

Scoreboard

Introduction, Foreward, and Acknowledgments

Introduction

A reputation for athletic prowess is as difficult to gain and as easily lost as any good reputation. But St. John's bears its athletic reputation so lightly that many think it was achieved effortlessly and is sustained as easily as breathing. *Scoreboard's* story of athletics at St. John's reveals the real drama and excitement that make athletics here flourish and highlights the struggles that makes success so sweet. Perhaps even more important than capturing the drama of the achievement won, *Scoreboard* speaks to the quality of persons and of their participation that are at the heart of St. John's athletic reputation. St. John's has pursued excellence in as many activities as possible but always recognizing that the style in which we pursue it is as important as achieving success. This book speaks about the style of playing sports which we esteem, where there is truly teamwork and sharing. *Scoreboard* is, therefore, another witness to what St. John's truly seeks to be: a community which experiences the beauty and exhilaration of living through sharing together.

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Foreword

Scoreboard, a history of athletics at St. John's University from 1873 to 1978, originated in a letter in 1975 from Paul Mulready, '50, suggesting that St. John's establish a Hall of Fame honoring star athletes of our past. He had just participated in the conferring of such an honor at a Wisconsin college and was impressed with the widespread goodwill which resulted from the event. He asked if the sponsorship of such an undertaking might not be an ideal project for the St. John's J-Club. The idea was discussed in the October, 1975 meeting of the J-Club Board of Directors, and although the members showed general approval of extending some sort of recognition to great athletes of the past, they chose at this time to name a committee of active J-Club members to make a further study of the proposal and report to a meeting of the entire membership for November 15, 1975. In its report to the membership at this meeting, the members of the committee expressed the view that it is not in the tradition of St. John's to single out individuals for special recognition, but rather to emphasize the team and community aspects of athletics as well as other endeavors. The committee therefore suggested that a history of sports from the 1870's to the 1970's would emphasize the group effort these activities entailed and would include not only the stars but also lesser lights without whose aid the stars would not have shone so brilliantly. According to the St. John's tradition, the star athlete, though always recognized and admired for his superior talents, has always been considered more as a member of the team than as an individual performer. Both players and supporters on the sidelines realize that more often than not the brilliant performance of the star was made possible by a timely block by a relatively obscure lineman which opened the way to a brilliant run. What is more, in an anti-elite atmosphere such as prevails at St. John's, the star player himself takes the same attitude that the opportunities in any sport are innumerable for the inconspicuous "average" player to win games without ever getting into the headlines. Thus most of the heroics of the anonymous athlete pass unnoticed or are forgotten, the only evidence of his existence being the inclusion of his name on the team's roster.

Anyone who has followed athletics at St. John's is aware that a healthy generous attitude towards sports has always prevailed on the campus and among the students. The glory of the team or the university,

combined with the sheer enjoyment of companionship in play, have been the all-sufficient reward of athletic competition. It was in recognition of this typical campus attitude that the authors, both letter winners themselves in the distant past, have written this history commemorating the teams of St. John's athletic history.

Acknowledgements

In writing *Scoreboard* the authors made liberal use of available St. John's publications such as the St. John's University catalogs that first began appearing in 1870: the *Record*, 1888-1978; the yearbook, the *Sagatagan*, 1920-1978. Very helpful were the records of former Director of Athletics, George Durenberger, with lists of players and results of almost all intercollegiate activities of the past. Jim Smith's scrapbooks of all sports from 1971-72 to 1974-75, and the scrapbooks of football coach and current Athletic Director, John Gagliardi. Joseph Benda, Jr., graciously loaned to St. John's the scrapbooks of his father, former football coach, Joseph Benda, Sr.

Publications which were useful for background information were Fr. Alexius Hoffmann's "History of St. John's University" (1907), in the form of annals which furnished an admirable example of the value of a chronological year-by-year treatment of historical events. Also helpful for references to athletics in the past history of St. John's was Fr. Colman Barry's *Worship and Work* (1956).

It was the good fortune of the authors to have the assistance of newly appointed archivist, Fr. Vincent Tegeder, O.S.B., and his assistant, Mr. Stewart Hansen, for collections of newspaper clippings of the early 1900's, as well as their collections of photographs for illustrations of early athletics at St. John's. The authors also made extensive use of the files of clippings, seasonal previews, and photographs of the Public Information Services headed by Messrs. Lee Hanley and Thorn Woodward. Special thanks are due to Dr. Merrill Jarchow of Carleton College, the author of *Carleton, the First Century*, whose xeroxed copies from the *Carletonian* enabled us to unearth the fact of St. John's membership in the Minnesota-North Dakota-South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference from 1914 to 1920, when St. John's joined the newly founded Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC).

