



SOFTBALL PLAYER PROFILE: DENNIS LEPORE
-by Larry Wolfe

Unique. Diverse. Multifarious (look it up!). And interesting. Very interesting, especially if you're a sports fan. Those words attempt to describe the career (still ongoing) of Dennis LePore.

A native of Elyria, Ohio, Dennis was drafted into the Army after graduating from Elyria Catholic High. He served a tour in Vietnam where he was stationed at a supply post at Quang Tri, near the DMZ. He also served as a Perimeter Guard at that outpost. Dennis said the best thing about his tour was that he became eligible for the G.I. Bill. He put that to good use by attending Lorain County Community College where he studied photography, journalism and art.

Dennis worked for Bendix-Westinghouse before joining Waldenbooks where he worked his way up to Store Manager. Even though he enjoyed those experiences, he decided that "corporate life" wasn't for him. He soon started his own collectibles business concentrating on baseball and

football cards and other sports memorabilia. He traveled extensively to card shows throughout the Midwest and Eastern U.S.

In addition, he began to do freelance writing and radio work. He was a sports columnist for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and the *Lake County (OH) News-Herald*. He also wrote for magazines such as *Street & Smith* and *Guitar World* (he's a rock'n'roll aficionado, too) and for website versions of *Sports Illustrated*, *CBS Sportsline* and *Bloomberg News*. In radio, he was a commentator on a CBS sports talk show. Over the years, Dennis has interviewed or met a host of sports and rock stars including everyone from Bob Feller and Jimmy Piersall to Lou Groza to Country Joe McDonald and Rick Derringer....a veritable who's who in sports and rock.

Fifteen years ago, Dennis and some colleagues started Sandlot Shrink, Inc. which provides subscription-based advisory services for fantasy baseball, basketball and football players. The website (www.sandlotshrink.com) also provides some neat free stuff, including reviews of every sports-related movie ever made. Dennis is still the lead writer and editor for that site. He also maintains a membership in the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), a group dedicated to baseball research and history.

He's also maintained his interest in collectibles, which include baseball and football cards made from the late 1800s through 1963 (but, alas, he doesn't have the Honus Wagner card that Wayne Gretzky bought for \$2.8 million!). Dennis now uses online auction and other sites like EBay rather than traveling to card shows.

Dennis does also have a "real life" which includes his lovely wife, Marilyn, a Regional Director for Progressive Insurance. They both love to travel and attend concerts, movies and comedy club shows.

Besides all this, Dennis finds time to play in our senior softball league where he's a 600+ hitter and sure-handed gloveman who can play many different positions well. He's also the coordinator of our umpires, scoreboard operators and scorekeepers during league play.

Dennis just may be the ultimate definition of the Multifarious Man!