

IM-REC SPORTS

UNC

Grail Softball

In the wee hours of Saturday, September 13, when most slept and T.V. fare was old black and white movies, a few hearty souls nursed coffee, fought the Sand Man and played softball.

The 1986 Intramural Grail Softball Tournament, a marathon event for the first time in its history, kept the lights burning late on Carmichael Field.

Despite fewer entries than expected—52 teams in three divisions—the event was a success, said tournament director Linda Capoccia. "Overall, the tournament went really well," she said. "We had no problems with discipline, games ran on time and the officiating was excellent."

"And the weather also cooperated. We worried about that all day."

Capoccia said the early morning games may have kept some teams away from this year's tournament, but that the novelty of the event may have attracted others. Students leaving campus for the weekend might have limited the number of teams participating.

But for the players and fans, the tournament was exciting.

About 40 fans lined the diamond later that Saturday afternoon to watch the tournament finale, a men's competitive showdown between

Kappa Psi Kilowatts and Granville's Carolina Pride. Down 6-0 after the first inning, Kappa Psi woke-up (possibly literally) and rallied to a 16-9 championship. Led by team captain Ken Krause, the Kilowatts moved ahead in the third inning and pitcher Chris Bond iced the victory. For the two teams, it was a long and tiring road to the final. The Kilowatts had played five games in 12 hours; Carolina Pride played five over 19 hours.

"It was pretty hard getting-up in the morning to play and then sleeping for a few hours between games," said Bond. "It took its toll on us after our nine o'clock game; then, we were really tired. But the adrenalin got pumping for the later rounds. We really enjoyed the tournament."

The marathon format offered some advantages to the previous two-week, weeknight tournament. Both single-elimination events, this year's version offered the chance to play the entire tournament in one day. Some players complained before that the tournament was too long and that too many nights were required for play. The marathon required only a 24-hour commitment from teams.

Capoccia said that the marathon also allowed students to play without missing study time and that scheduling officials for a non-stop tournament was easier.

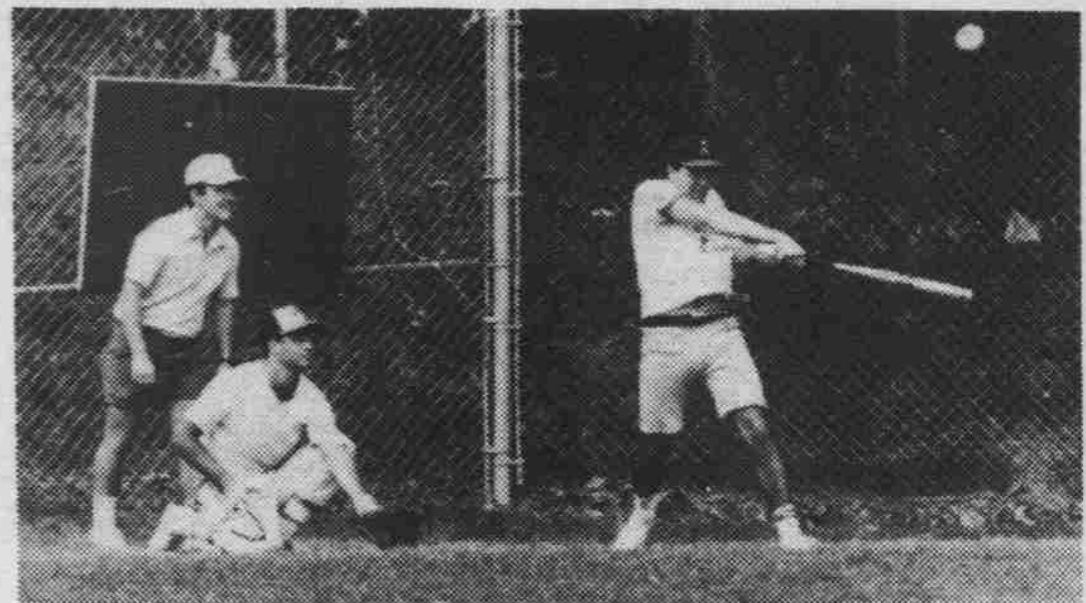
Not everyone played over the entire length of the event. Losing teams were headed for bed and all men's recreational division games were complete by sunrise. Tobin's q, the men's recreational champion from the Department of Economics, played their three games in the early morning. Their championship, an 8-6 come from behind win over Davis Royals, ended around 5:30 a.m.

In the seven-team women's bracket, play began at 6:30 p.m. Friday and ended seven hours later. Carolina Girls took the women's crown, blasting The Breakers 16-4 before the men's competitive first-round games were complete.

Next year's tournament format is not yet set; however, Capoccia is leaning toward another marathon. A decision on next year will not be made until late in the semester, after intramural officials have had time to get feedback on this year's event.

Krause, for one, hopes the format will remain non-stop. "I like this year's format," he said. "When you stretch a tournament over a few weeks, people have commitments and begin to miss games."

But before then, the marathon tournament moves indoors. Grail Volleyball, also a two-week tournament in the past, opens February 6 and marks another late night rerun of intramural tournament action.



Scott Hampton of Carolina Pride takes a swing during the Grail Softball Tournament. Pride lost the final, 16-9, to Kappa Psi in the Men's Competitive division.

Coming Deadlines

Tomorrow is the entry deadline for three intramural events. Deadlines for two major team sports—volleyball and soccer—are approaching.

CENTURY CLUB entries are due tomorrow. Members of the personal-fitness group earn points for running, swimming, cycling and doing aerobics. When a self-selected point goal is met, the member is awarded an exclusive Century Club t-shirt.

FLOOR HOCKEY, the intramural version of the Yankee favorite, begins tonight with a mandatory meeting of all team captains. Entries are due tomorrow.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE, an annual one-day tournament, will be played Saturday morning beginning at 10 a.m. Seven-member teams must enter tomorrow.

VOLLEYBALL play begins early next month, but entries will be taken at mandatory meetings on September 29 and 30. Team captains must

attend one of the two meetings with a team roster and preferred times to play. An information sheet is now available in the IM-REC Office.

SOCCER meetings will be held October 6 and 7, with play beginning October 14. As in volleyball, captains must attend one of the two meetings with a roster and preferred game times. A soccer information sheet is now available in the IM-REC Sports Office.

But why just play when you can be the Big Cheese, the Top...Zebra?

OFFICIALS are needed for many intramural sports including floor hockey, volleyball and soccer. No experience is necessary; we train all officials at officials' clinics. IM-REC officials may select their hours and can work as little or as much as desired.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about officiating or participating in any intramural sport, call or visit the IM-REC Office, 203 Woollen Gym, 962-1006.

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