

The 2003-2006 Seasons

Throughout the 1990's and into the new millennium, Co-Rec football in Hinman has continually had a presence. Every season certain teams have stood out, as have individual players for their athletic prowess and their love of Hinman's favorite pastime. In 2003, however, one individual stood out as being one of the best players during his four years in Hinman and quite possibly as the greatest player who has ever played the game. That player was Eric Kurs-Lasky.

Eric, a Pittsburgh native, had been born blessed with natural athletic abilities and had participated in sports in high school. When it came time to look for colleges, Eric knew that he wanted to go to a school that had a good sports program and a good business program. The two schools that were on the top of his list were the University of Michigan and the University of Maryland. Though he had his heart set on either of these two schools, his parents persuaded him to look at some other colleges and universities as backups. Eric remembers thumbing through a guide to colleges and universities in the United States with his family and coming across a relatively small state school called Binghamton University. Binghamton had a good reputation for a business program, but its athletics were somewhat lacking, to say the least. Still, Eric haphazardly applied to Binghamton just as a backup. When the acceptance and rejection letters arrived, Michigan rejected him outright, but Maryland and Binghamton accepted him. At the urging of his family, Eric visited the Binghamton University campus, took a tour and liked what he saw. During his senior year of college, Eric would reminisce:

I remember taking a tour of the campus and going to all of the residential colleges. I also remember touring Cleveland Hall and going into the main lounge and seeing all the Dorm Wars and Hysteria banners hanging up.¹ I especially remember the one dedicated

¹ During this time all the banners from previous Dorm Wars and Hysterias were hung in the main lounges of each building. The Binghamton University Fire Marshal has since forced each building to take the banners down citing

to 9/11 and what a good job the residents had done on it...I really felt a great sense of community and right then and there I knew that I had to come here...It was because of Hinman that I decided to come to Binghamton University.¹

Eric decided then and there to come to Binghamton and stated that he wanted to be placed in Hinman College as his number one choice. The fates must have been in his favor, for he was placed not only in Hinman College but in Lehman Hall. At the time Lehman Hall had the reputation as being the “jock” building and for having a very cocky and arrogant attitude. Lehman had come off a win in both Dorm Wars and Hysteria the previous year, and those who had lived in the building thought of themselves as the best. This atmosphere so permeated Lehman Hall that it began to take on an air of elitism.

Although it would seem that this building would be the perfect fit for the eager young freshman, it took Eric some time to adjust to his new surroundings. The first week being away from home was difficult for him, just as it is difficult for any new student. Eric was one of the few out-of-state students living in Hinman and the only one from Pittsburgh. Like many incoming freshmen he had trouble adapting to the habits of his new roommate. Anthony Chu (Eric’s roommate) and Eric would eventually become fast friends and even become RA’s together a few years later, but at first they struggled to get used to each other’s habits. The Hinman Dining Hall was also an experience that Eric had to get used to. While most freshmen quickly lose the thrill of the novelty of dining hall food quickly, Eric had an especially rough time. Eric was a picky eater to say the least. Throughout all four years of his time in Binghamton, his diet has consisted of nothing but plain cheese pizza, salad (sometimes with gold fish crackers mixed in), and the occasional bagel. The first week he barely ate, had trouble

them as fire hazards. The walls in each main lounge are currently bare and Spartan in appearance and, in the opinion of many, very unwelcoming.

sleeping and making acquaintances, and began to wonder if maybe he had made a mistake in coming to Binghamton.ⁱⁱ

