

1979

someone else who might make him only No. 2 at his position

But, then, there are a few other quarterbacks drifting around the NFL who weren't classic drop-back types in

Buffalo, with the No. 1 pick obtained in the trade that sent O.J. Simpson to San Francisco, is expected to choose Ohio State linebacker Tom Cousineau.

52-79

# Butt'r Topp's 1978 national qualifiers open season Sunday

**CLEAR LAKE** — Butt'r Topp of Clear Lake will open its 1979 fastpitch softball season Sunday with the same lineup that produced a 10th-place finisher at the 1978 American Softball Association national tournament.

Butt'r Topp, a perennial regional power, again will be managed by Paul Espinosa, now living in Denison. Last year, his club wound up 80-25 overall after winning the state and regional championships to qualify for the 22-team U.S. meet.

That regional title assures Butt'r Topp of an automatic berth in this year's regional, which will be at Omaha, Neb., on Labor Day weekend.

Bob Sturges led Butt'r Topp in hitting with a .370 mark last year. He also belted 21 home runs and drove in a team-leading 74 runs.

Rick Kriz hit .338 with 16 homers and 70 RBI, John Elge hit .328 with 22 homers and 65 RBI, Lance Dreesman hit .319 and Roger Buddin was at .308 for a club that averaged .299 at the plate.

Both of last year's pitching regulars, Dallas Slagle and Dale Root, again will handle much of the mound duty. Slagle, in a big comeback year for him, was 35-8 with an earned-run average of 1.76 while Root was 41-16 with a 1.28 ERA.

However, Gene Olson has been added to the pitching staff along with infielder Zip Hanson. Those two both played with Des Moines GiGis last year and Olson was a pickup for Butt'r Topp for the regional and national tourneys.

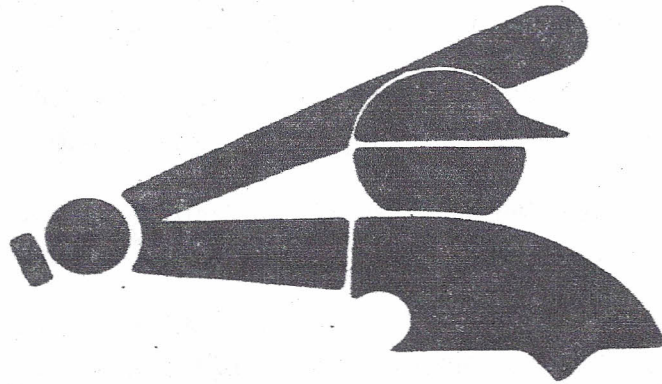
Butt'r Topp again will compete in the Central Iowa Classic League in Des Moines each week while competing in mostly tournaments on the weekends. The CICL includes Des Moines Reames, D.M. Bombers, Ankeny, West D.M. Merchants and Cedar Rapids Kirby.

The league champ will earn a berth in the International Softball Congress world tournament in Bakersfield, Calif., August 17-26. Butt'r Topp and Reames shared the title a year ago.

However, Espinosa tabbed Kirby as the pre-season favorite because of some off-season acquisitions, including two top players from New Zealand.

Butt'r Topp will be host to a 10-team round-robin tournament June 16-17 at the softball complex in Clear Lake.

Butt'r Topp has three other home dates on its schedule, including a July 31 twinbill against the All-O-Matic A's, a strong Canadian team from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



Espinosa noted that the ASA has made two major changes in playing rules, adding the designated-hitter and re-entry options.

"That'll definitely help us. We definitely expect to be stronger but will have to work harder because of coming off such a great season in 1978. Everyone will be looking to knock us off," said Espinosa.

Butt'r Topp's opener Sunday is a tripleheader at Mankato against the home team, plus Byerly's and St. James.

Espinosa expressed concern about the threat of a gas shortage this summer. "It could wipe out softball on weekends if it becomes serious," he said. Butt'r Topp travels a considerable distance to most of its weekend tourneys.

In response to that threat, many teams that are host for a tournament have made their meets round-robin so traveling teams are guaranteed a certain number of games.

## Weekend schedule

- May 6 — Tripleheader at Mankato.
- May 10 — Waterloo, away, 7:30 p.m.
- May 12 — Northeast Iowa All-Stars, Decorah, 7:30 p.m.
- May 19-20 — Bomber Tournament, Des Moines.
- May 26-28 — Cedar Rapids round robin tourney.
- June 2-3 — Sioux Falls tourney.
- June 9-10 — Fort Dodge tourney.
- June 16-17 — Butt'r Topp tourney, 10-team round robin.
- June 23-24 — Eau Claire, Wis., tourney.
- June 30-July 1 — Des Moines Reames round robin tourney.
- July 3 — Mankato, at Ledyard, 7 p.m.
- July 7-8 — Series vs. Sioux City All-Stars, away.
- July 14-15 — Mankato tourney.
- July 21-22 — Madison tourney.
- July 28-29 — St. Joseph, Mo., round-robin tourney.
- July 31 — Saskatoon, Canada, home, 7 p.m.
- August 8 — Waterloo, home.
- August 11-12 — Mankato, All-American Bar, Cedar Rapids Kirby, home.
- August 14 — Ames Palmas, away, 7 p.m.
- August 17-26 — ISC World Tournament, Bakersfield, Calif.
- August 31-Sept. 3 — ASA Regional, Omaha, Neb.
- Sept. 7-15 — ASA Nationals, Midland, Mich.

