



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: EDDIE KRAEMER
-by Larry Wolfe

A Cincinnati-area native, Edward “Eddie” Kraemer graduated from Hughes Center High where he lettered in baseball for the Big Red and “dabbled” in basketball. He then attended the University of Cincinnati, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. However, his educational pursuits were interrupted by Uncle Sam when he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War period. His assignments included an eighteen-month tour in Korea.

After completing his military service, Eddie left the Cincy area and settled in Redwood City, California where his brother lived. He was hired as a Mechanical Designer in the start-up computer division of General Electric and spent seven years with GE. He then began an eighteen-year career with IBM ultimately becoming a high-level Senior Engineer. After his IBM stint, he and two co-workers started their own computer-related business and after building up the company, they sold

it to Photomatrix, a Culver City-based company that manufactured high-performance document scanners and digital imaging devices. In 1994, Eddie was transferred to the company's Chandler facility. While there he designed a mechanical auto-feeder that transferred hard copy documents onto discs. After six-plus years in Chandler, Eddie and his wife, Madeline, retired to Naples, Florida.

The Kraemers lived in Naples for about six years before deciding that hot Arizona wasn't so bad after all. It sure beats the humidity and bugs in south Florida! They returned to this area in 2006 and are again enjoying life in the desert.

Eddie has played softball, both fast-pitch and slow-pitch, since graduating from high school. He's played at every level of competition and currently is a stand-out infielder for our World Champion 70+ Tournament Team. He also managed this year's A-1 Golf Carts team. As player-manager, Eddie hit a solid .533 and led the team to the fall championship. He's also a previous member of the 600 Club, reserved for the few hitters who achieve a batting average of over .600 for a full season. His two biggest softball thrills include being a member of this year's two-time World Champs and playing for a Ft. Myers team that won the Florida state championship.

Golf, bowling and tennis have been other passions. In addition, as the father of four sons, Eddie enjoyed watching them participate in sports and spent a lot of time coaching their Pop Warner football and Little League baseball teams.

Of course, life for Eddie and Madeline hasn't been all sports. They love to travel and have taken twelve cruises to various parts of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and the Mexican Riviera. However, their favorite vacation spot is Maui, where they honeymooned and have returned to several times since.

Eddie says that of all the places he's played softball over the years, he rates the Sun Lakes program number one. "The facilities, players and organization are all tops," he said, "and I'm lucky to be healthy and playing the game I love when others my age may be in their rocking chairs!"