



## **SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: BOB HUTCHINS**

**-by Larry Wolfe**

**Robert (Bob or Hutch) Hutchins was born in Oak Park, Illinois, but grew up in Sioux City, Iowa. Bob's father was a talented artist who was once offered a job to draw for some unknown guy named Walt Disney. However, he turned down that job offer in California and the family stayed in Iowa. Oh, well....**

**Bob graduated from Sioux City Central High School and then was awarded a scholarship at Northern Iowa University where he majored in teaching, social studies and history. He met his wife, Jackie, during his first week at NIU and began a romance that continues to today; one that has been blessed with three children and five grandchildren.**

**Bob then followed an interesting career path that began with a civil service position with the Navy Department, and later included positions with NASA, Bell Aerospace, Bell Helicopter and Sikorsky Helicopter. His varied career included jobs in finance, budgeting, customer service, program management and even engineering. These jobs led he and his family to live in places as diverse as Washington, DC; Seabrook, TX; Lewiston, NY; Eules, TX; Madison, CT; and, the country of Iran.**

**As one might imagine, Bob's most interesting assignment was the time he spent in Iran with Bell Helicopter. Bell had won a major contract to build helicopters for the Shah of Iran. This assignment had all the benefits of an international position, including exposure to a very different culture, overseas premium pay and enough stories to last a lifetime. Unfortunately, this particular assignment also included excitement....way too much excitement. You see, Bob and his family were in Iran at the outset of the Islamic Revolution, which resulted in the overthrow of Shah**

**Pahlavi and the commencement of the rule of the Ayatollah Khomeini. Bob's family was airlifted out of Iran on January 2, 1979 while Bob stayed behind to clean things up from a business perspective. Upon arriving in the States, a "sensitive" TV reporter asked, "Do you ever expect to see your husband again?" Yes, a little too exciting...and scary!**

**Bob did, of course, return safely and began a twenty-year career with Sikorsky Helicopter before retiring to Sun Lakes in 1999. He was lured to Arizona by his brother, Jim, and his parents who had preceded him to our sunny state.**

**Hutch begun playing Sun Lakes Softball shortly after his arrival; since that time, he's been a key member of the Association, serving in Board Member, officer and team manager positions. He's also usually among the league's top hitters, earning 600 Club memberships over several seasons.**

**Bob's other interests include golf, bowling (he and Jackie bowl in the Guys and Dolls League), stamp collecting and baseball statistics. His impressive stamp collection includes over 80,000 pre-1952 stamps.**

**Bob has certainly had a successful career, a wonderful family life and a satisfying retirement, but it's those months in Iran that provide him with a myriad of interesting stories....many exciting....sometimes too exciting.**