Source

- Minnes.
- Cleveland
- Detroit
- Kansas
- Oakland
- New York
- Baltimore
- Minnes.
- Milwaukee
- N
- Detroit
- O), N
- Texas
- N
- Boston
- New York
- Baltimore
- 4 or Mitchell
- Toronto
- Detroit
- Chicago
- Only game

Hou  
Corr  
won

HOUS  
36 point  
the Iowa  
Women  
pionship  
five tou  
Hous  
hollerir  
held a  
the cor  
with 3  
Hou  
then 1  
Angel  
never  
"I  
this,  
point  
"  
clas  
witi  
thei  
goir  
Don  
B.  
scor  
point  
Io  
thro  
mad  
"D  
beat  
outcc  
said.

# BOMBERS SHARE FAST-PITCH TITLE

## Tourney Facts

**WINNERS' BRACKET**  
**SEMIFINAL ROUND**  
 Bombers (D.M.) 7, Collins Radio (C.R.) 0  
 Sully 3, Sovereign (Cresco) 1 (11 Innings)  
**FINAL ROUND**  
 Bombers 5, Sully 0

**LOSERS' BRACKET**  
 Sovereign 2, Reames 1 (D.M.) (8 Innings)  
 Modern Piping 1, Collins Radio 0 (8 Innings)  
 Modern Piping 1, Sovereign 0  
 Modern Piping 7, Sully 1

**CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND**  
 Modern Piping 1, Bombers 0

1979

The Register's Iowa News Service

**CEDAR RAPIDS, IA.** — After four days of competition and 30 games at Ellis Park, it was the weather that determined the Men's State Fast-Pitch softball champion.

Threatening conditions and tornado warnings in the area Sunday night forced cancellation of the championship game — leaving Modern Piping of Cedar Rapids and the Des Moines Bombers as official co-state champions for 1979.

Modern Piping came out of the losers' bracket — winning five straight games Sunday to gain the title series. Bombers pitcher Tony Hunhoff allowed only two hits but Modern Piping put them back-to-back to produce the game's only run for a 1-0 triumph.

The Bombers went unbeaten in the winners' bracket, and needed only to defeat Modern Piping once in two games to claim the title outright. A two-out single by Bruce Hotchkiss and a triple by Mike Pallison gave Modern Piping the one-run victory.

With each team having one loss in the double-elimination tournament, the final game was canceled by the weather.

Both teams advance to the regional tournament at Omaha, Neb., over the Labor Day weekend. Modern Piping won a coin flip to represent Iowa as the "champion" in the pairings.

Modern Piping started its march out of the losers' bracket with an 1-0 victory over city rival Collins Radio. Modern Piping then edged Sovereign of Cresco by the same score.

The Cedar Rapids team avenged an earlier nine-inning loss to Sully in the losers' bracket final.

Roger Ruhs scored four runs and cracked three hits including a home run to back the four-hit pitching of Dean Olson and give the Bombers a 7-0 victory over Sully in the winners' bracket championship game.

Bombers' left fielder Tom Peterson was named the most valuable player in the tournament. He batted .429 in five games, smacking a homer and driving in five runs.

Modern Piping's Gregg Bosch was the most valuable pitcher.

## Butt'r Topp hits .370, wins sixth tourney title

**MADISON, Wis.** — Paul Espinosa just couldn't explain it.

"Our hitting was awesome. I don't know what to say. That's as good a hitting by any team in a weekend tournament that I've ever seen," said the manager of Clear Lake Butt'r Topp, which hit a whopping .370 with 12 home runs in destroying six oppo-

nents en route to the Madison Invitational fastpitch softball tourney title here Sunday.

The tourney crown was Butt'r Topp's sixth this season and hiked the Bakers' record to a glossy 43-15.

Butt'r Topp swept all the individual honors, too. Outfielder Dave King was named most valuable player in the meet after he hit .412 with three homers and made several outstanding defensive plays. Bob Sturges batted .706 with four home runs and 10 RBI to earn the top hitter award.

Dale Root, who stopped Ebach of Bloomington, Ill., 9-1 in the title game and won another game, was named the tourney's top pitcher.

Bob Weber, Lance Dreesman and Scott Peterson each hit over .400.

Ebach (41-8) won all of its tournaments last year and was fresh off a victory in the prestigious Stars and Stripes tourney in Aurora, Ill. But Butt'r Topp raked ace Phil Reimer for 10 hits. Sturges hit two home runs and Bob Harken ripped a two-run double in support of Root's five-hit pitching.

