

EXTRA INNINGS

Softball Bats Are On Fire

The 1998 OCC Softball team began its defense of the 1997 Leahi League title with the same hot bats that brought home the trophy last November. The 12-run rule took effect in OCC's first two games with monster scores of 24-11 and 15-3.

The largest turnout ever put on the team's first new uniform in six years and wore the new black ball cap that has been the talk of the Club. Unfortunately the league score book was lost after OCC's huge wins so personal statistics aren't available. Needless to say, most of the players put up big numbers. Clay Chee crushed a grand slam home run to break open a close game in OCC's 15-3 win over the Elks Club.

Head Coach Jim Gaddis was happy with the wins but concerned with needless throwing errors and dropped balls. Gaddis' biggest problem will be in satisfying all his player's desire to get into each game. If all 17 roster players show up at each game, Gaddis will have unhappy guys on the bench.

Though the team is deep with talented, versatile players, the pitching depth is weak. Gaddis and 1997 MVP Keith Letman have handled the pitching duties for the past eight years, ever since Henry Ayau retired from the mound. OCC was up against the wall against the Elks Club with Letman away on business and Gaddis out sick. Bryan Hoernig took the mound with team captain Jim McAluney as his backup. Bryan did a commendable job spacing out his walks to prevent serious damage.

The toughest games are ahead for OCC. League play will continue through May 21st. Playoffs will begin on May 26th and continue until the championship game on June 10th. All of OCC's regular season games are conveniently played on Tuesday at 5 p.m. Check for facts and figures each month in Extra Innings in your monthly magazine, *The Outrigger*. Come support your team.