



SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: DENNY DAVIDSON
-by Larry Wolfe

Dennis “Denny” Davidson is a St. Louis area native who was born in North St. Louis and grew up in the suburb of Berkeley, Missouri. He was a member of the first graduating class from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in another nearby suburb, Florissant. As a youngster, Denny was known as “Peanuts,” but outgrew that nickname by the time he participated in soccer, baseball and track as a member of the fighting Falcons. In fact, the school can thank Denny and his chums for the Falcon mascot name. It seems he and his friends formed a boys’ club called the Falcons while he was a freshman at St. Thomas. For some reason that he won’t disclose, the nuns made the boys disband their club, but when a vote was taken to name the mascot for the new school, the winner was....the Falcons!

As a St. Louis area resident, Denny obviously grew up to be a fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. His favorite players were Stan “The Man” Musial, Curt Flood and Julian Javier. He continues to follow the Cardinals and names Albert Pujols as his favorite current player.

After high school, Denny was drafted by the U. S. Army and served at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri; Ft. Knox, Kentucky; and Ft. Riley, Kansas before his entire 1st Infantry Division was sent to Vietnam. Although Denny said that his experiences in Vietnam were “no picnic,” he preferred that assignment over Ft. Riley. Doesn’t say much for Ft. Riley, does it?

Denny then attended St. Louis University before entering the “real world” as a service representative for the Brunning Corporation, a manufacturer of blueprint and copy machines. He then spent 18 years in various sales, service and sales management positions with the Burroughs Corporation, a major manufacturer of office equipment, and later, computers. (As an interesting aside, the company was formed in 1886 in St. Louis as the American Arithometer Company, selling the first “automatic” adding machine, which was invented by William Seward Burroughs.) After the company merged with the Sperry Corp. in 1986 to form what is now Unisys, Denny decided to move on and formed his own company, which sold and serviced various types of office equipment, primarily for the banking industry. Denny sold his business about six years ago and retired to Sun Lakes.

Denny was heavily involved in sports in his younger years. Besides playing on numerous softball teams himself, he was a soccer coach for various youth league teams. In fact, he coached the teams that his three daughters played for from the time they were in the third grade all the way through high school. During his final year of coaching the high school age girls’ team, every one of the sixteen young ladies on the team received a college scholarship offer! Denny considers that one of his greatest “life accomplishments,” and rightfully so!

When Denny retired to Sun Lakes, he hadn’t played on an organized softball team for nearly twenty years. He was talked into coming out for a tryout by Jim Dunn. (In the “old days” players had to try out and play on Mondays before qualifying for the “big league teams” that played in the Tuesday-Thursday League.) So we have Jimmy Dunn to thank (or blame) for having Denny in the league! Since joining the league six plus years ago, Denny has been a major contributor, serving on the Board of Directors, as President of the Association and as the Manager of the 60+ and 65+ Travel Teams. He is currently in his second year of managing the very competitive 65+ team. His biggest thrill relative to Sun Lakes Softball came in 2004 when his team came in second in the AAA World Series held in Las Vegas. That group of “pure” Sun Lakers barely lost the championship to the highly-favored Chicago Classics All-Star team. The little Davids (or Dennys?) almost beat the Goliaths of senior softball!

In addition to softball, Denny is an avid racquetball player, winning several Senior Olympics Gold Medals in that sport. His lovely wife, Pat, is also a racquetball and tennis player, but Denny says her best sport is “World Class Shopping!”

Denny’s best life memories are the births and weddings of his three daughters. He and Pat are also the proud grandparents of five beautiful granddaughters. (Where are the X-linked genes in this family?!) Maybe Denny’s daughters and granddaughters could get together and form a girls’ club...called the Falconettes! But watch out for the nuns....