

Robert “Bob” Wahl



When it comes to softball, Bob Wahl is arguably the best-known person in the Omaha metro area. Hardly a night goes by that Bob Wahl isn't at a softball field.

“My wife Jackie says if I worked as hard at business as I do for softball, we would be rich.”

Wahl became hooked on softball after he starting playing in 1973. Some 34 years later, he is still involved as much as ever. And his competitive spirit still burns. “No one hates to lose more than I do,” he says, “and I don't know many people who love softball more than I do.”

Wahl played on and sponsored his Wahl Optical men's slow pitch team from 1979 until the team “retired” in 2004. The team competed in all of Omaha's top leagues and the area's top competitive regional and national tournaments. Many of the Wahl Optical and T's 13 battles have earned epic status.

In 1985, Wahl formed a Co-Ed team that went on to win state championships in Nebraska or Iowa state every year until 2002. For the past several years, Wahl has sponsored and coached one of the area's top women's teams. Last year, the Wahl Optical women finished fifth at the USSSA world tournament.

Combined, Wahl estimates his teams have won nearly 40 Iowa and Nebraska state titles and more than 2,000 games.