



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: BILL MAXWELL
-by Larry Wolfe

Baseball junkie: “A person who derives inordinate pleasure from the game of baseball; also, an aficionado, buff, devotee, enthusiast and/or fan or fanatic.” That definition from *Webster’s* is the perfect description of Bill Maxwell. From attending 20+ Spring training games, 35+ Arizona Fall League games and 20 or so D-backs games per year, Bill is truly a baseball junkie. He also finds time to follow the ASU baseball and softball teams and plays in our Sun Lakes Senior Softball League. Plus, he’s a big fan of the Texas Rangers.

Bill’s love of the game goes back to his childhood, but he really got into it when he started coaching his son Frazier’s baseball team. He also coached and organized football and basketball teams. Bill coached for over twenty years and estimates that he coached well over 1000 different kids. One of those kids is the current head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, Jason Garrett. Five of Bill’s kids from his last team were drafted by major league baseball teams. One of his biggest coaching thrills was when the Pop Warner football squad won the National Championship.

Born and raised on a cotton farm sixteen miles from the small town of Lamesa, Texas, Bill was the typical “farm kid.” Farming the dry and desert-like Western Texas terrain was a difficult task. Bill says his parents were sharecroppers who lived on borrowed money till the crops came in. His Dad was the management (drove the tractor) while Bill and his siblings were the laborers (chopped weeds). It was a tough life, but Bill believes “every kid should be lucky enough to be a farm kid.”

After graduating from Lamesa High on a Friday night, Bill joined the Navy the following Monday morning. He served for four years as an Aerographer’s Mate (weather analyst). After his discharge, he met and married his wife, Doris, a Seattle gal, and graduated from the University of Washington. They’ll be celebrating anniversary number 50 next year.

The Maxwells moved to Dallas where Bill was hired by State Farm Insurance. That would be the beginning of a successful thirty-three year career in the insurance business. He was an underwriter and a claimsman and an adjuster for natural disasters such as major hail storms and hurricanes, including the infamous Hurricane Andrew.

After retiring in 1998, Bill and Doris relocated to Waikiki Beach and became beach bums. But there was one thing missing from that idyllic lifestyle....baseball! So while visiting a cousin in Sun Lakes, Bill knew he’d found baseball heaven. Where else can a baseball junkie get his “fix” all year long?

They bought a home here in 2008 and have been enjoying the Sun Lakes and Arizona lifestyle ever since. They do return to Hawaii every year to renew acquaintances and enjoy the island life, but this is the place to be for Sun Lakes’ own Mr. Baseball.