

## **PYA Hall of Fame**

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### **DR. L.G. JOHNSON**

Prior to his passing, Dr. L. G. (“Elgie”) Johnson served as the first president of PYA at its founding in 1963. Known as a quiet and unassuming professional, he is widely credited with the strategic foresight of combining a number of disparate youth sports groups in town at the time.

During the 1950’s and early 1960’s, youth sports groups such as “Blue Bombers”/PW Tigers football, little league and Babe Ruth League baseball (in which Elgie was deeply involved), and community “biddy” basketball ran separate organizations, and competed for local facility space, field availability, and particularly local sponsor funding. As time went on, and the competition between these groups hindered the progress of all of their programs, it became apparent by the latter part of 1963 that the concept of these sports to function under one umbrella organization would be much more effective. At this important time, PYA became a reality as other “founding father” Hall of Famers such as Harvey Cohen ('91), Bob Stuart ('94), and Herb Lyon ('02) either stepped forward or were recruited from their respective team involvements, and for their individual levels of expertise.

Of all the fine athletes and volunteers over the past 39 years that have come through the PYA programs, tonight we honor the memory of one of the men who started it all. Though no longer alive to see how large PYA has become, or the community impact it has provided, Elgie’s organizational vision and initial leadership in the unified administration of these sports and participants must not be underestimated. As he spearheaded PYA’s initial formative years of the 1960’s, Elgie established a solid foundation for a group of teams that grew from 3 established sports for teenage boys only, to a total of 15 activities for all children, from elementary school to high school, as we approach our 40th year.