



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: BILL LIGON **-by Larry Wolfe**

“Skinny Bill” Ligon was born and raised in Anna, Illinois, a small town near the southern tip of the state. Bill graduated from Anna-Jonesboro Community High School where he played basketball and was a high jumper on the Wildcats track team. As a youngster, Bill was a big fan of the nearby St. Louis Cardinals and their old number 6, Stan “The Man” Musial.

After attending Southern Illinois University, he became an apprentice tool and die-maker at Plainfield Tool & Engineering, where he spent a good part of his career. He was later a plant manager at Transcraft Corporation, and then started his own company, Ligon Engineering. After tiring of the cold winters in Illinois, Bill moved to Tempe in 1985 where he worked for the Triumph Corporation for many years.

Basketball was Bill’s favorite sport as a youngster and he continued to play that sport into his forties. Bill says he was small for basketball, but “really scrappy!” He began playing softball in the early ‘70s and fondly recalls playing against current Sun Laker Ronnie Brown back in Illinois. He’s now played competitive softball in Arizona for over twenty years and has been a member of top tournament teams from Fountain Hills and has played on the 50+ and 55+ Coyotes, as well as the Sun Lakes 60+ and 65+ tournament teams.

Bill’s top softball highlights include playing on the 2004 Sun Lakes 60+ team that finished second in the national tournament and the time he hit one out of the park in a Yuma tournament...people that weren’t there still don’t believe that one! Bill adds, “The highlights never end. It’s the people and continuing to be able to play the game that’s special.”

Besides softball, Bill has many other interests. He's been a private pilot since 1972 and owns a classic 1946 Ercoupe single-engine airplane, which he has used to fly to various tournaments. He also restores old cars and trucks, including his current 1958 Chevy pick-up and is an accomplished scuba diver. He also enjoys fishing and is an avid ham radio operator. As one can see, with Bill's diversified interests, he has had no trouble keeping occupied since his retirement to Sun Lakes in 2001.

Off the softball field, Bill's fondest memories center around his watching his three daughters play on their high school softball, volleyball and track teams. He also was thrilled to be down on the field at the then Bank One Ballpark as one of the Golden Glovers during the Arizona Diamondbacks 2004 season. (Those are the guys who sit outside the foul lines and retrieve foul balls during the games.)

He also fondly recalls first meeting his lovely wife, Sue. He says, "Here was this good-looking redhead, who liked softball and had her own pick-up truck; what more could a man wish for!?" Well, in Bill's case....maybe hitting one more softball clean out of the park!