



Welty Way third sacker Steve Andrew makes a big tag against Anixter Brothers in a key National Tournament win.



Weary but happy, the champs relax just after clinching the national title.

Leader. He was a former manager of the News and Leader softball team and when they were defeated by Welty Way in the finals of the Mid-Central Regional Tournament, he requested that he be the Cedar Rapids host. After Iowa's first victory, he and his wife, Millie, invited the team and Iowa fans to a party at their home. That was really appreciated, since the motels usually don't think highly of team celebrations.

The representatives from Hawaii passed out orchids and put on a short singing and dancing show one evening. Not to be outdone, Iowa Softball Commissioner Ron Findley and fan Bob Smith located a farmer, who sold them two gunny sacks full of corn, his old straw hat and two TALL corn stalks. They bought a dozen more straw hats, and that evening the Iowa Fans sang the Iowa Corn Song, while passing out corn.

Joe Swanson, who played with Welty Way four years ago and who has remained a fan and a friend ever since, commuted from Kansas City, where he plays for the Gaslight Realty team, to most of the Welty Way games. After the final game, when the team got on the bus for the traveling victory celebration on the way back to Cedar Rapids, Joe couldn't stand to miss the fun, so he left his car in Springfield and hopped aboard!

Three members of the team, Jim Caviness, first baseman Ray Sturm, and shortstop Doug Havlik, started playing together 15 years ago in a Twilight League sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Recreation Commission. They never imagined they would someday be national champs.

Jerry Ralfs, Dick Zuccato, and right fielder Mike Pallesen made the All-American first team. Rich Stephen, Cliff Rice, and shortstop John Muench were second team selections. The team was also awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy.

Results of the Cedar Rapids games in the National Tournament are as follows: Cedar Rapids 3, Sacramento, California 0; Cedar Rapids 1, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. 0; Cedar Rapids 2, Reading, Pennsylvania 0 (15 innings); Cedar Rapids 5, Chicago, Illinois 2 (16 innings); Cedar Rapids 4, Stratford, Conn. 3.

Cedar Rapids will compete in the Men's Fast Pitch World Tournament Mar. 4-12, 1972, in Manila, Philippines.