



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: BILL BELTZ
-by Larry Wolfe

In Jim Croce's song "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown," he wrote: "Well the south side of Chicago was the baddest part of town..." But from those tough beginnings Bill Beltz would prevail and have a BAD (as in "super") family life and a very successful business career. Bill graduated from Chicago Vocational High School where he played baseball and basketball until shattering his right arm in a violent collision on the basketball court.

He then attended the University of Illinois for two years prior to starting his career as an installer of high speed data networks for Western Union. After five years on the technical side, Bill moved into sales where he would become Western Union's Regional Sales Manager supervising 85 sales people. His team sold telex machines and network equipment to large companies such as Caterpillar, Sears and State Farm. After 20 years with Western Union, he joined Motorola as their Regional Sales Manager before being promoted to Vice President-Multimedia Networks with nationwide responsibility for their network equipment sales. Since Bill traveled virtually five days per week, he decided to move his home base from Chicago to the Phoenix area in 1998. After a total of twenty years service with Motorola, Bill took early retirement and he and Karen, his charming wife and partner of 45 years, moved to Sun Lakes.

Like several other players, Bill was drawn to Sun Lakes when he saw the old Field of Dreams on Riggs Road. He watched about an hour of action at the field and became hooked on Sun Lakes softball. He had played Chicago-style 16" softball for many years, even playing in the very competitive Grant Park Industrial League, but had not played our brand of 12' slow pitch softball. Today you'd think Bill had been playing his whole life as he is one of our league's best power hitters as well as a top pitcher and infielder.

Karen and Bill have a son, three daughters and eight grandchildren. They're lucky that the three girls and the grandkids all reside in Chandler. This allows for a lot of Grandpa time for Bill. He really enjoys watching his grandchildren's activities, especially baseball in the Chandler National Little League program.

Bill, Karen and one of their daughters also keep busy by working with The Michael Commercial Real Estate Company of Sun Lakes. Bill's also an avid golfer (with a single-digit handicap) and a 200+ bowler. Additionally, he's an amateur photographer and a self-professed "computer nerd."

Travel's another passion. In addition to 2-4 trips per year back to Chicago to visit their son and other family and friends, Bill and Karen have taken many cruises and also "hide out" at their Pinetop cabin in the summer. (As an aside, combining business and pleasure, Bill has traveled to every state in the union except Mississippi.)

Bill is proof that some of the most successful and nicest guys can come from "the baddest part of town!"