



**SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: DENNIS COLBERT**  
**-by Larry Wolfe**

**Dennis Colbert is a native of Lewistown, Illinois, where he earned nine varsity letters for the Indians in three sports: baseball, basketball and football. He went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Education with a major in Math at Illinois State University before attaining a Masters Degree in Mathematics from the University of Illinois.**

**Armed with those degrees, Dennis became a high school and junior college teacher and basketball and football coach in south suburban Chicago and Peoria, Illinois; but after four years and with a wife and young son, he decided he needed a more lucrative occupation. He entered a training program with Caterpillar, Inc. which is headquartered in Peoria. This became the beginning of a rewarding thirty-five year career with that company. Dennis' career centered on sales and marketing and he would ultimately become a top sales and marketing executive for the company's financial services arm. In fact, his "claim to fame" is that he was the marketing executive who was instrumental in forming Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation thirty years ago. The company specializes in providing financing and leasing for the parent company's full product line. Cat Financial has grown from that pure start-up company with thirteen employees to an organization with a worldwide presence in over forty countries and over 1500 employees. Additionally, it has revenues of over \$2 Billion annually**

**and assets exceeding \$29 Billion! And Dennis was a key contributor to that growth and success.**

**When retirement beckoned in 2000, Arizona was on his mind. During his career Dennis had traveled extensively throughout the USA, Canada and Central and South America. He was also very familiar with Arizona because it was a part of his sales responsibility as Sales and Marketing Director for Cat Financial. Sun Lakes, in particular, was a major draw due to the fact that it is a retirement community and it had the amenities that Dennis wanted, including the senior softball program.**

**Dennis has been a key player in both our competitive league and on the travel teams. He's the proud owner of five championship rings, including the 65's and 70's World Championships.**

**Hiking is another passion. Dennis is a High Pointer, a group whose goal is to attain the highest point in every state. Dennis is currently at 21 states and counting. His highest high point so far is the summit of Wheeler Peak in New Mexico at 13,161 feet. Next up is Humphreys Peak, north of Flagstaff. Besides visiting the high points Dennis has taken a seven-day 280-mile rafting trip through the Grand Canyon and a 30-day vacation to Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji Islands.**

**Like many of us, Dennis has endured his share of hardships, but after being widowed twice, and after 52 years, he has reconnected with Margie Darling, his classmate from first grade through high school. Plus, Margie was his high school prom date. All is great again with Margie as his life partner!**