

# Extra Innings

## Super Subs Send OCC to Title Game

Head Coach Jim Gaddis had already discussed forfeiting OCC's semi-final playoff game with the Elks Club head coach Colin Chock. "Go grab some guys out of the Fitness Center," instructed Chock. "We want to win this game on the field."

With that, Traci Phillips went on a quick recruiting trip. Returning with her were volleyballers Brian Poppinga, Ryan Haneberg, Danny Alvarez and Timo O'Hara. Gaddis whipped up a lineup card he hoped could help defend OCC's 1997 Leahi League title.

He passed out spare gloves and ball caps to the new recruits and explained the special rules and regulations the league followed. Then he sent them out on the field and told them to talk to each other to avoid collisions and to have fun.

Regulars Mike Miranda, Jim Cavanah, Paki Vaughan, Clay Chee, Henry Ayau and Jim Joy exploded in the first inning to give OCC a quick 4-0 lead. The Elk's Club responded with three runs in the second to trail by one. Haneberg saved three additional runs with a miraculous over-the-shoulder catch with two out and two on.

A huge six-run third inning gave OCC some breathing room. Ayau started the inning off with a long double to left. Poppinga and Haneberg ripped singles to left. Miranda, Cavanah and Vaughan added sharp singles up the middle after a walk to Bryan Hoernig and a sacrifice fly by O'Hara.

OCC survived a fifth inning scare, winning 12-8 against a solid Elks team. Cavanah and Vaughan led OCC with three hits each. Miranda, Chee, Joy, Poppinga and Hoernig had two hits each. Keith Letman pitched another great game. The outfield came through with a number of clutch catches to allow OCC into the championship bracket where they hope to defend their title. Gaddis hopes to have his full squad back, the team that led OCC to a regular season record of 10-2.

Missing in action were Bill Kilcoyne and Jon Whittington (away on business), Chris Siegfried (Haili tournament), Captain Jim McAluney (arm), Jake Mizuno (finger) and Gaddis (knee).

The OCC softball team now has renewed hopes to "three-peat" thanks to the super subs. No matter what happens, the team knows it could never have advanced without them.

Former instant one-game recruits over the years include Peter Balding Sr., Marc Haine, Kirk Christman, Dean Nowack and Randy Shaw, among others.

Be sure to read next month's Extra Innings story to find out if OCC kept its title. Check the Bulletin Board in the Tunnel for information concerning the Fall League. It may start in August. Thanks for your support.