

The 1978 Season

Even without Bob Giomi to watch over the turf of the quad or to officiate, the Fall 1978 Co-Rec season started off with a bang. Unlike the previous year, the first week saw not a single drop of rain. This allowed the numerous Co-Rec teams to play on a dry and grassy Hinman quad. The game between Cunning Runts and Heads Up was played to a tie on a particularly blustery day which played havoc with forward passes. Brendon Sullivan and Michelle Carnavale were back together again, this time playing for the team Intensive Care. They took out Talking Heads by a score of 33-0. Slippery When Wet used its excellent defense to good use when they played against What's So Funny and kept the team tied up on the gridiron. Kamanawan Alaya roared over Knowledge is Good, also to the score of 33-0. The teams that were favored to go all the way that season included Olympus, Good For What, and Heads Up, which contained the remnants of last year's powerhouse Second Coming.¹

Unfortunately, a number of issues of the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter are lost for the month of October, so no details on those games are recorded. By late October, however, the last week of regulation play was finally over. Slip of the Tongue finished the season with a perfect record of six wins and zero losses. They soundly licked their last two opponents, racking up a total of 62 points in those two games. Olympus, which up until that point had a perfect season, lost to Good for What. Like so many other sports teams in history, Olympus would not be a master of its own destiny. Due to a trick in the rankings, if Good for What won their game with Heads Up, then Good for What would bump Olympus out of their number one spot. Yet if Heads Up was victorious, Olympus would remain in the number one spot. The players of Olympus watched and waited to see the outcome and rooted for Heads Up to win. In a thrilling game Intensive Care with its dynamic duo of Brendan Sullivan and Michelle Carnavale defeated

Samurai Co-Rec Team in a down-to-the-wire match, the final score being 18-12. Atomic Waste took first in their division, with Pigs-in-a-Blanket taking second.ⁱⁱ

Controversy began to emerge about the competitive nature of Co-Rec. Apparently, Hinmanites were getting so into their beloved sport and becoming so concerned with winning that some were forgetting the meaning of Co-Rec in the first place. That is, they were forgetting that Co-Rec wasn't all about winning, that is was about involving as many Hinmanites of both sexes as possible in a sporting event. Most important of all was that Co-Rec was supposed to be fun. Although the earlier editions of *Hinman Halitosis* are lost to us, apparently there was a flood of critical letters to the editor expressing concern about the increasing competitiveness of the sport and the view of some that Co-Rec was now all about winning.

In the October 19, 1978, issue of *Hinman Halitosis*, Hinmanite and Co-Rec aficionado Charlie Koenig wrote a letter to the editor concerning his views on the state of Co-Rec football in Hinman. His letter read:

Mr. Mancini's points should be foremost in the minds of every player on a Co-Rec football team every time they take the field. There are, however, points that he overlooked.

Any time people take the field, court, ice, etc., versus any team, there will be competition no matter what rule changes have been made. There will always be people who care about winning, and that is good. There would be no sense in having divisions, playoffs, floats, championships, etc., if winning were not a factor. If the point is eliminating competition there might as well be no score, but just a schedule of teams playing at random. If this were to happen you would eliminate not only competition, but interest as well.

Mr. Mancini's mention of injuries (such as the broken clavicle and other [sic]) is good, except he did not mention that the injuries occurred accidentally. I played in both games and both plays were freak accidents. No matter what rules are in effect there will always be accidents. Apologies should be made if they have not already, but the injuries should be understood to be accidents, not a result of violent play.

What is most disturbing to me as a person is the violent aggression I have seen. I, like 99% of the people who play Co-Rec, do so purely for fun (with the hope of winning).

What concerns me is a small group of people who begin a game with the [text unreadable] other team's main objective was taking our best player out of the game via injury or ejection for fighting. I cannot believe that that idea came from mature college students. The girls on their team said they would not play on the team anymore. QUITE UNDERSTANABLE.

What that kind of play does is take the girls out of the game. They, as people, are afraid of getting hurt or involved in fights. The guys on both teams now have personal vendettas against each other and take over the game entirely. And without the girls it is not Co-Rec!

It is not how you win or lose, as Mr. Mancini had written; it is more How you play the game!!!ⁱⁱⁱ

Koenig's letter stated clearly what was on the minds of so many Hinmanites at that time. Co-Rec was about the love of the game, not the love of victory at any costs. The injuries and increased violent contact during the games were beginning to turn away the very people that Co-Rec was supposed to attract, men and women that were not particularly athletic but who wanted to play in a competitive sport with minimal contact and have fun doing it. Another letter to the editor written by Barbara Gordon in the next edition of *Hinman Halitosis* brought up an important feminine perspective on the state of the sport.

