



Above left: John Seigla, 1978 Above right: John today

**SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: JOHN SEIGLA
-by Larry Wolfe**

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, John Seigla picked up a bat and ball at age seven and has been playing in some type of baseball or softball league ever since. He was a four-sport letterman at Deer Park High where he played baseball against Pete Rose and batted against Claude Osteen. He also participated in basketball, track and football. In fact, as a 240-pound lineman (yes, that's not a misprint!) John had three college football scholarship offers. But John decided to decline those offers and start making money in the real world instead.

Upon graduation, he joined AT&T for what would be a rewarding thirty-year career. He began that career on a construction crew and lived in thirteen states during his first three years with the company. Uncle Sam then interrupted his career for a couple years. That's when John lost a lot of weight and began to look like the John of today. After attending Signal School in Ft. Gordon, Georgia, John spent thirteen months in Korea where he provided communications support for the 44th Missile Battalion on the DMZ. After his Army service he resumed his career with AT&T as a Staff Supervisor in Chicago.

After his early travels, John settled down in Prospect Heights, Illinois, married and raised his family while continuing to progress at AT&T. His last job was as an Engineering Supervisor responsible for implementation of AT&T's domestic fiber optic network where he managed a multi-million dollar construction budget. He retired at age 49 with his thirty-years of service and soon relocated to Arizona because his son Alex played baseball at Grand Canyon University.

Being a little young to fully retire, John worked in security for Wells Fargo and later KPNX Channel 12 in Phoenix. He was fortunate to be assigned to provide security work at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta where he got to see the Dream Team win the basketball Gold Medal and even has an autographed picture of himself holding Charles Barkley's shoe from that event.

As noted above, John has played ball his whole life. He played fast-pitch while at AT&T before forming a softball team in Korea that toured that country playing Korean and US teams. Next was Chicago-style 16-inch softball at Grant Park where he played for AT&T teams for many years. After retirement he played on some other Arizona teams before joining the Sun Lakes league a few years ago. He's played on our 65's and 70's tournament teams as well as in our regular league. He's earned eight world championship rings over his career (five with Sun Lakes teams) and hopes for a few more before he hangs up his cleats.

John says that he's a very fortunate man: He had a great career, has three great kids, six grandchildren, good health (other than two hip replacements!) and recently reconnected with his high school sweetheart, Linda, at a class reunion. Linda is in Florida now, but hopes to join John in Sun Lakes in the near future. Then everything will be perfect!