



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: LOIS KOENIG

By Larry Wolfe

Lois “Slugger” Koenig is the only remaining charter member still playing on the Sun Lakes Ladies Softball team. A member of the first ladies team, managed by Will Caton and Artie Wachter back in 1995, she’s now playing on her 15th Sun Lakes team. She started out as a right fielder, but always prayed that the ball would never come her way! She now says her favorite position is catcher, because, “That’s where all the action is and I like action!” She enjoys the camaraderie with the other players and loves the game and the exercise it provides. Her biggest softball thrill came when she hit her only lifetime homerun against Monte Vista.

A Nebraska native, Lois was born and grew up in Eddyville, graduating from the regional high school in nearby Sumner, where she was a member of the volleyball, softball, table tennis and track teams. She went on to earn a BA in Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Lois participated in intramural softball and also taught while still attending college. In fact, she began her first job while she was only 17, teaching grades K-8 in a one-room school house. She would go on to have a 37-year career in elementary education, teaching in rural schools for four years, then ten years in Santa Maria, CA, followed by 23 years in Kimball, NE, where she and her late husband, Jim, had purchased a farm in 1965. In addition to teaching kids, she raised three of her own, including twins. She’s now the proud grandmother of five grandsons, but wishes they weren’t scattered all over the country...they live in California, Florida and Wyoming.

Lois maintains an active and full schedule. In fact, it was the words “Active Adult Community” on an I-10 billboard that drew the Koenigs to Sun Lakes when they were looking for a place to retire. “Active” was and is the key word for Lois. In addition to playing softball, she has participated in tap dancing, line dancing, bicycling and tennis and loves to play mah jongg. She also recently took up bridge. She always told herself she’d play bridge “when I got old and I recently looked in the mirror and decided it was time for bridge!” Lois also has always enjoyed traveling. In fact, she recently completed a 42-day trip to Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands. She’s been to many places, including numerous international destinations, but calls Italy her favorite vacation spot.

Her fondest life memories are of working with Jim on that 2500-acre farm back in Kimball. She says she was Jim’s “hired farm hand” and could drive a tractor, combine and grain truck, raise cattle and do all the related chores with the best of them. She also claims that she and Jim always worked well together because “He told me what to do...and I did it!” Sounds like the main rule for a perfect marriage to me!