

Sally Studnicka

Studnicka was born in and raised in Clarkson where she and her dad started going to local town team games at age five.

“All of us little ones would chase the fousl balls and then get a quarter for our efforts,” she remembers. “I got enough to buy a softball and my dad got my sister and I each a glove. Softball became a part of our family.”

She played on her first team when she was age seven, a town team made up of older ladies, named Tip a Tap a Day. At age 12, she joined the Norfolk Prairie Maids, a traveling fast pitch team.

After graduating from high school in 1968, she played softball and basketball at Kearney State College. She competed in the first women’s college world series and made the all tournament team as a centerfielder. She later played in two more series— as a Nebraska Cornhusker.

After graduating from NU, she took a job as a Physical Education teacher at Elkhorn where she has remained for 36 years.

In 1995, she organized a 35-and-over women’s team that traveled to Portland, OR for a national tournament and finished as the runner up. “Since we didn’t have a sponsor,” she said, “we held a tournament to raise money for the team. We only expected 10 teams and ended up with more than 20.” With the success of that single event, she was asked to host a regional and would go on to organize many more events over the years.

She also found time to become an umpire, and has been an active official for the past 35 years. She also continues to play and has participated in three Senior Olympic Games.

“The friendships that have been made are life long, from sponsors, to coaches, to teammates” she said. “The core of friends is endless and grows each year. We all have the same thing in common, the love of softball. It does not get any better than that.”

