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SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: WES REYNOLDS

By Larry Wolfe

A native and long-time resident of Seattle, Wes Reynolds graduated from Cleveland High where he was on the Soaring Eagles’ track team. After graduation he served four years in the Air Force, stationed in El Centro, California. That’s quite a change from Seattle! (Just a little drier and a little warmer!) But that experience did prepare him for his later “retirement in the desert.” Wes initially worked as a mechanic in the Air Force, but later served in Office Administration. He stayed in El Centro for a couple years after his discharge working in the Veterans Service Office before returning to Seattle.

Back in Washington Wes went to work for the City of Seattle in the Drainage and Sewer Division of the Public Utilities Engineering Department. He began as a laborer, but soon worked his way up to Foreman, Senior Foreman and ultimately to Civil Engineering Specialist. Wes had a 28+ year career with the city before taking early retirement in 1996.

Wes and his bride, Shirley, soon began spending their winters in Indio, California, near Palm Springs. They also used their “home away from home,” a 40-foot diesel Safari RV with a 20-foot slideout, to explore the

west coast in detail. They took many RV vacation trips from Seattle to San Diego and everywhere in between. They'd park the RV and visit the sites in their Honda CR-V that they towed along. The Safari was also their "moving hotel" for the many softball tournaments he played in over the years.

Softball has been a part of Wes' life for over 40 years; he's played in numerous leagues and too many tournaments to count. He's been a part of our Sun Lakes league since 2008 and is a versatile player who hit a solid .643 this past season. Shirley's a big fan of the game, too. She normally attends his out-of-town tournaments, including an annual pilgrimage to St. George, Utah. If you're ever at one of Wes' games, you'll likely hear her hollering, "Catch the ball, Reynolds!"

After settling in Arizona, Wes and Shirley sold the RV and bought their newest toy, a 1963 Corvair convertible. They love "tooling around" the area in that classic!

Speaking of classics, would you believe Wes and his brother were also Elvis impersonators!? His brother bought all the outfits, including the famous white-sequined jumpsuit, and let Wes wear them for his gigs. Add a wig, sideburns and sunglasses, and Wes becomes Elvis! He supposedly brought down the house at the annual fundraiser at the Indio Big Star Theatre! Maybe if we're lucky (?) we'll get to see a performance sometime!

Wes' current goal is to stay healthy and continue playing softball. He's looking forward to the St. George tournament this fall where his son will be on a 50+ team while he plays for the 70s team. Shirley will be there cheering for both! "Come on Reynolds, catch the ball!"