



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: HOWIE DIELMANN
-by Larry Wolfe

Howie Dielmann is a native of Mishawaka, Indiana, a city near South Bend. He spent his early childhood in Indiana before moving to Carmichael, California as a teenager. After graduating from La Sierra High he enrolled at Valparaiso University back in Indiana. Howie's initial intent was to become a nuclear physicist, but after discovering computers, he switched majors and became a computer programmer instead.

The so-called major sports didn't interest Howie in high school and college, but he was a member of the cross country team in high school and a high jumper in college. (And he still looks like he could do the Fosbury Flop over the high bar!)

After college, Howie joined Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) as a software programmer and relocated back to California. At the time, CSC was a major supplier of IT services to various government organizations. Howie worked on many software projects for NASA and traveled to the various space centers as a contractor for them. He

worked on many high profile and interesting projects including NASA's satellite launching and tracking programs and the Saturn rocket project. While at CSC Howie met and married Paula, his lovely bride of 40+ years. He was transferred to CSC's Maryland operation in 1971 where Howie worked on the space program at NASA's Goddard Space Center.

Howie spent 12 years with CSC before being lured back to California to work for TRW. He worked as a software engineer on the development of missile systems and spacecraft during his 20+ year career with that company.

Upon retiring in 1997, Howie and Paula intended to settle in Palm Desert before they discovered Sun Lakes in 1999. Howie also intended to play only golf and a little racquetball in retirement, but his neighbor, Larry Delaney, persuaded him to try softball as well. And as they say: the rest is history! Howie not only became one of the top players in our league, but also has been a major contributor to our travel teams, including the recent World Championship squad. He hit a robust .701 during last year's season and a whopping .720 in the recent World Championship tourney.

However, Howie didn't give up golf, he just *added* softball. He's a member of FOUR Sun Lakes golf leagues, including two couples' leagues with Paula. He sports a 10-handicap and is competitive golfer in both the Ironwood and Oakwood leagues.

The Dielmanns do find time for other endeavors, including lots of travel. They've literally traveled all over the world with trips throughout China and a 30-day cruise along the coastlines of Norway and ports along the Baltic Sea being their favorites. They've also taken six cruises in our hemisphere to various locations in Mexico, the Caribbean and the Panama Canal. Their best travel story involves them walking along the Great Wall of China and hearing someone calling "Howie! Howie!" Would you believe a Sun Lakes neighbor was also there?! Talk about the proverbial "small world!"