New softball game hailed as best yet

By J.R. Ogden Gazette sportswriter

A new game of softball came to town this weekend and it's not fastpitch or slow-pitch.

It's called modified-pitch, and the game's fans say it's the best of both worlds.

"Slow-pitch is a hitter's game, fast-pitch is a pitcher's game. Modified is everybody's game," says Strawberry Point Merchants Manager Marvin Kraus, whose team captured the Amateur Softball Association State Modified-pitch title at the Kirkwood Softball Complex Sunday.

Strawberry Point, 58-6 overall after going 6-1 here, topped Metro Sports of Manchester, 13-7, in the second championship game. Metro Sports came out of the losers' bracket and forced a second title tilt with an 8-6 victory over the Mer-

Modified-pitch is similar to fastpitch in many ways, but, like slowpitch, it can be played with 10 lead with a grand slam in the fifth, players. The bases are 60-feet apart and the pitcher's mound is 46-feet from home plate, like fast-pitch. Players also can bunt and steal in

chants.

over."

modified, again like fast-pitch. Pitchers cannot windmill and their hips must be square with

home plate on delivery. "It's got all the elements of fastpitch except for the pitcher domination," explained ASA Deputy Commissioner Kris Gulick. "There is more hitting, more action than in

fast-pitch." Modified also gives new meaning to the phrase, "it's not over 'til it's

In the first championship contest, Metro Sports jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Strawberry Point came back with four runs in the bottom of the first - thanks to Bryan Kraus' solo homer and Marvin Kraus' three-run blast. The Merchants took a 6-3 lead after the fourth before Metro started

its comeback. Metro Sports cut the lead to 6-4 in the top of the fifth, then added four runs in the sixth to take the lead for good. Dan Klein, Ken Schaul and Jeff McDowell all smacked solo homers for Metro in the sixth.

The finale was more of the same. Metro led 2-0 after Schaul's tworun homer in the first and went up 3-0 after the second. The Merchants' Scott Fritz tied the game in the second with a three-run blast, but Metro came back with single runs in the third and fifth to take a 5-3 lead.

Bryan Kraus, the tourney's Most Valuable Player, quickly erased that and Strawberry Point added six more runs in the sixth.

Kraus finished with 17 hits in 27 at-bats (.629 average), drove in 15 runs and had seven homers.

"That's when I hit my best, when people are on base," Bryan Kraus

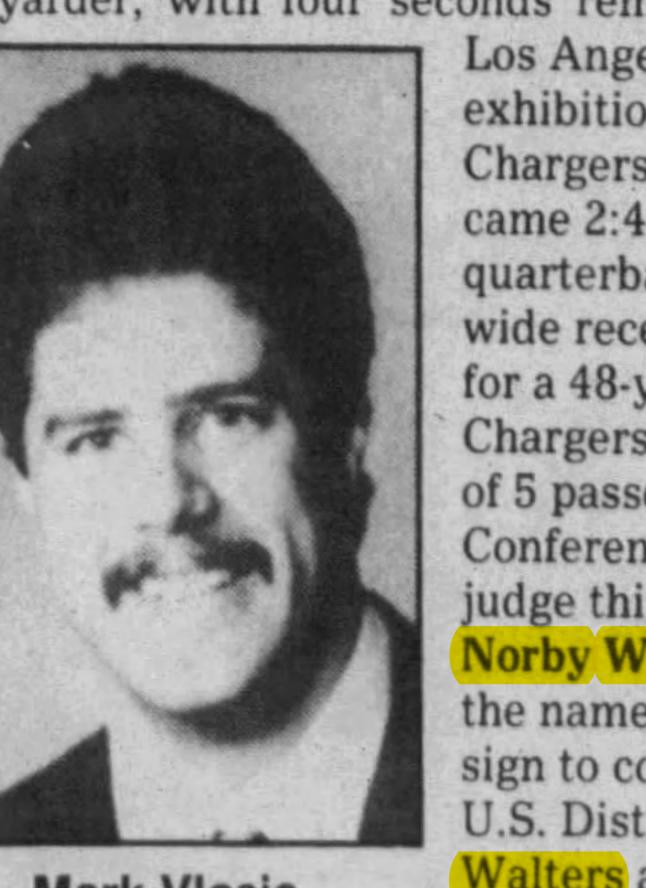
said. "I like a little pressure." Modified is usually played with 265-feet fences, so Kirkwood's 235feet fences made home runs more common than usual.

