

The 1979 Season

The 1979 season of Co-Rec began, like all the other seasons before it, with much excitement and zeal. In the opening issue of the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter, one writer tried to pinpoint exactly what it was that made Co-Rec so popular in Hinman.

The excitement generated by this sport is for various reasons. Cut-throat competition will be seen among some of the players. Unyielding plays and determination will clearly distinguish them. Others look forward to the enjoyment, regardless of the outcome of the game. Many have joined in order to meet people. A common interest in “Co-Rec” can open the door to new friendships. Another motive to participate is the exercise: Running down the field is a good way to stay in shape.

In the spectrum of the student social life, “Co-Rec” can be one outstanding point. Many students agree with this and are anticipating their first match.¹

Co-Rec football even went international. A humorous article in the *Hinman Halitosis* written by a fictional international student, Zarico Lapoy, poked fun of the interesting, innuendo-laced Co-Rec team names.

My name is Zarico Lapoy and I am living in Hinman College for my one year stay at an American university such as Binghamton. Lately I have observed the students wearing brightly colored shirts with names. Someone told me there are no fraternities or sororities here at SUNY except for T.O.E. (sic) [parenthesis in original]. I now see why they are unnecessary. The students form their own private clubs...

Since almost everyone in Hinman belongs to a private club, I am thinking of joining one, but I am having difficulty choosing the best one for me. “We are not Eskimos” might be good since I am from Habovia, a tiny duchy in Eastern Europe. I am not “Criminally Insane” or a “Killer Weasel” so those two are immediate out. Being a pacifist, the clubs “I’ve Killed for Less” and “Off with Their Heads” sound too violent for me. I also think the activities of these clubs might be unlawful in this country.

“Deep Penetration” and “Oral Fixation” sound interesting though I know I shouldn’t get involved here: I would shatter my girlfriend back home, Lannistan. I know very little about American domestic politics so “Internal Affairs” would not be good. And since I don’t own a clone, I can’t send one or belong to that club either.¹ I might try “Throw it up” for I have had much practice in that activity on account of ACE.²

¹ This is in reference to the Co-Rec team “Send in the Clones” a parody of the popular song “Send in the Clowns.”

² ACE was the company responsible for preparing the university’s dining hall food. ACE along with its successors Marriot and Sodexo, have been the butt of jokes (deservedly and undeservedly) since the very beginning of the Hinman College experience.

If I continue to have trouble choosing, I will join “No games in observance of Yom Kippur.” That sounds real exotic!ⁱⁱ

This humorous article shows the creativity that Hinmanites had coming up with new and interesting team names. Besides the ones mentioned in the article other interesting team names that season were Game of Inches, Comic Kazies, Something’s Burning, First Period, Cleveland 69ers, Barnyard Fun and Up Your End Zone.ⁱⁱⁱ If nothing else, at least the team names were interesting and amusing for that season.

Play was furious over the weeks with the usual flurry of activity. As usual, a number of games were rained out. By early October the Cleveland 69ers, Criminally Insane, Killer Weasels, and the team simply called Generic Team were in the top of their respective divisions. A new policy was also implemented. All weekday games would start fifteen minutes earlier in an effort to save time. This would only be for the weekday games. A big problem facing Co-Rec that season was a lack of referees. Each team was supposed to supply a referee for the games but this season many referees were simply not showing up. To deal with this Jane Warren, the new Assistant Coordinator for Hinman and also the chief organizer of Co-Rec that season, implemented a harsh penalty. Any team whose referee did not show up to the game in which they were supposed to officiate would forfeit the rest of the season.^{iv}

Besides competitive play, the Co-Rec games this season were filled with rain dates. So many in fact that the Hinman Office had to coordinate special times to replay the games and even announced that make-up dates would be posted in the *Hinman Halitosis* newsletter. A plea was also given to refrain from calling the Hinman office before 3:45 p.m. to see if the games had been rained out because the officials would not have decided before then whether to cancel the game.^v There would be no cancellation for a light drizzle of rain. Rather it would have to be a complete downpour, usually with thunder and lightning and other biblical attributes. Co-Rec

players were tough and quickly gained the reputation of playing in some of the harshest conditions. By the end of October, When All Else Fails, Deep Penetration, Killer Weasels, and Don't Rush Me had risen to the tops of their respective divisions.^{vi}

