



7vs.7 fields are 70 yards long by 54 yards wide. The field is much smaller than a regulation field. This allows for a much faster pace game. The size of the goal and the penalty box are the same.



The time is cut to make the game much faster. Group halves are 20 minutes with no over time and no penalty kicks. In the knock-out phase the time is 12 minutes with extra time and penalty kicks.



Over 600 student athletes from seven different states played in the tournament. A total of 56 teams placed, 32 men's and 24 women's. One hundred and ten games were played.



Photos and Story by
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Defender Ben Lefevre attempts a head ball during the first round of finals. Team DuPage "green" was defeated by Parkland College. They were 2-2-0.

56 teams, 110 games, one day

Soccer mania hit COD on Saturday, where 56 teams played 110 games. The Fifth Annual Seven vs. Seven Tournament gathered teams from seven different states. Most of the colleges in Illinois were invited and one team from each additional state. Both men and women played on eight soccer fields. There were 32 men's teams and 24 women's teams and over 600 student athletes.

Assistant men's coach William Fajkus said

that the average mileage traveled by teams was 157 miles.

The sun was shining, but winds reached up to 30 miles per hour, making the ball harder to control. With temperatures as low as 30 degrees, some athletes played with long sleeve shirts or sweat pants.

"We play an outside sport and the weather will affect our player," coach Fajkus said.

"Some of the fields were not the best. The grass was too long and the rain left it soft," midfielder Justin Pedersen said. Pedersen was part of team Green that

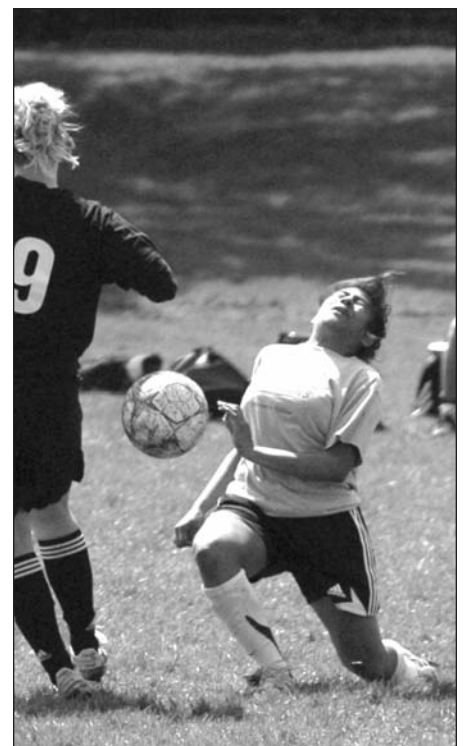
was able to make to the playoffs.

Of the three teams that represented COD, only the men's "green" team fared well. They were able to reach the playoffs but were knocked out by Parkland College in a hard 1-0 loss. "Fatigue set in and we were playing out of our realm and style which we were not used to," Pedersen said.

The "green" team was 2-2-1 and the "gold" team was 0-2-1. The women lost two of their matches and tied one. They were not able to make to the playoffs.



Above: Goalkeeper Carrie Dastych dives for a close ball. The ball was within inches of the goal line. Dastych allowed eight goals throughout the tournament.



Right: Striker Cecilia Benitez takes a hard ball to the face during a difficult loss to North Central College. The lady Chaparrals' were only able to get one point, not enough to make it to the playoffs.