‘League’ DVD falls just short of a home run

By Vincent Civitillo
Managing Editor

Available now for the second time on DVD, A League of Their Own has been released as a set that clearly outdoes its predecessor, but falls just short of making it to Cooperstown.

It’s the early 1940s and most of America’s athletes are shipping out to war, leaving a country starving without its national pastime. Enter the All-American Girls Baseball League, a league made up of the best women from backyard fields all over the country to entertain fans in the absence of the male stars. At first ignored and mocked, the girls of the Rockford Peaches battle obstacles from every which way, fighting to earn acceptance as being the best at what they do.

If there is one thing that makes the awkward meld of comedy and drama in League work, it’s the performances by its stars. Tom Hanks delivers one of his first real performances as the team’s coach (before Philadelphia and Forrest Gump) and Geena Davis shows, with her character of a modest player who feels she’s not supposed to make any money at all. An audio commentary is included with the cast and director, but it plays out pretty slow and most of the information in it can be heard from watching the included documentary “Nine Memorable Innings.”

The biggest disappointment of the set is the Dolby Digital 4.0 Surround track, which sounds pretty close to the VHS release. Audibly, it is cleaned up, and everything will come through crystal clear, but the subwoofer and back speakers of your system will take the game-winning home run fans were hoping for, but it is the best the film has looked and sounded since its theatrical release over 10 years ago, which in any fan’s eyes, has to be worth at least a ground double.

‘Laughter’ exemplifies cast members’ talent

By Lacey Korevec
& Nicole Southern
Entertainment Editors

It has been said that laughter is the best medicine, and last weekend after seeing Laughter on the 23rd Floor, no one went home sick.

The show took place in the Yvonne Theater Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. Though it had audience members laughing hysterically at times, it is likely the actors’ talent is what left the last impression.

In the 1950s, the show begins with Lucas (junior Danny Prather) thinking back on how he wound up landing a job as a writer for one of NBC’s prime-time shows. From there it focuses on him and his co-workers working for a neurotic boss, Max Prince (senior Pat Barratt). The group struggles with creating skits that are funny, yet unsophisticated, all while the outside world is faced with the threat of communism and the wrath of Senator Joe McCarthy.

The play was extremely well cast. There are not even words complimentary enough to credit Barratt’s performance. His acting was brilliant and bad everyone in the theater in stitches. The ability of both freshman David Yashin and Barratt to use their bodies as tools to breathe life into their characters was striking and contributed greatly to the comedic aspect of the show.

Incredible performances were delivered by many of the cast members. Dottie Hinson is the role of her career. Somewhere between the story of one sister fighting to be recognized alongside her sibling and a gender struggle for acceptance, League becomes more than just a baseball movie, but it’s so fun, we forget to notice.

There were times when the costumes and lighting contributed greatly to the its success. The set was warm and practical, portraying a home-office area with lamps, pictures and a large center-table, where the crew exchanged the sounds of bustling cars served as a backdrop.

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Coach Jimmy Dugan (Tom Hanks) loses his temper with his outfielder in the 1992 film A League of Their Own. The film has been re-released on DVD in an overall better edition than the last, but improvements still could have been made.

Many of the less physical jokes were more clearly understood by some of the older members of the audience, probably because they actually lived during that time and had experienced those social conditions. Some of them may have even seen the show that the play was based on and could relate to it on a deeper level.

Overall, seeing Laughter on the 23rd Floor this weekend will make for an enjoyable evening. Viewers are guaranteed to laugh but more than that will be witness to incredible talent.

Kick back and enjoy some performing arts

By Lacey Korevec
Entertainment Editor

Take some time out to unwind before finals with one of these student-run productions. On Friday, April 30 and Saturday May 1, check out the various acts, in the Fine Arts Studio Theater at 8 p.m. That same evening, at 6 p.m., in the Yvonne Theater, students can view the Dance Team, who will be performing. hip hop, reggae and more.