



COL. F. DON MILLER AWARD RECIPIENT PHIL JOHNSON

Johnson has been a coaching legend in Colorado Springs and teacher for more than three decades. He guided the Doherty High School girls team to consecutive 23-2 records and a pair of appearances in the state championship game in 2001 and 2002, losing to Highlands Ranch on both occasions. He coached successful boys and girls middle school teams in the Colorado Springs area and mentored young players for years. He now conducts as many as 500 lessons a year for girls and boys with hoop dreams. Johnson spent eight years coaching competitive traveling club teams and was an assistant women's coach at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. While he was learning his craft, he attended coaching clinics conducted by such legends as John Wooden, Bobby Knight, Al McGuire, Dean Smith, George Raveling, Hubie Brown and Larry Brown. While Johnson's coaching experience is centered on basketball, he grew up as a baseball player. He won the state championship game as a pitcher for Palmer High School in 1965. That success led to a college career at Mesa Junior College and Colorado State. He signed with the San Francisco Giants organization and played two seasons of minor league baseball in Great Falls, MT and Fresno, CA. Johnson and his wife Debra have three children and three grandchildren, with one more expected in September 2012. Both of their daughters, Val and Jacque, played on state championship basketball teams at Doherty. Jacque went on to play at Colorado State, while Val played at the University of Colorado.