

## RONNIE ADAMS



Madison Heights can pride itself on more than a half century of success in its youth sports, with its founding leaders already in the Amherst County Sports Hall of Fame. Perhaps the first in that category to go from being a kid hanging around old Shrader Field to Hall of Famer is Ronnie Adams, whose tenure as volunteer and leader has coincided with visionary construction endeavors, putting Madison Heights on the map for its Dixie Youth and community facilities and achievements.

Adams' summers of youth were filled with baseball until dark. He played Dixie Youth and Amherst JV baseball, then moved on to long hours of work in the family business. For 15 years, he managed to play in weekend softball tournaments. His two children accompanied him, and when it came time, his son signed up for Dixie Youth Baseball.

Ronnie Adams had been involved as an assistant coach, but, after years of following his own dreams on the softball fields, he was convinced by Hall of Famer Leroy Floyd to direct his energy toward the next generation. He had admired the work of Floyd, Glenn Ricketts, Dick Holt, and Donald Sirocco, whose influence he recognized as being significant in his own life.

Through coaching, he realized that he was gaining as much from the experience as the players. His epiphany, though, came one day when a complete stranger, the mother of two young boys, solicited his help with getting her sons registered, although she was lacking funds. On her behalf, Adams approached the Board of Directors of the association, and they agreed to his request. He realized at that moment that he had more to offer.

From then to the present, Adams has spent thousands of hours working with Dixie Youth Baseball in every capacity imaginable – raising funds, constructing playing venues, coaching teams, attending meetings, and hosting events – fulfilling his life's calling. The next generation can be grateful to the giants among volunteers who have provided for their needs in limitless ways, the same way Ronnie Adams did for those whose work he had witnessed long ago.

Ronald Eugene Adams – October 17, 1954

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth: Dixie Youth baseball (8 years)
- Amherst County High School: Class of 1973, JV Baseball (1970)
- Adult: Slow Pitch Softball, pitcher (15) – Lynchburg Recreation League, championships (5); Adams Floor Sanding Co. team, numerous tournaments and championships (8 years)
- Coaching: Dixie Youth Baseball (33), Bruins football (6), Bruins Board of Directors (7)
- Dixie Youth: Board of Directors (31), Board Member-at-Large (3), Executive Vice President (3), President (25); supervisor of construction, W. Glenn Ricketts Sports Complex; Supervisor of construction, Madison Heights Community Center; Dixie Boys District Director (21), Dixie Majors State Director (6)
- Madison Heights Youth Baseball Association: Hosted 21 District tournaments; 15 state tournaments; 3 World Series under his guidance.