

The 1973 Season

The start of the 1973 season for Co-Rec had even more buzz than the previous two. Eileen Matthews was still in Lehman, but the search for the next great Hinman quarterback was on. Many speculated on how well Lehman Lightning and Phaedrus would do this year. The news that the grand prize for the winners of the season would be two and half kegs of beer also created much buzz. If the hype proved true, this third season in Co-Rec football would be the most intense and exciting to date.ⁱ

The response to Co-Rec was even bigger this year than last year. So many teams applied that four separate divisions had to be created. The North Division consisted of the teams Cleveland Symphony (Cleveland Hall), returning second-place Phaedrus (Smith Hall), RIP (Roosevelt), and Clowns (Hughes). The South Division consisted of Off the Wall (Hughes Hall), Golden Touch (Roosevelt Hall), Sprite (Cleveland Hall) and Lehman III (Lehman Hall). The East Division had the teams Master Beta (Smith Hall), The Rocks (Hughes Hall), Matlin Fruit (Cleveland Hall) and returning champions Lehman Lightning. The West Division had the team Cooties (Smith Hall), The Wild Ones (Lehman Hall), 3 Stories High (Cleveland Hall) and the return of the Dining Hall Team the Vulcans.ⁱⁱ The increase in talent promised to match the increase in the number of teams. Lehman Lightning had retained their most valuable player, quarterback Eileen Matthews but had lost many other key players from their champion squad. Ed Schrenzel, Don Kutner, Mike Alboucrek and Coach Mark Landman played for other teams. Their arch rival, Phaedrus, had only lost Lou Muggeo and were still a strong contender. The rest of the teams were a sprinkling of Co-Rec veterans and untried talent. Who would come out on top this season was anyone's guess.ⁱⁱⁱ

Due to winning the championship the previous year, Lehman Lightning retained their first seed spot even though they didn't play that first week. All eyes were on Phaedrus this year because of their excellent showing and mostly veteran team. They beat Cleveland Symphony 27-0 on the opening day of play. Still, Cleveland Symphony's coach, Mike Alboucrek, was a veteran of Lehman Lightning and it was surmised that his leadership would propel their team into new heights of victory once they gained some more experience. Golden Touch lost a close game to Sprite, with Sprite's only score coming from an intercepted pass. The final score was 7-6. Though Nancy Chiccarelli threw a few good passes, Coach Leon Borden promised renewed vigor in Golden Touch's practices. The major upset of season opener was when 3 Stories High beat the favored team Vulcans 18-0. 3 Stories High proved to have an excellent defense that kept the Vulcans star player, six foot five inches tall Jeff Edelman from scoring. The offense of 3 Stories High also proved successful with quarterback Valerie Herman showing signs of perhaps winning the MVP award. The Matlin Fruit Company soundly trounced the Rocks with a final score of 24-0. The team first known as Lehman III changed its name to Eros and was beaten by Off the Wall. Quarterback Wanda Ciofli threw two touchdown passes to Doug Resnick and one to Stan Ruszkowski. The final score was 18-12. "RIP (R) handed the Clowns (H) a loss 6-0 when Rob Siegel returned an interception for a touchdown."^{iv} The action of the season opener proved that Co-Rec football was going to be hot this semester with tons of student involvement.

The following week saw Lehman Lightning shut out Master Betas 12-0 with Jim Lombardo scoring both touchdowns on passes from Eileen Matthews. The Wild Ones proved their own by shutting out the Cooties 25-0. John Knowles scored by returning an interception for a touchdown, as did Paul Engel. Marilyn Greif did a fine job as a quarterback for the Wild

Ones. The Cooties, while unable to muster a score, did offer the most razzle-dazzle of the game. The awesome Phaedrus offensive machine plowed through the Clowns, earning themselves 26 points. Clowns receiver Ed Schrenzel made a number of spectacular catches, but in the end there was no laughter emanating from the Clowns, who were shut out 33 to nothing. Wanda Ciofli threw two touchdown passes and ran one in herself, helping Off the Wall beat Sprite 19-12. In another game, Off the Wall beat Golden Touch 25-6 thereby winning their division. Lehman Lightning easily handled the Rocks by shutting them out 25 to nothing. The Wild Ones surprised everyone by beating the Vulcans 13-0. The Matlin Fruit Company got canned by the Master Betas, one of the teams that appeared to be up and coming that season. The final score was Matlin 6, Betas 24.^v

The following week the mighty Phaedrus team was upset by RIP's strong defense with the final score being 8-0. RIP won the North Division by later beating Cleveland Sympathy 13-6 in a postponed game. Master Beta ended the season with a stunning 42-6 victory over the Rocks. The superb offensive power of the team came directly from players Mike Jaeger, Charlie Boon, Steve Einstein and Janet Tillison. Myron Edelman and Paula Goldberg forced safeties and Jim Doyle ran returned an interception for a touchdown. 3 Stories High won a well fought game winning 7-6 over the Wild Ones. In another exciting game, Sprite beat Eros 8-7 in the last few seconds of the game. A player known only as Sitar tagged Ed Schrenzel in the end zone causing a safety with clinched a victory for Cleveland Symphony over the Clowns. The final score was 2-0. The Lehman Lighting team chopped up the Matlin Fruit Company into salad with a final score of 33-0. Lehman Lighting, besides being undefeated, was the only team that season that had yet to be scored upon and it appeared that they were about to secure their season championship for another year. Matlin Fruit Company captain, Steve Matlin, executed some

rather fruity (pun intended) plays including hiding the football under his shirt. For the Lehman team, Warren Sieder scored on two interceptions and star quarterback Eileen Matthews threw to Jim Lombardo for a few more scores. After the game, in a show of good sportsmanship, the Matlin Fruit Company took the Lehman Lighting team to the dining hall for dinner, supplying them with food, music and beer.^{vi} MASH coach Pete Lorenzi thanked his team for all the hard work they had done that semester.^{vii} With the regular season over, all of Hinman awaited to see how the remaining teams would do in the playoffs.