Strawberry Point had seven homers in an 18-8, six-inning win over Jenk Insurance of Dyersville in the winners' bracket final.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

GOLF — Chi Chi Rodriguez picked up his seventh Seniors Tour victory of the year Sunday, edging Butch Baird by a stroke to win the \$300,000 Northwest Classic played at the Inglewood Country Club in Seattle. Arnold Palmer tied for third-place with Miller Barber by shooting a final round 66 . . . Betsy King rolled in six birdie putts on the front nine to take command and captured her fourth LPGA tournament of the year by winning the \$225,000 Atlantic City Classic by three strokes over Nancy Lopez.

FOOTBALL — Mike Lansford kicked his third field goal, a 30-yarder, with four seconds remaining Sunday night to lift the



Mark Vlasic

Los Angeles Rams to a 23-21 NFL exhibition victory over the San Diego Chargers. Lansford's winning field goal came 2:43 after two San Diego rookies quarterback Mark Vlasic from Iowa and wide receiver Jamie Holland — teamed up for a 48-yard touchdown pass to give the Chargers a 21-20 lead. Vlasic completed 3 of 5 passes for 55 yards . . . The Big Ten Conference reportedly will ask a federal judge this week to order sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom to reveal the names of any Big Ten athletes they sign to contracts. The Big Ten will ask the U.S. District Court in Chicago to force Walters and Bloom to open their records,

showing which Big Ten athletes have signed contracts or accepted money as well as any who may do so Running back Earnest Jackson has reached terms on a threeyear, \$1.472 million contract that reportedly will make him the

TENNIS — Second-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden beat third-seeded Boris Becker, 6-4, 6-1, to win the \$375,000 Association of Tennis Professionals Championship played at Mason, Ohio. Edberg lost serve just once during the 1-hour, 20-minute match. Pam Shriver capped what she called "my best week of tennis ever" by beating Zina Garrison 6-4, 6-1 Sunday to win the Player's Challenge tournament at Toronto. Shriver, who beat Chris Evert on Saturday for her first win in their 19 career meetings, completed a five-match sweep through the tournament without losing a set.

Pittsburgh Steelers' highest-paid player, surpasssing the three-year,

\$1.462 million deal signed last year by quarterback Mark Malone.

Associated Press

Tomczak steps up in Bears' QB battle

Associated Press

Doug Flutie and Jim Harbaugh had their moments. But it was Mike Tomczak who took the biggest steps in the battle to be at least the standin quarterback for the Chicago

Tomczak, a one-time free agent in his third NFL season, played just a third of Chicago's game with Pittsburgh Saturday night. But it was a near-perfect third — he completed eight of his nine passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns as the Bears routed the Steelers 50-14.

"Tomczak showed me a lot of confidence and poise," said Coach Mike Ditka, who is preparing for the regular season on the assumption regular Jim McMahon will not be fully recovered from shoulder sur-

"He knows what he's doing, I'm happy for him," said Ditka.

Chicago was totally dominant able I am."

against Pittsburgh in running its exhibition record to 2-0. Tomczak threw touchdown passes of 31 yards to Willie Gault and 8 yards to Tim Wrightman in a first half in which the Bears' first-string defense limited the Steelers, 0-2, to just 86 total yards as the Bears took a 31-0 lead.

Harbaugh and Flutie succeeded Tomczak with Harbaugh throwing a 25-yard fourth-quarter touchdown pass to Glen Kozlowski.

"Both of them had their moments," Ditka said.

