



**OCTOBER 2019**

**SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: BILL JACOBSON  
-Larry Wolfe**

**Wisconsin native Bill Jacobson grew up in Waterford, graduating from Waterford High where he earned All-America honors as a defensive tackle for the Wolverines. He was also on the baseball and wrestling teams and participated in the drama programs. Upon graduation he enrolled at Gateway Technical College in nearby Racine, earning a degree in Machining.**

**After working in his father's general contracting business for three years, he began his long career as a machinist. His first job was as a precision grinder for a local machine shop before he moved on to Racine Flame Spray, Inc., a leading supplier of high tech coatings. Bill**

**spent 15 years with RFS specializing in metalizing equipment for paper mills. He traveled extensively to mills throughout the US and Canada and even into South America. Tired of being a “road warrior,” Bill left RFS and went to work for Eagle Grinding & Plating in Milwaukee. He spent the final twenty years of his career with them before retiring last year.**

**Bill and his wife, Carol, had visited family in Sun Lakes for years, so when they retired they knew Arizona was the place they wanted to be. Carol retired after forty years in the teaching profession shortly before Bill retired. The Jacobsons have a son, Adam, daughter-in-law Kate and daughter Kristi, all who live in the Chicago area.**

**Bill joined our softball program last fall and finished his rookie year with a .601 average along with 21 doubles, good for 6<sup>th</sup> in the league. He also managed the Young Realty team during our spring session, leading them to a first-place finish. He had a lot of previous experience playing for and managing teams in Wisconsin, including club teams, city league teams and even coaching a ladies’ softball team for several years.**

**An avid cyclist, Bill bikes 25-30 miles per day except on “game days” when he cuts back to 10-15 miles! In Wisconsin he was a member of the Wheelers, a cycling club that did fundraising rides for various charities, sometimes riding up to 100 miles. He’s also into pickleball and was into golf until, according to Bill, “The game and I had a disagreement!”**

**Model railroading was another of Bill’s interests. He was a collector of Lionel train sets and previously had over 500 feet of track in his basement. Son Adam shared Bill’s interest and they attended many railroading shows and swap meets back in Wisconsin. Bill says that this hobby was a real father-son bonding opportunity. The trains didn’t follow Bill to Arizona, so Adam is now the owner of that collection.**

**Carol and Bill share an interest in live theatre and also enjoy visiting wineries. “All in the Family” vacations are another passion. They’ve previously done family cruises in the Caribbean and around Alaska; Carol and daughter Kristi are now planning for next year’s “whole family” vacation to Greece and the Greek Isles. When I asked why Greece, Bill responded, “I don’t do the planning, I just go!”**