

## **Col. F. Don Miller Sports Service Award**

*The Colonel F. Don Miller Sports Service Award is presented annually by the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation to the person who best reflects the commitment exemplified by Colonel Miller in providing a lasting contribution to the Colorado Springs sports community. The presentation of this award to those locally dedicated to the importance of sports in building young lives is a fitting tribute to Colonel Miller and the thousands of young men and women who benefitted from his unparalleled service on behalf of our nation's youth.*



### **Mitch Johnson**

Mitch Johnson compiled 206 wins in 29 years as the head football coach at Fountain-Fort Carson High School. His teams were Colorado state prep runners-up twice, reached the semifinals five times, notched 17 playoff appearances in four classifications, and won 10 conference titles.

Every coach wants to win, but the real measurement of success was Johnson's focus on the growth and development of players. Collectively, his players shared a common bond of loyalty and trust as they navigated their journeys together, sharing in success and setback, but most importantly emerging as men of character and honor. The true prize for Johnson was the lasting relationships that were built along the way. His purpose as a teacher and coach is always fulfilled when his former players say "Coach Johnson genuinely cared about me and made a difference in my life. I was lucky to be under his leadership."

Johnson was a speaker at the 2005 White House Conference on Helping America's Youth. He was inducted into the Colorado High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2012 and was a national finalist for the 2016 American Football Coaches Foundation's "Power of Influence Award." In 2012, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 dedicated the football facility at the high school as the "Mitch Johnson Sports Complex" honoring the coaching legend.