Joe Willis played the first two years for Chowan College Braves in Murfreesboro, N.C. At Chowan he was the Most Valuable Player his second year. He led his team by batting .396 (while team average was .234) and also led his team in stolen bases.

After Graduating from Chowan, he was heavily recruited by several colleges and he chose Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, N.C. During his first year with Atlantic Christian he was leading his team by batting .500 mid way through the season when he was hurt. He continued to play hurt the remainder of his Junior Year. The injury to his knee took away hopes and aspirations for Major league baseball.

He did his student teaching during his senior year at East Carteret High School where he went on to become the Baseball Coach. He led East Carteret to the Co-Championship with Tarboro in 1970.

He also was the original organizer of the Eastern Blues of the 1974 Seashore League where he led the league during the 1974 year by batting .519. The Eastern Blues went on to be one of the most dominant teams ever and the team was made up of all local downeast players.



