



## 2009 Inductee

### Jennings (Harpo) Walter Withers

Jennings attended Greensboro High School from 1939 to 1941. In football, he was Co-Captain (State Co-Champions); in wrestling he was captain, State Champion, 155 lb. Class and in baseball he was a member of the state championship team with a no-hit, no-run game against the Davidson College freshman team. During the spring, he also ran the half-mile in track and field. In addition, he received the National Theater Sportsmanship Award, 1940



(Award was given by Paul Severin, UNC All-American End). Upon high school graduation, Jennings went to Elon College in 1941. While there he played football and was named All-Conference Center and Linebacker and his team became North State Conference Champions, (defeated Appalachian State). He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1942 and served his



country until 1946. When he returned home, he went to Guilford College from 1946-49. While there he achieved All-Conference honors, Sportsmanship Award, is a member of the Guilford College All-Time Football Team (1947) and was presented the Guilford College Alumni Trophy (1947), and was inducted into the Guilford College Football Hall of Fame in 1983. From 1949-54 Jennings accepted his first coaching position at Gillespie Park Junior High in Greensboro, NC and coached all sports. From 1954-59 he became the Head Coach and Recreation Director at Baptist Children's Home, Thomasville, NC, where he coached basketball, baseball and the swimming program.. In 1959, he transferred to

Thomasville High School and coached football under the legendary George Cushwa and was also head track and head wrestling coach. In 11 years of coaching the wrestling program, he won three Western NC High School championships, two district championships and one state championship.