

Painful Loss for OCC Softball Team

The OCC Softball team left the ballpark bewildered and wondering "What's it gonna take?" In a near carbon copy of last year's championship game, OCC came up short again for the Leahi Spring League championship trophy.

For the first time in years, everyone showed up. In fact, five quality players had to sit on the bench; something they are certainly not used to. Old timers Henry Ayau, Nolan "Rammer" Ramirez, Bill "Killer" Kilcoyne and Head Coach Jim Gaddis commented that this was the best team OCC had fielded in years. Confidence was sky high. OCC fan support was solid with a line of onlookers standing behind the players.

What looked to be an explosive game started out just that. Singles by Jim Cavanah and Killer were turned into runs by a sac fly by Chris Siegfried and a double by Rammer.

OCC led 2-0 after an inning.

A single by Gaddis to left and a double to left-center by Cavanah in the third inning put OCC ahead 3-0. But when Gaddis returned to the pitcher's mound after twisting his knee, he lost the strike zone. Keith Letman replaced Gaddis who had walked two players in a row. Both runners came around to score.

OCC led 4-3 going into the fifth but lost that lead on some timely hitting by After Shock. Trailing 5-4, OCC was three outs away from another championship loss.

Gaddis had Jon Whittington pinch-hit for Ayau. Gaddis asked Whittington to test the third baseman. Jon did just that. He hit a shot to third on the first pitch. As expected, the third baseman couldn't come up with the ball. Aaron Eberhardt hit a long fly to left. Jon tagged and raced to second base.

League rules allow players to

run through a bag to avoid injury. Jon ran through second as allowed then headed for third after a bad throw from the outfield. If the throw had been good, Jon would have been on second with only one out. If he had gone back and tagged second and proceeded to third you can bet we would have at least tied the game.

The After Shock players went into a frenzy arguing that the runner should be out for not retagging the bag. After a nearly 10-minute delay, Jon was called out. A grounder to second by Hugh Thorne would have

scored the tying run. Instead, it ended the game, the season and OCC's quest for the elusive championship.

If, if, if, if..... If their left fielder makes a good throw to second (99% of the time he does) then the game goes on. How often do you see an error benefitting the team who made it?

The Leahi Fall season will begin at the end of this month with September and October games being played every Tuesday at 5 p.m. Please come out and support your team. ☺

For the Record

Swimming

North Shore Series
6/22/97 Sunset Beach
1 mile
Ted Sheppard, 2nd, 45-49, :24:14
Uli Klinke, 2nd, 50-54, :23:29
Diane Stowell, 1st, 60-64, :27:14

Great Aloha Games

Brian Turner-Gerlach, 11th, 15 & Under

Independence Day Race
7/4/97 Sunset Beach to Waimea Bay
3.5 miles
Dawson Jones, 1st Overall, :28:32
Victor Hemmy III, 3rd, 20-29, :31:55
Fred Fong, 1st, 50+, :34:36
Kelly Fey, 1st, 20+, :36:10