

ARLINGTON SPORTS HALL OF FAME

2011 INDUCTEE – BRUCE A. HANSON



Bruce Hanson grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland and graduated from Springbrook High School. However, he was born in State College, Pennsylvania and instead of going to Penn State, Bruce was recruited by head coach Marv Levy and assistant coach Bobby Ross to play football at William & Mary where he was a 3-year starter on defense for head coach Lou Holtz. Bruce graduated from William & Mary in 1972 with a degree in Physical Education. That year, he began his coaching career in Arlington as a defensive football coach and an assistant wrestling coach at Wakefield High School.

Bruce was named head varsity football coach at Wakefield in 1974 and held that position through 1979. From 1980 to 1983, Bruce was the defensive coordinator of the varsity football team at Chantilly High School. In 1984, Bruce served as the defensive coordinator of the varsity football team at W.T. Woodson High School. While coaching football at these Fairfax County schools Bruce was also the head varsity basketball coach at Yorktown High School, a position he held until 1987. But Bruce found his true calling when he took over as the varsity football coach at Yorktown in 1985 where he continues to the present.

As head coach at Yorktown for the past 26 years, Bruce has led the Patriots to a 167-112 record. His overall record as a head varsity football coach stands at 197-140-2. Bruce has been the District Coach of the Year eight times, Northern Region Coach of the Year twice and his teams won region championships in 1988 and 1989. The Patriots have won the Arlington County public schools championship 23 out of the past 26 seasons.

Beyond the statistics, Bruce Hanson has been a role model for his players as a teacher, coach, friend and father figure. Bruce understands the role of sports in the overall development of young men. Bruce credits his coaching staff for the success of the football program, but obviously, it is he who has built a staff that is competent, reliable and reflects his values and standards. As a result of his success with the wing-T formation at Yorktown, Bruce gained a statewide reputation. This, in turn, has resulted in Bruce often being consulted by other coaches in the region.