

# B's to sport brand-new uniforms

Brand new uniforms will be featured when the Clay Center B's girls softball team opens the 1977 season a bit later this spring.

Due to inflation the cost of uniforms is major but with the assistance of willing parents that major item was minimized. Parents of players joined in cutting fire wood and selling it to persons who burned wood. This served two purposes. It not only helped furnish uniforms for the girls team but assisted in conserving energy.

Wade Bauer, manager of the

girls, expressed his appreciation and the team's gratitude to the parents who helped cut the fire wood and to those who purchased it also.

There is history behind the Clay Center girls B's. The team was originally organized and managed by Wade Bauer and Bill Mapes nearly two decades ago. The team at that time represented Broughton and was known as the Broughton B's. Then Broughton was eliminated with the construction of the Milford Reservoir. The team

since that time has been known as the Clay Center B's. The roster includes two full teams—one in the teenage bracket and the younger group as the Junior girls. Each plays separate schedules during the regular season and in tournament play. Wade Bauer guides the teams now with assistance from local people.

A year ago both teams earned berths in their respective state tournaments and that is the goal set by the teams again.

Local followers of the girls games will have an opportunity to watch the teams in numerous home attractions.

The Junior district tournament will be held at Clay Center July 16-17 and the Teenage tournament will be held at Abilene on the same dates. Abilene will host the girls Junior State tournament July 20-23 and the state Teenage tournament will be held at Topeka July 29-31.

The girls will be starting the 18th season when the season opens a bit later. Wade Bauer pointed to the schedule which still is to be completed and remarked: "There is that age old problem each season and it is a challenge. That is replacing squad members each season as girls reach the age where they are lost to teams of the age bracket."

"We played 81 games a year ago including both teams," stated Bauer. "Each season we must replace those graduated from the teen-age group and do that by moving girls up from the Junior squad as the girls qualify for the Teen-age group."

"I certainly have enjoyed working with the teams over the years and the girls have really enjoyed the game as they have responded," expressed Bauer.

Girls do graduate each year from the Teen-age group and many have benefited in regards to applying their experience to their profession. One former member of the B's is Judy Akers, presently head basketball coach of the Kansas State Wildcat Women.

At least a couple of feature attractions for the B's senior and junior teams will be played on local diamonds this summer. A Junior round robin is scheduled for May 28-29. Teams due to compete are the CC Junior B's, Beatrice, Nebraska, Lone Elm, Abilene, Chapman, and Fort Riley.

The Senior B's will host <sup>round</sup> robin which will include <sup>teams</sup> from Lone Elm, Lincoln, Nebraska, Abilene, Clay Center Skinner Chevrolet and the CC B's as host. One additional team will be added ahead of the round robin date of July 2-3.

Another full schedule of games



WADE BAUER

for both teams will be announced at a later date.

Wade Bauer will be assisted with the Clay Center teenage B's by Dawn Anderson, recently graduated from the ranks of the teenage squad.

The B's earned national recognition when they won seven straight state titles starting with the tournament for the age group about 1960 or a bit later. The squads have traveled thousands of miles and played hundreds of games over the years. Now they will continue.



**SOMETHING NEW:** Deb Fencil, left, and Janeil Richter, pose for a picture in their brand new uniforms. The girls are members of the Clay Center B's girls softball team. The team plays the fast pitch game. Parents of the girls on the B's team made it possible for the girls to get the new uniforms by cutting fire wood which was sold to finance the purchase. Deb Fencil is a

pitcher for the B's and Janeil Richter plays second base. This will mark the 18th season of participation for the B's Teenage team. The B's also have a Junior team which plays a full schedule. A year ago the two clubs played a total 81 games and both age groups qualified and played in the respective state tournaments. (Dispatch Photo)