In response to Mr. Koenig's article, I feel a point should be made from another view. In general, all the injured have always viewed their injuries as accidental, and nothing more. We do not feel that we were purposely hurt and never did. True, a feeling of anger may have existed but it is a natural response due to the inconvenience produced. If an accident does occur in the boundaries of good sportsmanship-like conduct, an apology should be made.

However, a few points have still been overlooked. The injuries this year have surpassed those of past years. In one day of play, for instance, there were as many as four accidents. Another point is that most of the injuries are being received by the females. One of the reasons for this is that the females are more inexperienced in playing football, yet, it is also attributed to the fact that the game is slowly being dominated by the males and that violent aggression is continuing. If a person can hit someone with such force as to break or fracture a bone than something is being done wrong. Solutions to this problem could be introduced and looked into, helping to remedy the situation.

In conclusion, Co-Rec football is an enjoyable, fun game and although winning is the goal, it should not be achieved through the violence which has occurred this season.^{iv}

It was becoming clear to the residents of Hinman College that their favorite pastime was becoming something that the vast majority of them did not want it to be. Co-Rec was competitive. Everyone agreed on that point. However, it was also supposed to be a sport that was fun and exemplified the inclusiveness and community spirit that was uniquely Hinman. There were some in the community that viewed Co-Rec as another sport where winning meant everything. As these two letters show, the cry of the community was just the opposite. Co-Rec was Hinman's sport and it was supposed to be all-inclusive and fun, and no one was going to take that away.

Co-Rec Weekend and the championship game were postponed that year because of the Lehman Hall fire. Dealing with that crisis was far more important than seeing that the Co-Rec schedule was kept. However, as soon as things quieted down, all of Hinman became united in playoffs and upcoming glory of Co-Rec Weekend 1978. The playoffs began with Slip of the Tongue and its excellent quarterback Pam Martin stealing the game from Intensive Care. Slippery When Wet defeated Good For What and Atomic Waste beat Samurai Co-Rec Team. For a while it looked as though there could easily be a Michelle Carnavale-Pam Martin match-up in the championship game. Pigs-in-a-Blanket eliminated Intensive Care. In an amazing upset victory, Slippery When Wet defeated Slip of the Tongue and Atomic Waste came up victorious over Pigs-in-a-Blanket. Both Atomic Waste and Slippery When Wet, two underrated teams that absolutely no one thought could make it through the playoffs, were going to the championship game.^v

The game was an exciting, down-to-the-very-last-second nail biter in the muddy Hinman Quad as Slippery When Wet took on Atomic Waste for the much coveted Robert Giomi Plaque. The game was played following the traditional parade of floats, with the Hinman Quad as the

equivalent of stadium gridiron. The quad that year was a muddy, slippery mess with both teams sliding all over the ripped-up earth. In the end, Slippery When Wet barely defeated Atomic Waste, with the final score being 13-12. It was a hard-fought game and an enjoyable and exciting match for both the participants and the spectators. In the end the trophy was awarded to the winning team and a special thanks was given to the referees and Tom Truesdell, who had stepped in to fill the great vacuum left by Bob Giomi by taking over as the Publishing and Managing editor of the *Hinman Halitosis* and for devoting countless hours of his own time to Co-Rec. The final report on that season of Co-Rec as published in *Hinman Halitosis* stated, "...this season showed us some of the finest CO-REC football we have seen in a long time. The game was played as it was meant to be played. Sure, there was some competitiveness, but everyone involved (and event those that weren't) had a good time. The games were close, most of the scores within six points and many games were decided by a single point."^{vi} The 1978 season of Co-Rec was an important, perhaps the most important one in the history of the sport. The season showed that even without its inventor and greatest advocate, Bob Giomi, and even with much criticism of the sport by students and even in the shadow of the Lehman Hall fire, nothing could stop Co-Rec football. More than anything else, the success of the 1978 season of Co-Rec showed that Co-Rec football, as a Hinman institution was here to stay.

ⁱ "The Ramblin' Typist Speaks..." *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. X, No. 3, September 28, 1978.

ⁱⁱ *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. X, No. 5, October 19, 1978.

ⁱⁱⁱ Charlie Koenig, "Co-Rec," letter to the editor," Vol. X, No. 5, October 19, 1978.

^{iv} Barbara Gordon, letter to the editor, Vol. X, No. 6, October 26, 1978.

^v *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. X, No. 3, November 2, 1978.

^{vi} Ibid.