



SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: LARRY DELANEY
-by Larry Wolfe

A sports story or a love story? Larry Delaney’s life has been both...and more. Larry is a native of Stockton, California, but Portland, Oregon is home. He was a football and track star for the Washington High Colonials, placing 6th in the state in the high jump. That prowess in track led to an athletic scholarship at the University of Portland, where he took advantage of the opportunity to earn a degree in Education, with a minor in Psychology. Those studies would form the basis for his long career in teaching, coaching and counseling.

While at Washington High, Larry met the “love of his life” and future wife, Patti. They started dating in 1951, began “going steady” in 1953 and married in 1955 while they were in college. In August, they celebrated anniversary number 54! (This relationship just might last!) Larry and Patti are parents of seven kids and the grandparents of nineteen.

Larry had a 23-year stint at David Douglas High, a large school in east Portland where he taught math, personal finance and PE, while coaching football, basketball and track. He also spent many years as a high school counselor. Later, he taught at John Adams High, an experimental school that attempted to give students a junior college-like

experience. While there he continued to coach football, basketball and track. Larry and Patti retired to Sun Lakes in 1996, drawn to the area by the “people and sunshine.”

To watch Larry play softball today, you’d think he had played his entire life; however, he didn’t begin playing until after his retirement. He was urged to come out and play by neighbor Bob Deken, and the rest, as they say, is history. Larry is one of the Sun Lakes Senior League’s top players, hitting for a high average with exceptional power. He’s played on the 65’s Tournament Team and is currently player-manager of the 70+ Tournament Team. Larry boasts four world championship rings since he began his senior softball career. Additionally, Larry is in charge of field maintenance at the well-manicured and highly-praised Field of Dreams.

Larry’s other interests include a life-long hobby of restoring classic cars, including a 1928 Model A and a 1936 Ford pick-up that is still in his family. He also enjoys camping and fishing, especially salmon and steelhead fishing in the beautiful streams of Oregon.

When asked about the highlights of his life, all of Larry’s recollections included the successes of others: How four of his students earned commissions to military academies in the same year; how some of his teams were state champs; how one of his track teams set a 440-relay state record; how Patti is the greatest mom and grandmother; how his kids and now grandkids have succeeded in life and in sports. You get the picture... Never did he mention what Larry Delaney did. But anyone who knows him knows that his dedication, caring attitude and guidance contributed to all those successes.