

1977

Bombers oust Butt'r Topp 4-3 at state tourney

DES MOINES — Butt'r Topp's season came to a screeching halt here Monday evening at the state open fastpitch softball tournament.

The culprit for the Clear Lake team, favored to win the title at the onset of the tourney 1½ weeks ago, was the Des Moines Bombers. The evening began with Butt'r Topp holding a 3-0 first-inning lead that was established Saturday night before rain postponed the meet again.

However, the Bombers scored four runs in the top of the second inning and then held on for a 4-3 victory to eliminate the Bakers. The Des Moines club then lost to Modern Piping of Cedar Rapids in the championship game.

Though naturally disappointed, Butt'r Topp manager Paul Espinosa said, "I don't think we're as disappointed as if we would have lost a week ago...I guess we were just missing something tonight."

One missing component was shortstop Bob Sturges, who couldn't play Monday night because of a job commitment. He was named the tourney's most valuable player after hitting .600, driving in four runs and scoring six.

Ace pitcher Bobby Moore flew all the way from Eau Claire, Wis., but never saw any action. "We didn't get any breaks tonight," said Espinosa, who also noted that "Modern Piping was at the top of their game. I think they'll do well in the regionals."

Saturday, Sturges had provided the Bakers their lead against the Bombers with a 3-run homer. But the Bombers came back in the second inning Monday. Butt'r Topp pitcher Dale Root hit the first two batters and after a strikeout, a



Bob Sturges

single through the infield scored one run. A walk was then followed by pitcher Gene Olson's 2-run single, also a ground ball through the infield. A fielder's choice scored the fourth tally of the frame.

The Bombers didn't get a runner to first thereafter but Butt'r Topp couldn't generate any offense either. Each team had just two hits.

Butt'r Topp, which won four major tournament titles during the season, finished at 60-19.

Modern Piping got a 2-hit, 11-strikeout performance from Greg Bosch in beating the Bombers. The only run he needed came in the second inning on Bob Timmons' run-scoring single. Bosch, who totaled 29 strikeouts and gave up just four hits in his 15 2/3 innings of tourney action, was named most valuable pitcher.

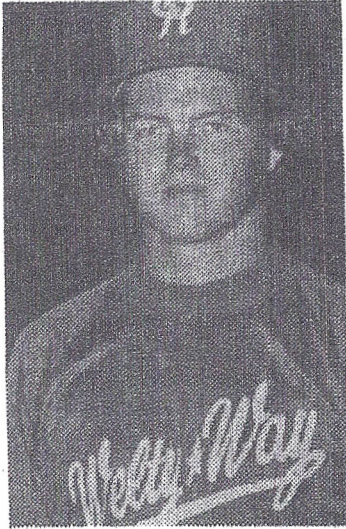
Modern Piping advances to the regional beginning Friday in Lincoln, Neb.

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Butt'r Topp.....	300	000	0-321
Gene Olson and Steve Fagen. Dale Root and Dick Zuccato.			
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Bosch and Anderson. Olson and Fagen. MR - Donahue, Modern Piping.			

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1977

Bosch Hurls Modern Piping To Stat



Gregg Bosch

By Bob Hersom
Gazette Sports Writer

DES MOINES — "Of the three state championship teams I've been on," said Gregg Bosch, "this is without a doubt the best one."

And left-hander Bosch is, without a doubt, one of the best fastpitch softball pitchers in the United States.

He proved that Monday night while pitching Cedar Rapids' Modern Piping to the state ASA championship, beating the Des Moines Bombers 2-0 at Bomber park.

It was C.R.'s second straight state softball title, as Collins Radio finished first last year.

Bosch allowed just two hits, both infield grounders, and struck out 11 as the Pipers saddened most of the overflow crowd of 3,000.

Gregg, 3-0 in the tourney and 25-6 overall, was the obvious choice as the Most Valuable Pitcher in the tourney. In 15 1/3 innings he allowed no runs, only four hits and struck out 28.

He can put that MVP trophy alongside those he won while pitching C&R Transfer of Sioux Falls to South Dakota state titles in 1972 and 1973.

Against the Bombers in the tourney, Bosch pitched consecutive two-hit shutouts, fanning 26 in 14 innings.