That would all change during the second week of classes. That week Eric happened to look outside and saw what he thought was a pickup game of football being played on the Hinman Quad. He had been dying for some sporting events and grabbed his cleats and rushed outside. At this point he had never heard of Co-Rec football. When he got outside he was at first very confused. It looked like there were girls playing alongside the guys and, horror of horrors, they were acting as the quarterbacks. Eric entered the field and attempted to join the game, curious to see what this odd sport was all about. It was here that the fates met and he met Dimitri Bernadel. Dimitri (or Dim as he liked to be called) was a junior and a first year RA in Lehman Hall. The previous year he had been the president of Lehman Hall and a well-known and popular figure in Hinman. Dim had also been the leading figure in Hinman Co-Rec football and his team, the Lehman Lickers, were the championship team. Naïve Eric Kurs-Lasky was eager to learn the new sport, but as soon as he stepped on the field, Dim, who was on the sidelines still putting his cleats on, ushered him off so that he could take Eric's spot and play. Eric, who is very competitive by nature, was a little offset by this affront and joined in on the game anyway. After learning a few of the basic rules and after completing a few plays, it soon became apparent to all that this new freshman had the hallmarks of a tremendous athlete. At one point during the game, Eric intercepted the ball, and in what would become one of his patented maneuvers, Eric jukeed around the field, avoided getting touched by every player and scored a touchdown. Dim, who was a great athlete himself, was impressed by this newcomer. At one point, the game moved from the quad and up to Sterling Field and on the way up, Dim introduced himself to Eric. He also introduced Eric to Mike Kid and Bret Lotito, who had been

players on the Lehman team. On the way up the hill, Dim told Eric more about Co-Rec and even asked Eric to be on his team. Years later Eric would laugh about this moment:

Dim was an arrogant [expletive deleted]. He told me that it was a “great honor” to be playing on his team but because I was new I wouldn’t be getting a lot of playing time. He kept saying how much of an honor it was playing for his team...how they were so good. The truth was they needed me and they knew it.ⁱⁱⁱ

With that the stage was set and the young Eric Kurs-Lasky was about to make his place in Hinman history and fulfill his destiny as the torchbearer for Co-Rec football.

Over the coming weeks, Eric learned more and more about the game of Co-Rec. The team quarterback, Heather Young, explained to him the t-shirts. The new name for the Lehman Hall Co-Rec team that year would be Well Hung Over. The front of the t-shirt had a picture of a man passed out over a keg of beer with his penis peeking out through his shorts. On the back of their shirts also had to be their unique names. The theme for Well Hung Over that year would be each player’s favorite alcoholic drink. Eric, who abstains from consuming alcohol, told Dim to put on whatever he wanted on the back of his shirt. Dim put the name “O’Douls” (after the non-alcoholic beverage) on the back of Eric’s shirt as a joke. By Co-Rec standards, this t-shirt was relatively tame, but Eric still cringes every time he thinks about that year’s Parent’s Weekend and going out to the Cidermill with his parents wearing his Co-Rec shirt. “It was a little embarrassing walking around with my parents wearing that shirt,” Eric would say four years later.^{iv}

Slowly but surely, Eric learned more and more about the rules and intricacies of the game of Co-Rec football. The rules and regulations governing the sport had changed over the years but still had remained basically the same as when Bob Giomi had come up with them over thirty years earlier. Eric also learned the particulars of game such as the now infamous “Ghost Play.” A “Ghost Play” features a Co-Rec player who lines up as far to one sideline as possible. Another

player stands on the opposite sideline and before the ball is snapped, the player on the field steps off and the player off the field steps on. If done correctly, there is no penalty for too many men on the field and the opposing team usually is not concentrating on the player who was off the field. The player who steps on is usually wide open. Well Hung Over learned to perform this play to perfection. Even though Dim had claimed that Eric would not be getting much playing time, he learned that Eric was an asset to the team. Usually they would send Eric deep and have their quarterback throw a deep pass to him which he would usually catch and score on. On average, Eric was scoring 2-3 touchdowns a week, something that made most of the more experienced upperclassmen very jealous.^v

That year Well Hung Over completely dominated Hinman Co-Rec. They were such powerhouses that they would come up with newer and more arrogant celebration dances each game just to make the other teams angry. One celebration dance had someone throw the ball way up in the air and then everyone would fall on the ground, like a bomb had exploded. Another had them spin the ball on the ground and then have the players act like they were warming their hands around the ball, like it was a source of heat or a campfire. There were many games that were held in the mud and the snow, but Eric relished each and every one of them. It didn't matter what the weather conditions were. Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor gloom of night could keep Eric Kurs-Lasky from the Hinman sport that he learned to love and was swiftly excelling at faster than any other player ever had. That year Well Hung Over went undefeated for the season and won the championship game. By the end of the season, the timid freshman from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, had made a not only a home but a name for himself in Hinman.^{vi}

