

The 1974 Season

The fourth season of Co-Rec began in early September of 1974. It saw nineteen different teams or franchises come into existence, three more than the previous year. Even more amazing was that over half of Hinman's student population was on a Co-Rec roster. The teams 3 Stories High and Lehman Lightning combined forces this year to create what they believed to be a super team called Highlight of Lehman. Star quarterback Eileen Matthews had graduated, leaving a void that needed to be filled. Highlight of Lehman did include the previous year's stars Howie Sabell, Artie Rosenberg, and Janet Krulick. Smith Hall's team Master Beta included Charlie Boon and a recent draftee Kathy Kovack. Master Beta, having only lost one game in the last season, was a pre-season favorite for this year. The other Smith Hall team, Smith's Sonian Institute, had included varsity players Mike Cunningham, Gary "Diz" Delprato and Ken Brann. "General manager, assistant coach and all-around stud, Stan Goldberg [of HLT fame] has predicted his star quarterback Debbie Loeb to walk away with the Linda Hannah MVP award."ⁱ Also playing that season would be the Lehman team the Wild Ones. Steve Young [also of HLT fame] played for this team. The Wild Ones got their name because of their wild and raucous behavior both on and off the field. They would open their windows, remove the screens and blast the song "Born to be Wild" from speakers inside Lehman. The team would then charge out onto the Hinman Quad like Norse berserkers, partly in an attempt at intimidation, but mostly because they were just having fun.ⁱⁱ

That season saw three new rule changes to be added to the official Co-Rec rules.

1. All players are now eligible receivers.
2. Only 35 seconds are allowed in huddles.

3. A first down may be earned by two passes on completion or by advancing the ball past mid-field. Only one first down is allowable per drive.ⁱⁱⁱ

In the opening game of the season, the well organized and mostly veteran team Highlight of Lehman defeated the Cleveland team simply called What, 24 to 7. Howie Sabell scored on an end sweep and later in the game the team scored three more touchdowns. What's Ellen Murray connected on a long pass to receiver Irene Knapp and along with the extra point made the last scores of the game.^{iv}

All was not lost for team What, though, which rebounded the following day by beating the team Nazz. Ellen Murray sprinted 40 yards to open up the scoring for her team, and Howie Glassman scored on a perfectly executed double-reverse. The final score was 19-6. The team Day-O stifled the team Uranus which originally was called Nematodes. Lou Maglio intercepted two passes which thwarted the offense of Uranus. Jim Lombardo rushed 90 yards on a punt return for his team Thunder, which was victorious over their rival Kapaygula. Smith Sonian Institute turned out to be a powerhouse with Alex Montarex scoring 4 touchdowns, two of which were on identical end sweeps. The final score was 47-7, a new record for Hinman Co-Rec football. The 47 points broke team Mash's old record of 45, which it established two years earlier. The victory margin of 40 points was also a new record for Co-Rec football.^v

The following week saw Smith Sonian Institute again put on a powerful and exciting exhibition by defeating Hecklers 45-6. The team's defense led by Pam Topar and Evan Anderson were given credit for the team's victory that day because they each caught a key interception. Debbie Loeb proved her worth by connected to receiver "Diz" Delpardo. Pete Schirnoff of the Heckler's saved his team from a complete shutout by catching an interception and running it back for a touchdown. In another game, underdog Uranus was beaten by Master

Beta. With 30 seconds left in the game, Charlie Boon caught a long bomb in the end zone bringing the final score to 24-20.^{vi}

