



Elroy Face '48

Elroy grew up in Stephentown and was a member of the Averill Park High School Class of 1948. He has three children; Michelle, Elroy, and Valerie and now resides in North Versailles, PA. As an athlete at Averill Park Elroy was a two year football, basketball, and baseball player. Prior to graduation, he entered the military and served his country in the United States Army. Elroy last visited Averill Park High School in July 2012.

During this visit he donated some of his baseball memorabilia to the district. He was awarded his long-awaited Averill Park High School diploma with the Class of 2013.

Elroy had a 16 year Major League Baseball career, playing almost exclusively for the Pittsburgh Pirates (1953, 1955-68). He also played for the Detroit Tigers (1968) and the Montreal Expos (1969). A pioneer of modern relief pitching, while almost exclusively using the forkball, he was the archetype of what came to be known as the closer, and the National League's greatest reliever until the late 1960's, setting numerous records during his career. Known as the "Baron of the Bullpen", Elroy was the first major leaguer to save 20 games more than once, leading the league three times and finishing second three times. He set the major league record for consecutive wins by a reliever with 22 wins over two seasons from 1958 to 1959, appearing in 98 games during the streak. In 1959 he set the still-standing major league record for winning percentage (.947) and single-season wins in relief with 18 wins against only one loss. In the 1960 World Series against the New York Yankees, Elroy became the first pitcher to save three games in a single World Series, something that has only been done four times since. Elroy was a World Series champion (1960) and a three time all-star (1959-61). He held the National League record for career games pitched (846) from 1967 until 1986, and the league record for career saves (193) from 1962 until 1982. He still holds the National League record for career wins in relief (96). On his retirement he ranked third in major league history in pitching appearances, behind only Hoyt Wilhelm and Cy Young, and second in saves behind Wilhelm. He holds the Pirates franchise records for career games (802) and saves (188).

Following his baseball career Elroy became a carpenter, a trade he learned from his father and uncles, until he retired in 1990.

