



**SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: GARY DAHLGREN**  
**By Larry Wolfe**

**There are at least two stars that grew up in Seattle. One is the ubiquitous “Star”bucks coffee chain; the other is Gary Dahlgren, star player in the Sun Lakes Senior Softball League. Since Gary retired and relocated to Sun Lakes in 2004, he has been named the league’s Rookie-of-the-year and its Most Valuable Player and has played on the 2007 Robson Ranch team that recently won the Senior Softball World Series Championship. Previously he played on a Seattle-based team that also won a National Championship. Just as Starbucks seems to be ubiquitous, so is Gary. Opposing players think there must be several Gary’s in the outfield as he runs down fly balls all over the field! Yep, it seems he’s also on every corner!**

**Gary was actually born in Spokane, but lived in Seattle from the time he was a ten-year-old youth until his retirement. He graduated from Renton High School, where he starred for the Indians’ cross country, track and baseball teams. He then attended South Seattle Community College where he majored in business and business management.**

**Gary spent most of his career with two companies: International Sales Corporation, which specialized in selling paint for yachts and ships, and the Boeing Corporation, the world’s leading aerospace company and the**

**largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircraft. Gary spent nearly 20 years with Boeing, where he was in charge of its shipping and receiving department.**

**Since Seattle didn't have a baseball team when Gary was growing up, he was a fan of the New York Yankees and their star, Mickey Mantle. They're still his second favorite, after his hometown Seattle Mariners. Gary is also a big soccer fan and calls attending a World Cup game between Bulgaria and Romania one of his biggest sports thrills.**

**Gary considers himself lucky that his son, also named Gary, daughter-in-law Madeline and two grandchildren live in nearby Chandler. Grandson Greg recently graduated from Basha High and his granddaughter, Angie, is currently a sophomore at Bash High School.**

**When I asked Gary what he likes most about Sun Lakes Softball, he cited the many friendships he has made and the overall camaraderie with his fellow players. He enjoys both league play and playing on the '60s Travel Team, especially now that they're World Series winners! He also enjoys playing for his No. 1 fan, Marlene, who goes to all of his tournament games. He's looking forward to participating on many more championship teams, as this Robson Ranch-sponsored team appears to be a real powerhouse.**

**In addition to softball, Gary enjoys swimming and the aforementioned soccer; however, his favorite hobby is collecting old maps, atlases and globes. He actually has at least one map of every state in the union...the old-fashioned "gas station" variety. He also has Rand McNally atlases dating back to the 1930's and 1940's. So if you ever get lost or just need directions, you don't need Mapquest; just call Gary!**