



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: DAVID BOONE
-by Larry Wolfe

David Boone is one of the most unassuming gentleman you'll ever meet, but based upon his athletic and career accomplishments you might expect him to be just the opposite....because there's really a lot he could brag about!

It started at Vera (Oklahoma) High School where Dave was a letterman in track, baseball, basketball and volleyball. He was a key member of the volleyball team that won a State Championship and was a high-scoring guard on the basketball squad. He also was a high-average hitter in baseball and a medal-winner in the broad jump. His athletic prowess continued at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M (NEO) where he earned Junior College All-America honors as a second-sacker and was named All-Conference in both baseball and basketball for the Norsemen.

In 1962 Boonie was signed by Chicago White Sox Hall-of-Fame pitcher Ted Lyons to a minor league contract with the Visalia Club in the Class C California League. Dave played pro ball in the White Sox organization before returning to college to pursue a degree in education.

He earned an Associate of Arts Degree at NEO, a BS in Education at Northeastern State, a Master of Education at Oklahoma State and his Administrative Certification from the University of Oklahoma. If you guessed that Mr. Boone spent his career in education, you guessed right. After three years as a 6th grade teacher, he became an administrator, spending the next twenty-six years as principal at various schools in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Besides being an excellent administrator, David was a promoter and major contributor to the city's All-School Sports Program. In fact, Bartlesville's annual volleyball tournament is now named the David Boone Memorial Tournament!

David also had a twenty-eight year second career as a member of the Army Reserve. That included a one-year deployment to Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm where he was Supervisor of Maintenance Control for the 304th Maintenance Division.

Following his retirement from the school system, David spent three years in real estate and another ten as a Transportation Specialist before really retiring to Arizona in 2007. He and his lovely wife, Anita, were drawn here by both the weather and the fact that one of their daughters lives here.

The Boones love to travel, having taken several cruises and visiting Italy just this year. They have four children and nine grandkids scattered among Tempe, San Francisco, Denver and Oklahoma, so that keeps them busy, too.

Dave has been playing senior softball for over twenty years. The personal and team honors are too numerous to list completely, but they include numerous MVP, All-Star, All-America, and All-World individual awards as well as five team World Championship rings. Today he is a key member of our 70s Championship team and a top player in our regular Sun Lakes League. Anita also enjoys being a member of the travel team as Official Scorekeeper.

You'll never hear Dave talk about any of these many accomplishments, but he *is* proud of them....and should be!