

The 1977 Season

The 1977 season of Co-Rec began just as eagerly as the first one with teams from each hall signing up in droves. It seemed everyone wanted to be a part of the Hinman Co-Rec Football League. One problem early on focused on the state of the Hinman Quad. All too often the quad quickly became a quagmire of mud and torn turf. As players ran across the field tearing up the sod and the infamous Binghamton rains fell, destruction of the quad was nearly inevitable. However, this year Bob Giomi was dedicated to trying to preserve the quad in the off-season as much as possible. An article entitled “The Quad Cycle” in the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter of September 1, 1977 stated tongue-in-cheek Giomi’s everlasting task in Hinman.

In the beginning—there was seed. And the seed was good. And then, there was rain, and rain, and rain and rain...And the rain and the seed made a perfect union. And Bob Giomi stood over the quad and said, “Be fruitful and multiply.” And a fence was erected.

When the summer heat had done its work, and after all were settled in their humble abodes, they looked out their windows and saw the miraculous green substance, and Giomi said, “Let the fence come down.” He looked over the green colored quad, proclaimed it grass, said it was good, and rested.

And, along with Bob Giomi’s sadistic sense of humor, there was created Co-Rec football—which does not mix with grass covered quads.

Since Lehman had sinned by losing the Co-Rec Championship, the wrath of Giomi was upon us in such furor that even J.C. could not save us. So, each October, the quad returns to its original sorry state of mud-dom. It thus remains until April, when the omnipotent and omniscient Giomi will again proclaim GRASS.¹

Though being a humorous anecdote, this passage was true in more ways than one. The quad was perpetually being torn apart to become a primordial mess of muck and mire. It was a never-ending challenge to the Hinman professional staff, and most especially Bob Giomi, to keep the quad in as good a condition as they possible could. For all of Co-Rec history, even when play moved from the quad to Sterling Field behind Roosevelt Hall, this was an issue that continually arose.

More importantly, Bob Giomi, humorously portrayed as the God of Hinman, was in many ways just that. Unknown to most Hinmanites, the beloved Head Resident of Lehman Hall, the Director of Social and Academic Programs for Hinman, confidant, advisor, and friend, was going to officiate his last season of Co-Rec. Bob Giomi, the individual who was solely responsible for creating a unique and exciting sport which would entertain thousands of Hinmanites over the coming decades, was planning on moving on. Heartfelt tears and emotions would have to wait. The 1977 season of Co-Rec needed to be played.

The season kicked off to a great start with a number of exceptional teams competing. Early on, the favorites to go all the way was the team Super Bowls who had amassed 62 points over two games and had only given up 13. What was even more amazing was that virtually everyone on the team had an equal amount of playing time. Their offense was crisp and player Steve Fishoff caught nearly everything that was thrown his way. Chuggaluggers beat the favored Second Coming and the Knights of Erotica were beaten by Hot to Trot. Trapped Gas exploded with 24 points over On The Rocks and All the President's Men defeated Zero's Heros during Penetration. Ghoti dropped What's Our Name during their match, but What's Our Name took on Killer Elite and squarely trounced them. The Out of Towners were victorious over Sambo's and Pat Mitchell's (named after the famous and popular local ice cream shop) beat Zero's Heros in a later game. The team the Other Place had sloppy play but still beat On the Rocks.ⁱⁱ

Unfortunately, Co-Rec season was delayed for a time in late September. Binghamton, which is known for its seemingly unending rains had significantly more rain than usual that year. One of the local papers, the *Evening Press* had the headlines "More Rain Forecast," "September '77 Area's Wettest," and "Ain't No Sun Up in the Sky in Binghamton Anymore." In fact,

September of 1977 would be recorded as the wettest month ever on record for all of Broome County. The month's total rainfall reached 9.57 inches, while the average amount was 3.02 inches of rain. The National Weather Service reported that from September 13 to September 29, 1977, it had rained on every single day. Needless to say, this did not do much to help the Co-Rec field. Play was postponed until the rains settled down and the quad dried out.ⁱⁱⁱ

By early October the rains had subsided enough to allow for play to continue. Second Coming was to build their team back up during the hiatus and they rose to the top of their division. The Chuggaluggers kept up their winning streak and beat the team Sambo's 26-0. Super Bowls was able to score 37 points even without their starting quarterback. The Knights of Erotica scored 39 points over Co-Wrecked.^{iv}

