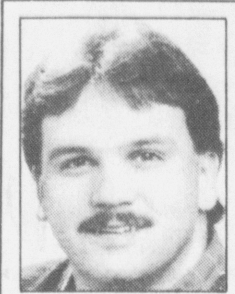


Support fast-pitch or kiss it goodbye



J.R. OGDEN
Gazette sportswriter

Fast-pitch softball is a local tradition and something of which Cedar Rapiidians can be proud. But if rumors are correct, Cedar Rapids may not have a world-class team much longer. That would be a shame. Teams sponsored by the likes of Teleconnect, Welty Way, Modern Piping, Collins and the many Fleck's clubs have put Cedar Rapids on the fast-pitch map. Some already have dropped sponsorships and others are considering it. They are either unable or unwilling to fully back a major team. It's time Cedar Rapiidians got behind fast-pitch.

Booster clubs, with corporate help, have been successful in cities such as Sioux City, and Aurora and Decatur, Ill. It helps with community involvement and, with many sponsors, it takes the burden off one major backer. It is time Cedar Rapids followed that path. It's also time Cedar Rapids players made it easy on the

COMMENTARY

sponsors and established a "minor" league, with the best players making up ONE solid, world-class club. Under this format, which has been successful elsewhere, the players split up during the week and play with different teams. On weekends, the best 15 or so make up THE team. "B" and "C" teams, if enough participate and there are enough funds in the booster club's budget, also could be established and be very competitive in weekend tourneys. It is a sound idea. Cedar Rapids has bragged about its fast-pitch for years. Now it's time to put its money where its mouth is.

Just an example

■ Teleconnect once again established itself as one of the top men's fast-pitch teams in the world this year. Teleconnect didn't bring home any 7-foot trophies or brilliant rings in 1988, but by placing in the top 10 in both the International Softball Congress and Amateur Softball Association tournaments, it proved it's not a flash-in-the-pan club. And folks around Iowa aren't the only ones noticing Teleconnect's success. The Ashland, Ohio, Times-Gazette ranked teams from Canada, New Zealand and the United States throughout the season. Teleconnect finished second in its season-ending poll, collecting 197 points and three first-place votes. Penn Corp of Sioux City, the ISC champ, ranked first with seven first-place votes and 228 points. Trans-Aire of Elkhart, Ind., the ASA winner, ranked fifth. Teleconnect ace Michael White was one of seven pitchers picked to the paper's all-world team. Even though Teleconnect had to settle for seventh in its attempt to win back-to-back ISC World titles and finished fourth in the ASA National, the No. 2 ranking is not without merit. Consider the following:

- In the last four years, Teleconnect has finished 11th, 6th, 1st and 7th in the ISC meet.
- Teleconnect has played in just three ASA meets, but has finished ninth and fourth the last two years. In 1986, its first-ever ASA tourney, it went 0-2, losing to eventual 1-2 finishers Penn Corp and Pay 'n' Pak of Bellevue, Wash.
- Since '85, Vigortone/Teleconnect has piled up 284 wins and just 86 losses. That's a winning percentage of .767. As Teleconnect, since '86, the team is 201-59.

Those are numbers not too many teams, if any, can boast. And that includes the Prides, Pay 'n' Paks and Penn Corps. White has meant a lot to this club. Since coming to Cedar Rapids prior to the '85 season, White has 153 wins, 40 losses, or nearly 54 percent of the team's wins and 46 percent of the team's losses. The talent is here folks. Let's find it a showcase.

Hawks drop Big Ten field hockey opener

IOWA CITY — Northwestern forward Sue Novack scored the game's only goal, converting on a broken penalty corner with 23:54 remaining, as The fifth-ranked Wildcats topped No. 6 Iowa, 1-0, in a Big Ten Conference field hockey opener Saturday. The Hawkeyes led in every statistical category, but could not score against the 'Cats. Iowa took 22 shots on goal to Northwest-

ern's nine, and was awarded four penalty corners to NU's two. Northwestern's Kim Metcalf was strong in the cage, tallying 13 goalkeeping saves. Iowa's Andrea Wieland recorded five. The Hawkeyes drop to 7-4 overall, 0-1 in the conference. They take on Michigan State and Ohio State in East Lansing, Mich. next weekend, before meeting the Wildcats in Evanston, Ill., Oct. 14.