The next year saw Eric, now a sophomore living, on the floor of Dim, his Hinman and Co-Rec mentor's. Dim and Eric were the only holdovers from Well Hung Over, the rest either

graduating, moving to other buildings or off campus. Both men knew that that year would be a rebuilding effort for the championship Lehman Co-Rec team. On move-in day for new freshmen, Dim scouted out new freshmen who looked promising, especially freshmen girls. It was then that Dim met Lissy Szalkiewicz, whose older brother Dan had been President of HCC the previous year. Lissy had a cannon for an arm and Dim convinced her to play Co-Rec for the team. Along with Dim, Eric, Anthony Chu, Lissy and two other freshmen girls, the core members for this year's team, the 12 Inch Kosher Dills, was ready for another exciting season of Co-Rec action.^{vii}

It was during this time that another Lehman Hall team emerged. The team known as the Enijizzer Bunnies would be led by Lynsay Satriano, who was an RA in Lehman along with Dim, and Ashley Connor, a sophomore resident living in Lehman. While Dim and Lynsay were friends and fellow staff members, and while Ashley and Eric were acquaintances, and soon to be co-presidents of Lehman Hall, a huge rivalry erupted between these two teams for dominance in Lehman Hall and in Hinman.^{viii}

They played each other once during the regular season of Co-Rec. There was a huge build-up before the game and lots of verbal jabbing and teasing on the part of both teams directed at one another. Eric was naturally competitive and this natural competitiveness was only amplified by Dim and his all-in-good-fun arrogance which he brought to the 12 Inch Kosher Dills. There was much anticipation on this day of the game, with both teams eager to see which was the better Lehman Hall team. It was a close game, the final score being 14-12 in favor of the Enijizzer Bunnies. Eric had played a hard game, but he was so distraught over not winning that immediately after the game he picked up his shoes and in Forrest Gump style he just ran. He ran down the hill. He ran past the Hinman Quad. He ran all the way down to the track and did a

number of laps around it just to burn off steam. It wasn't that he was a sore loser, far from it. He had just felt that he could have played better and brought his team a much deserved victory instead of inglorious defeat.

They met each other again during the championship game. The Enijizzer Bunnies had had a perfect season up to that point, and the 12 Inch Kosher Dills had won all but one game, the one against the Enijizzer Bunnies. Both teams knew what was riding on this game. Along with the title of Hinman Co-Rec champions, friendships were also riding on the outcome of this game. One of the guys on the Enijizzer Bunnies was very tall, about six feet two inches, and was very good. Dim and Eric developed a play whereby they would disguise their defense by starting in the middle of the field. When the play started, Dim would run toward one receiver and Eric would run towards the other. Both of them would start back behind their defensive line and move accordingly. While on the surface this seemed relatively simple, it was devastatingly effective. All throughout that season, Eric and Dim would have a competition on who would get the most interceptions, passes and touchdowns. During this game, Eric would jump up and steal an interception from Dim, infuriating his mentor. During the game there was one very controversial play. The ball had been thrown in the air in the back of end zone. Both Dim and Eric inadvertently sandwiched the receiver. The referee called pass interference. The ball was then placed on the half line and this allowed the Enijizzer Bunnies to score, thereby winning the championship game for that year. In the end everyone was a good sport and the friendships were not shattered. In fact they were strengthened. Both teams left the field, not as winners and losers, but as lifelong friends.^{ix}

That year saw the Hinman All Star Team, which was a conglomeration of the best players from each of the Co-Rec teams, play against the CIW All Star Team. The core players for the

