

The 1976 Season

The start of the 1976 season saw Co-Rec just as popular as ever and perhaps even more so. During housing signups, the coaches of virtually every team tried shamelessly to recruit people, especially athletic girls. Even within buildings, different teams vied for the pick of the talent with many backroom deals being struck over who would appear on that season's roster. When freshmen moved into their rooms for the first time at the start of the semester, the coaches of each team pounced mercilessly. Scared and naïve freshmen signed up for teams without even knowing for sure what Co-Rec was all about. They were in for a pleasant surprise.ⁱ

After some stern warnings to Hinmanites about abstaining from walking on the Quad to keep it from becoming a muddy mess, Co-Rec was ready to begin. This season saw many faces new to Hinman's favorite pastime and much undeveloped talent stepped up into leadership roles. The Roosevelt team The Happy Cookers (in honor of the building's cooking dorm) was the favorite to win. The Happy Cookers had both Debbie Loeb and Karen Simon, two of the best quarterbacks in the league. The Corporation from last year strengthened its team with fresh female talent Laurie Cohen, Joan Kolins, and Gloria Diana. Steve Rosenberg, one of the better Co-Rec players from the previous year, was about to make Co-Rec history. Rosenberg had taken over the leadership of the team formerly known as Alcoholics Anonymous and transformed them into not only one of the most flamboyant Co-Rec teams ever to take the field, but also one of the best ever to play the game. That team, which would go down in the annals of Co-Rec history, would be the Jesus Christ Superstars.ⁱⁱ

The J.C. Superstars, as they were known, left a lasting impression on Bob Giomi. One would think that the creator of Co-Rec, having overseen five seasons of play by that point, would have seen it all. The J.C. Superstars, though, were something unique. Like the Wild Ones, the

J.C. Superstars would blast music from their windows and come charging out onto the field. Adding to the humor of the moment was the fact that all the players were Jewish and playing on what appeared to be a decidedly Christian team.ⁱⁱⁱ

That season's play saw the teams J.C. Superstars (Hughes), the Corporation (Lehman), the Happy Cookers (Roosevelt), and Stacked Deck (Smith) on the top of their divisions, each one being undefeated. By midway through the season controversy arose during a game between Mild Stroke and the Corporation. Mild Stroke claimed that the Corporation's quarterback, Diane Mazur, was tagged during an important play. After some heated arguments officials ruled in favor of the Corporation. Michele Carnavale of the J.C. Superstars showed some excellent athletic abilities, surpassing all with her throwing abilities. She helped her team win over What's Inna Name with score being 40-15.^{iv}

The following week's Co-Rec activities saw many games decided by extra points or the lack thereof. The team Buzzed nipped the team called simply The Team with a score of 20-19. The Pits barely won over the tough team the Oakdale Maulers by the narrow margin of 19-18. The team Artful Dodgers also won over Blitzed, the final score being 20-6.^v

However all was not well in Hinman at this time. An editorial in the *Hinman Halitosis* showed the frustration that upperclassmen Hinmanites felt toward the lack of spirit in Hinman College at this time.

It appears that since the beginning of the semester Hinman College has been suffering from a severe case of apathy. This is an unfortunate occurrence since many individuals work long hours to organize activities for Hinman residents.

One tradition of the college which has born the brunt of apathetic reaction is Co-Rec Football. In previous years spectators would crowd around the quad to observe the games. Even the atmosphere in the dining hall has mellowed during game time. Cheers and commentary about the plays, touchdowns, and the caliber of refereeing are few and far between this season. In a short time, the championship game, the culmination of Co-Rec Football will be held. So far there has been little response to work on the Co-Rec

Weekend committee. In the past Hinman has brimmed with spirit and excitement about the dorm floats, and half-time show and the possible identities of the King and Queen of Hinman College.

Another event which elicited virtually no response was the all-Hinman Dance in the Hinman Commons a few weekends back. It was pitiful that so few people showed up. There was plenty of free beer, and good tapes for dancing. Yet the turnout was incredibly poor.

The social committee works diligently, planning activities for the future. However, it is the responsibility of everyone living in the complex to support the effort and make the activities worthwhile investments of time and money. All that is needed is a bit of interest.^{vi}

While the letter was mostly venting the frustrations of the Hinman Social Committee, whose job it was to provide Hinmanites with recreational and social activities, the focus of the letter was disturbing. Its implications for not just Co-Rec football but other Hinman activities were depressing to say the least. While still immensely popular, for some reason Co-Rec was just not as appealing to the student body as it used to be. Still, high hopes for the rest of the Co-Rec season ran high as it hurtled towards its dramatic conclusion.