A few weeks later there was much excitement when Bob Giomi announced that the national magazine *Newsweek* had contacted him with some interest in doing a story on Co-Rec football.^{vii} However, play had been infrequent because the infamous Binghamton rains caused many postponements. The few games that were played were exciting, including one in which the Wild One's Carol Stein threw an amazing 50 yard bomb. Laurie Cohn led her team, the Kapaygulas, to victory over Uranus, with a mixture of great passes and dazzling runs. They also created a new record when their team completed all five of their extra point attempts. Master Beta won over Day-O with a final score of 31-13. Tom "Pollack" Pilholski had three interceptions, which included a runback for a touchdown. In another game, Uranus edged out Thunder with a final score of 33-31. Uranus's Eileen Ehrenberg scored a touchdown early on which put the team ahead. Thunder, however, countered with three consecutive touchdowns, two by Alan Ginsberg and one by Jim Lombardo. What at first appeared to be a runaway game for Thunder was upset by Uranus when Arthur Ross intercepted a pass and scored a touchdown and the extra point. The Sonian Institute continued its winning streak and clinched a playoff berth in its game. Excellent defense by Evan Anderman helped bring the team to victory and Debbie Loeb hurled the ball 80 yards down the field to connect with "Daf" DeSantis. Their opponent Over-the-Hill did a fine job considering their quarterback, Charlotte Fellows, had an ankle injury. The final score was 32-2.^{viii}

As the season came to a close, many teams began to get eliminated. The Wild Ones became a wild card after destroying the Sharks 30-12. The game was exciting, with Jose Santiago intercepting a pass and running 97 yards to make the touchdown. Carol Streim threw a

pass that was caught by Bob Posner, who scored and consequently tied the game at 6-6 with 30 second left in the half. Streim connected with two more passes to Larry Weiss in the second half and Elliot “Babes” Arditti and Dan Block completed scoring for the Wild Ones, each once catching an interception.^{ix}

The playoffs began with much anticipation as the remaining teams battled it out on the muddy Hinman Quad, all in an effort to earn their way into the championship game with the right to possess the coveted Robert Giomi Plaque.^x What came next was Hinman Co-Rec Weekend. In the past, the championship Co-Rec games were important and well received, but this year it was going to be bigger than anything ever seen before. A Hinman Co-Rec King and Queen would be crowned, halls would be invited to build floats for a mini-parade, a Sock-Hop would be held in the Hinman Commons with no shoes allowed, a Bonfire/pep rally would take place at midnight at Sinisi Park (Sinisi Park was the area near the top of current Lot M. At the time it was a grassy and lightly wooded area where Hinmanites went to camp-out, play pick-up sporting games, or just relax in the sun. Although it was never officially given that name by the university, the students of Hinman began calling it Sinisi Park after beloved Faculty Master Vito Sinisi. It became so popular in fact that, even to this day, whenever anyone references that area, it is still known as Sinisi Park.) The event would be capped off with a parade of floats that included the king and queen, Grand Marshall Vito Sinisi, and Hinmanite Roberta Eagle singing the Star Spangled Banner with Paul Reiser accompanying her on the piano. Following this would be the 1974 Co-Rec championship game, complete with half-time show. Following the game Bob Giomi would present the victor the coveted Co-Rec Plaque, and the Linda Hannah MVP Trophy would be given to the most valuable female player. Afterwards everyone would celebrate at the Other Place and then have a victory celebration in the Hinman Dining Hall.^{xi}

Before the festivities of the weekend could begin, the two teams that would go to the championship game had to be decided upon. Sonian Institute would play the Wild Ones for a spot in the championship game. The quad was wet and muddy, but both teams agreed to play anyway. The Wild Ones started out in possession of the ball and Carol Streim passed to Bob Posner, who scored the opening points in the game. This unsettled their opponents, who were favored to win. While Sonian quarterback Debbie Loeb played well as usual, her offensive line of Stan Goldberg, Mike Smith, and Alex Montenez had difficulty shaking the defensive line of Elliot Arditti, Dan Block and George Levenson. Arditti scored again on an interception putting the Wild Ones even further ahead. By the end of the first half the score was 12-6, in favor of the Wild Ones. Both teams put up exceptional defenses and each yard was hard fought. Near the end of the second half, the Sonian captains requested that the five minute stop time period be postponed due to darkness. Referee Bob Giomi agreed, declaring that it would be difficult for him to judge fairly in the darkness. The two teams would have to wait to see who would be victorious.^{xii}

