

BUTT'R TOPP'S BIG BATS EARN SOFTBALL TITLE

By BOB DYER

Sunday Register Staff Writer

Butt'r Topp's big bats continued to boom Saturday at Bomber Park as the Clear Lake entry won the Men's State Open fast-pitch softball tournament with a 7-1 rout of Modern Piping of Cedar Rapids.

Butt'r Topp ripped 10 hits, including a pair of doubles by Bob Sturges, and benefited from six Modern Piping errors in a sloppily played title game. Winning pitcher Gene Olson threw a five-hitter.

A single by Rich Smith, an error and a double by Sturges produced a Butt'r Topp run in the first inning and the winners, who went through the double-elimination meet unbeaten, scored three runs in the third without a hit to put the game out of reach.

Modern Piping made four boots in the third and Butt'r Topp also took advantage of a walk, a hit batsman and a wild pitch.

Earlier in the day, Butt'r Topp, which qualified for the national tournament in Decatur, Ill., Sept. 5-12, took the winners' bracket championship with a 10-2 romp past Midwest Galleries of Cedar Rapids.

Butt'r Topp rapped 12 hits, while winning hurler Dale Root, named the Most Valuable Pitcher in the tournament, spaced 10 safeties.

Modern Piping and Midwest Galleries finished second and third, respectively, and qualified for the regional tournament in Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 29-Sept. 1.

Modern Piping, which battled through the losers' bracket behind the ironman pitching of Greg Bosch, stopped Midwest Galleries, 5-1, in the losers' bracket finale.

Catcher Steve Calvert, the tournament's Most Valuable Player, drove in what proved to be Modern Piping's winning run in each of its three victories Saturday.

The burly Calvert tripled in the third to put Modern Piping ahead of Midwest Galleries, 2-1, and lefty Bosch did the rest.

Modern Piping edged Reames, 1-0, in nine innings in its first losers' bracket game.

Bosch relieved starter Al Rausch and picked up the victory, while Reames' Phil Wilkinson was the hard-luck loser.

Modern Piping right-fielder Bruce Hotchkiss kept Reames from victory with a leaping catch against the wall with two on and two out in the eighth.

Mike Pallesen opened the Modern Piping ninth with a single and the dependable Calvert tripled him home.

Modern Piping's other victory came over Cresco, 10-2. Pallesen doubled in the third and Calvert's single put the Cedar Rapids team ahead to stay, 3-2. Calvert finished that game with three hits and two runs-batted-in.

Cresco, with veteran pitcher Jim Sovereign tossing a two-hitter, sidelined Bavarian Haus of Sioux City, 6-0, in the day's opening contest.

All-Tournament Team

Most Valuable Player — Steve Calvert, Modern Piping; Most Valuable Pitcher — Dale Root, Butt'r Topp; pitchers — Al Rausch and Greg Bosch, Modern Piping, Phil Wilkinson, Reames; catchers — Calvert and Rich Smith, Butt'r Topp; infielders — Mike Pallesen, Modern Piping, John Ege, Butt'r Topp, Max Elliott, Modern Piping, Bob Sturges, Butt'r Topp, and Linden Linhart, Cresco; outfielders — Ted Hicks, Midwest Galleries, Denny Ferch, Reames, Mike Dutcher, Butt'r Topp, and Bruce Hotchkiss, Modern Piping.

1980