

Softball Team Eyes Another Championship

The OCC Softball team won all its games in April and leads the Leahi Spring League in its quest for a second straight title. A combination of high-powered hitting, excellent fielding and quality pitching accounts for OCC's incredible average of 14 runs per game, giving up an average of five runs.

Perhaps the biggest story in 1998 is Traci Phillips' break through on OCC's men's team. On April 14, Traci pinch-hit for Henry Ayau, grounding out to shortstop. On April 21, she pinch-hit for Clay Chee against the Elks Club. Traci got to first base on an infield error. She finished the game playing catcher.

Featured players and game highlights begin with the home run parade. Team captain Jim McAluney leads the team with three home runs, including a grand slam on April 21. Chris Siegfried has two home runs. Paki Vaughan, Clay Chee and Rick Piper all have a home run each.

Since moving to leadoff batter, second baseman Mike Miranda is seven for 10 with eight runs scored and three RBI's. Shortstop Jim Cavanah is the only player to have two or more hits in every game he has played. Utility player Ralph DeWitt leads the team in batting average at .777 (he's 7 for 9 from the plate).

In OCC's 24-11 win over OCFD, Paki led the team with four hits, Stew Kawakami, Keith Letman, Siegfried, McAluney and Chee all contributed three hits each.

Bill Kilcoyne, Miranda and McAluney were all three for four against Matsuno. Aaron Eberhardt and Kilcoyne had three hits each against the Kahala Mandarin. Paki had another four hit game against OCFD in a rematch. Jake Mizuno and Aaron had three hits.

Head Coach Jim Gaddis returned to the mound against the Elks Club and, along with Cavanah and Miranda, came up with three hits. Gaddis and Brian Hoernig came close to a softball rarity against OCFD. Gaddis left the game with a no-hitter and two strike outs. Brian extended the "no-no" and added two more strikeouts before OCFD scored two runs in the last inning. Jake got the last out for OCC.

The positions are not set in stone but in general, your 1998 OCC Softball team looks like this: Brian Hoernig (C), Rick Piper (C), Traci Phillips (C), Head Coach Jim Gaddis (P), Keith Letman (P), Assistant Coach Bill Kilcoyne (1B), Ralph DeWitt (1B), Mike Miranda (2B), Paki Vaughan (2B), Jim Cavanah (SS), Curt Lajala (3B), Jake Mizuno (3B), Team Captain Jim McAluney (OF), Clay Chee (OF), Chris Siegfried (OF), Stew Kawakami (OF), Aaron Eberhardt (OF), Jon Whittington (OF), Henry Ayau (EH), and Jim Joy (EH).

The toughest job for the coach is to be sure everyone gets into the action. This is the largest turnout OCC has ever experienced. Be sure to watch the play-offs this month and cheer on OCC for a repeat championship.