

Extra Innings

In a softball game that should never have been played, Head Coach Jim Gaddis and his top assistant Bill Kilcoyne had career days at the plate. Both coaches were 5 for 5, hobbling to first base with each solid hit.

The facts: The field was sloppy, the mud was thick, everyone was playing in pain and key players were missing. Both teams were one player short which left huge gaps in the outfield. This was the first rematch of last year's 3 to 1 championship game loss for OCC so it needed to be played.

More facts: Gaddis recruited (begged) Kirk Christman out of the Locker Room to play second base. He did a great job. Captain Paki Vaughan insisted on playing a week after surgery for a ruptured appendix.

Without a pitcher and left side of the infield, Gaddis started Ralph DeWitt at third, Brian Hoernig pitching and himself at shortstop. This was the most unlikely infield OCC would ever field. All in all, they came through for the team.

More facts: Power hitters Clayton Chee and Chris Siegfried batted one and two. We needed strong healthy players getting the most at bats. Kilcoyne was nursing a bad hamstring and could crawl as

fast as he could walk. In fact, Gaddis, Kilcoyne and Paki required pinch runners following nearly all their 13 total hits.

When Hoernig got in trouble on the mound and Gaddis in trouble at short, they pulled a swap that kept OCC in the game. Gaddis threw strikes. Hoernig picked up the grounders.

Unfortunately, both teams were victims of some bad calls. The umpire had a tough day. Every questionable call resulted in a run, none more damaging than the automatic ground rule double in the last inning that wasn't called. The non-call turned into a home run giving the opposition the tying and winning run.

The Stats: OCC lost 19-18. Hoernig joined Gaddis and Kilcoyne with a five-hit day. Brian was 5 for 6. DeWitt knocked in four runs with two towering shots to right field.

Chee and Siegfried played flawlessly in the outfield. Gaddis struck out three opposing players. Out with injuries were Jim McAluney and Hugh Tyler. Henry Ayau, Jim Cavanah, Jon Whittington and Keith Letman had other commitments. ☺