

Softball Team Opens Season with Shutout

The Outrigger Canoe Club softball team opened its Leahi Spring League season with a rare 10-0 shutout. After two dismal practices, the team had good reason to be worried about the season opener. The biggest challenge was to field a full team. The team hasn't had to forfeit a game in over 10 years. Mike Miranda and Bill Kilcoyne gathered enough troops via phone calls to fill every position.

Chris Siegfried and Kilcoyne brought their explosive bats with them going three for three at the plate with three RBI's each. Chris crushed a two-run home run in the third inning and added a long double in the fifth. Kilcoyne banded solid singles in the first, third and fourth inning. The league's 10-run rule stopped the game after five enabling Bryan Hoernig to complete an extremely rare shutout. Hoernig allowed only three singles and a walk. The defense played flawless error-free ball behind him. Starting pitcher Keith Letman was unavailable and backup pitcher Gaddis is still out with injuries. Hoernig has had to come to the team's rescue a number of times in the past few years,

Team Captain and 1998 MVP Jim McAluney was two for two with a walk. Ralph DeWitt returned to the team at first base and contributed two solid singles to right. Other hits came from shortstop Jim Cavanah, third baseman Miranda, second baseman Paki Vaughan and Hoernig.

Volleyballer and last year's playoff star Brian Poppinga has joined the team full time and will play the outfield.

Returning at catcher and crushing balls in practice is Traci Phillips. Aaron Eberhart and newcomer J. R. Turner contributed on the field and will be playing weekly.

Hoping to return to the team besides Letman will be Clay Chee, Rick Piper, Henry Ayau, Jon Whittington, Stew Kawakami, Jake Mizuno, Jon Kiner and perhaps Ryan Haneberg.

OCC has an uphill battle to reclaim the championship it held for three years. Players come and go on business, vacation, paddling practice and injuries. There is always room for anyone interested in joining the team. Game days will vary this Spring on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All games will start at 5:00 pm. Warmups start at 4:30. The weekly BBQ starts right after the game. Bring something to toss on the grill and join in the fun.



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