The title-clinching win was sweet revenge for the Pipers. Playing under the Welty-Way banner, they had gone without a state title since 1971 and, until this year, hadn't beaten the Bombers in three years.

Moreover, following that win in

the winner's bracket final of the '74 state tourney at Ellis park, Welty-Way lost two straight, and the state title, to the Bombers.

The Pipers also remembered that Gregg pitched a two-hitter against the Bombers in last year's state tourney, striking out 15. But he lost 2-1.

"I can't remember ever seeing Gregg throw the ball so well," said Manager Ray Sturm after Monday night's victory.

"I've never seen him any better," added Coach Jim Caviness.

"The only way he could have lost," said third baseman Steve Andrew, "was if we lost it for him."

And Bosch said, "I've pitched better ball games, but never in an important game like that.

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Softball—

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"I had an all-World shortstop behind me when I was playing in California," Bosch said, "but Bob Timmons is by far the best I've ever had playing behind me."

The game's only other run came on Donahue's line-drive, 300-foot homer to left-center after two were out in the sixth.

"I hit the first pitch all night," said Donahue, a first-year player in C.R. who teaches physical education and coaches baseball at Calmar high school.

In three swings, Donahue singled, lined to center and homered. He finished with two of the game's six hits.

Caviness, who managed Welty-Way to three state and one national championship, as well as second place in the '72 World tourney, was celebrating his 41st birthday.

The victory increased Modern's winning streak to plus-20. "We haven't lost since playing Canada July 27," Bosch said, "and we've won 19 in a row in August."

• Mel Stark of Cedar Rapids was inducted in the Iowa Softball Hall of Fame between games. "I couldn't feel any better," said Mel, who pitched four C.R. teams to state titles in the '50s and '60s. "This is probably my greatest thrill. It's just like winning a state title again."

u a L i t i l s i k t i c p e n i l l r t i e o f s t g w a r f o A Q w

Modern Piping To State Title, 2-0

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"My rise ball was working so well that I only threw one drop ball in the

last three innings."

But Bosch, who teaches Sunday school at Cedar Hills Community Reform church, also gave credit to a higher being.

"We said a lot of prayers before we won this thing," Gregg said. "We didn't do it on our own."

Bosch was Manager Sturm's choice to pitch after the Bombers came back from a 3-0 deficit to beat Clear Lake Butt'r Top 4-3 in the loser's bracket final earlier Monday.

Right-hander Al Rausch, 29-10, who with Bosch makes up what most consider the best pitching duo on any team in the midwest, was slated to pitch if Clear Lake was the foe.

"Tonight was as hard as I've ever thrown," said Bosch. "I approached Al's speed, but I wasn't nearly as

overpowering as Al is on a good night."

"I think we'll win the Regional," said Sturm, pointing toward the nine-team tourney which begins in Lincoln, Neb., this Friday.

"We've got as good a ball club as there is in the country.

"But I'll tell you what. There were four other teams in this tournament that could have gone to the Regional and won it: the Bombers, Clear Lake Butt'r Top, Sooland of Sioux City and Collins."

Andrew, Bob Timmons and Steve Donahue were the batting stars against Bomber pitcher Gene Olson.

Andrew led off the second inning with a single to center, stole second and, after two outs, scored on a single to left by Timmons, who is the

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Softball—

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MODERN PIPING WINS STATE SOFTBALL TITLE

It took nearly a week and a half to do it, but Modern Piping of Cedar Rapids has claimed the 1977 State Men's fast-pitch softball title.

Behind the mastery of pitcher Greg Bosch, Modern Piping defeated the Bombers of Des Moines, 2-0, Monday night in a tournament that had been delayed by rain over a 10-day period.

Bosch hurled a two-hitter and struck out 11 and got help from Bob Timmons' run-scoring single in the second inning and Steve Donahue's solo home run in the sixth.

Bosch totaled 29 strikeouts and gave up only four hits over 15½ innings and earned honors as the tournament's most valuable pitcher. He won three of Modern Piping's four tournament games.

Modern Piping now advances to the regional tournament beginning Friday in Lincoln, Neb.

Named most valuable player Monday night was shortstop Bob Sturges of Butt'r Topp. He batted .600, had four runs-batted-in and scored six runs to lead the Clear Lake team to a third-place finish. However, Sturges was unable play Monday night because of a job commitment and his teammates dropped a 4-3 decision to the Bombers in Monday night's preliminary game.

