



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: HARRY ROEHL
By Larry Wolfe

As a five-sport letterman for the Marysville, Michigan Vikings, Harry Roehl could do it all: he lettered in baseball, basketball, football, track and cross-country. In baseball, he led the Vikings in hitting during his junior and senior years; as a point guard, he led his basketball squad to the state semi-finals and he was the place-kicker for the state champion football team. In fact, he still holds the Vikings' record for most extra points in a season with an astounding 60 PATs! He was also talented enough in baseball to earn try-outs with the Detroit Tigers and Cincinnati Reds.

Harry worked on his father's 1000-acre farm as a youngster, helping him raise world-champion draft horses. (Those are the super-large horses about the size of Clydesdales that are bred for heavy tasks such as plowing, pulling and other farm labor.) He then graduated from Michigan State's College of Agriculture before deciding that the 24x7 farming life wasn't for him. Instead, Harry began a long career in the electric utility business, working 13 years at Detroit Edison before escaping the harsh Michigan winters and relocating to Arizona, where he had a satisfying 25-year career with APS, including stints in Prescott and Tempe.

It was in Mesa that Harry met Ann, his bride of 22 years and “the best thing that ever happened to him.” They retired to Sun Lakes in 2002.

Besides his passion for softball, which he’s played since his days in Prescott, Harry is a “travel-holic.” He and Ann have a 5th wheel trailer that they’ve used to tour the country. In fact, they’ve been to every state in the union except for Rhode Island. They’ve also traveled extensively outside the US, visiting Russia, the Baltic States, Australia, New Zealand and many European countries. In fact, as you read this, they’ll be finishing up a three-week trip to Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France and Liechtenstein.

Besides Harry’s sports prowess, his other hidden talent is that of a master builder. He’s actually built five homes from the ground up, meaning his skills include everything from concrete work to dry-walling to carpentry to roofing to mechanical systems. Sounds like he’s a five-star letterman in home-building, too!

Harry loves the camaraderie and competitiveness of Sun Lakes Softball and says winning the World Championship while playing on the 60+ team was one of his all-time sports highlights. He also enjoys watching his five grandkids participate in football, basketball and volleyball.

You’d probably guess that one of Harry’s travel highlights is also sports-related. He cites his visit to the real Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa, built for the movie of the same name, as a lasting memory. There one can imagine playing with the ghosts of players past just like we all envision playing with the ghosts of our childhood at our very own Field of Dreams!