Hinman team came from the two best teams of the year, The Enijizzer Bunnies and the 12 Inch Kosher Dills. During the Hinman season of Co-Rec each team had been a bitter rival, but now they were all united and playing under the Hinman banner. The game was to be held on the CIW Co-Rec field and almost immediately controversy began to spring up. Dim had had a personal grudge against one of the CIW referees. Both men had been vying for the affections of the same girl and the saying, "all's fair in love and Co-Rec" began to take on a whole new meaning. Dim had had a reputation for being a good speaker and for rallying people. Before the game, Dim took the team aside and spoke to them, his words pumping them up like never before. The Hinman All Star Co-Rec team went into this game ready to win at any cost.^x

One of the biggest problems facing the Hinman team was that all of the Hinman referees were playing on the team. They needed referees from each community to make the game fair, so that no one could claim bias or favoritism. At the last minute, Eric Aboulafia, a Hinman RA, stepped in to officiate for the Hinman team. Aboulafia was there mostly for show. He did not know the rules of Co-Rec very well but he did try very hard to make good calls. The game was played on the muddy CIW Co-Rec field with over forty cheering CIW fans watching from the sidelines. Unfortunately, there were very few Hinmanites cheering on their team. During the game Eric Kurs-Lasky felt that the referees from CIW were heavily favoring the CIW team, to the extent were they were purposely making bad calls in favor of CIW. There was so much contention that the referees warned that anyone being disrespectful of them would be thrown out of the game. One Hinman fan who was shouting at the referees for making bad calls was actually forced to leave the game. The game only got dirtier from there. One of the referees called a personal foul on Dim and threw the flag (which is really a yellow bag filled with pebbles) in the direction of Dim. While the flag didn't hit him, everyone knew that this was a

malicious gesture. This brought about an uproar on the part of both teams, but they backed down. Another controversy arose when Eric scored on a “Ghost Play.” The CIW referees said that they didn’t use the “Ghost Play” and that it was illegal. Throughout the game there was pushing, shoving and roughhousing galore. Lynsay Satriano remembers this game very well. At one point during the game, Dim told her that if she sacked the quarterback he’d buy her dinner. Dim never expected Lynsay to actually be able to sack the CIW quarterback. Never one to turn down a challenge, Lynsay went on to sack the CIW quarterback multiple times and after the game Dim took her out to dinner.^{xi} Eric personally intercepted the ball twice and ran it back once for a touchdown. Towards the end of the game, which was filled with poor calls, violence, and unsportsmanlike conduct, Eric intercepted the ball again and ran the length of the field but got tackled from behind. This resulted in a huge uproar and both teams took to the field and a fist fight appeared imminent. In an effort to prevent all-out violence, the referees called the game right then and there, seeing that there were only a few seconds left on the clock anyway. The final score was 28-0 in favor of Hinman. They had won the match and brought the honor of winning the college-wide game back to Hinman, the home of Co-Rec football.^{xii}

The start of 2005 saw many changes to the life of Eric Kurs-Lasky. His friend and mentor, Dimitri Bernadel, had graduated and Eric had accepted a position as an RA in Roosevelt Hall. Besides moving to a different building Eric had also taken on the mantle as the official Co-Rec guru for all of Hinman, his task was to pass on the tradition of Co-Rec to a new generation of Hinmanites. That year Eric was Co-Rec commissioner with Ashley Connor, who had accepted a position as an RA in Hughes Hall, and Lenny Hession, a resident of Smith Hall. It worked out well with Lenny handling the money, Eric scheduling most of the games, and Ashley helping out in a multitude of areas. It was during this time that Eric noticed that Co-Rec in

Hinman had taken a downturn and fearing for the future, Eric wanted to preserve the spirit of Co-Rec, his beloved sport, for future generations of Hinmanites. It would be a tough challenge especially with the obstacles he now had before him.^{xiii}

