

Extra Innings

By Jim Gaddis

The OCC Softball team fought its way into the Leahi Spring League Championship game for the third year in a row.

Following a 6-2 season, OCC worked its way through the playoffs to earn another shot at three-time defending champion Dream Team.

With four starters missing in this vital game against After Shock, OCC hoped to concentrate on one hit at a time, an accumulation of base hits resulting in runs and a victory. Instead, the long ball came into play. Two grand slams and a three-run shot accounted for 11 of OCC's 15 runs.

Jim Cavanah started OCC in the right direction with a grand slam in the second inning. It was Cavanah's second home run of the season and one of his team-leading

four hits on the day. In the fifth inning, following solid singles by Stew Kawakami and Head Coach Jim Gaddis, Clayton Chee launched a three-run shot giving OCC a seven run lead.

Unfortunately the large cushion of runs wasn't enough. After Shock tied the game in the last inning highlighted by their own grand slam. Their confidence level was sky high as they felt certain of a great come-from-behind win.

OCC had other ideas, No one dropped their heads. In extra innings, the bottom of the lineup came through again with a classic two-out rally. Base hits by Brian Hoernig, Hugh Tyler and Gaddis set up a dramatic game-winning grand slam by Aaron Eberhardt. It was a thrilling win for OCC.

The largest group of OCC

fans in years, cheered the team on. They witnessed yet another dazzling display of defense by shortstop Nolan "Rammer" Ramirez, second baseman Paki Vaughan and third baseman Cavanah.

Enjoying multi-hit games were Cavanah (4), Rammer (3), Chee (2), Gaddis (2) and Hoernig (2). A softball oddity showed the first two batters in the lineup knocking in eight runs and the last three batters in the lineup scoring seven runs.

The infield turned two double plays while the outfield of Mike Miranda, Bill Kilcoyne, Tyler and Eberhardt came up with key catches.

Check next month's column for the score and highlights of the championship game.