



## 2014 Inductee

### SYBIL (Carol) HINKLE COPELAND



There was a time when girls' high school basketball was totally different from the game that's played today. Back then, in the stone ages, there were six players on a team, and only three — the forwards — could cross midcourt and shoot the ball. The other three — the guards — played defense.

Thomasville's Sybil Hinkle was a 5-foot-9 forward who averaged 49.3 points per game for the Bulldogs in 1954. Saying that she was the team's go-to player might be understating things a bit. Copeland's best game came in a 107-92 loss to Statesville, in which she scored 81 of her team's 92 points.

Not surprisingly, she was named to the All-State girls' basketball team in 1954.

She played four years for the Bulldogs, serving as co-captain in her sophomore and senior seasons.

She was also a member of the National Honor Society, the Monogram Club and was named Miss Thomasville High in 1953. She was also voted the Most Popular and Best All Around.

There were not many avenues open for female athletes in those days, but Copeland still enjoyed playing tennis and golf. In fact, she played on the Thomasville boys' tennis team, formed in 1953, until the state association ruled against female players participating in boys' sports.

Copeland attended Wake Forest College and played intramural basketball, since there were no women's sports in the Atlantic Coast Conference then.

She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in mathematics and physics.

She married Dr. Gary Copeland in 1956 and the couple had two children: Carol Copeland Bost, a high school chemistry teacher in Apex, and Dr. Brent Copeland, an internist in Winston-Salem.

Sybil's vivacious life was tragically cut short when she died at the age of 30 following surgery for a malignant brain tumor in 1966.