But Tomczak, who started the game, seemed to have the inside track on the starting job in the season opener against the Giants that will match the last two Super Bowl winners.

"During the next couple of weeks I want to be consistent and do what the coach wants me to do," he said. "The more I play, the more comfort-

7 Bears stopped for speeding

ROCKFORD, Ill. (AP) - Seven Chicago Bears brought something extra back to Chicago from their training camp in Wisconsin speeding tickets, according to Illinois state police.

The seven Bears were driving in a caravan home to Chicago from their training camp in Platteville, Wis., when they were all clocked by Illinois State Police radar at speeds well above the 55 mph limit near Interstate 39 and Perryville Road in Rockford Thursday afternoon, officers said.

Ticketed for speeding were quarterback Jim McMahon, quarterback Mike Tomczak, tight end Emery Moorehead, fullback Calvin Thomas, running back Neal Anderson, wide receiver Lew Barnes and member of the coaching staff.

Moorehead will have to appear in court because he was clocked at 86.5 mph in a 55 mph zone, police

Anderson and Barnes were traveling in excess of 84 mph and Thomas was doing 83 mph, according to police.

Armstrong's 4th at state 14-inch

MARSHALLTOWN Central Iowa Merchants of Des Moines won its second state softball championship in as many weeks Sunday, capturing the Men's 14-inch Major crown after skating through the field with a 6-0 record.

Central Iowa Merchants, formerly known as Reames, won the Men's 16-inch Major championship in Cedar Rapids on Aug. 14-16.

Armstrong's of Cedar Rapids finished fourth at the 14inch meet with a 4-2 record and will advance to the national tournament to be played in Marshalltown Sept. 5-7. Interstate Batteries of Cedar Rapids also will take part in nationals after finishing in a tie for seventh place.

Central Iowa Merchants has opted to attend the 16inch national tourney in Mount Prospect, Ill., over the Labor Day weekend, withdrawing from the 14-inch field.

Randy Hook batted .736 to lead Armstrong's. Kevin Thorp hit .578 with four home runs and Steve Plotz batted

.588 with three home runs. Arnold Motor of Storm Lake finished in second place, Dairy Queen of Boone third, Say Cheese of Des Moines fifth, and Gino's finished in the sixth spot.

LEGION: Regional tourney next

From page 1B

Wednesday through Sunday, and Legion Red (28-12) put on a more entertaining exhibition in the second game.

Clemens led off the 10th with a walk and moved to second on Ken Wedewer's sacrifice. After a flyout, Tom Wegman walked and Dennis Jaeger then chopped a slow roller to Cedar Rapids shortstop Aaron Van Scoyoc, whose quick throw toward second sailed into right field, permitting Clemens to score.

"That was really exciting," Clemens said. "I came around third and saw the ball going into center field and just kept going."

Clemens, one of a parade of unsuccessful pitchers in the opener, came back to keep the Red in check came in a five-run 13th which also on just five hits.

more time to warm up and got a groove on the pitching mound." Western Dubuque built a 2-0 lead tale 13th.

gional tournament in Fargo, N.D., Mims' run-scoring double in the

seventh. "We really had to scramble," Western Dubuque Coach Tom Jenk said after watching several baserunning errors cost his team throughout the day. "We didn't play as well fundamentally as we are capable of. We didn't run the bases

In the opener, Western Dubuque used seven pitchers and Cedar Rapids four before the 4-hour, 45minute contest could be decided. Western Dubuque pitchers walked 14 and Cedar Rapids pitchers 16; Western Dubuque committed seven errors to Cedar Rapids' four.

Five of the Cedar Rapids walks included a run-scoring single by "I just felt a little more comforta- Brett Condran, a run-scoring sacrible out there," Clemens said. "I had fice fly by Jamie Hathaway and two bases-loaded walks. Western Dubuque also made an error in the tell-

in the nightcap, but Legion Red The teams finished regulation came back with Tim Evans' leadoff play deadlocked at 10 and both home run in the sixth and Mike teams scored a run in the 12th.

