

The 1980 Season

The 1980 season of Co-Rec began with an advertisement in *Hinman Halitosis* concerning the now infamous and borderline bad-taste team t-shirts. In the article, the reporter spoke to Ed Rosenfield, the proprietor of Harris's Army and Navy store in downtown Binghamton. Harris's Army and Navy had supplied the bulk of the Co-Rec t-shirts over the past few years. Besides Co-Rec, the store also made shirts for local businesses, like IBM, youth groups, summer camps, and athletic leagues. When asked if he had anything as raunchy and in poor taste as the Co-Rec shirts, Rosenfield replied, "'I've seen so many shirts with sexual things that people have written on their shirts that it's just incredible....but we'll see.'"ⁱ Maybe Co-Rec hadn't made much of an impression on Ed Rosenfield, but it had on the residents and staff of Hinman College.

Earlier that year, in the 1980 Winter Olympics held in Lake Placid, New York, the US hockey team beat their greatly favored Soviet hockey team and eventually went on to win the gold medal. The now famous "Miracle on Ice" was in the minds of every single American that year. In late September of that same year, the Co-Rec version of the "Miracle on Ice" was about to happen. For previous four years, the Smith Hall ground-floor team, A Shot in the Dark, had not won a single game and had gone to the Soup Bowl (the game for the two worst teams in the league) for two consecutive years. They even lost that game. That all changed on Wednesday afternoon in the Fall of 1980 when they beat their opposing team, What've You Got to Lose, in an incredible 60 to 0 score. Some jokingly claimed that with the loss of their never-give-up leader, Andy Meissner, the curse on the team had lifted. Others credited their talented new quarterback as the reason why they won. Still others said it was simply a fluke. For the team A Shot in the Dark, their amazing victory was the "Miracle on the Hinman Quad." The question now was, could they keep it up?ⁱⁱ

Trouble began to brew on the Co-Rec front the following week. HCC President Jim Greenlees announced that eight Co-Rec teams had not paid their mandatory \$20 fee for participation in the league. Teams that failed to get their fees in would forfeit the rest of their games for the season.ⁱⁱⁱ The following week saw five teams (all from Roosevelt) that still had not paid the obligatory fee. To add insult to injury, a football used for the games had been stolen. Greenlees promised to find the thieves and bring them to justice.^{iv} The next week's meeting saw all of the Co-Rec teams paying their fee; however, the mood was tempered because the football was still missing. On the bright side, the theme of Co-Rec Weekend had been picked: "A Tribute to the Hinman Dining Hall."^v

From mid to late October the scores for the Co-Rec teams showed some rather decisive battles being waged for the Co-Rec plaque. Ready to Receive beat Come Play With Me 13-12. Finger Lickin' Good defeated Win One For the Zipper during penetration. A Shot in the Dark continued on its miraculous winning streak by beating Abuse, 35-6. What Have We Got To Lose had much to lose, in fact scoring no points against Inconceivable, which scored 24. When in Doubt was victorious over Good to the Last Drop, the final score being 32-0. Psychotic Philosophers weren't psychotic enough, being hissed at by Snake Squad in a match with Snake Squad slithering to the top with 12 points to their opponent's 7. The Cunning Linguists weren't cunning enough, barely losing to Mean Machine in a close match. The final tally was 19-20 in favor of Mean Machine.^{vi} All of the Co-Rec teams this year had been playing well and were eager to enter into the playoffs for a chance at the elusive Robert F. Giomi Plaque and the opportunity to call themselves Hinman Co-Rec football champions.

The dreams of these players were dashed when the biggest Co-Rec controversy to date occurred on Monday, October 27. That day it was announced that the playoffs for that season

would be canceled. The outcry against this shook the foundations of Hinman College. A Hinman without Co-Rec would be like peanut butter without the jelly. The thought was nearly unconscionable. Cries rang out throughout Hinman calling for the head of HCC President Jim Greenlees. President Greenless explained himself with an open letter to the whole of Hinman College.

