



## 2011 Inductee

### BOBBY SUGGS

When Thomasville resurrected its girls' basketball program back in 1973, there was only one logical choice to coach the team - Bobby Suggs, who was already established within the Thomasville faculty.



Suggs first coached the Fairgrove junior high team for seven seasons, winning four championships in that span.

Then it was on to Thomasville to reestablish the girls' program.

The easygoing coach brought innovation to the girls' game, utilizing a 1-3-1 zone and a tight full-court press that took advantage of his team's quickness and constantly befuddled opponents. He used that formula to quickly build a formidable and consistent program that earned him seven coach of the year awards.

In fact, he was named coach of the year in his very first season with the Bulldogs.

All of this is pretty amazing for a man who was afflicted by and overcame the ravages of polio in his teenage years.

He also sent at least a dozen of his players off to college programs, including Sharon

Parks (Guilford College), Heather Thompson, (North Carolina), Sandra Nichols (Virginia Tech), Marlo Mathis (UNC Charlotte) and Vanessa Threadgill (Catawba) to name a few.

The success that Suggs established in the Thomasville girls' program no doubt lent itself to later success that resulted in multiple state championships in the past decade.