The following week saw the lowly ranked team Joint Effort upset division leader the Happy Cookers. This created the possibility of a five-way tie for first place in Division III of the Hinman Co-Rec Football League. In Division I, the J.C. Superstars went up against DOA for the division title, with the Cuckoo's Nest a challenger to both. In Division II, Mild Stroke stayed alive and defeated the Oakdale Maulers in a close game. In a surprise twist of events, the Artful Dodgers surpassed the favorite the Corporation in a game that had to be postponed. Unlike previous seasons, who would still be standing after the playoffs for this season was anyone's guess.^{vii}

During the final rounds of the playoffs, The Team played Buzzed and led until Stop Time, when Buzzed tied the game and sent the match into overtime. During the sudden death

period, Pam Martin threw a long pass that Dan Block valiantly tried to knock down, but instead wound up in the hands of Larry Brooks, who scored the winning touchdown. The Oakdale Maulers played the Corporation in a scoreless game until the Stop Time period, when Dave Rabkin caught a pass and scored a touchdown winning the game for the Corporation. They went on to play Mild Stroke, which beat them 14-12. DOA dominated the Artful Dodgers with a final score of 20-7. That afternoon the Happy Cookers played Stacked Deck, and the Cooker's Debbie Loeb dominated, leading her team to an 18-6 victory. In the final game of the day, J.C. Superstars defeated Mild Stroke with a score of 38-20. Quarterback Michelle Carnevale threw pass after pass that connected to Randy Mendelson or Brendon Sullivan. Mike Spar assisted the team with an interception.^{viii}

The next day was unusually cold and saw the semi-final matches. DOA beat up on Buzzed. Great offensive moves by Randi Franco, Rich Wenty and Pete Berman led the day for DOA. It was a disappointing end for Buzzed, which had come from a tough season to win the last six consecutive games. They took solace in the fact that their team was young and would be around for a few more years. The next day saw the match-up between the J.C. Superstars and the Happy Cookers. For nearly the whole game, the teams were neck and neck. The turning point came when the Superstar's Mike Spar intercepted a pass and turned the game around for his team. A punt that bounced off a Cooker player and was recovered by a J.C. Superstar player sealed the fate of the Happy Cookers, with the final score being 28-25. It was a very well played game that could have been the championship game. It would also be the last game for Karen Simon, Debbie Loeb and Stephe Shalofsky, who had provided Co-Rec with some of its finer moments over the past few seasons. Everyone eagerly awaited to see the championship game between the J.C Superstars and DOA.^{ix}

As DOA and the J.C. Superstars geared up for championship game, the rest of Hinman geared up for Co-Rec Weekend. An Oktoberfest theme was planned complete, with Brockwurst, Weiner Schnitzel, German potato salad, German chocolate cake, and of course, beer. A live Polka band would provide the entertainment. More importantly, and excitingly, CBS Sports had announced that they would come to film the activities of Co-Rec Weekend. Hinman Co-Rec football was hitting airwaves and going national.^x

The championship game was complete with all the pomp and pageantry of years past. The game would be one of the most lopsided games in Co-Rec history with J.C. Superstars beating DOA 46-6 and earning the grand prize of not only having their name etched on the Robert F. Giomi Plaque but also two and half kegs of beer. J.C. Supertar's quarterback Michell Carnevale consistently connected with Mike Spar, Randy Menelson and Brendan Sullivan for both long and short passes. This earned them seven touchdowns. The only touchdown scored by DOA was by Pete Berman. The J.C. defense was in top form and blocked every other attempt to score. After the game Michelle Carnevale won the offensive player of the year award, and the defensive player of the year was Mike Spar. The MVP award went to Diane Mazur of the team Mild Stroke for her excellence throughout the season. The Half Time show featured the talented Cervantes Marching Band, a talented drum and bugle corps of 8-14 year olds who played such numbers as "It's a Small World After All," (the theme song of Co-Rec) "This Land is Your Land," and "When the Saints Come Marching In." Before the game began, the Star Spangled Banner was sung by Adinah Shulimson with a piano accompaniment by Paul Reiser. Everyone had a great time and it was a fun a memorable moment. The only let down was that CBS never showed up. Bob Giomi tried to cheer everyone up by reminding them that it was only third in

the Nielson ratings.^{xi} Even with the rather lackluster championship game and lack of televised coverage, Co-Rec football had had another successful season.

ⁱ “Co-Rec Football Begins,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 1, August 30, 1976.

ⁱⁱ “Extra Points,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 2, September 9, 1976.

ⁱⁱⁱ Bob Giomi, telephone conversation with author, November 29, 2006.

^{iv} “Extra Points,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 4, September 30, 1976.

^v “Extra Points...Update,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 5, October 7, 1976.

^{vi} “Editorial...Always Apathy,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 5, October 7, 1976.

^{vii} “Extra Points,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 4, October 14, 1976.

^{viii} “Co-Rec News,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 7, October 21, 1976.

^{ix} Ibid.

^x “CBS Sports Comes To Co-Rec,” and “Schedule of Co-Rec Weekend Events,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 7, October 21, 1976.

^{xi} “Schedule of Co-Rec Weekend Events,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 7, October 21, 1976 and “Final Points-Co-Rec Weekend And The Championship Game,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VII, No. 9, October 28, 1976.