

Game fosters cooperative spirit

"The real purpose of the game was to foster cooperative spirit" said David Rose, of the Merced Family Health Center. He was speaking of a softball game between the center and Merced County Department of Health.

"We chose softball as the medium for our message, since it represents a vivid example of the importance of team work in achieving a desired outcome."

Rose Rodriguez, co-captain of the health department team agreed.

This first annual Health Star Softball Championship game was played before throngs of cheering health care supporters at McNamara Field. The championship game, featuring the health center and the county department of health, excited fans until the last inning, when the health center pulled away with a 23-15 victory.

The game looked one-sided, at first, as the family health center rolled up a 16-0 lead by the third inning. The department of health fought back courageously, though, narrowing the lead to 17-15. Not until the last inning did the family health center make the decisive blow.

The theme of the game, conceived by Rose, co-captain of the family health center team, was cooperation. Rose, questioned after the game, revealed that cooperation was essential in the delivery of health care, both within a specific clinic and between health agencies operating in the same county.

Miss Rodriguez gave high marks to both sides for their teamwork, and observed, "Everybody from receptionists to physicians to environmental sanitarians to family planning counselors to dentists to nutrition aides played together tonight."

"There was a sense of open competition that made the game enjoyable to both sides," she added.



ON WINNING TEAM — During a softball game between Merced Family Health Center and Merced County Department of Health the former team was the victor. Esther Ramirez

of the winning team, shows Dr. Keith Harris what to hit at his turn at bat. He got the message because their team won 23 to 15, racking up a score of 16-0 by the third inning.

Sun-Star Photo by Mark Donaldson

When asked about the future plans for the Health Star Championship games, Rose replied, "We would like to get other groups that serve the health care needs of our county involved. We're trying to form a league where hospitals,

medical centers, private physicians, and even school health departments, have a team."

Softball season may have come to a close, but volleyball season is just around the bend. Groups interested in

forming a league may telephone Mary Lou Ferras, co-captain of the Merced Family Health Center team at 722-5751, or Miss Rodriguez or Ron Griffiths, co-captains of the Merced County Department of Health team at 726-7525.