



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: JOHN HURST
-by Larry Wolfe

John Hurst is an LA native but has called Arizona home for over thirty years. Graduating from Mark Keppel High School in Alhambra, he played baseball and tennis for the Aztecs. He then attended East LA Junior College before moving on to Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo where he majored in Accounting and Sales & Marketing.

His business career started in sales with a direct mailing company before he became Sales Manager for Trend Offset Printing Services. Relocating to the Phoenix area, he became Vice President-Sales & Marketing for Webcrafters. After ten years with that company John ventured out on his own, forming a print brokering business. Under his leadership, the company expanded its line of services to include direct mailing. He then merged his business with a commercial bindery business. Today Harte Bindery & Mailing is the second largest company of its type in Arizona. John is still 100% Owner and Chief Executive Officer.

With Ann, his bride of nearly twenty-five years, John moved to Sun Lakes from nearby Ocotillo in 1994. There was only one primary reason for the move---the Sun Lakes softball program! John has been a softball player since playing on the asphalt streets of LA as child and being named Youth League All-City Player of the Year. He continued playing in various high school, college intramural, church and city leagues in California and here in the Phoenix area. In fact, he has never stopped playing as he is now one of the top players on our World Champion 70s Travel Team and is also a power-hitting first baseman in our Sun Lakes Competitive League. His sweet upper-cut swing is reminiscent of another tall left-hander named Ted Williams.

Basketball was an equal passion as John played in competitive city and industrial leagues until age 50+ when his bum knees slowed him down. He says he was the definition of a gym rat as a youngster, spending most of his spare time playing in various leagues, in pick-up games or just shooting hoops. Tennis and skiing were also favorite activities, but again the knees have put a damper on those activities for now. But he's thinking of getting them fixed, so watch out!

John is lucky to have all four of his boys and their families in the Phoenix area. This allows him a lot of Grandpa time! He and Ann also love cruises. They've taken many and try to pick out a new destination each time. They also have a time share property in Lake Tahoe and a cabin in Strawberry so they get a lot of escapes from our rather warm summers.

Both Ann & John enjoy the camaraderie that goes along with his playing on our travel teams. It's a real opportunity for them to make good friends, travel to fun places and play softball! John calls his teammates in the regular league and on the travel team "the greatest group of guys I've ever been around." And winning FOUR World Championships is just icing on the cake!