

SPORTS

Touching base

Rose City Softball season wraps up as two teams head to the World Series

BY TIMOTHY KRAUSE

After innumerable fly balls, home runs and triple plays, the Rose City Softball Association ends another memorable season.

Affiliated with the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance, RCSA fielded 23 teams this year in two divisions, one for women only and an open division for mixed teams.

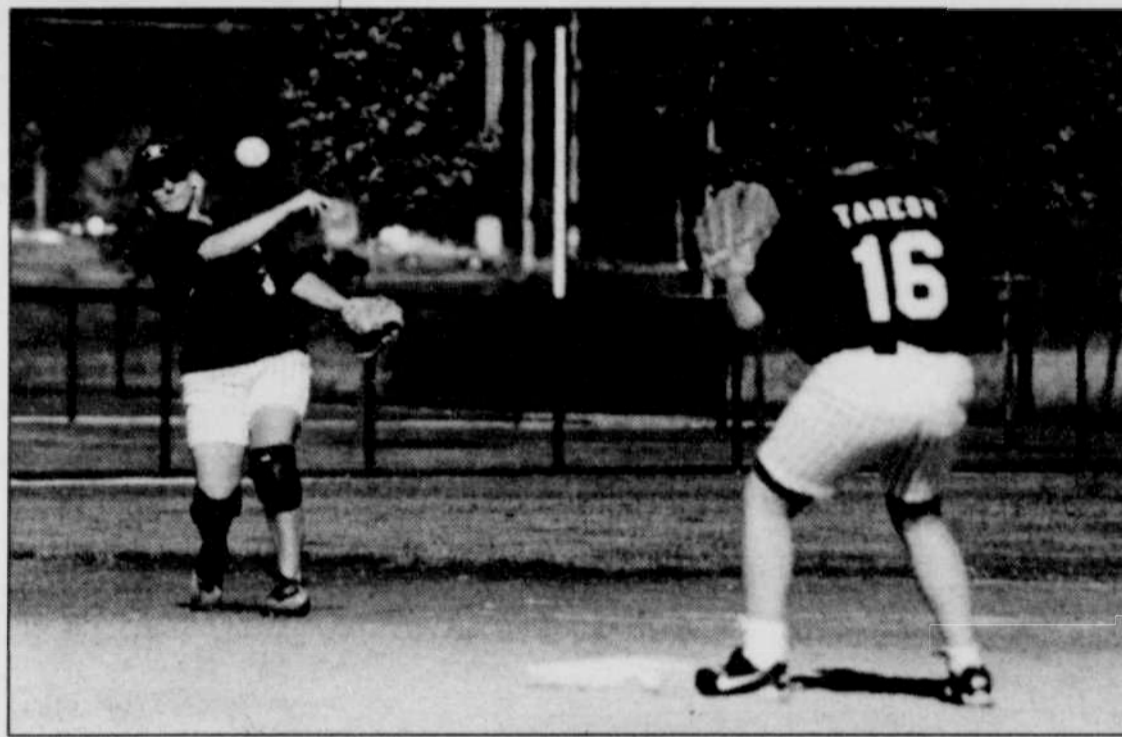
"One of the neatest things about our league

is that every year we see so many new people," says open division commissioner Heath Britt, noting a growing interest in gay softball sparked by Portland playing host to last year's NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series.

This year RCSA returned to its role as host of the 21st annual Cascade Cup during Fourth of July weekend. More than 300 players and 29 West Coast teams stepped up to the plate. Competition was held in three divisions (based on individual and team skill levels), with Portland's own Bike Gallery Haze taking home first-place honors in the "B" division. Seattle Chaos won the "C" division, while Portland Grumpy Puppies led the "D" division.

The league concluded regular season play July 27 at Hillsboro Stadium Complex followed by end-of-season awards Aug. 3 at Southeast Portland's Creston Park. The Bike Gallery Haze and the Mad Dogs qualified for the 27th annual Gay Softball World Series and will compete from Aug. 17 to 23 in Washington, D.C.

