



**R. J. Rosenberg
Orthopedic Lab, Inc.**

Making a Difference in the Lives of our Patients

TECHNICAL UPDATE

DOUBLE AMPUTEE STRIDES ONTO BALL FIELD

Dick Witt, 72, is not a fan of the winter months. He much prefers springtime when it officially becomes softball season. This year, Dick suited up for his second season in the "65 and Older" softball league near his home in Eastgate, just outside Cincinnati.

The dozen or so fans in the bleachers frequently give him a hand when he strides to the plate or makes a play at first base. It's not just his age that draws their admiration; it's that Dick runs on two prosthetic legs. Dick had his right leg amputated in 1996 and his left leg in 2003 because of the diabetes he's battled for the last 15 years.

After his second amputation, he recalled his doctors told him he would have to use a wheelchair. "That would have been too confining. I've always been active," Dick says.

"I can do things many people with two prosthetic legs can't do," he said. That includes driving his 1983 Ford F-150 stick shift pick-up, walking on his treadmill nightly, and playing in a softball league twice a week.

His accomplishments are due in large part to his attitude and the care he receives at R. J. Rosenberg Orthopedic Lab. His practitioner, Rich Rosenberg, CPO, fitted Dick with the latest in vacuum technology, the Limblogic™ VS from Ohio Willow Wood. Introduced in September 2007, Limblogic offers elevated vacuum control, giving active patients like Dick a more intimate fit of their prostheses, additional comfort, increased security, and greater proprioception.

"There's no better way of holding a prosthesis to a patient than with elevated vacuum, especially for a patient like Dick who plays softball and is running," said Rich. "The



*Limblogic™ VS from
Ohio Willow Wood*



Dick Witt, 72, strikes the perfect batter's stance as he readies for the softball season. Vacuum technology ensures his prostheses fit securely and comfortably.



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other advantage is that it prevents dehydration, which causes a loss of volume of the limb and, in Dick's case, caused him discomfort at the end of the day. When a standard prosthesis is removed, the limb often rehydrates, stimulating nerves and causing pain. With elevated vacuum he never dehydrates, so he doesn't have that pain."

Rich also fitted Dick with BioQuest Prosthetics' PerfectStride II feet, which generate kinetic power and forward momentum, lower oxygen consumption, enhance gait symmetry and velocity, and reduce socket forces on residual limbs.

Dick is the first patient of Rich's to use the PerfectStride feet. "While they may not be suitable for every patient, Dick's activity level and his overall physical condition made him a good candidate for these components," Rich said.

"Dick is the first patient who can quantify the difference between his standard prostheses and his new components," Rich said.

With his new prostheses, Dick can walk a mile in 23 minutes on his treadmill. "I couldn't do that without the elevated vacuum component and the PerfectStride feet. But there can be drawbacks, like shopping," he said with a laugh. "My wife's a shopper and I like to go with her. I just walk around the whole time. Before, I'd have to say, 'Oh, I got to sit down. You go ahead and shop.'" He doesn't have to do that any more.

Dick previously used a mechanical pump, which is non-adjustable for vacuum. Rich noted, "The vacuum could not be regulated, but Dick's new pump is electric, remote controlled, automatic, and patient-adjustable."

"These new legs give him a better quality of life. It's amazing the difference they make," said his wife, Ann. "He's more confident, has better stability, and he can do more and go more places."

Dick and Ann are taking a Caribbean cruise in June. At one port of call they have signed up for a canopy tour – a special ride to glide over the top of the trees on a zip line.

Rich said Dick is an impressive patient. "Dick's remarkable. I don't know of too many double amputees who play ball and do what he does."

BioQuest Prosthetics PerfectStride II feet replicates normal human foot and ankle function by allowing users to conserve, store, and release energy.