Butt'r Topp opened the tourney with a 3-0 win over Benton Harbor, Mich. Gene Olson tossed a one-hitter.

In an 11-3 win over Allcar of Antigo, Wis., defending state ISC champ, Sturges socked a three-run homer and he and Bob Weber got three hits apiece.

The next win was an 8-5 decision over Kankakee, Ill., in which Rich Larson and Harken homered.

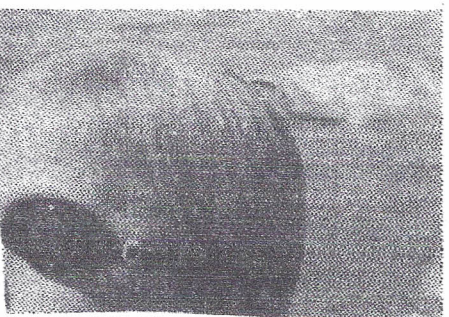
Dave King, Jim King and Sturges each homered in an 11-2 victory over Bowling Greene, Wis.

In the semifinals, Butt'r Topp tripped Elkhart, Ind., 10-0 behind Olson's two-hitter.

Butt'r Topp will play in the Des Moines Reames tourney next weekend.



1979



# Butt'r Topp places fourth in regional 1979

OMAHA, Neb. — "We played great ball except for one inning," said Paul Espinosa.

And that one inning was a very costly one for Clear Lake Butt'r Topp as the defending American Softball Association regional fastpitch champs finished fourth in their bid for a repeat trip to the national tournament at the regional meet here the past weekend.

That bad inning came in the first frame of Butt'r Topp's second-round, 5-2 loss to the Des Moines Bombers, who eventually beat Cedar Rapids Modern Piping 1-0 for the regional crown.

The Bombers raked Butt'r Topp starting pitcher Phil Wilkinson for five runs. With no outs, Jerry Raifs relieved Wilkinson and threw four-hit, shutout ball for the remainder of the contest. But Butt'r Topp couldn't overcome the early damage.

In its tourney opener, Butt'r Topp whipped U.S. Contractors of Kansas City 7-0 behind Gene Olson's seven-strikeout one-hitter. Butt'r Topp bats unloaded 16 hits and the Bakers scored three runs in the first inning on four hits. John Ege got three hits while Bob Sturges, Rich Smith and Rick Kriz each got a pair for the Clear Lake club.

After the loss to the Bombers, Dale Root tossed a three-hitter to help Butt'r Topp to a 2-0 victory in the loser's bracket. Both of the winners' runs scored on errors.

Walnut Products of St. Joseph, Mo., then sidelined Butt'r Topp in a 3-1 decision. Butt'r Topp's only run was a homer by Sturges in the seventh inning.

Two Butt'r Topp veterans turned in excellent hitting performances during the tourney. Smith hit .571 and Sturges hit .455.

"I still think we had the best team there," said manager Espinosa. His club closed the 1979 campaign with a 55-33 record.

# Butt'r Topp racks up 7th tourney crown 1979

DES MOINES — Paul Espinosa says "without a doubt this is our best team ever."

Even though Butt'r Topp twice has been a national qualifier, including two years ago, Espinosa may be right. The manager of Clear Lake Butt'r Topp's powerful fastpitch softball team directed the club to its seventh tournament title, and fourth straight, in the Des Moines Reames Tournament of Champions here the past weekend.

The Bakers won five consecutive games, stopping the Des Moines Bombers 3-0 in the title match as Gene Olson flipped a three-hitter and extended his scoreless-innings string to 47 1-3. Butt'r Topp got two runs in the third on a walk, John Ege's triple and an error.

Butt'r Topp now is 48-15 and has won 14 straight games. "Our speed and defense is much better this year with the new guys we've got. And we've still got the good veterans, too. It's a good mixture," said Espinosa, whose team will play in the Walnut Products tourney at St. Joseph's, Mo., next weekend.

Butt'r Topp opened the Reames tourney by beating Obyrne Electric of Springfield, Mo., a national qualifier several times in recent years, 2-0 behind Olson's six-hitter. Bob Sturges' double, Lance Dreesman's single and an error gave the winners their runs against all-American pitcher Ed Moore.

In a 6-2 win over the Des Moines Bombers, Dale Root tossed a four-hitter and Sturges delivered a two-run single.

Butt'r Topp beat U.S. Contractors of Kansas City 10-0 behind Dallas Slagle's one-hitter and a four-run first inning featuring triples by Dreesman, Jim King and Dave King and Rick Kriz' home run.

Two runs in the seventh gave Butt'r Topp a 4-3 win over Walnut Products. Rich Smith's double and an error pushed in the runs and Root finished with a five-hitter.

Olson, Ege, Sturges, Dave King, Smith and Dreesman all made the all-tourney team. Also, Ege was named most valuable player and Bob Harken most valuable coach.