

1976

GOERGE "BUTTER" COLE

George played third and pitched while he was with the Gridley High School team. He then switched to center field in 1924 when he was signed to play with the Gridley town team. He continued playing every summer with Gridley until 1928. (His first manager was Frank Westlake, Sr. who is Wally Westlake's grandfather.) Butter Cole's best year, playing with Gridley, was in 1927 when he hit 405. He pitched the Peach League Championship game in which Gridley won. That year Lefty Gomez was pitching in Butter's league for Tudor. Butter Cole also was player-coach for the Gridley Pirates Basketball team during 1926 to 1926 and they won the Feather League championship in 1927.

Bill James signed George to ██████ play with the Oroville Olives in 1928. Just after the season got started he was offered a job in Graeagle which he accepted and played ball with Portola. Cole left Portola's team during the middle of the season as he was offered a steady job in Westwood to play baseball and also basketball for the Westwood Hoo Hoos. They won two basekball championships in a row in the Lassen County League. In 1931 Angie Silva (who was later to become secretary of the Valley Leage) ~~and~~ and I took over the managership of the Westwood team. The season ended in August and George returned to Gridley to play the rest of the Valley League season with the Marysville Giants.

In 1932 he moved to Sacramento where he played with the Riske Truckers in the winter league. As managing was in Butter Cole's blood, he secured a sponsor and organized his own team starting in 1933. He played first base from then on and pitched occasionally ~~and~~ ...always hitting 300 or better.

GEORGE "BUTTER" COLE - CONTINUED

Butter managed until 1950 then he relinquished the managership and remained business manager of the Cannery union ~~XXXX~~ team. In 1950 he was elected to the presidency of the Sacramento Basher's Baseball Association and held this position for twelve years. George resigned in 1962 because of the pressure of his job and ~~having~~^{has} been President Emeritus ever since. He remained business manager of the Cannery Union team until 1970 when on his retirement, he turned over the team to his good friend Julian Elorduy.

To sum George "Butter" Cole's career up: He was actively engaged in baseball for fifty-three years. His Sacramento teams travelled throughout Northern California during his career, playing just about every team that had a team. Over those years, his teams have won twenth-five championships.