Lanier unsure about his status with Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Astros Manager Hal Lanier, asked about rumors that he was about to be fired, said he has not been told about his job status. "I really don't have a comment until they make a decision," Lanier said Saturday night after the Astros lost to the San Diego Padres 6-3. "I was told the decision has not been reached. "When you're a manager, you've got to accept the good and bad, and for the last month, it has not been happy," Lanier said. "But someone has got to answer for what went wrong, and I accept the blame."

Rodgers masters 10K mark in winning Heartland Hustle

DAVENPORT (AP) — Bill Rodgers broke the world masters division record for the 10-kilometer run as he easily won the Heartland Hustle race here Saturday. Rodgers, 40, of Sherborn, Mass., is a four-time winner of both the Boston and New York City marathons. He covered the flat, fast course in downtown Davenport in 29 minutes, 47.1 seconds despite high humidity. Pending certification by The Athletic Congress (TAC), Rodgers' run will be recognized as the U.S. and world mark in the masters division, which includes runners age 40 and older. The previous U.S. and world masters marks were 29:57 and 29:50, respectively. Winning the women's race for the second consecutive year was Priscilla Welch, a former British Olympian who now trains in Boulder, Colo. She ran 34:28 to win by 6 seconds over Charlotte Thomas of San Diego, Calif. "I'm competing against the masters now and I've accepted that. To me it is exciting because there are a lot of good records out there that are within my reach," Rodgers said. Finishing second to Rodgers was Iowa State University graduate student Glenn Magrum in 30:25. Magrum is a former NAIA All-American.

Prairie rallies to top Senior, 14-9

DUBUQUE — Steve Engledow hauled in a 40-yard touchdown pass from Aaron Vlcko with 8:01 remaining in the game to rally Cedar Rapids Prairie past Dubuque Senior, 14-9, Saturday afternoon in a Mississippi Valley Conference football game. Prairie's third straight win upped its record to 3-2 and gave the Hawks sole possession of fourth place in the Valley. Senior dropped to 0-5. Prairie gained 271 yards on offense. Senior was held to 140, with 60 coming on a first-half touchdown pass from John Ellis to Steve Wehrspann that gave the Rams a 6-0 lead. Prairie's Jeff Schulte bolted 10 yards for a touchdown and Rob Bleakley's PAT kick gave the Hawks a 7-6 lead at the half. Bryan Gill's 29-yard field goal in the third quarter gave Senior a 9-7 lead. Vlcko, a junior starting his third

PREP FOOTBALL

game as the Prairie quarterback, threw for more than 100 yards. The Hawks had only thrown for 77 total yards in their previous four games.

Hempstead 14 Kennedy 7

■ DUBUQUE — Brock Norton rushed for 91 yards and two touchdowns Friday night as Dubuque Hempstead tripped Cedar Rapids Kennedy in a Mississippi Valley Conference game. Kennedy (1-4, 1-4) took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter on an 11-yard run by Greg Freeland. Norton scored on a 5-yard run in the second quarter, and added a 2-yard TD in the third quarter for the game-winner. Hempstead improved to 2-3, 2-3.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

■ **AUTO RACING** — Derek Daly captured the pole position Saturday for the IMSA Camel GT sports car race and then apologized to teammate Geoff Brabham. "I feel guilty being on the pole because I'm here 100 percent in a supporting role," Daly said after turning in a lap of 91.161 mph around the 2.3-mile street course in a Nissan GTP prototype. . . . Winning his fifth pole position of the NASCAR season has done little to ease Bill Elliott's healthy respect for the circuit's short tracks. "This is among the tracks where it's irrelevant where you start," Elliott said after running a fast lap of 116.901 mph in qualifying for today's \$350,000 Holly Farms 400 stock car race. . . . Race car champion Al Holbert, who was killed in a twin-engine plane crash, was remembered Saturday as the "greatest ambassador auto racing ever had." Holbert, 41, was killed Friday night when his private Aerostar crashed shortly after takeoff from Ohio State University's Don Scott Field.

