



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: DOMINIC COLONNA
-by Larry Wolfe

Dominic “Dom” Colonna’s early life reads like the script from “American Graffiti,” the George Lucas coming of age film starring Ron Howard and Richard Dreyfuss. (That’s the movie where we learned that Ron Howard wasn’t Opie from Mayberry anymore!) After moving from his native Chicago to the San Francisco area as a teenager, Dom lived the American “teen dream:” Drag racing in the boulevards, swimming in the Pacific Ocean and attending concerts at San Francisco’s Fillmore West to hear, among many others, the early Jefferson Airplane and Jimi Hendricks. But, as in that nostalgic movie, everyone has to eventually grow up; and Dom did, too!

After graduating from Hillsdale San Mateo High School, Dom volunteered for the draft and was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington and then served with the Army’s Yukon Alaska Command. Eighteen months, eleven days and nine hours later he was honorably discharged

and returned to California. He used the GI Bill and a job at Sears to attend college and earn his degree in Business Administration from West Valley College in Saratoga.

Dom's business career was primarily in sales with several California businesses. He worked many years at Taylor Made Office Systems in Concord, where he rose to the position of District Manager. Next he was a National Account Manager with Pacific Business Products in Burlingame. He then worked ten years for the Bureau of National Affairs in Benicia as their District Sales Rep. His last two positions were as Marketing Director for Gene's Office Furniture in Oakland and as Designer and Sales Representative with The Kitchen Connection, a Hayward-based custom kitchen design and remodeling company.

When retirement beckoned, Dom and his wife, Beth, joined many other Californians in selecting a home in Arizona due to the great home prices and lower overall cost of living as compared to the San Francisco area. Their two daughters, Veronica and Valarie, and their families soon followed, so Dom and **Beth are happy to now have the whole immediate family in the area. That gives them plenty of Grandparents' time with grandkids Nathan, Nolan and Natalie.**

Dom will begin his third season in the Sun Lakes Softball League this fall. He's a strong-armed third baseman and a solid .567 hitter who loves to play the game. Besides softball, Dom enjoys golf and working out a couple times per week. He and Beth also love movies, concerts and live theatre.

When asked for a favorite memory, Dom recalled the time in 1959 when a Sister at the Catholic grade school he attended said she knew Yogi Berra and had arranged for him to visit the school. But it turned out even better: A bus with the entire Yankee team showed up! Yes, Yogi, Mickey, Whitey, Moose, Tony K, Elston, Gil, et al, got out and mingled with the kids. Can you imagine that happening today?! Dom thought he was "living the dream!"

And, you know what? Today he still is!