



Butler attributes success to book on unity

By [Marc F. Pendleton](#), Staff Writer DAYTON DAILY NEWS - APRIL 27, 2010

VANDALIA — Trey Clements isn't the same baseball player he used to be for Vandalia-Butler High School.

And that doesn't have anything to do with bat control or defensive prowess, both of which the speedy outfielder excels at.

“To be completely honest, it's a mental change,” he said.

Things often click for seniors that way, and Clements has the stats to prove it this season, leading the Aviators in many offensive categories.

But it's a book that veteran Butler coach Trent Dues has insisted all members of the program read — freshman, reserve and varsity — that Clements and senior pitcher Nick

Hansman insist is making the greatest difference. And to promote unity, Butler is reading “Heads-Up Baseball: Playing the Game One Pitch at a Time” together as a team.

And don’t laugh, because it’s working. Butler (7-1) owns a commanding three-game lead with five games remaining over Troy for the Greater Western Ohio Conference North Division title.

Northmont (5-0) has the GWOC Central lead and Springboro (7-1) is best in the South Division.

Besides the conference baseball races, the postseason will soon heat up, too. On Sunday, May 2, all baseball coaches will be at Troy High School for the four-division sectional draw. Like basketball, it’ll be a super draw in which every team is seeded. Tourney play begins May 10.

Clements is a rare three-year starter at Butler. He has 30 hits in a league-leading 63 at-bats (.476) and 15 RBIs from his leadoff position.

If Butler (12-7 overall) is to repeat as GWOC North champs and go deep in the postseason, it’ll need more of the same from Clements and 1-2 pitchers Hansman and Taylore Cherry, a towering 6-foot-9 menace with a 92 mph fastball.

“To be a three-year starter on a team like Butler, in my opinion it’s amazing,” Clements said.

“Butler has always had a great foundation. To be part of that for three years is a great feeling.”