Modern Piping 010 001 0 - 2 4 2
Bombers 000 000 0 - 0 2 0
Bosch and Anderson; Olson and Fagan, HR —
Modern Piping: Donahue.

BUTT'R TOP TOPS 'TRUCKERS' IN STATE MEET

Tourney Facts

FRIDAY NIGHT'S GAMES

FIRST ROUND

At Bomber Park

Northwestern Bank (Sioux City) 4, Reames (D.M.) 3

Sovereign Grain (Cresco) 1, Dain, Kahlman & Quail (Cedar Rapids) 0

Gigi's (D.M.) 7, Sooland Sports (Sioux City) 0

SATURDAY'S GAMES

At Bomber Park

Modern Piping (Cedar Rapids) 1, Sovereign Grain (Cresco) 0

Bombers (D.M.) 2, Northwestern Bank (Sioux City) 1

Collins Radio (Cedar Rapids) 4, Gigi's (D.M.) 1
Butt'r Topp (Clear Lake) 10, Truckers Insurance (Elkhart) 0 (6 innings)

At Birdland

Sooland Sports 4, Miller High Life (Ottumwa) 2

Touristville Boats 4, Reames Noodles (D.M.) 0

Kirby Co. (Cedar Rapids) 6, Northwestern Bank 3

Dain, Kahlman & Quail (Cedar Rapids) 5, vs. Gigi's 3

Butt'r Topp of Clear Lake led an advance of top-seeded teams in the State Men's fast-pitch softball tournament Saturday at Bomber and Birdland Parks.

Butt'r Topp, the 1972 and '75 state champion and No. 1 seed this year, dumped Truckers Insurance of Elkhart, 10-0, behind Dale Root's nine-strikeout four-hitter and Rick Kriz's three runs-batted-in.

Modern Piping of Cedar Rapids, formerly Wely Way, edged Sovereign Grain of Cresco, 1-0, on a bloop triple and single off Jim Sovereign, who threw a no-hitter Friday night. Al Rausch earned the victory with a 13-strikeout three-hitter.

The host Des Moines Bombers scored two first-inning runs for a 2-1 victory over Northwestern Bank of Sioux City. Northwestern scored in the seventh before Gene Olson struck out the last two batters.

Cal Ernst and Denny Ferch each belted two hits and Dick Larson tossed a four-hitter as defending champion Collins Radio of Des Moines downed upset-minded Gigi's of Des Moines, 4-1. Gigi's sent favored Sooland Sports of Sioux City into the losers' bracket Friday night.

However, Sooland came back Saturday to eliminate Miller High Life of Ottumwa, 4-2. In other games, Touristville Boats of Clear Lake ousted Reames Noodles of Des Moines, 4-0; Kirby Co. of Cedar Rapids sidelined Northwestern Bank of Sioux City, 6-3, and Dain, Kahlman & Quail of Cedar Rapids put an end to Gigi's hopes, 5-3.

Action in the double-elimination tournament was to continue Saturday

Softball

1977

State ASA Championship

Modern Piping (2) Des Moines Bombers (0)

	ab	r	h	b	ab	r	h	b
Pisarik cf	3	0	0	0	Neary rf	3	0	0
Hinderks 2b	2	0	0	0	Ruhs 1b	3	0	1
Donahue rf	3	1	2	1	Kelly cf	3	0	1
Pallesen 1b	3	0	0	0	Peterson lf	3	0	0
Andrew 3b	3	1	1	0	Fagan c	2	0	0
Charipar lf	3	0	0	0	Blankenburg 3b	3	0	0
Anderson c	3	0	0	0	Stokesberry ss	3	0	0
Timmons ss	2	0	1	1	Turner 2b	2	0	0
Bosch p	2	0	0	0	G. Olson p	2	0	0
Total	24	2	4	2	Total	24	0	2

Modern Piping.....010 001 0-2
Des Moines Bombers.....000 000 0-0

E—Peterson, Hinderks. DP—D.M. 1. LOB—M.P. 2, D.M. 4. 2B—Ruhs. HR—Donahue. SB—Andrew.

MODERN PIPING PITCHING

Bosch (W) IP H R ER BB SO
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DES MOINES BOMBER PITCHING

G. Olson (L) 7 4 2 2 1 7

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