating from ACHS, Wayne Davis played four years at Lynchburg College and currently holds third place on their all-time scoring list. During his tenure at LC, his teams became Dixie Conference champions in their final year in that conference. In the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC), one of his Lynchburg College teams advanced to the NCAA Division III tournament. That team had played one Division I team, Navy, on fairly even terms, before losing a close game.

Davis has been inducted into the Lynchburg College Sports Hall of Fame for his individual contributions to the basketball team, and has also been inducted along with his teammates from 1978 for their collective achievements. Upon his induction into the Amherst Sports Hall of Fame, Davis will have experienced the unique honor of being included in halls of fame on two consecutive weekends in 2013, an enviable accomplishment for anyone.

Thomas Wayne Davis – July 4, 1955

Career Highlights

- ACHS: Basketball – All-Western District, 1st team (1973, 1974); Virginia East-West All-Star game (1974), MVP; Football.
- Lynchburg College: Basketball – 3rd all-time leading scorer; Dixie Conference championship team (1975); ODAC all-conference, 1st team (1976, 1977, 1978); LC Sports Hall of Fame election (2008); 1978 team induction, LC Sports Hall of Fame (2013)

