

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

# Robertson: A legacy of helping kids

The Blair County Sports Hall of Fame will present Johnny Robertson with its Community Service Award.

Robertson has been a fixture on the area sports scene for the past 30 years and has coached countless youth in a variety of sports.

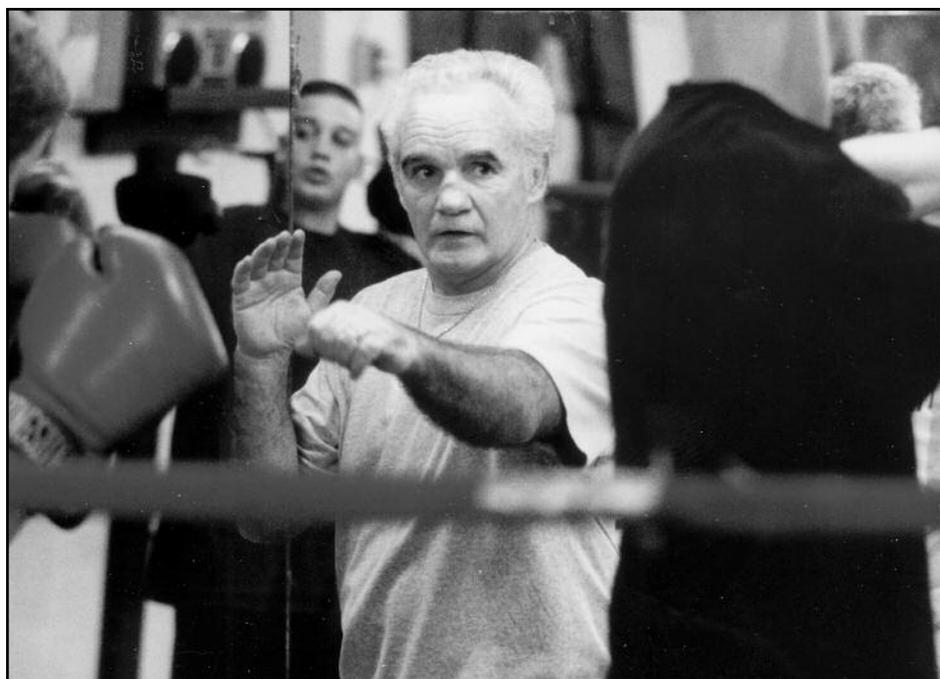
But he's best known for his formation and long-standing commitment to the Altoona Boxing Club, which he has guided since 1970.

During that time, Robertson has served as boxing coach, trainer, corner man, fund raiser and role model for numerous youngsters who have come through his school of hard knocks.

"Johnny Robertson has received tremendous support for the Community Service Award," Hall of Fame president David Andrews said. "He has touched the lives of youth for many years and has been an excellent example to our youth. He is the type of individual the Blair County Sports Hall of Fame wants to feature on the local level in addition to featuring national sports personalities. John Robertson exemplifies what community service is all about."

Whether in the corner of Brian Hallinan on ESPN or with Tommy Wilt at numerous Pennsylvania Golden Gloves championships or with an aspiring fighter at the club's UVA training location, Robertson has made a difference in the lives of many area youth.

"Everyone who has come across Mr. Robertson will tell you he's been like a father-figure," Hallinan said. "I could have gone the wrong direction, but he was there for me and really guided



**John Robertson has been overseeing the Altoona Boxing Club since forming it in 1970. He is the Hall of Fame's 2000 Community Service Award winner.**

me along the way. He means a lot to a lot of people."

In addition to his work with the boxing club, Robertson has coached a number of sports at the high school, junior high and recreational levels.

He's coached in the Keith Junior High School football and wrestling programs since 1980. He coached both the Altoona High School and Bishop Guilfoyle softball teams for three years each.

He's coached the Keith Junior High track team for six years as well as having coached in the Altoona Parochial Football League for eight years.

Robertson has coached adult basketball teams in summer and winter recreational leagues for 30 years along with coaching in the Kelley Federation (two years), Central Blair Recreation Commission's Youth and Adult Flag

Football League (seven years) and youth and adult softball leagues (20 years).

He's also coached and sponsored junior high basketball teams in local tournaments, conducted various basketball and wrestling clinics in addition to the conditioning camp he has run for the past 12 summers.

Robertson has also been honored for his work in the community by the Altoona Jaycees, the Fraternal Order of Police and he's received a key to the city.

"I really appreciated the community's support and am grateful to the Hall of Fame for this award," he said.

John Conlon, a pillar in the Altoona Parochial Football League for the past 35 years, was the Hall of Fame's first Community Service Award recipient.