Roosevelt Hall had not had a presence during the previous season of Co-Rec. Their team had come out to a few games and forfeited the rest. Far from being discouraged, Eric saw this as an opportunity to build the team from the ground up. Relishing the challenge, Eric set out to establish a team for Roosevelt Hall. Besides himself, Eric recruited his former roommate and now fellow Roosevelt Hall RA, Anthony Chu, to play for the team. Anthony was a good athlete, but always was timid about getting dirty. The last few years, Eric and Dim would throw mud on Anthony before a game so that he wouldn't be worried about getting dirty. Once he was dirty, then Anthony would really play. Unfortunately, there was a very small population of freshmen coming into the building that year, and many of the upperclassmen had other activities that they were involved in or just did not want to play Co-Rec. Eric was forced to recruit those who were willing to play. This hodgepodge of people were far from athletes. They included Samantha "Sam" Marciano, a sophomore, for the team's quarterback, Lauren Losapio and Michelle Grossman, both senior RA's in Roosevelt, Matt Sagat, a freshman who had played football in high school, and the very un-athletic Discovery Assistant of the building, Brent Gotsch. Early in the season the Roosevelt Hall RD, Andrea Belis, would play from time to time and late in the season after the ultimate Frisbee season was over, Roosevelt Hall resident Eric Brown would play. The name for this year's team would be the Roosevelt Trojans. The t-shirt would be designed by Roosevelt Hall RA Yachao Zhang and the front of the t-shirt pictured a bunch of footballs with condoms over them being thrown in the air. The team also had a unique chant which went along with the condom theme: "1-2-3-Wrap it up!"^{xiv}

This was a very tough season in many ways. The group as a whole did not have a whole lot of talent, and in addition Eric could not make it to the first scrimmage of the season because he and his girlfriend Jessica Zomper had gone apple picking, a yearly tradition with her family. More worrisome, though, was Eric's lack of a right arm. Late that summer, Eric had gotten into a spat of sorts with his brother, whom he punched in the arm. Eric wound up breaking his right hand when he punched his brother and required surgery and a cast. The very first scrimmage saw the Roosevelt Trojans blown out of the water. The inexperienced team had their trial by fire and had come away battered and bruised and in desperate need of leadership. They found that leadership in the torchbearer of Hinman Co-Rec football, Eric Kurs-Lasky.

Blatantly going against doctor's orders, Eric would play games in his cast and still dominate them. Sam Marciano would pass him the ball, which more times than not, he would catch and then juke and jive around the opposing team's players to gain yards and score touchdowns. While each and every member of the team did play to the best of their abilities, Eric was the one carrying the day. Toward the end of the season, Eric Brown would play and they would come up with a clever play. By this time, Kurs-Lasky had gotten a reputation as a tremendous Co-Rec football player and was on his way to being perhaps the greatest player to ever play the game. Knowing this, many teams sent multiple players to cover Kurs-Lasky, who more times than not would still run circles around them. However, oftentimes the Roosevelt Trojans would use this to their advantage and have Kurs-Lasky be the diversion and Sam Marciano would throw the ball to another player, usually to Eric Brown. Many touchdowns were scored in this fashion and the Roosevelt Trojans climbed their way to the fourth seed of the playoffs.^{xv}

The Roosevelt Trojans were the team that in the beginning of the year, no one thought could win a game. By the time of the semi-finals, they were one of the best in the league. This complete turnaround was in part because the individual players were getting better, but also because the effective leadership of Eric Kurs-Lasky was driving the team on toward victory after victory. The semi-final games of the 2005 season of Co-Rec football saw the match-up between two old rivals. Ashley Connor's team, the Hughes Cocks, played the Roosevelt Trojans in the snow and ice on a cold day at the end of the season on Sterling Field. Near the end of regulation time the score was tied 14-14. The Roosevelt Trojans still had their guy pass left and Eric devised a plan whereby he would throw the ball, even with his cast on. When the ball was snapped he was quickly handed the ball. Using his trademark moves, he maneuvered around the other players before he finally threw the ball in the direction of Eric Brown. Just as Brown was about to catch the pass and score a victory for the Trojans, the pass was intercepted. The game wound up going into four grueling overtimes, the end result being a victory for the Hughes Cocks. As depressing as the loss was, that season the team had much to be proud about. They had been a team that at first no one thought could win and had made it all the way to the semifinals and held off what was by far the best team in the league through four overtimes. The Hughes Cocks went into the Super Bowl that year and absolutely dominated their opponent. The fact that the Roosevelt Trojans, the underdogs for that year, had held their own against the Hughes Cocks was an accomplishment in and of itself.^{xvi}

