

June, 1982

The Beantown Softball League

Organized gay softball originated in Boston in 1978 under the leadership of Joe Leo, publisher of Esplanade newspaper. With the aid of Ronnie Butts, Seth Hyde, Stu Landers and Stephen Sprague the Beantown Softball was formed. Although the Ramrod Room won the playoffs they did not participate in the World Series as Boston was not yet a member of NAGA *North America Gay Athletics*. Membership into NAGA came in 1979 with Paradise representing Boston at the World Series in Milwaukee, where they won in the consolation round. That same year an eclectic Beantown team stormed Toronto by surprise and returned to Boston with the Canada Cup.

Los Angeles was the site of the 1980 World Series and Chaps almost went the full distance, losing to a slightly stronger Los Angeles team, thus finishing second. In 1981, Paradise again won the Beantown title, however, did not fare as well as expected in the World Series hosted by Toronto. This was also the first year Beantown had a female team, Prelude, in its ranks. The Prelude team evolved into the Twelve Seventy Women's Team, which will be representing Boston in the 1982 Gay Olympics. Beantown sent two teams to Toronto this year over the Fourth of July. After a grueling last day, consisting of four games in a row, a very impressive Buddies team, managed by Gary Staples, emerged victorious and for the second time in four years brought the Canada Cup home once again to Boston.

In a class all its own, Chaps handily swept the league with a 16 - 2 record and went on to win the playoffs with five straight victories. Extremely sound, both offensively and defensively, coach John Bowes' hand-picked troop will definitely do well in San Francisco. We'll all be rooting for you. Good Luck Chaps!

Leslie Tiffany


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