■ **BASEBALL** — Waterloo's Don Denkinger will serve as crew chief of the American League squad of umpires for the playoffs while 23-year veteran Harry Wendelstedt is among six National League umpires working the Los Angeles Dodgers-New York Mets series, the league presidents announced. . . . Major league baseball has set a single-season attendance record for the fourth consecutive season. Attendance through Friday night's games for the 26 major league teams was nearly 52,263,000 fans, topping the mark of 52,011,506 set last year. It was the sixth time in seven years the record had been raised. . . . John Tudor's start in Game 2 of the National League playoffs will depend on whether he feels any pain during a warmup on Monday. Tudor, who is scheduled to face 20-game winner David Cone of the New York Mets at Dodger Stadium next Wednesday night, suffered a muscle spasm in his right hip in the second inning of Friday night's game against the San Francisco Giants.

■ **MISC.** — The Atlanta Hawks have failed in their attempt to make guard Sharunas Marchulenis the first Soviet basketball star in the NBA — at least for now. Hawks President Stan Kasten left Seoul, South Korea, Saturday after a day of lengthy negotiations failed to seal a deal for the Hawks to get Marchulenis, a 23-year-old, 6-foot-4 playmaking guard who scored 21 points in leading the Soviets to the Olympic gold medal over Yugoslavia. . . . Canadian Dave Barr, charging from 10 shots behind, tied a course record Saturday with a 9-under-par 61 to take a 1-shot lead after three rounds of the \$400,000 Southern Open golf tournament.

Associated Press

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P185/75R14	42.97	P225/75R15	53.97
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P185/70SR13	45.97	P235/60SR14	55.97
P185/70SR14	48.97	P235/60SR15	60.97
P195/70SR14	49.97	P245/60SR15	62.97
P205/70SR14	51.97	P215/65SR15	57.97
P225/70SR15	59.97		

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165/5R13	29.97	185/70SR14	37.97
175/70SR13	33.97	195/70SR14	39.97

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P155/80R13	28.97	P205/75R14	39.97
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PERFECTA (51)	160.10	
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ia Disco	6.80 3.40 2.80	
sy's Kristy	13.00 5.20	
Moan Dodger		5.40
iefla (6-7) 33.60		
(S2 6-7-2) 792.60 Tri (S1) 396.30		
LY DOUBLE (4-6) 16.80		
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B'S Ancona	13:00	5.60 3.40
Shirley		3.80 2.40
Clamora		3.40
Jela (1-5)	17.40	
\$2 1-5-3)	160.60	Tri (\$1) 80.30

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Tri 8-1-5	217.00	\$1 Tri 8-1-5 108.50

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her's Love Gal	17.80	11.40 3.87
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AZTEC	28.80 15.80 7.20
Warrior	9.20 6.80
Albert	9.20
ela 2-7 128.40	
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Tammy Town	8.80 4.60
Jack Decker	2.80
Sends Nile	2.80
ela 1-5 117.00	
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no	6.00 4.00 3.00
Zahle	14.20 5.60
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cy Cherry	15.60	5.80	5.00
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3-4 14.00	
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stry Heights	14.80 7.00 5.00
E Moran	15.60 8.00
D Dee	3.00
3-4 212.20	

D	C 5/16	31.50
th Variety	17.60	7.00 3.80
Go Jeremy	4.80	2.80

Liquidator	4.50	3.80
LA 7-8 35.20		4.80
8-7-2 575.60 \$1 Tri	8-7-2 287.80	
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S's Pup	9.40	5.80
et Sail	5.60	3.60
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LA 1-5 52.20		
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So It's Been	12.60	6.80 3.40
en Braid	7.40	4.80
ch Lady		3.20
LA 3-8 62.40		
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A DC 39.22		
estleander Mel	28.20	9.00 4.60
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1-6 7-7 47.60			
Tri 7-6-2 120.00			
TH		B DC	39.56
ises Keep	5.60	4.00	3.40
er's Friend		5.00	4.00
ies Marie			5.00
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8-7-1 119.20 51	Tri 8-7-1	59.60	
F		C 5/16	31.48
Fashion	29.80	20.60	13.80
Protection		16.40	10.40
osh Kaiser			6.40
1-6 2-4 114.40			
6-2-3 1932.80			
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