

The Phoenix Suns/Arizona Diamondbacks

Scores Big with UltiPro's Advanced Functionality

The Customer

The Phoenix Suns/Arizona
Diamondbacks

Industry

Recreation/Hospitality

Number of Employees

2,200

Key Benefits

- * Reduced payroll processing time
- * Eliminated manual tax calculations
- * Increased reporting capabilities

"With UltiPro® on our team, we will always have a winning season. I would recommend the system to any company that wants complex functionality made easy."

Sheila Guy

Director of Payroll Services
Phoenix Suns/Arizona Diamondbacks
and Related Companies



Company Profile:

In the heart of downtown Phoenix are locations of America's finest professional sports clubs. On one corner is the America West Arena, the home of the National Basketball Association's Phoenix Suns, Women's National Basketball Association's Phoenix Mercury, and the Arena Football League's Arizona Rattlers. A few blocks away is Bank One Ballpark, the playing field for Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Challenges:

When it comes time for scoring runs, baskets, and touchdowns, the players in these organizations work together as teams. But when it came time to process payroll, the payroll team was small and the process was difficult. To complicate matters, the 2,200 employees actually work for more than five smaller companies under one payroll umbrella.

Before UltiPro, the parent organization for the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Diamondbacks had been using outdated software, and the system lacked the necessary flexibility to handle the payroll requirements typical of sports teams and multi-entity organizations. Many states have complex and varied taxation rules that require professional athletes to pay taxes to that state when they play there, even if it's only for a few hours. With outdated software and spreadsheets, the Phoenix sports company spent too much time manually calculating all the applicable tables.

The Solution:

"We were looking for a highly functional, cost-effective software solution to help us meet the complex payroll demands of our teams," said Sheila Guy, director of payroll services for the Phoenix sports clubs. "Having a unified solution on the roster to automate payroll processing has allowed us to spend more time on strategic decision-making."

After intensive one-on-one meetings with key industry players, the organization drafted Ultimate Software's UltiPro in early 1999, and the HR and payroll departments saw immediate advantages:

- The time to process payroll has been reduced from six hours on average to only 20 minutes.
- State tax formulas are stored in UltiPro, eliminating the need for manual calculations. This streamlined efficiency saves the payroll department substantial time and results in increased productivity.
- UltiPro offers hundreds of standard and customizable reports, giving each team the ability to perform trend analysis on demand.
- Historical records and background information are immediately accessible on all active and inactive players and managers.
- UltiPro allows the entry and calculation of a flat percentage tax. Users can enter a specific percentage amount to withhold instead of using the standard method of specifying a filing status (single, married, etc.) and a number of allowances. This is particularly useful for players with large salaries who want a specific percentage withheld based on their accountant's computations.