



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: MIKE GLOYD
-by Larry Wolfe

From the photo above right, you might think Mike Gloyd is a cool California surfer dude, but, in reality, he's a born and bred Cheesehead from Portage, Wisconsin. He grew up in Stoughton, near Madison, where he lettered ten times in four different sports for the Vikings: a quarterback in football; a guard in basketball; a pitcher on the baseball team and a sprinter who ran the 100- and 200-yard dashes for the track team. Mike was also a member of that school's world-renowned Norwegian Dance Club; yes, that's Mike, the dancer and fiddler above left! His love of nearly all things sports continues to this day.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with a BS in Health Sciences and Recreation, he married Pam, whom he'd met in a social dance class while they both attended UW. Mike's career path diverted from his college major as he held several sales jobs before landing his first "big job" with A. B. Dick, a major manufacturer of copy machines. While working in sales for that company, Mike requested a transfer to Chandler, AZ. (Pam and Mike had tired of the long and cold Wisconsin winters, the last of which Mike swears didn't end till the 4th of July!) Mike continued with A. B. Dick for a couple

more years before joining Hoechst-Roussel, a major German pharmaceutical company, for five years. He spent the last twenty-four years of his career with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a global pharmaceutical and healthcare company. Through the years, Mike worked his way up from sales rep, hospital rep, regional trainer and district manager to regional sales manager with GSK.

Now retired and in his third season of Sun Lakes softball, Mike's still one of our league's "youngsters." He's a switch-hitter who can play nearly all positions well and is one of the league's fastest runners. He's the softball equivalent of a "gym rat," always volunteering as a substitute and playing three times weekly in our recreational program. Last year, he led our competitive league with 255 plate appearances and batted a solid .549. He cherishes the camaraderie and all the friends he has made, and says, "I can't believe how good these old guys are!"

Mike's always enjoyed family time from the days he coached son Matthew's Little League team to now babysitting the two grandkids. He loved watching Matthew play sports and daughter Andrea perform as a high school cheerleader. He says he lived some of his childhood dreams through his son, especially when he was a bat boy when the Brewers held Spring Training in Chandler.

Mike and Pam enjoy snow skiing, especially at Vail and Telluride in Colorado. They're both very fitness and health conscious and enjoy bike riding, golf and working out at the gym. They're also wine connoisseurs who enjoy touring the California wine country and sampling the harvest!

Mike may not be a cool California surfer dude; but he IS one cool dude!