In addition to awards for the most valuable players and most improved players (see sidebar), two honors went to team managers. In the open division, David Martinez of the Bella Boys picked up the Brice Winter Manager of the Year Award, while Lana Duran of the



The Mad Dogs will once again represent Portland in the Gay World Series

Tooth Fairies was recognized as manager of the year within the women's division.

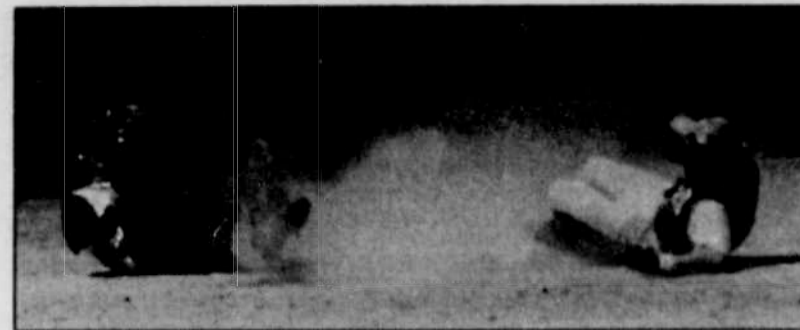
The Haze and the Mad Dogs won't be alone while swinging at the capital. Elected in Febru-

ary, 2002 World Series director Roy Melani will direct the tournament as NAGAAA

open division assistant commissioner. RCSA also is represented nationally by delegates Toni Carr, the women's division commissioner, and Drew Canulette, assistant commissioner for the open division. In addition, James Williamson serves as the NAGAAA Web master.

But even outside the World Series, the ball's still in play for RCSA. Some of the league's teams participated in the Lesbian Community Project's 18th annual Women's Softball Tournament from Aug. 8 to 10 in Brush Prairie, Wash. Others are traveling further north from Aug. 29 to 31 to participate in Seattle's third annual Emerald City Classic.

Back at home plate, RCSA will field a Fall Ball league that plays every Sunday in September at the Gordon Faber Recreational Complex



The Oregon Haze and the Portland Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages were pretty hard to tell apart this season

in Hillsboro. Teams will be chosen by lottery at a "Super Draft" to be held 7 p.m. Sept. 6 at Hobo's, 120 N.W. Third Ave. A \$25 assessment covers a team shirt and all fees required to play in the fall league.

Organizers say the Fall Ball season is a good way for someone new to get a taste of the RCSA. "It's really about getting new players and having fun," says Britt. "Rules tend to be more relaxed, and it's integrated in that we don't have a separate women's and open divisions." Fall season is also not divided by skill level, he explains, "so we have beginners, who are just learning, up to more experienced players—and everyone having a good time."

The 2003 season marks another milestone for RCSA: Carr's final term as commissioner for the women's division. A key player since the league began in 1995, she first served as assistant commissioner until a women's division was created in 1996, for which she has been commissioner ever since.

"It's been a lot of fun, and I've met a lot of people," says Carr, who also served as umpire-in-chief for both RCSA and the 2002 Gay Softball World Series. "The gals' division just gets bigger and better...and I'm going to miss the camaraderie."

Carr will remain involved with RCSA, but her leadership will be missed. "She's tirelessly dedicated to this league," observes Britt. "She basically helped bring gay softball to Portland...and this league owes her a huge amount of gratitude." □

For complete standings and other information about the ROSE CITY SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, visit www.portlandgaysoftball.com. To learn more about the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance, visit

Rose City Softball Association 2003 Season Winners

Division	Division Record		Overall		MVP	MIP
	W	L	W	L		
OPEN DIVISION						
"D" Division Portland Gay Men's Chorus*	15	1	15	3	Billy Dale Clinton	Beth Barbuto
"C" Division Miller High Life JOQ's	14	1	15	3	Corey Otterman	Darin Moore
"B" Division The Bike Gallery Haze	6	6	10	6	James Williamson	Darren Burns
WOMEN'S DIVISION						
Recreation Division Cleats of Fire	12	0	13	3	Barb Greise	Danielle Ivkovich
Alternative Division Mad Dogs	10	2	14	2	Carrie Gundermann	Olivia Leon

* not all scores have been reported

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