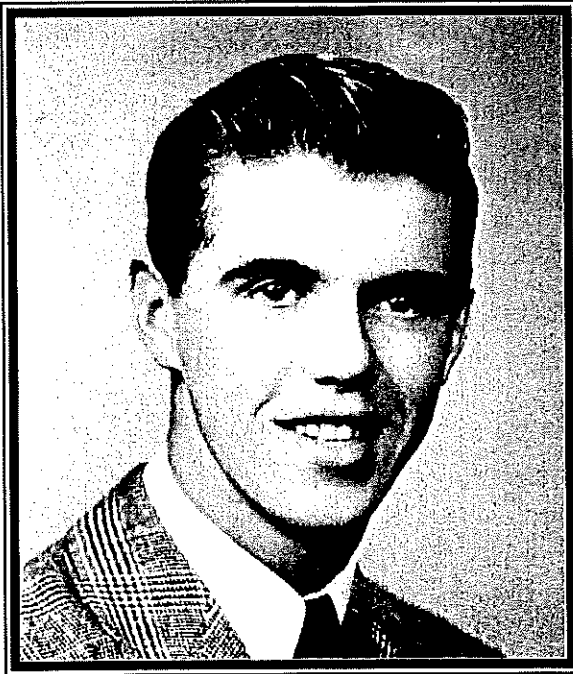


## George William Johnson



George Johnson graduated from Lunenburg High School as an athletically gifted member of the class of 1949. A two sport athlete who lettered three years in basketball and four years in baseball, George was considered to be the finest athlete in his class. He was fortunate to have his high school basketball and baseball careers coached by fellow Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Richard Carey.

While playing baseball, George was comfortable playing all four infield positions, but spent a majority of his time at third base, as well as maintaining a presence in the pitching rotation. George was said to be a slick fielding, fundamentally sound ballplayer who continually batted in the top third of the order. His consistent improvement over three seasons drew major league scouts to the park to witness both his hitting and pitching abilities during his senior year.

George's best sport was basketball. He was a three year starter playing at the forward position and was selected as a Wachusett League All Star both his junior and senior seasons.

He was known as a tough, gritty defender with great court savvy. As a sophomore, George played an important role in the team's 9-8 season. The team was selected to play in the Clark tournament and George was the team's high scorer, netting seventeen points in a quarterfinal loss to Oxford.

George's junior season started out with the Lunenburg squad winning their first 18 games of the season. After a loss in Game 19 to perennial powerhouse and rival Townsend, Lunenburg won their next two games and clinched the Wachusett League Championship. Another disappointing loss in the Clark left Lunenburg with a 20-2 season record. George finished the year as second leading scorer on the team averaging 12.2 points per game.

His senior year was one of the finest performances ever turned in on the hardwood at Lunenburg, as he lead and sometimes carried a young team whose roster was comprised of mostly juniors and sophomores. With George leading the way, the team achieved a 14-6 record and their third consecutive trip to the Clark Tournament. He often commented that one of his greatest thrills was playing on this team with his brother Don. The Lunenburg squad made the finals of the Clark tournament in thrilling fashion. They first defeated North Brookfield in a nail biter, 37-36, to be followed by an overtime victory over Northborough 45-44. The championship game went two overtimes with the score still knotted at 56 apiece. In the third and final overtime, the rules changed to a Sudden Death, next basket wins format, and Oxford defeated Lunenburg with the final score of 58-56. George was captain and leading scorer of this squad averaging 17.3 points per game and scoring 52 points in three Clark Tourney games.

In recognition of his outstanding athletic performances we are pleased to induct George Johnson into the Lunenburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame.