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Ron Pennington is D-backs MVP By Larry Wolfe

Ron Pennington, long-time Sun Lakes Senior Softball player and Arizona Diamondbacks Golden Glover, was named the 2013 Most Valuable Player in the D-backs Game Operations Department. For those unfamiliar with the Golden Glovers, they are the guys who act as “ball boys” each game. You’ll see them stationed along the first and third base lines about half way between the infield and the outfield wall. These guys (and a few gals) help maintain the speed and safety of the D-backs’ games at Chase Field by retrieving foul balls along the first and third base lines. They’re very popular with the fans seated along those areas as they toss the retrieved balls to those fans, generally to little kids in D-backs gear!

Ron has been a member of the Golden Glovers since their inception in 1999, the second year that the Arizona Diamondbacks were in existence. Ron was named supervisor of that group that same year and has held that position ever since. As a part of his duties, he is responsible for scheduling the work assignments for each game. There are a dozen Golden Glovers overall, with two assigned to each game. Around 100 “active adults” try out for these dream jobs every year.

For a real baseball fan, the Golden Glovers really do live the dream. Imagine being down on the field with all those major leaguers and getting to know many of them on a first-name basis. Ron’s biggest thrills include being on

the field during two of the four 2001 World Series home games when the D-backs became World Champions, chasing down foul balls at the 2011 MLB All-Star Game and “working the lines” during the World Baseball Classic. He’ll return for his 14th year of duty this spring.

Ron is also proud of the nine different D-backs uniforms he’s been given. Up until the last couple years, the Golden Glovers wore whatever uniforms the players were wearing, so he has all the old purple “uni’s,” as well as the new Sedona Reds.

In addition to his Golden Glovers duties, Ron is one of our league’s top players and has been on several of our tournament championship teams. He’s a versatile player, equally adept at pitching, playing the infield and the outfield. He’s also a “line drive machine,” usually hitting .650+.

Ron’s wife, Sarah, is also a big D-backs fan. She has worked in the Diamondbacks’ ticket department since 1999. And, would you believe she was named MVP of that department last year! Congratulations, Ron and Sarah!

PHOTO CAPTION:

Left to right: D-backs legend Luis Gonzalez, pitcher Patrick Corbin, MVP Ron Pennington and D-backs’ President Derrick Hall