



## **SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: DON SCOGGINS**

-by Larry Wolfe

A native of Paducah, Kentucky, Don Scoggins graduated from Lone Oak High where he played baseball for the Purple Flashes. He then studied at Paducah Junior College before entering the Armed Forces at the height of the Vietnam War. Though trained as a bulldozer operator, there was a shortage of medics at the time, so Don volunteered. He spent his tour in Vietnam as a combat medic, serving primarily at Army bases near Pleiku and Buon Ma Thuot. He completed his military service with an assignment in Germany.

After returning home, Don attended Murray State University where he earned a BS in Construction Technology. That opened the door to a long and varied career in the construction industry. He began with Hunt Construction Group, rated 27<sup>th</sup> among the top construction companies in the US. After spending ten years with that company, Don joined Phil W. Morris Construction of Phoenix and relocated to Chandler. During his time with Morris, he was Construction Manager when that company constructed the Los Abrigados Resort in Sedona. He then worked briefly for the Thrash Companies before rejoining the Hunt Group in 1987. Over the following twelve years, he was Project Manager, then Senior Project Manager, over many interesting and challenging construction projects including the Phoenix Gateway One Center, Bank One Ballpark, Dial/Viad corporate headquarters, St. Joseph Hospital & Medical Center and the Green Tree Financial Building among many others. As project manager for the Bank One

Ballpark, he had responsibility for the parking garage, the detached bar & grille, the fixed seating, signage and the roof. As one would imagine, the construction of the retractable roof was a major challenge and a super accomplishment.

Don completed his career with Kitchell Contractors, working in their Native American Division, where he managed construction of the Salt River Chaparral Business Center, the Casino Del Sol in Tucson, the Black Oak Casino in Tuolumne, California, the Desert Diamond Casino Hotel in Tucson and the Gila River's Wild Horse Pass Casino & Hotel. Don thoroughly enjoyed his career and can see the results of his efforts in all the successful projects he managed.

Now in his second Sun Lakes softball season, Don is one of the league's top hitters for both power and average and is a versatile defensive player who has played both third base and the outfield. He also keeps busy playing intramural basketball twice a week, works out three times weekly and is very active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Riding his Harley is another passion.

Despite all of his many career accomplishments, Don says his most successful "project" was marrying his lovely wife, Sherry, a relationship he defines as "based upon destiny." They met at a time and place where they said they "never go," except that once! Together they have a happy marriage with six children, ten grandkids and three-and-a-half great grandkids! I'd say that qualifies as a very successful "project!"