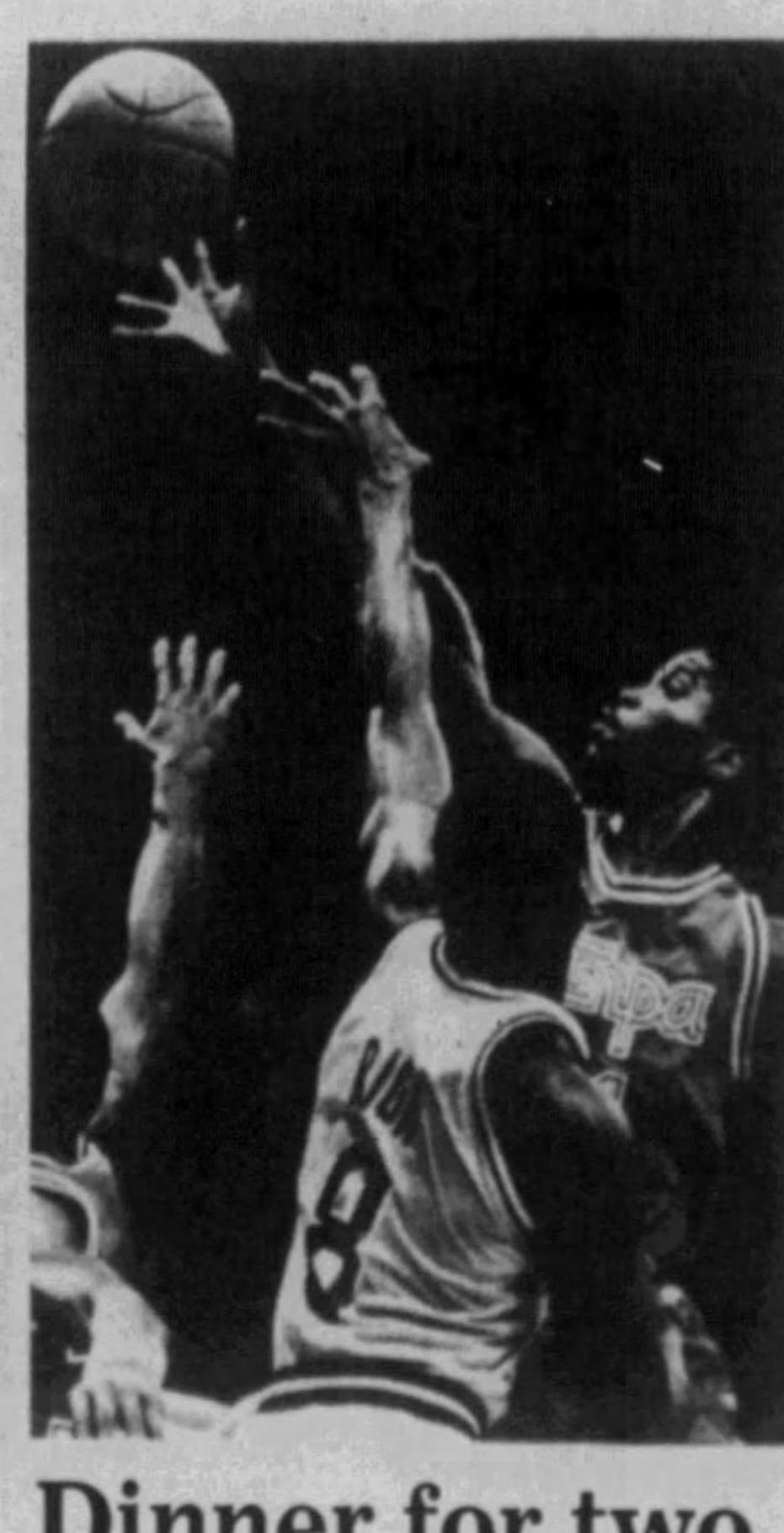
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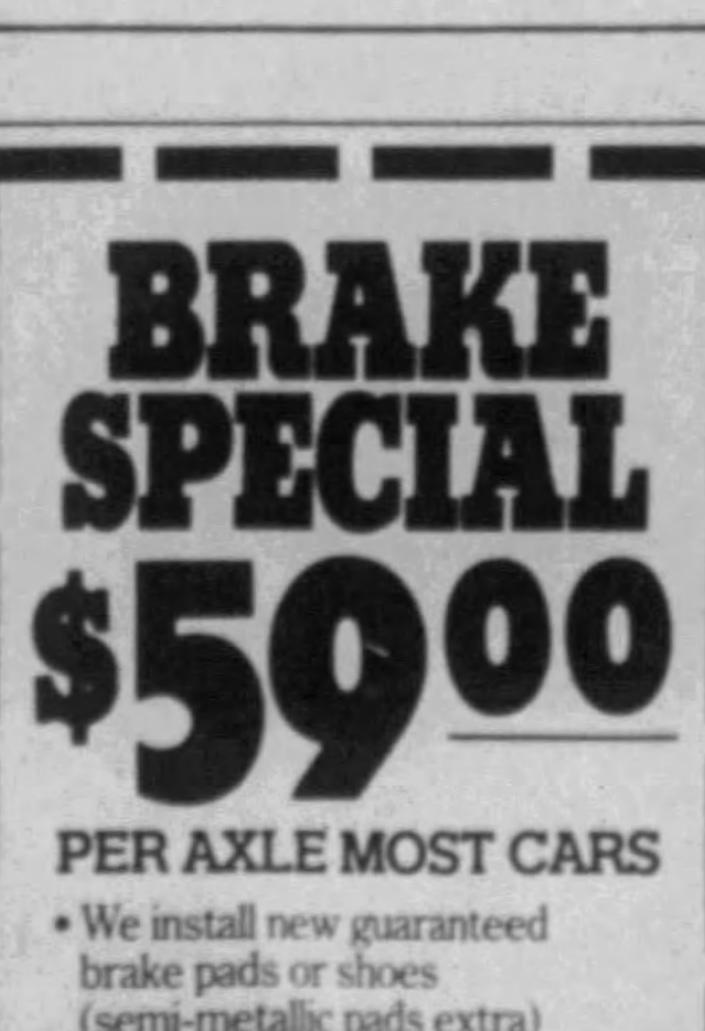
Winning entries will be framed and displayed at the SPORTS PAGE for six months, then returned. Throughout the contest the oldest page entered to that point will also be available for viewing at the SPORTS PAGE family restaurant.