All in all, it had been a fun season filled with a great deal of laughter and camaraderie between the players on the team. Just about every game had been followed by either a group washing of uniforms and/or a trip to the dining hall for a late breakfast or lunch. Those relationships made through Co-Rec football would last well beyond the season. Even though

some of the players of the team would graduate or move off campus, those connections forged during the 2005 Hinman Co-Rec football season would be maintained well into the future. Eric left that season proud of what he and his team had accomplished and hopeful and upbeat about what the next season of Co-Rec would bring.

The 2006 season of Co-Rec looked to be as challenging as the previous one. Michelle Grossman and Lauren Losapio had graduated at the end of last year and Eric Brown had moved off campus, so he was ineligible to play for the Roosevelt team. In fact everyone who had played on last year's team was gone with the exception of Samantha Marciano, Matt Sagat, Brent Gotsch and of course, Eric Kurs-Lasky. Eric and the holdovers from last year knew that this would be another rebuilding effort. Luckily, this year would see many new freshmen move into Roosevelt and on opening day Eric scoped out new talent for his team. That year, as in previous years, Faculty Master Al Vos had encouraged Eric (who was the sole Co-Rec Commissioner by that time) to put on some informal seminars on how to play Co-Rec and explain to incoming freshmen what it was all about. During opening weekend, Eric was scheduled to put on a program where new students were encouraged to come out and learn about the game. That day it was pouring rain and Eric along with virtually everyone else believed that no one would show up. Surprisingly, a large number of people, many of them girls, came out to learn what Co-Rec was all about. They played in the rain and in the mud and immediately became enamored with sport. It was here that Eric met and recruited many new talented players for his team. They included freshmen, Elizabeth "Bitsi" DePetrillo, Setareh Faraoooy, Ashley Schleimer, Laura Thelander, Matt Sherman, and Mike Hymen. Also joining the team that year would be sophomore Jared Gogel, and junior Liz Mansdorf, a new RA in Roosevelt that year. The name for that year's team would be the Roosevelt Codpieces. Once again, Yachao Zhang

would design the team's t-shirt and it would feature a large, muscular football player, but hanging down from his groin would be a fish, in a large phallic shape.^{xvii}

There was a lot of speculation on how this year's season of Co-Rec would shape up. Ashley Connor, who along with Eric had been instrumental in continuing the legacy of Co-Rec football, had decided to concentrate on her studies in Nursing full time. Others like Jimmy Galante and Timmy Ho, who had been instrumental in the sport, were no longer as active as they once were. Luckily the referees that year were of top caliber. They included Jeff Hoffman and freshmen Todd Agate. Eric remembers this season fondly:

This year was a lot of fun because we had a strong group. They weren't really athletes but everyone was really into the sport. The freshmen really enjoyed coming out, especially the girls. It was very exciting going from week to week and wondering what would happen.^{xviii}

What was most interesting about that year was that the fact that more than any other year, girls were really excited about coming out and playing the game, even more so than guys. Usually it was like pulling teeth trying to get girls to come out and play Co-Rec, but this year saw the exact opposite, with the Roosevelt Codpieces and many other teams struggling to find males who wanted to play. Even though only a select few of that year's team had been involved to any extent in sports, with the leadership of the upperclassmen and most especially of Eric, the team became one of the best in the league, dominating virtually every game. Realizing that this would be his final season of Co-Rec football before he graduated that spring, Eric played like he had never played before. He completely immersed himself in the Co-Rec season, much to the detriment of his classes and to his other obligations. That year, Eric Kurs-Lasky lived and breathed Hinman Co-Rec football. It got so bad that even his longtime girlfriend, Jess Zomper, became concerned for his physical and mental well-being. Eric would have nothing of it though. This year he was determined to win the Robert F. Giomi Plaque one more time.^{xix}

