



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: TOM LORGAN
-by Larry Wolfe

Atypical. Uncharacteristic. Exceptional. Those words could be used to describe Tom Lorgan. He was a high school and college jock, then a highly successful coach, but also an English major who still quotes Shakespeare...now that's atypical!

Born in small-town Chester, NY, Tom's family later moved to nearby Goshen, where Tom starred for the Gladiators' baseball and basketball teams. Following graduation, he went to Plattsburgh State College where he earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English. He also played baseball and soccer for the Cardinals.

Tom then became an English teacher and coach at Warwick Valley (NY) High School. He coached baseball and soccer at WVHS and later was the Athletic Director for many years. He was also the founder of the school district's soccer program. In fact, one of their fields is named Lorgan Soccer Field in his honor.

He met the love of his life, Tricia, while in high school. One of their first encounters was at a baseball game where Tom offered her a ride home....but only if she'd help change a flat tire on his 1950 Pontiac! I guess that line worked because Tom and Tricia will soon celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary.

Both Tricia and Tom taught and coached at WVHS. He retired after 32 years and Tricia after 33. He says his best decision after becoming Athletic Director at the school was to name Tricia the tennis coach. She led the Wildcats to 144 straight winning matches and an 11-year unbeaten streak!

The Lorgans moved to Sun Lakes in 2001 and Tom was soon coaxed into playing softball. He'd played fast-pitch softball and competitive city league basketball for nearly 30 years, but never slow-pitch softball. (He was known as "Tommy Gun" in basketball, since he never met a shot he didn't like!) Given his natural athletic skills, he soon became one of our league's best players and a key member of our tournament teams. "Lightning Lorgan" is also one of the fastest players in the league. (He attributes his speed to be chased by his older brothers as a kid!) Tom loves Sun Lakes softball because he can be "super-competitive" during the game (we hadn't noticed!), but afterwards everyone is "best buddies."

Golf, tennis, reading and travel are other passions. They've traveled extensively in Europe and Russia and consider Ireland and Switzerland two favorites spots.

During our rather warm summers, Tom and Tricia escape to Warwick where they've maintained a home and have many friends and family members. There's no senior softball there, but Tom keeps his competitive juices flowing on the golf course. (We wonder if he runs after every shot?!)

Tom feels extremely fortunate to have been in a profession where he had a positive influence on many youngsters, including their own two sons. The Lorgans have been honored to be godparents of some of their students' kids and have even had some name their kids after them. Definitely atypical...and very exceptional!