

SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: CHUCK SWANSON -by Larry Wolfe

Payette, Idaho is the hometown of Baseball Hall of Famer Harmon Killebrew...and Chuck Swanson. Chuck didn't make it to the Hall, but he did toss a no-hitter for the Payette High School Pirates. He also played basketball and was a standout in the classroom as is evidenced by the fact that he was valedictorian of his high school class. Chuck continued his baseball quest as a freshman pitcher at Stanford University, but with pitchers such as future Cy Young Award winner Jim Lonborg in front of him, Chuck decided to concentrate on his studies....probably a good choice. He earned his Electrical Engineering degree at Stanford before entering the business world.

Chuck joined IBM right out of college and enjoyed a 31-year career with the company, all in the Los Angeles area. (He noted that IBM doesn't necessarily stand for I've Been Moved!) He was a Systems Engineer and saw many changes over the years as the computer industry evolved. One of his most interesting and rewarding assignments was a six-month stint in Copenhagen where he assisted the Danish government with the successful installation of a new system to

process the country's withholding taxes. When asked whether he learned any of the language, Chuck answered, "Yes. Jeg taler ikke Dansk." I don't speak Danish!

Upon retirement, Chuck and his beautiful bride Doris relocated to Sun Lakes and he began his softball career that fall. Since then, he's been a major asset to the Association; he's served on the Board of Directors and was President for two years. During his term as President, he helped coordinate the building of the new Field of Dreams on Price Road. Additionally, he was in charge of billboard advertising for several years and has served as a scorekeeper and as our statistician for the past ten years. He managed the original 55+ tournament team and has played on the 60+ and 65+ teams as well. Chuck's been one of our leagues top hitters, earning admission to the elite 600 Club for several seasons. But retirement is much more than softball....

The Swansons escape to their lovely home in picturesque McCall, Idaho for the summers where Chuck plays golf on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and hikes and fishes in the mountain lakes on Tuesdays! "Somebody's gotta do it," he says! He does "save" the weekends for chores because that's when the flatlanders come up to their resort area.

Travel is another passion. Chuck and Doris are planning a December trip to Antarctica. It'll be summer there and the temperatures will be in the twenties instead of the minus-thirties! Antarctica will be the seventh (and final) continent they've visited. They've traveled to all the other six continents multiple times. Their adventures range from African safaris in Kenya and Tanzania to Mediterranean cruises and trips to the Outback of Australia. They also make annual trips to Doris' Hawaiian homeland. Talk about keeping busy! How'd you like to have their frequent flyer miles?!