



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: JERRY GALVAGNO

-by Larry Wolfe

Jerry Galvagno qualifies as a true Seattleite. He was born in Seattle, graduated from Cleveland High of Seattle where he was a standout baseball player for the Eagles and earned his BA in Business Administration from the Seattle-based University of Washington. He then spent his entire business career in the Seattle area before retiring to Arizona in 2004.

His business career started in the traffic department at the Boeing Company; however, he was one of 60,000 plus Seattleites who lost their jobs at that company in 1971 prompting the installation of a sign at the airport that read “Will the last person leaving Seattle please turn off the lights.” But things would get better, much better. Jerry landed a job at Petrolane, the largest propane marketer in the country, eventually progressing to Terminal Manager with responsibility for private rail cars and tanker trucks over a five-state area. He then worked for various trucking companies before joining Nelson Trucking in 1989. Nelson is a family-owned business that specializes in “heavy hauling” and oversized loads. Jerry was instrumental in helping grow that company from a small ten-truck operation to a major company with over sixty trucks. He described his time at Nelson Trucking as

the most challenging and fun job he ever had. He was responsible for transporting such diverse items as rescue helicopters, MIG fighter planes, tanks and jeeps for the Japanese military and roofing pieces for the Seattle Mariners and Seahawks stadiums. Throw in the transport, warehousing and distribution of the annual Girl Scout cookies and local telephone directories and you can see the diversity of his job.

Softball's been a big part of Jerry's life since his college days. He started playing fast-pitch then transitioned to industrial league slow-pitch and ultimately to senior softball. He's been a key member of Sun Lakes softball for five years. He's also been a member of several tournament travel teams in the area, including a AAA 65+ team that finished second in the recent World Championship Tournament.

Carol, his wife of thirty-one years, and Jerry have four "kids" and ten grandchildren back in the Seattle area. When Jerry met Carol (was that the movie starring Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan?), he was interviewing for a job with one of the trucking companies where she was the receptionist. He was smitten by "that long-legged gorgeous blonde" and would have taken any job they offered him!

Today the Galvagnos love to travel to the Caribbean and they've also enjoyed a time share unit in Mazatlan, Mexico since the early eighties. They even "adopted" a Mazatlan family and put four of their kids through English language school. Those little ones are now in their thirties and still maintain a close relationship with Jerry and Carol.

Jerry's another of our "nice guys" who really enjoys the camaraderie that is Sun Lakes softball. Plus, if you ever want to move something really big, he's definitely your guy!