



**SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: JIM DUNN**  
**-by Larry Wolfe**

**James Arthur Dunn has come a long way from his birthplace in small-town Trona, near Death Valley, California. One of seven siblings and the son of a Nazarene minister, Jim credits his strict upbringing for teaching him the rules and lessons that have guided him throughout his life.**

**Jim grew up in Lancaster, California and played varsity football there. His older brother played major college football at Iowa and Jim hoped to follow in his footsteps; however, love intervened and Jim soon had a wife, son and job at North American Aviation in nearby Palmdale instead. After a few years there he began an interesting and rewarding thirty-five year career with McDonnell Douglas which would take him around the world. Jim started out as an electrician, but after many**

**years of night school and hard work he earned his FAA-certified A & P (Airframe & Powerplant) license. This qualified him to be involved in flight tests for commercial aircraft.**

**In the early 80's Jim was transferred to NAS Dallas where he flew with the Navy reserves on detachments to Asia and Europe. It was there that he met and married his lovely wife, Susie. They later moved back to California where Jim was an avionics engineer and worked on developing the MD-11 widebody airliner. He became a member of the launch team that worked with major national and international airlines in introducing the then-new plane. This led to short term assignments with Korean Air, Alitalia, China Air and American Airlines. It also allowed Susie and Jim the opportunity to "see the world," and to experience life in Korea, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Rome. Later they lived in Taiwan where Jim worked with China Air before completing his career with a six-year assignment with Korean Airlines in Seoul. During this time, Susie was employed as a substitute teacher and did tutoring on the side.**

**They loved the excitement of international travel and living, but elected to retire in Sun Lakes after Jim saw the old Field of Dreams on Riggs Road. That's when their active retirement life began: Besides softball, there are workouts at Mountain Side Fitness, bowling, tennis, golf, card games and swimming. Jim also enjoys deep-sea fishing, downhill skiing and annual trips back to Tennessee to visit his boys and their families.**

**In Jim's younger days, he was an accomplished boxer, having trained under light-heavyweight Sonny Ray. He later was a sparring partner for Jerry Quarry, Scrap Iron Johnson and others; but his boxing "claim to fame" came in 1968 when he fought on the same card as Sonny Liston.**

**In fact, Jim still looks like he could go a few rounds with the pros! Susie calls him her Clydesdale...strong, powerful and handsome, but also friendly and full of fun. Jim may have missed out on a lot of things by starting a family early, but he's sure made up for it since. There's never a dull moment with the Dunns!**