

Extra Innings

Three Straight Championships for Softball Team

The OCC Softball Team has seen its share of championship thrillers over the years. Unfortunately, OCC was on the short end of such games losing in '93, '94 and '95 by the scores of 2-1, 3-2 and 5-4. Outrigger turned the corner in '96 and '97 routing their foes in both title games.

OCC's hopes of a three-peat looked dismal until the miracle semi-final win with the team stacked with volleyball players. (Highlights were featured in the August issue of *The Outrigger*). A team of veterans assured Head Coach Jim Gaddis they'd make him proud. Gaddis missed the championship game while fly fishing in the Eastern Sierras and taking in a Dodger game. The game date had been changed at the last minute and the coach wasn't about to miss his 'bout with the trout'.

OCC fielded a team as solid and experienced as it could hope for. Keith Letman (P) was totally on his own with Gaddis gone. Bryan Hoernig (C), Bill 'Killer' Kilcoyne (1B), Mike Miranda (2B), Jim Cavanah (3B) and Nolan 'Rammer' Ramirez (SS) gave OCC a sparkling infield. Clay Chee (OF), Chris Siegfried (OF), Paki Vaughan (OF), Jon Whittington (OF) and Aaron Eberhardt (OF) shared duties in a speedy outfield. Jim Joy, Rick Piper and Traci Phillips were all dependable designated hitters.

Four-time MVP Kilcoyne started OCC off with a two-out single. Siegfried followed with his team-leading third home run of the year putting OCC up 2-0. Matsuno, playing in their first championship, responded with five first-inning runs to lead 5-2. Matsuno had tons of confidence having had great success over OCC in regular season games through the years.

Trailing 6-2 in the third inning, OCC rallied for two runs

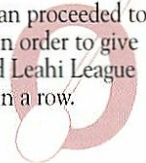
after singles from Rammer, Miranda, Cavanah, Killer and a sacrifice fly by Chee. Down 6-4, OCC took the lead in the fourth on hits from Eberhardt, Whittington and Hoernig, a walk to Letman and a two-out, two-run clutch single from Cavanah.

OCC gave up their short-lived 7-6 lead in the bottom of the fourth inning as Matsuno scored two runs. They added two more runs in the sixth inning to go up 10-7. With one inning left to play, OCC was on the ropes, trailing by three.

Two outs away from losing their title, Killer, as he did in the first inning, started a last-ditch OCC rally with a single up the middle. Siegfried ripped a single to left. Chee coaxed a walk to load the bases. Vaughan banged the ball up the middle to score two. OCC trailed 10-9. Whittington knocked in Chee for the tying run. Matsuno was flustered.

Hoernig, struggling all season with the bat, saved his best game for last. He ripped his third hit of

the game and knocked in Vaughan for the go ahead and eventual winning run. Letman proceeded to retire Matsuno in order to give OCC their third Leahi League Championship in a row.



Outrigger 202 300 4 -11
Matsuno 510 202 0 -10

		AB	R	H	RBI
2B	Miranda	4	1	1	0
3B	Cavanah	4	0	2	2
1B	Kilcoyne	4	2	3	1
OF	Siegfried	4	2	2	2
OF	Chee	3	1	1	1
OF	Vaughan	4	1	1	1
DH	Joy	2	1	1	0
DH	Piper	2	0	0	0
OF	Eberhardt	2	1	1	0
OF	Whittington	2	0	2	2
C	Hoernig	4	1	3	2
P	Letman	4	0	1	0
SS	Ramirez	4	1	2	0