RULES: Deadline for entries is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 9. Entries must be mailed or brought to The Gazette. 500 3rd Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA. Photocopies will not be accepted. No purchase is necessary. Employees of The Gazette and the SPORTS PAGE family restaurant are not eligible. Nonwinning entries can be picked up at The Gazette after the contest is over.

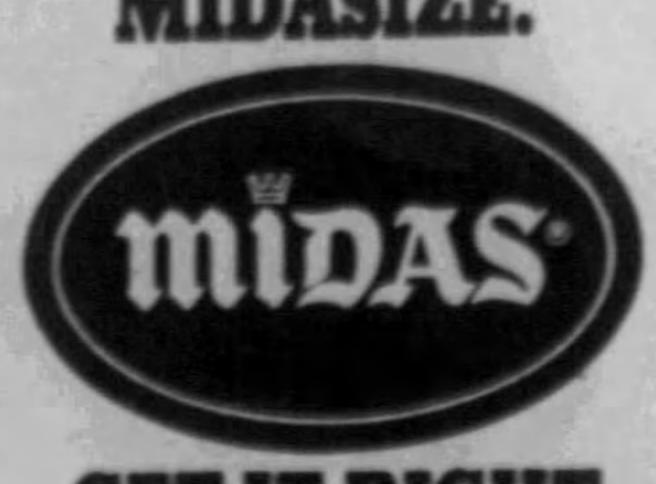


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