The following week saw the team What Am I Wood splinter and drop into second place when One Track Mind defeated them. One Track Mind went on to defeat Knights of Erotica as well earning them much needed points. Both the teams I'm OK and Co-Wrecked were locked in bitter competition for a playoff berth while the favored Super Bowls lost to Mirth which allowed them to rise to the number-one spot in their division. Unlike in previous years, when there was usually a dominant team in each division, the teams this year were scattered across the board with not a single one rising above the others. This had a two-fold effect. First, it showed that none of the teams that year were consistent. In other words, none were really all that good. Second, it did make for an exciting regular season because just about anyone could get into the playoffs.^v

The next week of play saw the Super Bowls sink even further, losing out to the Freddie Fudpuckers. The Fudpucker's quarterback, Irene Knapp, was on fire for that game and helped carry her team to victory. The team Mirth lost 6-0 to Murderers Row. That game was marked

by many fouls and on numerous occasions the officials had to throw flags. What Am I Wood rebounded and defeated Hot To Trot 14-6. The Knights of Erotica found that if they lost one more game they would be removed from the playoffs. On top of that, the team called Rings of Uranus played an excellent game against All the President's Men.^{vi}

While the rains had put a damper on the season earlier that year, the lack of another liquid was about to rouse the ire of Co-Rec players and fans alike. It turned out that the Hinman College Council (HCC) had stated that they would not use funds to purchase the two and half kegs that were traditionally the prize for the winning Co-Rec team. The kegs had been described as a luxury item and not in the true spirit of game, which was not to celebrate solely winners but the love of the sport itself. HCC noted that the trend had been toward closed parties, where the kegs would be offered only to a select few people. HCC wanted the parties to be open to more people and not solely for members of the winning team and their close friends.^{vii}

HCC rejected the claim for beer kegs, stating that the \$41.50 was far too high a price for the two and a half kegs. They went on to argue that they wanted to allocate \$150 toward putting a cable hookup in the Hinman Commons so that Hinmanites could watch, big sporting events like the World Series, in color. HCC also stated that few students supported this allocation of money and that students should participate more in hall government if they wanted their views, such as getting kegs for the Co-Rec champions, to be known.^{viii}

Despite the potential lack of alcohol, Co-Rec play continued unabated. Ghoti whipped the Rings of Uranus, whose offense was abysmal in that particular game. One Track Mind was also squarely beaten by No Sweat. Mirth scored 52 points that week, which was the most points since 1975, when Lower East Side was defeated by Sudden Death 63-6. The game of the week was considered to be the match between Out of Towners and Chugaluggs, with the Out of

Towners winning in a well-fought struggle against their opponent. The playoffs were at hand and still there was no powerhouse team or clear favorite. This season just about any team could potentially enter the championship.^{ix}

The following week it was announced that instead of the usual crowning of the Hinman King and Queen during the championship Co-Rec game, there would be a vote for the ugliest male and female in Hinman. Contestants would be invited to make themselves look as ugly as possible. While at first this may have seemed rude, each vote would cost a cent and all the proceeds would go to the Big Brother/Big Sister program. Hinman was gearing up to have fun on Co-Rec weekend and to help a good cause too.^x

The playoffs that season were very exciting, with not a single team dominating. Second Coming was able to beat out Chugaluggers in a very exciting overtime match. Chugaluggers went on to win 6-0 over Knights of Erotica. The Out of Towners were successful in winning over What Am I Wood 19-14. With the playoffs over, the two teams that were to meet each other on the gridiron were Second Coming and Mirth. This match-up promised to be very exciting. Both teams had excellent offensives. Brendon Sullivan would face Pete Berman, who was not able to play in last year's championship. These two all stars were ready to fight for the coveted Robert F. Giomi Plaque. Michele Carnavale would also be playing, as would Leigh Treat and Bev Carlson, some of the best female and all-around players in the league. All in all, it looked to be an exciting game for the close of the 1977 season.^{xi}