Although coverage of the final five minutes does not exist, what is known is that the Wild Ones were the winners and advanced to the championship Co-Rec game against the Master Betas. The day started with the parade of floats. Elliot Arditti was chosen King and Mike Lamberta, taking the joke well, accepted the title of Co-Rec queen. With the necessary pageantry over, the two teams took to the field to decide the winner of the 1974 season of Co-Rec football. Within the first three plays, each team had scored a touchdown. Both quarterbacks, Kathy Kovach for the Master Betas and Carol Streim of the Wild Ones, were excellent and clearly the best in the league that year. Kovach was able to connect with Mike

Jaeger for three touchdowns and extra points. The Wild Ones were able to pick up two touchdowns later on and by halftime the score was 27-19 in favor of the Master Betas.^{xiii}

The halftime show was just as spectacular as the play action. Mark Wenger brought out the Hinman Marching Non-Band which was really a bunch of people feigning to play instruments and walking all over the quad. The playing of these silent “air” instruments provided much entertainment for the crowd. There was a Bob Giomi impersonation and Head Resident Cheryl Eller performed a baton solo. The half-time show ended with the Hinman spirit chant. The chant was:

H is for the H in Hinman!
I is for the I in Hinman!
N is for the N in Hinman!
M is for the M in Hinman!
A is for the A in Hinman!
N is for the N in Hinman!^{xiv}

Perhaps it was not the most creative of cheers, but it still fired up the crowd and prepared them for some of the best Co-Rec football to date. The climatic finish between the two titans of Co-Rec for the 1974 season was about to come to its startling exhilarating conclusion.

The second half opened up with the Wild Ones scoring on a long pass to “Birdie” Bernadini. Patti Marcus ran in for the extra point. Bob Posner intercepted a pass which led to a touchdown scored by Rich Leroy. The defense for both sides worked exceptionally hard in an effort to prevent the other team from scoring. Ellen Kold in particular did well and was the only reason why the Betas didn’t go ahead in the last few seconds of the game. At the start of the five minute stop time period Steve Einstein intercepted a pass resulting in a touchdown for the Betas. The Wild One refused to give up and scored via a long pass to Bob Bernadini. With less than a minute left in the game, Carol Streim hurled a pass that went flying into Bernadini’s arms who then ran over the line, earning the Wild Ones a three point lead. With seconds to go and with

Master Beta in possession of the ball, Bob Bernadini clutched the ball, almost dropped it, and then proceeded to outrun all the Betas down the field, scoring the final touchdown and earning the Wild Ones their first Co-Rec championship. After the game, Carol Streim was presented with the Linda Hannah MVP award and team captains Elliot Arditti and John Pruitt accepted the championship trophy from Bob Giomi.^{xv} The fourth season was finally over, the most exciting and suspenseful season had come to a dramatic conclusion. All the upsets, the drama, and pageantry truly made both Co-Rec Weekend and the entire Co-Rec season something special. The dream that Bob Giomi had back in 1971 had come true beyond the imaginations of anyone involved. Hinmanites had latched onto the idea of Co-Rec and made it into something very special.

ⁱ “Backfield In Motion,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 3, September 12, 1974.

ⁱⁱ Steve Young, telephone conversation with author, September 29, 2006.

ⁱⁱⁱ “Backfield In Motion,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 3, September 12, 1974.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v “Football Frolics,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 4, September 19, 1974.

^{vi} “Co-Rec Report-Uranus Nearly Whips Master Beta,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 5, October 3, 1974.

^{vii} “HCRTHFL Goes National,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 6, October 10, 1974.

^{viii} “Co-Rec Reports,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 6, October 10, 1974.

^{ix} “Co-Rec Coming to a Close,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 7 October [misprinted as September] 19, 1974.

^x “Co-Rec: Playoffs Begin,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 9 October 31, 1974.

^{xi} “Weekend of Events To Top Off Co-Rec Championship Game,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 9A, November 2, 1974.

^{xii} “Co-Rec-Coming To A Climatic Close,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 10, November 7, 1974.

^{xiii} “Master Beta’s Held Short, Squeezed By Wild One’s In The End,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 11, November 11, 1974.

^{xiv} Stan Goldberg, telephone conversation with author, September 28, 2006.

^{xv} “Master Beta’s Held Short, Squeezed By Wild One’s In The End,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. V, No. 11, November 11, 1974.