On Monday October 27, the cancellation of the playoffs for Co-Rec Football was announced. Before the outcry gets any louder, a statement of the facts is in order.

The decision to cancel the playoffs was made by the Co-Rec Committee. The Committee was selected by the team captains at the beginning of the season and was empowered to make any and all decisions and rule changes it deemed necessary for Co-Rec Football. The Committee consists of: representatives from each dorm, with Patti Koval, Administrative Assistant, and myself as Advisors. The Committee met October 27 and decided unanimously that, due to the fact that sundown now occurs around 5 p.m. and that the rainy season is upon us, the season could not continue as scheduled. Either the remainder of the season or the playoff spots would have to be cancelled. Since many teams had not completed their seasons, and since most of the playoff spots were undecided, the regular season could not be cancelled. Since many teams had not completed their seasons, and since most of the playoff spots were undecided, the regular season could not be cancelled outright. To play only those games affecting playoff positions would be unfair to those teams with no chance of making the playoffs. The only way to be fair to all teams would be to finish the regular season and cancel the playoffs. Again the decision was unanimous.

Contrary to rumour [sic], the decision was not made by the Hinman Office or by myself. The decision was solely that of the committee, which was well within its rights to do so. Patti Koval and I were present as advisors only. The facts were presented, and the committee made its ruling.

Secondly, the lack of playoffs does not in itself mean that Hinman will not participate in the University Playoffs. The decision was made at the start of the season not to participate. Ask your captains: they voted not to go.

Therefore, the decision to cancel the playoffs was made by people elected by captains, and who had every right to make the decision they did. The cancellation of the playoffs was not made for any other reason other than weather and light conditions and does not also mean the cancellation of Co-Rec weekend, unless you decide to cancel it by not showing up. That will be held as scheduled and will consist of a Saturday parade and "Soup Bowl". Any group that feels that the lack of a "Championship Game" destroys Co-Rec weekend has lost sight of the meaning of Co-Rec, which is to have fun and of Co-Rec weekend which is meant to be a farce of Homecoming Weekends. So

remember, go out Sunday, enjoy yourselves, and participate. The idea is not just to win, but to have fun.^{vii}

Greenlees's letter to Hinman made it clear that it was not his or the decision of HCC to cancel the playoffs. That decision was made solely by the Co-Rec Committee and they had every right to do so. Greenlees had done his best to try and stem the tide of frustration and anger that was rising in every Hinman Co-Rec player and fan. The anger and discontent so intense and the protest over the loss of the playoffs so loud that the Co-Rec Committee, in a closed-door session right before the HCC meeting that week, decided that they would reinstate the playoffs. This decision assauged the anger of the Hinman Co-Rec players and fans. In an effort to beat the quickly lessening daylight, games were held simultaneously on the Hinman Quad and behind the Men's Gym.^{viii} The Committee had heard the cry of the angry masses. No one was going to take Co-Rec football, the sport invented in Hinman, away from them. No details on the playoffs or the championship game exist other than the Cuning Linguists beat the team Out To Score. Co-Rec, once the most enduring institution in Hinman, was on thin ice. To many, the controversy surrounding the nearly cancelled playoff season was a sign that Hinman Co-Rec football was in trouble.

ⁱ "A Shirty Business," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 1, September 5, 1980.

ⁱⁱ "It's a Miracle," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 4, September 24, 1980.

ⁱⁱⁱ "Hinman College Council," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 5, October 2, 1980.

^{iv} "Hinman College Council," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 6, October 9, 1980.

^v "Hinman College Council," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 7, October 16, 1980.

^{vi} "Co-Rec Scores," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XIII, No. 8, October 23, 1980.

^{vii} Jim Greenlees, "An Open Letter to All Hinman Residents," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 9, October 30, 1980.

^{viii} "Hinman College Council," *Hinman Halitosis* Vol. XII, No. 10, November 6, 1980.