The next Sunday saw the sixth annual Co-Rec Championship game. Neither Mirth nor Second Coming could use the wet, sloppy quad to their advantage. The afternoon's parade was a strong showing of team and Hinman spirit. Paul Reiser had graduated the previous May so he could no longer serenade them with the piano, so Hinmanites were forced to hum the tune of the

Star Spangled Banner. Brendan Sullivan scored for Second Coming on a run which had been set up by a pass that had been caught by Kenny Miller. Mirth came back and tied the game. Second Coming quickly rebounded and at the end of the half they led 25-6. The second half saw much of the same action as the first half, and the final score was 51-20 in favor of Second Coming. Following the game the MVP award went to both Sullivan and Carnavle. A new award, the Hot Water Soap award, went to Killer Elite and On The Rocks for their perfect seasons. They both lost six games and won none. Another new award that year was the Co-Rec Coach of the Year award that was awarded by the head referees on the basis of continued efforts to inspire his/her team to play Co-Rec the way it is meant to be played. That is for the love of the game. The award that year was given to Frank Sangirogio for his efforts in inspiring his team Hot To Trot. After the game, both Second Coming and Mirth went to the OP (the 2 ½ kegs of beer were denied by HCC) to celebrate the end of another great Co-Rec season.^{xii} Awards and commendations were also handed down to Bob Giomi and Gabe Yankowitz for all their efforts in both Hinman College but most especially for the sport of Co-Rec. These two men stated, "...to all the coaches and teams, we would like to express our thanks for the thoughtful awards which were presented to us. It is a gesture greatly appreciated, as was the help and cooperation you gave us throughout the season. By and large, it was the best season ever."^{xiii}

It could not have been a more perfect way to go out. In the summer of 1978 Bob Giomi, the creator of Co-Rec football, the driving force behind Hinman Follies, the Hinman Little Theater, *Hinman Halitosis* and so many other Hinman events and institutions left Hinman to take a job in Whittier, California. During his tenure, Bob had done more than any other individual to create traditions that were uniquely Hinman. Many activities and traditions have been passed down from generation to generation of Hinmanites and the vast majority of them were created by

Bob Giomi. Like no other Hinmanite, Bob did more during the formative years of Hinman College than anyone else. With contemporaries like Faculty Masters Pete Gruber and Vito Sinisi and fellow professional staffers like Allan Eller and Gabe Yankowitz, Bob was but one many great individuals in early Hinman history. However, none would have the lasting impact on both the college and the residents like Bob. The story of Hinman is not the story of one individual. Throughout its long and illustrious history many individuals have stood up to become leaders and giants within the community. Yet Bob Giomi should be recognized as the most important of these individuals. His tireless drive, devotion to Hinman, and dedication to the students living within its bounds would be unmatched by anyone in any other community or anyone who would come after him. While he would be surely missed, the legacy that he would leave behind will go on forever as long as there are plays in the Hinman Commons, printed issues of the *Hinman Halitosis*, and Co-Rec being played on the fields of Hinman. While he may be short in stature, of all the giants in Hinman history, Bob Giomi is the tallest of them all.

ⁱ “The Quad Cycle,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 2, September 1, 1977.

ⁱⁱ “HCRFTHTFL,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 4, September 20, 1977 and “Greek Peaks at Co-Rec,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 4, September 20, 1977.

ⁱⁱⁱ “Where Has the Co-Rec Season Gone?” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 5, September 29, 1977.

^{iv} “Sneak Peaks By the Sleek Greek,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 5, October 6, 1977.

^v “The Greek Meekly Speaks,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 6, October 13, 1977.

^{vi} “The Unique Mystique of the Greek,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 7, October 20, 1977.

^{vii} Steven Rosenberg, Letters to the editor,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 8, October 27, 1977.

^{viii} Ron Wisla, Hinman Treasurer, “Letters to the editor,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 8, October 27, 1977.

^{ix} “The Shiek of Greeks Shrieks,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 8, October 27, 1977.

^x “Co-Rec News: Ugly People On Campus Come to Hinman,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 9, November 3, 1977.

^{xi} “Up The Creek With The Greek,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 9, November 3, 1977.

^{xii} “Final Co-Rec Action,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 10, November 10, 1977.

^{xiii} Bob Giomi and Gabe Yankowitz, “Co-Rec Wrap Up,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. VIII, No. 11, November 17, 1977.