The playoffs were about to begin and all of Hinman was in jubilant anticipation. The top twelve teams were to enter the playoffs and compete for a spot in the Hinman College Co-Rec Football League Super Bowl. The number-one team, Deep Penetration, had a perfect season with seven wins and zero losses. Don't Rush Me, What We Do Now?, and Killer Weasels all had six wins and one loss apiece. With so much excitement and competition brewing that season, a reminder was sent out to the teams stating that only the team captains could dispute calls and that any player that disputed a call would be removed from the game. Also, any captain that became disorderly (swearing and other unsportsmanlike conduct) during a dispute would forfeit the game for his team. The teams were also reminded that unnecessary roughness would not be tolerated.^{vii} Co-Rec Commissioner Jane Warren reiterated this proclamation against unnecessary roughness. "It has been brought to my attention that the Co-Rec games have been getting increasingly rougher and that teams are playing only to win. Co-Rec Football was designed so people could get to know each other and it was designed for FUN. Let's keep this in mind for the remainder of the playoff games, before someone gets hurt."^{viii} Every season of Co-Rec had a certain level of competitiveness to it and that is a good thing. However, for some reason, this season had seen a dramatically increased amount of competitive play. In the past Co-Rec was mostly for fun, for the love of the sport and bringing together the community. This season seemed to be all about winning, about the outcome of the game. This was not what Bob Giomi intended when he invented Co-Rec back in 1971. For reasons unknown, Hinman College was changing, and so was the sport of Co-Rec, for better or for worse.

It is not surprising that within this atmosphere of contention, controversy arose during the last game of the semi-finals. With five seconds left on the clock, the score was 19-20 in favor of the team Deep Penetration. Criminally Insane had possession of the ball and quarterback Jakki Williams threw a pass to teammate Mickey Alexander who was very close to the goal line. Alexander was tackled by a member of Deep Penetration and he fell into the end zone. The ball crossed the line but Alexander's knees did not. The question that arose was whether his knees hit the ground before the ball crossed the goal line. If this was the case, then there would be no touchdown. The head referee of the game, Jim Greenlees, ruled that there was no touchdown. Criminally Insane disputed the call saying that Alexander's knees touched the ground only after the ball went into the end zone and that even if they had not they should still receive a touchdown by the simple token that the ball had passed over the end zone. For their part, Deep Penetration believed that Alexander's knees touched the ground before the ball passed over the end zone. They believed that the referee made a decision that should stand.^{ix} Even though there was much bickering and arguing the final score was 20-19 in favor of Deep Penetration, who would challenge Don't Rush Me in the championship game.

Hinman Co-Rec Weekend was usually filled with the pomp and circumstance. However, this year it was marked by the dual controversies of the semi-final game and the unusually rough play during the season. The team Don't Rush Me became the champions for that season with a come-from-behind win over Deep Penetration. The final score was 18-12 in a game that went into overtime. Tom Kavanaugh made the catch that won them the game. Their team was well regarded due to the quality of their female players including Jamie Goodbinder, Chris Voss, Karen Shansinger and quarterback Theresa Greene. Their tenacious defense never gave up and kept Deep Penetration scoreless until the second half. The team's proprietor, Satch Siverman,

got into the action by pumping up his team before the game when he drove his 1979 Datsun onto the quad and blasted the soundtrack from *Rocky*, all in an effort to energize his team. It was a complete team effort that brought Don't Rush Me to victory.^x This brought to a close another successful Co-Rec season, yet it was a season that had suffered through many challenges on numerous fronts. The sport had to adapt to new leadership, which it had done readily. More importantly, it had suffered through a season filled with unnecessary roughness and a “winner take all” attitude that seemed to be possessed by many teams. This had caused the traditional players of Co-Rec (the less athletic and less competitive) to begin to get disgruntled with the sport. Co-Rec had survived another season, but with the way the sport was going, would it last much longer?

ⁱ Cheryl Frank, “Half-Time In Hinman,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XI, No. 1, September 13, 1979.

ⁱⁱ Zarico Lapoy, “Private Clubs,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XI, No. 3, September 27, 1979.

ⁱⁱⁱ “Co-Rec Scoreboard,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XI, No. 3, September 27, 1979.

^{iv} “From The Sidelines,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XI, No. 6, October 11, 1979.

^v “Co-Rec Corner,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XI, No. 6 ½, October 18, 1979.

^{vi} “Co-Rec Corner,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XI, No. 7, October 25, 1979.

^{vii} “Reminder,” *Hinman Halitosis SPECIAL EDITION* Late October, 1979.

^{viii} Jane Warren, “Comments From The Commissioner,” *Hinman Halitosis SPECIAL EDITION* Late October, 1979.

^{ix} “Controversy Over Penetration,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XI No. 9, November 9, 1979.

^x “Winner’s Circle,” *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XI, No. 10 [Diez in original], November 15, 1979.