

Bob Giomi and the Origins of the Sport

Unlike other areas of Hinman College life which are the results of a conglomeration of many students and professional staff, Co-Rec football was created and developed mostly by one man. That man, who is perhaps the most influential individual in Hinman College history, was Bob Giomi, the Head Resident of Lehman Hall and the Director of Social and Academic Programs for Hinman. Bob would be responsible for greatly influencing many areas of Hinman life including the development of the Hinman Little Theater and Hinman Follies, but Co-Rec would by far be his greatest accomplishment. The idea behind Co-Rec sprang from the attempt by Giomi and others to create more social interaction within Hinman and to provide recreational activities for Hinman residents. One day Bob got to brainstorming and realized that intramural sports had always been popular with the student body, but that women rarely participated. Bob's goal was to create a sport where both men and women could play on the same playing field. Bob then set about developing Co-Rec football, a sport that would integrate both men and women within a team. Co-Rec would be like any other touch football game, with two basic exceptions. One, women had to be on the team, and two, only the girls could be quarterbacks. Bob introduced this idea to the students of Hinman and the idea caught on almost immediately.ⁱ

The first year that Co-Rec was played it was very experimental. While women had to be quarterbacks initially, there was no rule forbidding them to then hand the ball off to a man who could then throw it down the field. During the first few games Bob observed this and realized that once the men were handed the ball by the girls, they would pass only to other men. Seeing that women still were not fully being involved in the game, Bob amended the rules, and required that women and only women could pass the ball. With the exception of one "Guy Pass" allowed during the game, women would be the sole passers of the ball. Teams could be comprised only

of members from a single dorm and each team had to supply a referee for the match. With this the game known as Co-Rec football was born.ⁱⁱ

The rules for Co-Rec in those early days were as follows:

1. 3 men, 3 women on each team playing on the field
2. Two hand touch, ANYWHERE!
3. 3 eligible receivers who must be designated before the snap
 - a. Quarterback is ineligible to receive
 - b. 3 men cannot be eligible receivers on one play
4. Female must be quarterback and she must throw the ball (if a pass play)
5. Two completed forward passes will be first down (over the line of scrimmage)
6. One first down per drive
7. Playing time
 - a. Two 15-minute halves of non-stop playing time
 - b. One 3-minute stop time period after second half
 - i. Team behind at end of 2nd Period receives the ball on their own 20 to start the period
 - ii. If a tie at the end of the 2nd period, flip of coin will decide possession
 - iii. Each team is allotted two one minute time-outs in this 3-minute period
8. The ball is dead on hitting the ground; last team in possession keep ball at the spot
9. Maximum of 3 defensive line
10. Markers will designate side lines, end lines and the 20 yard lines
11. Ball will be set in play on the 20-yard line to start each half and after each score. First team in possession to be decided by flip of coin.

12. Any rules we forgot will be governed by IM football rules.ⁱⁱⁱ

Shortly these ground rules of the game were laid down other areas of Co-Rec that are now familiar to Hinman residents arose, chiefly the colorful and innuendo-laced team names and team T-shirts. Once again, this was the brainchild of Bob Giomi. At this time Bob and his good friend and fellow Hinman staffer Gabe Yankowitz belonged to a team that played basketball regularly. Most members of the team were short in stature and both Bob and Gabe hovered in at the height of around five feet. They also wore green jerseys with numbers on the back that were fractions (in reference to their short height). They also had their names across the back of the jersey printed so that they were like mock Irish surnames such as O'Giomi and O'Yankowitz. Their short stature coupled with the green jerseys with fractions and odd names on the back made their team name, "The Leprechauns," all the more apt. Bob took this idea to the Co-Rec players and almost immediately they latched onto it. While Bob's basketball team name was humorous and innocent, the team names developed by Co-Rec players were laced with not-so-subtle sexual innuendo that bordered on bad taste. The names printed on the back of the team T-shirts were risqué to say the least and the pictures on the on front oftentimes would make even the most liberal and open-minded person blush with embarrassment. Co-Rec football, as it is known today, had finally come into its own.^{iv}

ⁱ Bob Giomi, telephone conversation with author, November 29, 2006.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ "Co-Rec News," *Hinman Halitosis*, Vol. III, No. 4, September 28, 1972.

^{iv} Bob Giomi, telephone conversation with author, November 29, 2006.