

John Willis

1974 - Football, Indoor & Outdoor Track



At 6' 3", John Willis towered over opponents on both the football field and on the track team. The 1974 Stoneham High graduate dominated the line in football and as such was named Outstanding Lineman at the Lions Club dinner after his senior season. "If you put these films on the NFL highlights, you'd see the blocking and catching ability," his coach, fellow SHS Hall of Fame member Bob Margarita told the Stoneham Independent at the time.

"One bright spot for the Spartans were the receptions of John Willis" declared the Independent following a 22-22 tie in which Willis snagged a P.A.T. pass. Willis was awarded the game ball for the Winchester game, with Margarita stating that "John is an outstanding boy and has a great future." His work for the Spartan football team led to Willis being named to the Middlesex League All-Star team.

In winter and spring track, Willis was a standout discus thrower and set an outdoor record with a toss of 163' 10.5", which still stands as a school record. Willis was selected to compete in the New England meet at Brown University, the only Spartan selected to participate.

After graduating from Stoneham High, Willis moved his football career to U-Mass where he lettered all four years in the sport. He was named to the All-Conference Team and also was Second Team All-New England with the Minutemen, winning the Yankee Conference in his freshman and senior seasons. Willis also participated in spring track his freshman year at U-Mass and was selected to compete in the All-State Meet.

After graduating from U-Mass, Willis went into business and currently works as a mortgage broker. He has given back to the community coaching youth football, basketball, baseball and lacrosse.

Willis now resides in Wakefield with his wife Jennifer and their children, Hannah and Brett.