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SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: STEVE HILBY
By Larry Wolfe

The oldest of nine siblings, Steve Hilby is a native Iowan and was a lifelong resident of that state until retiring to Sun Lakes in 2011. As that oldest big brother, Steve began his teaching career early. That experience would eventually lead to a 33-year career in education.

After graduating from Wahlert High in Dubuque, where he played baseball for the Golden Eagles, Steve attended Loras College before earning his degree in education from University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. He taught for a couple years in a small parochial school before moving on to the Shellsburg Community School District. He was a phys. ed. and social studies teacher and coached baseball, basketball

and track at Shellsburg. He ultimately became the Athletic Director there. Mr. Hilby (you can't call a teacher Steve, can you?) then moved on to the larger Cedar Rapids Community School District. He spent the next twenty-two years at various schools in that district. After moving into administration, he became an Associate Principal and then Principal at Roosevelt Middle School.

Steve says he grew up with a baseball bat in his hands and played every variation of the game: baseball, fast pitch and slow pitch softball, modified fast pitch, 16-inch ball, 14-inch ball, industrial league teams, co-ed teams...you name it, Steve played it...and played it well. He and his brothers even had a miniature baseball field in their backyard, complete with a backstop. With Dubuque being a good Catholic town, there were always plenty of kids around to form a couple teams! Today Steve is one of our league's top hitters for average and power as well as a top-flight fielder. He finished last season with a robust .748 average and hit the longest homerun ever witnessed at the Field of Dreams. The blast traveled over 350 feet and broke a window in a house on the hill behind the right field fence. Thankfully the house belonged to former softball player Ted Miles, so he didn't sue us!

Mr. Hilby met his wife-to-be, Cyndy, while they were both teaching in Shellsburg. Sounds like a small town scandal in the making! Well, that "scandal" has turned into a 27-year marriage with two successful offspring, son Matt and daughter Kate; but no grandkids...yet!

In addition to softball, Steve and Cyndy enjoy golfing, hiking, dancing, going to concerts and traveling. In fact, they've traveled to all but three states! Speaking of dancing, Steve was once a member of a group that performed Native American dances in local productions. He was also the drummer! Unfortunately there are no pictures, but maybe he can provide the entertainment at our next social function!

After spending his entire career in education, Mr. Hilby says that his greatest satisfaction comes when he meets a former student as an adult and finds that he or she is very successful in life and thinking that, just maybe, he had something to do with that! Satisfying, indeed.