Tragedy nearly struck the Roosevelt Codpieces and Eric Kurs-Lasky. Four weeks into the season, the Roosevelt Codpieces were scheduled to play a game. That team never showed up and forfeited the game. However, while they were waiting, Todd Agate's team, the Cleveland Steamers, showed up for their game which was scheduled next. While they were waiting for the next game to start, Eric and Todd decided that they would scrimmage each other just for the fun of it. The game was fun and exciting. Even by this stage of the season, it was clear that the Cleveland Steamers and the Roosevelt Codpieces were the two powerhouse teams of that season. In fact, the Cleveland Steamers would be the only team that the Roosevelt Codpieces would lose against during the regular season. Towards the end of the scrimmage, Eric fell on the group and his teammate Mike Hymen accidentally stepped on Eric's right hand. Excruciating pain shot through his hand. While the pain dulled over time, Eric began to realize that something was seriously wrong with his hand. He was having difficulty moving one of his fingers and it was slightly swollen. Fearing the worst, Eric held off on getting it looked at, much to the great distress of Jess who feared for her beau's health. Eric went to Wal-Mart and purchased a brace for his hand, but the pain was still great. Later on, Eric was to find out that his hand was in fact broken yet again. Eric knew that a cast would only get in his way, and disobeying doctor's orders and all common sense, he refused to have a cast put on and played through the pain, determined to see the season through to its conclusion.^{xx}

The Cleveland Steamers was the only team that beat the Roosevelt Codpieces that year. During their one game of the regular season, they Steamers rolled over the Codpieces, completely removing whatever arrogance the undefeated team had up until that point. During the playoffs it soon became clear that both the Steamers and the Codpieces would meet again in the Super Bowl. Eric, his hand still throbbing with pain, realized that this game would be his last

chance at fortune and glory on the Co-Rec field. This last game of Co-Rec would be all about pride.^{xxi}

The day of the Super Bowl was a cold and blustery early December day. Both teams came bundled up against the elements and prepared to take to the gridiron of Sterling Field to vie for the title of Hinman Co-Rec champions. Everyone involved knew what the stakes were for this game. For some it was simply the chance to be crowned the kings and queens of Hinman Co-Rec football. For senior Eric Kurs-Lasky, it meant the culmination of four long years of hard work devoted to the sport that had meant so much to him and to which he was about to make a lasting legacy. That day, Eric walked onto Sterling Field, tightened his brace, and put on his cleats one last time for a shot at glory and Co-Rec immortality.

The 2006 Super Bowl was heated even though it was wickedly cold. The play was very competitive, though not unsportsmanlike. At a crucial point in the game, Eric decided to use the team's sole "Guy Pass" and threw left handed. That pass connected with a Codpiece player who scored a touchdown. By this stage of the game, the score was 13-6 in favor of the Roosevelt Codpieces. Shortly thereafter, the Steamers scored two consecutive touchdowns bringing the score up to 19-13 in favor of the Cleveland Hall team. With just under a minute and forty-five seconds on the clock, the Roosevelt team drove down the field. Sam Marciano threw the ball to Eric, who even with his bad hand, caught the ball and scored a touchdown. The score was now tied 19-19. With precious seconds left in the game, the Codpieces tried to score the single extra point that would have won them the game and the championship, but the Steamers' defense held firm and prevented them from crossing their one yard line. Regulation time ended and the 2006 championship game was about to go into overtime.^{xxii}

