



SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: HAL KIME

By Larry Wolfe

The main thing that can be said about Dr. Hal Kime is that he made a difference...and he still does. Whether it was as a football, basketball and baseball player for his native Ovid, Colorado High School; as a teacher and coach; as the father of four successful offspring (three of whom followed him into the medical profession); as a hard-hitting Sun Lakes softball player; as a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine; or, as a medical missionary in some rather remote corner of the world, Hal Kime has made a significant difference in the many lives he has touched.

Hal Kime, now 70 years old, was born and reared in Ovid, Colorado, a small town near the Nebraska/Colorado border. Ovid is known as a very historical place, previously being a main stop on the Pony Express route and the Oregon Trail, and due to its proximity to Fort Sedgwick, a famous U.S. Army outpost in the 1860's and '70's. Ovid is also in the middle of an agricultural area, most famous for its sugar beets and related sugar refining factory. Hal credits his strong throwing arm to his job that included tossing heavy sugar bags as a youth.

After graduating from Ovid High School, Hal earned his Bachelor's Degree at Asbury College in Kentucky, where he also played basketball, soccer and fast pitch softball. He later earned a Master's Degree in Secondary Education at the University of Kentucky. After several years as a teacher and coach, Hal was drawn to what would become his lifelong career and passion—medicine. Hal returned to school and earned his Doctorate degree at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

During his long medical career, Hal has practiced in several locations in the U.S., primarily as a surgeon, but his fondest memories are of his service in poorer Latin American, African and Asia-Pacific countries, including, among many others, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Ghana, Papua, New Guinea and a ten-year stay in Ecuador. It was during those assignments that Hal feels he was really able to make a difference. In most of those assignments, Hal was a “one doctor show.” In those locations, there were no specialists like we have. Have a broken arm? Need a major

operation? Having a baby? Need treatment for some unknown or exotic disease? Just go see Dr. Kime!

Even though Hal “kind of” retired in 1991, he has continually journeyed to numerous locations to provide medical treatment to the less fortunate. Hal and his wife, Nancy, typically make several sojourns per year to remote locales, with the assignments ranging from a couple weeks to a couple months in duration. In fact, Hal and Nancy will be leaving soon for Malawi, Africa, where he will be on assignment with the Nazarene Health Ministries to provide medical care for AIDS orphans. [As an aside: There are nearly one million orphans in that country of 13 million people, mostly due to the AIDS epidemic. Malawi is one of the poorest nations in the world, recently ranked number 179 out of 182 countries, based upon GDP per capita. In addition, the life expectancy in Malawi is now 36.5 years, which is five years less than it was 50 years ago, and less than half the life expectancy in the U.S. This is due to insufficient nutrition, poor (or no) access to medical care and the proliferation of HIV/AIDS.] It is in places like Malawi that Dr. Kime will continue to make a difference.

Hal began playing Sun Lakes Senior Softball in 1997, although he still considers basketball his best and favorite sport. In fact, Hal never played organized slow pitch softball until he came to Sun Lakes. But you’d never guess that if you watched him play, because he always was, and is, an athlete. Hal lists his favorite softball positions as first base and pitcher, although he also plays a lot in the outfield. His most memorable Sun Lakes softball experiences revolve around the camaraderie, especially on out-of-town trips to various tournaments. He considers many of his co-players and teammates “just like family.” As a youth, Hal’s favorite player was the St. Louis Cardinals Dizzy Dean, but his favorite team was the Brooklyn Dodgers. When asked why, it was because his favorite uncle was from New York and was a big Dodgers fan, so Hal became one, too. Today, he roots for both the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Colorado Rockies.

One of Hal’s sports-related “claims to fame” was that he played on the national basketball championship team while he was in Ecuador. A non-sports-related “claim to fame” is that he delivered two of his own children, child number three in Michigan and his fourth child, a son, while on assignment in Costa Rica.

Although Hal missed most of this past softball season with a bad hip, he’s on the road to recovery and hopes to be back to normal for the fall season. He also wants to return to mountain hiking and, in fact, has previously hiked up four mountains of over 14,000 feet in elevation in Colorado....at an age when a lot of us have trouble climbing the stairs!

Although Hal loves Sun Lakes and playing softball, his real passion remains his professional calling and his ability to help those in need. It’s what he spent his whole life preparing for, and it’s “doing what he was meant to do.” He’s making a difference.....