



## **SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: OWEN BAE**

**By Larry Wolfe**

**If there is such a thing as a born musician, Owen Bae is it. He has spent much of his life singing, playing the clarinet and sax or teaching various forms of music. After graduating from Marysville (California) High where he played basketball and baseball for the Indians, he received an academic scholarship to UC-Berkeley. He then went on a two-year mission with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) before transferring to Brigham Young University.**

**While at BYU Owen married his charming wife, Joyce, who is also a musician. In fact, she helped support the new Bae family by teaching voice and piano while Owen was still in school. The couple then moved to California where Owen finished his education by earning a BA and MA in Music Education at Chico State. He then began his teaching career in Red Bluff. After five years there, he was selected for the staff at a new school in Chico called Pleasant Valley High. He would spend thirty-five years there as the Music Director in charge of the marching band, choir, jazz group and other music-related activities.**

**Retirement didn't end Owen's love of music or his participation in music-related activities. He's the current leader of the Sunbird Singers, a local group with over 70 voices. He also plays the sax and clarinet for churches and at other local venues.**

**Owen's life hasn't been all music though. He has played both fast and slow pitch softball since his youth, participating in numerous city, recreational and church leagues. Although he played second base in his youth, he's now one of the top pitchers in the Sun Lakes League. His high (some say TOO high) floater is a difficult pitch to hit. Many Sun Lakes batters flail away at his pitches and end up with meek pop-ups or weak infield dribblers.**

**Owen says he greatly enjoys "the guys, organization and great facilities of the Sun Lakes League;" however, his best softball memory remains the time he made a sliding catch to retire a batter that led to a city league championship for his team.**

**Sports and music are great, but he says meeting Joyce was the best. That encounter led to a great life that includes four kids and 10 grandkids. In fact, it was family that drew Owen and Joyce to this area. Three of the four kids called Arizona home while a fourth lived in Utah. Today the Baes divide their time between Arizona and a condo near Provo, Utah.**

**Owen is thankful for all of his good fortune, especially since "he's lucky to be alive." You see, Owen was in a near fatal motorcycle accident as a junior in high school. He was thrown from the bike, landed on his head on the concrete, then spent three days in an unconscious state before spending three months in bed recovering. Thankfully, that didn't become "the day the music died....."**