



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: DWAIN HINKLE

By Larry Wolfe

Watching Dwaine Hinkle sprint down the line toward first base, it wasn't surprising to learn he was a champion sprinter as a youth. In fact, he was a member of the Doane (NE) College track team that broke records in the 880-relays. Dwaine was a speedster who ran the 100- and 200-yard dashes and was also a high- and low-jumper. His speed stayed with him over the years, as he did very well in those events in the Senior Olympics just ten years ago.

Born in the village of Spalding, Dwaine moved to Ogallala in western Nebraska when he was four. He grew up there, graduating from Ogallala High in 1956. Dwaine says "he cut his teeth on a baseball." He was a switch-hitting leadoff batter and excellent bunter on his Midget and Legion teams. He later played softball as an adult, including two years on the Buckley Air National Guard Team that played in a highly-competitive fast-pitch league.

After graduating from Doane with a BA in Business and Economics, Dwaine began a successful career in sales with the All State Insurance Company in Denver. He retired in 1996 after 36 years with that company.

When Dwaine and the love of his life, Marlene, were looking for a place to retire, they saw the old Field of Dreams on Riggs Road and knew that Sun Lakes was the place for them. You see, Dwaine actually proposed to Marlene on a baseball field back in Nebraska so she had an idea that baseball and softball might be a part of their future! And it certainly was.... Shortly after making Sun Lakes their winter home, Dwaine began playing senior softball. In addition to league play, he's been on

the 65+ and 70+ travel teams and continues to enjoy the game and the camaraderie that's as important to him as the game itself.

In addition to softball, Dwaine enjoys singing, garage sales, movies and bowling. He also collects die-cast cars and various paintings. The Hinkles have also traveled the world since retiring. They've taken numerous cruises, including some as long as 90 days. Travel destinations have included Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East, Iceland, Russia, China, Thailand, Vietnam, South America, Africa, Turkey and nearly everywhere in Europe, including Germany, the home of his forefathers, the "Heinkels." In fact, Dwaine has tracked his genealogy back to the 1400's and found his family's history in the US goes back to 1717 when five Hinkle brothers, all pastors, fled religious persecution in Germany to settle in the Germantown, PA area.

Today, Dwaine and Marlene are the proud parents of a son, two daughters and seven grandchildren. Son Brad and family are Chandler residents while Renee and Robin and their families live in the Denver area, where Dwaine and Marlene escape to their summer home. From their first date as freshmen in high school at the Sweethearts Valentines Dance till today, time as sped by. Apropos for a sprinter...