During that brief interlude before overtime began, Eric, in the manner and style of his Co-Rec mentor Dimitri Bernadel, spoke grandiloquently and rallied his weary troops for one final push toward victory. The troops from both sides then took to the field. Overtime was a huge defensive struggle. Since his freshman year, Eric had been on one of the only teams in Hinman Co-Rec that consistently used a zone style of defense. Most of the other teams relied on man-to-man defense. Over the years Eric had perfected the zone defense which kept the opposing team's offense at bay. During this game, Eric had been running plays² to the left side of the field to avoid Mike Levy, one of the best players on the Cleveland Steamers. During this game, Eric would place one player on the right side and two on the left. When the game entered into its fourth overtime, Eric decided to reverse this arrangement and use himself as a diversion. On the second play of the fourth overtime, Eric ran to the middle of the field and then quickly broke to the corner of the end zone. Seeing this opening, Sam Marciano threw with all her might and hurled the pass deep toward Eric. For a moment it seemed as though everything was going in slow motion. The ball almost seemed to hover in the air, the spiral going agonizing slow as it arced smoothly toward Eric's open arms. Eric caught the ball in the end zone scoring the game's final touchdown and bringing victory to Roosevelt Hall.^{xxiii}

After the miraculous catch, the team rushed the field and swarmed their beloved captain with backslaps and hi-fives all around. It was during this time that Jessica Zomper rushed over to her longtime boyfriend. The two locked in a passionate yet tender embrace, quietly whispering the words, "I love you," to one another. The two teams lined up and shook hands. Both had played a hard game, but it was clean play, free of the violence and hyper-competitiveness of previous seasons and both teams left the field in good spirits. Before they left

² Eric Kurs-Lasky is famous for showing his teammates the plays on his hand. Eric would hold out his bare hand (which would act like the field) and with the other hand show each player on his team where to go. As humorous as this may have appeared to the outside observer, Eric used this with devastating effectiveness each and every game.

the field, the usually stoic Eric Kurs-Lasky, tears of joy beginning to form in his eyes, addressed his team one last time. He congratulated them on a job well done and on a well played season and for all their hard work both on and off the field. They gathered into a circle one last time for their team's chant. Everyone placed their hand into the circle and shouted the Roosevelt Codpiece mantra: "We're the fish! You can't touch this!"^{xxiv} Eric took one last look around the field and with Jess at his side stepped off Sterling Field not only a winner, but a legend in the annals of Co-Rec football. The team brushed themselves off and went to a victory lunch at the local IHOP. Victory never tasted as sweet, or as syrupy, as it did that day.

The 2006 season of Co-Rec football was a great year, not only for Eric Kurs-Lasky and the rest of Roosevelt Hall, but for all of Hinman Co-Rec. The Roosevelt Codpieces were a team that truly understood the meaning of the game. Not only were they all friends on and off the field, but they had fun playing the sport and included everyone. For Eric Kurs-Lasky this season may have been his last, but his legend would be forever ingrained in the turf of Sterling Field. Eric had taken a sport, which for over two decades had been suffering from the aftershocks of a controversial and overly competitive 1983 season and had turned it around. Eric, along with many others, had introduced the sport to a new generation of Hinmanite who would have the same passion for the game as he would. Whether he knew it or not, Eric would be the individual most responsible for getting Hinman Co-Rec football back on track.

The story of Co-Rec football is not the story of one man or one woman or even one team. Every year since the beginning of the sport, individual players and teams have stood out. Yet it is Eric Kurs-Lasky, perhaps more so than any other, who stands out as a giant of the sport. His skill at the game that is uniquely Hinman far overshadows that of any other player. His talents both on and off the field have made him a testament to the enduring legacy of Co-Rec football.

ⁱ Eric Kurs-Lasky, interview with author, February 16, 2007.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Eric Kurs-Lasky, interview with author, February 16, 2007.

-
- vi Ibid.
vii Ibid.
viii Ibid.
ix Ibid.
x Ibid.
xi Lynsay Satriano, telephone conversation with author, March 4, 2007.
xii Eric Kurs-Lasky, interview with author, February 16, 2007.
xiii Ibid.
xiv Ibid.
xv Ibid.
xvi Ibid.
xvii Ibid.
xviii Ibid.
xix Ibid.
xx Ibid.
xxi Ibid.
xxii Ibid.
xxiii Ibid.
xxiv Ibid.