The playoffs began with Off The Wall ripping RIP a new one. Doug Resnick dashed to the end zone making the first score in the game. RIP tied up the score when Lou Maglio intercepted a pass close to the goal line of Off The Wall. Kenny Paster scored on the next play. Off The Wall came raging back with QB Wanda Ciolfi hitting Stan Ruszkowski with a pass that gave them their next touchdown. Doug Resnick scored the extra point bringing the score up to 13-6. Resnick showed even more dazzling maneuvers returning a punt the length of the field with the help of Robbin Berglund who provided some great blocks. Ciolfi threw another touchdown pass, this time to Resnick bringing the final score up to 26-6.^{viii}

The second game featured 3 Stories High taking on favorite Lehman Lightning. This near epic battle resulted in a final score of 18-12 in favor of the underdogs. The game was tied 6-6 at the three minute stop time period. Lightning had been the only one to score by that point, but then Mike Hollander caught an aerial pass from Eileen Matthews. 3 Stories High evened the score in the second half when Rob Cohen snared Valerie Herman's pass in the end zone. With 32 seconds left in the game, Matthews spotted Jim Lombardo and honed in on him, earning them another touchdown. Unfortunately, they were unable to get the important extra point. They entered into not one but two overtime periods, then Howie Sobel made a dramatic play that

would go down in Co-Rec history. "...Howie Sobel returned a booming Andy Rothstein punt by zigzagging across the field, dodging twelve desperate Lightning hands to score the deciding touchdown in the second overtime period."^{ix} The crowd estimated at around 250 people swarmed the quad to congratulate the winning team. 3 Stories High had accomplished what some had considered to be the impossible. They had beaten what was considered an unbeatable team, the Lehman Lightning. The Lehman Lightning winning streak, including the previous season, tapped out at eight games. It was also the first game that the now legendary Eileen Matthews had lost. She had previously led the teams Plato and Lehman Lightning to victory the past two seasons. Her personal winning streak totaled twelve games, a record that has yet to be broken. 3 Stories High now was poised to take on Off The Wall the following week for the Co-Rec championship.^x

Far from the exciting upset of last week's game, Off The Wall soundly defeated 3 Stories High in the championship game. Off The Wall got an early start with a crucial pass interference call followed by a completion which put them up 6 to nothing. 3 Stories High came back, only to be thwarted by an interception by Doug Resnick. This was the turning point of the game. 3 Stories High quarterback Valerie Herman threw a number of aerial passes with pinpoint accuracy the length of the field to Danny Cohen, the team's receiver who made an extraordinary catch in the end zone at the end of the first half. 3 Stories, though, was unable to keep the momentum and was held by Off The Wall's defense, which kept them scoreless for the remainder of the half. Wall scored twice in the second half, securing them victory. Unlike the previous year, the weather was warm and the quad was in excellent condition, which helped Wanda Ciolfi throw numerous amazing passes. Praise was also accorded to the team's coach, Stan Ruszkowski, who had suffered a broken leg at the end of the previous season which kept him from playing for part

of it. This season he was determined to put together a winning team and found solid talent in Gene Block, Robbin Berglund, Charlie DeMartin, and returning All-Star defense-woman Beth Coughlan.^{xi} The end of the third season had come and gone, but the memories of this remarkable season would last a lifetime. It had seen the upset of the clear favorite Lehman Lightning by an underdog team, and Stan Ruskowski, who had been denied a chance to play the previous season, got a chance to return and lead his team to victory. The third season of Co-Rec football proved that the sport would be around for a long time to come.

ⁱ "Girls To Score With Guys," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. IV, No.1, September 13, 1973.

ⁱⁱ "Co-Rec Football Season Opener on Monday," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. IV, No. 4, September 20, 1973.

ⁱⁱⁱ "HCRTHFL Scouting Report," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. IV, No. 4, September 20, 1973.

^{iv} "Co-Rec Report-Know The Score," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. IV, No. 4, October 2, 1973.

^v "Co-Rec Report-Know The Score," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. IV, No. 5, October 11, 1973.

^{vi} "Co-Rec Report-Know The Score," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. IV, No. 6, October 18, 1973.

^{vii} "M*A*S*H Personal," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. IV, No. 6, October 18, 1973.

^{viii} "Co-Rec Report: Off the Wall and 3 Stories High in Finals Tonight," *Hinman Halitosis*, Vol. IV, No. 7, October 25, 1973.

^{ix} Ibid.

^x Ibid.

^{xi} Ibid.