



2012 Inductee

GARY BRUCE MILLS

Over the years Thomasville High School has produced a large number of college football players. Most draw attention as skill position players, particularly at running back. But every once in a while a talented lineman fills out the roster.



Bruce Mills is a case in point.

Mills played for Thomasville in 1965-68 under legendary coach George Cushwa, where he was named to the All-South Piedmont Conference football team and All-State team. He was also named to the Shrine Bowl and played in the NorthSouth All-Star Game.

He then went on to play defensive end for Duke University in 1968-72, where he lettered for three years (1969, 1970, 1971) and was named to the All-Atlantic Coast Conference in 1970 and All-South team.

He was voted by the Duke coaching staff as the most valuable lineman on the freshman team in 1969 and the team's most valuable defensive player against both Florida and Maryland in 1970.

His senior season at Duke was hindered by bad luck. He endured two knee operations between his junior and senior seasons and broke a leg the second game of his senior year.

In all, he's gone through 12 leg operations in his lifetime as a result of football. Mills and his wife, Mary, have three adult children: Jason, 39; Jamie, 37, and Jake, 27.

