

# For SF lawyer, baseball only gets better with age

By David Liepman  
Special to *The Examiner*

When Bill Wineberg first donned a Giants uniform in 2002, he was a 65-year-old rookie.

When Nora Wineberg gave her husband a week at the Giants' fantasy baseball camp for his birthday that year, little did she know the impact the gift would have on their lives.

The couple, residents of San Francisco's Miraloma Heights neighborhood, has spent three weeks each January in Arizona every year since 2002.

Bill attends the baseball skills clinic at the Padres' facility as well as the Giants' fantasy camp. Nora and her fellow fantasy baseball "widows" keep busy with off-the-field activities.

Bill plays baseball nearly every weekend throughout the year. The Captains, his team this season in

## Baseball lives on

**WHAT:** West Coast Fantasy Baseball League

**AGE RANGE:** 31 and older

**INFO:** www.

westcoastfantasybaseball.com

**FANTASY CAMP:** 2011 San

Francisco Giants Fantasy Camp,

Jan. 23-30, www.sfgiants.com/

fan\_forum/fantasycamp

the West Coast Fantasy Baseball League, have a comfortable lead in the standings.

The lawyer-by-day also plays in three-day tournaments; road trips this year included Mesa, Ariz., San Diego, Palm Springs and Lodi.

"Baseball was always my first love," said Wineberg, the Illinois native. "I used to cut lawns in Chicago, jump on the L and watch games and get autographs at Wrigley."

The young Wineberg was at the historic ballpark known for its ivy outfield for the 1945 World Series, the North Siders' last appearance in baseball's Fall Classic, and he was the Cubs' spring training bat boy in 1947 and 1948.

Playing the game also dominated his formative years. After sandlot ball, Wineberg played short and third on his state champion high school team.

As a Stanford undergraduate, Wineberg played freshman ball, and after college, while stationed at Pearl Harbor, he toiled for the U.S. Navy team.

For the next 40 years, Wineberg's closest exposure to playing his beloved game was limited to softball leagues and coaching his four sons in Little League.

The busy attorney is "working on" finding the time — between his legal practice and attending 60 Giants games each season — to



MIKE KOZMIN/SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

**Still at it:** Even at 74 years of age, Bill Wineberg still finds time to fit playing baseball in the West Coast Fantasy Baseball League into his busy schedule.

coach his seven grandchildren on the diamond.

But the 74-year-old, spray-hitting second baseman who sports jersey No. "65" has no plans to cut back on his playing schedule.

He can still catch up to the high-70s to low-80s fastballs that are served up, and he can hit a curve. He

led his team as player-manager to the league championship in 2008 and finished a half-game back last season.

"I'm better now than I was then," Wineberg said referring to that first fantasy camp. "I'm going to play until I can't play anymore or they tell me to stop."

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