



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: JACK HOFEDITZ
-by Larry Wolfe

What do Tyrus “Ty” Cobb, Honus Wagner, James “Jimmie” Fox and Jerome “Dizzy” Dean all have in common? Many would know that all are baseball Hall of Famers; however, they’re also the names of the Hofeditz boys. So it’s no surprise that father Ty and son Jack Jerome would be ballplayers, and very good ones.

Jack Hofeditz followed in his father’s footsteps, both in his career at Hohl Seed and Feed in Bellingham, Washington and as a baseball fan and player. His happiest memories include proudly watching his dad play for the semi-pro Bellingham Bells, but Jack would also make a name for himself, both at his long and successful career at Hohl’s and as a ballplayer.

After graduating from Bellingham High and playing both basketball and baseball for the hometown Raiders, Jack attended Western Washington University before going to work at Hohl’s. The original Hohl’s was opened in 1901 and has now served the needs of farmers and others for over 100 years, with a Hofeditz “running the place” for over 60 of those years. Jack’s career encompassed 45 years at Hohl’s, the last 10 as the manager.

During his working years, Jack did find time to pursue his passion as a ballplayer. He has played baseball, fast-pitch softball and slo-pitch softball from high school to his present participation in the Sun Lakes

Senior League. And Jack doesn't just play....he excels. Ask his lovely wife, Joy, to show you his many trophies, including dozens of MVP trophies and plaques and numerous certificates of accomplishment that she has stored in the basement back in Bellingham! And Jack keeps adding to the totals. He is the reigning Most Valuable Player in the Sun Lakes League and is usually a member of the elite 600 Club, given to players with a .600 or higher batting average. And if our league had Gold Glove awards for the best fielders, Jack would win those, too.

Jack and Joy became seasonal residents of Sun Lakes in 2002. Jack followed two of his softball buddies, Arnie Bennewith and Henry Ellis, to Sun Lakes. In fact, the threesome usually "play there way down" to Arizona by participating in softball tournaments in Utah and Nevada during their "seasonal shift." In addition to the regular Sun Lakes League, Jack has played for the various traveling Age Group Teams sponsored by Mr. Robson.

Jack does have other interests, but other than his family, they are secondary to playing ball. He does dabble at golf and is also an avid coin and stamp collector. He also enjoys working in his large waterfront lot back in beautiful Bellingham during the summers. But if you asked him, he'd tell you he'd prefer making one of his patented diving stops at his shortstop position or lining a game-winning base hit to almost anything else. Yes, Jack Hofeditz was born to be a ballplayer....and a ballplayer he is. Both Ty Cobb and Ty Hofeditz would be proud.