



VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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The Virginia High School League is an alliance of Virginia's public high schools that promotes education, leadership, sportsmanship, character and citizenship for students by establishing and maintaining high standards for school activities and competitions.

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CLAUDIA DODSON VHSL SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Seventeen schools earn award presented by Wachovia

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Seventeen high schools have been awarded the 2009 Claudia Dodson VHSL Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award which recognizes member schools that have established policies and procedures that make sportsmanship a priority and an expectation within the school and school community.

"I consider this to be the Virginia High School League's most prestigious award," said VHSL Deputy Director Tom Zimorski. "It's the only award that the entire school is graded on."

There is no limit on the number of schools that might be recognized in a given year; selection is based on whether or not the school meets the criteria which utilizes a self-assessment checklist of 50 points relating to administration, coaches, student-athletes, cheerleaders, performance groups, student support, parents and spectators. The total score is then adjusted by deducting points for student-athlete ejections, coach ejections and inappropriate behavior at state championship events. Using the adjusted score, a school must score 90 percent or better to qualify.

Previously known as the Wachovia Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award, the award was renamed in 2007 to honor the memory of Claudia Dodson, a VHSL Assistant Director from 1971-2002, who passed away in 2007.

This year's award winners:

Booker T. Washington High School, Norfolk
(2nd recognition)

Deep Creek High School, Chesapeake
(2nd recognition)

First Colonial High School, Virginia Beach
(8th recognition)

George Mason High School, Falls Church
(1st recognition)

Grafton High School, Yorktown
(2nd recognition)

Grassfield High School, Chesapeake
(2nd recognition)

Great Bridge High School, Chesapeake
(7th recognition)

Hickory High School, Chesapeake
(2nd recognition)

Kempsville High School, Virginia Beach
(6th recognition)

Landstown High School, Virginia Beach
(5th recognition)

Middlesex High School, Saluda
(3rd recognition)

Oscar Smith High School, Chesapeake
(6th recognition)

Princess Anne High School, Virginia Beach
(8th recognition)

Tallwood High School, Virginia Beach
(7th recognition)

Western Branch High School, Chesapeake
(3rd recognition)

West Point High School, West Point
(9th recognition)

York High School, Yorktown
(2nd recognition)