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## **SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: JACK STRAUSS**

**By Larry Wolfe**

**Have you ever met someone and thought, “Boy, he’s a good guy.” That thought hits you as soon as you meet Jack Strauss. But Jack’s not just a nice guy; he’s also a superb athlete. Arguably the best defensive outfielder in our league, Jack also swings a lethal bat and routinely hits over .700! Jack played softball on company teams when he was younger, but then, like most of us, took a long hiatus before taking up senior softball. After playing a couple years in a Chandler league, Jack joined our league five years ago and continues to be a top performer.**

**An “almost Phoenix native,” Jack’s folks moved here when he was an infant. He graduated from the now defunct East Phoenix High School where he played baseball, basketball and football for the Longhorns. The school was located near the Phoenix-Tovrea Stockyards and when the wind was blowing the wrong way, Jack recalls that there weren’t many fans in the stands!**

**Jack earned a degree in Criminal Justice from ASU because he thought he'd like to become an FBI agent or G-man; however, he decided to join the family medical supplies business for awhile instead. After spending five years in San Diego in that business, Jack became a field services representative for AMRAY, a firm specializing in scanning electron microscopes systems. He was "transferred around" with AMRAY, spending time in Boston (where he played on the company softball team with Doug Flutie!) and LA before returning to Phoenix. He then joined a Motorola-owned company in the semi-conductor business. When that company faced a major economic downturn, massive layoffs occurred and Jack found himself without a job. At about the same time, Jack's wife Jody delivered their second daughter, so Jack became "Mr. Mom," allowing Jody to resume her very successful career in medical equipment sales. Jack considers being Mr. Mom his best job ever! When both daughters, Carly and Hannah, were in school, Jack became a substitute teacher and coach. He subbed in the Chandler School District (K-6<sup>th</sup> grade) and also was an assistant coach in basketball, soccer and softball. He especially enjoyed coaching his daughters' various teams.**

**Besides playing softball, Jack enjoys getaways with Jody and the family at their cabin in Pine, fifteen miles north of Payson. They enjoy all the outdoorsy activities such as hiking and canoeing, as well as mountain climbing around Flagstaff. Since Jody's still working, their free time together is still limited, but they have done a few cruises and enjoy doing fix-up projects up at the cabin.**

**Jack met Jody when they both went to an ASU hangout to listen to a mutual friend play in a band. They'll soon be celebrating anniversary number thirty, so I guess they liked the music!**

**Even though Jack never did become an FBI agent, he did become a G-man; however, the "G" doesn't stand for Government-man. It stands for Good, as in really Good Guy!**