In expressing their thanks for interviews, the writers are grateful to former Coach and Director of Athletics, George Durenberger, Coaches John Gagliardi and Jim Smith, who gave generously of their time furnishing background materials to enliven certain periods that might otherwise have been barren of human interest. They also wish to thank Fr. Otto Weber, O.S.B., Director of the Physical Plant and Intramurals, and David Grovum, '77, all-conference center and member of the national championship team of 1976, for information on wrestling and the brilliant career of former wrestling coach Terry Haws.

Great credit is also due to the younger and part-time coaches who, in the absence of game reports in the *Record*, furnished missing information through interviews and written summaries: Greg Miller, wrestling; John Grobe, tennis; Dave Lyndgaard, cross-country; Michael Bauer, track; Pat Haws, golf and swimming; Jerry Haugen, baseball. Thanks are due also to John Forsythe for an enlightening sketch of rugby at St. John's, parts of which are quoted in the chapter on rugby. For the years 1977 and 1978 in rugby, student captains Rick Robel and Rick Battiola furnished much of the information. Thomas Haeg, '70, wrote the chapter on hockey.

Lastly, to Fr. Roger Schoenbechler, O.S.B., we owe the title of this book, suggested by the one thing all sports have in common, *Scoreboards*.

Chapter I: The Early Days

It is hard for one living in the 1970's to picture for himself what kind of young men and boys were the ten, twenty or thirty students who first attended the little Benedictine school located out in the Indian Bush a few miles north of St. Cloud one hundred and thirty years ago. That they studied hard and followed the regulations of an American curriculum based on the rigorous German Gymnasium system that the Benedictines brought with them to Minnesota there is no doubt. But what they did during their recreational periods when, cramped from leaning over a desk or taking notes in class, they got outside into the fresh air of the outdoors remains a mystery until one digs it out of the sparse official documents that stand on shelves awaiting investigation. We can, of course, form some offhand opinion that they were rugged young men, ranging from fifteen to twenty years of age, sons of farmers, small store keepers, an occasional lawyer or doctor or small town banker, most of them with hands more inured to the handle of an axe or hammer or pitchfork than to a baseball bat. Of one thing one may be sure, once arrived at St. John's it did not take them long to find some pleasant way of spending the leisure time between study and classes. Recreation, as a general thing, depends on environment, on what is possible to do in the area where one is located. For the early St. John's student it was the woods to be explored, the lake for swimming and boating, skiing in winter, and possibly a cleared space for baseball, for even then the national sport was baseball, and doubtless many of the students brought along with them from home a bat and ball.

In those early years it is certain that there was no officially regulated program for recreation. We know from an old letter written by an alumnus and quoted by Fr. Alexius Hoffmann, O.S.B., in his history of St. John's that there was at least the semblance of a baseball diamond at that time. Referring to the tree stumps and the roughness of the ground, he wrote:

Our baseball grounds were at the college gates. They were constructed like an angry porcupine's back. The frantic efforts of a fielder to chase down a ball in its crazy career through an array of maple stumps with which the diamond was studded would be a revelation to the present champions of St. John's University. It was appalling! (*St. John's University: A Sketch of Its History, 1857- 1907*, "Alexius Hoffmann, O.S.B., Record Press, Collegeville, 1907).

The document does not say when the stumps were cleared away, but it must have been sometime before 1873-74, the year Fr. Leo Winter, O.S.B., organized the Athletic Baseball Club, the first of several other clubs that followed suit.

It seems that Fr. Leo Winter was a man of great enthusiasm and interest in sports. He doubtlessly followed the major league baseball reports published in the newspapers of the time, for he modeled his Athletic Baseball Club very closely on the established patterns of professional baseball. The club was divided into two leagues under the authority of a president and a vice-president. Each league had two teams, and each team a designated captain. The players chose fanciful names for their teams: there were the Athletics, the Crusaders, the Classics, the Torn Stockings, the Invincibles, and "The Little Fellows"- the last a group that was equivalent to our present-day junior high school players. Some of these titles were retained for years in the annual St. John's Catalog, when as many as 180 students were playing in the intramural organization.

But boating did not take a second or third place to baseball for long. The year following the organization of the Baseball Athletic Club the Boating Club was organized. The club had a president and vice-president who supervised the affairs of the boatmen. The first year they had crews for two boats and later at one time for six boats. Each boat had a captain, four oarsmen, and a coxswain. Like the baseball players, they exercised their imaginations in selecting suitable titles for their boats. There were the Hiawatha, the Germania, the Fraud, and the Little Fraud, the Belle of the Lake, the Gem. A piratical tinge was given to the crew of the Jolly Six. In 1891 the boats were spoken of as the Lake Fleet, or the Lake Flotilla, under the overall command of a Commodore instead of a President.

It will be impossible to enter into detail with descriptions of all the sports patronized. For several years there were individual tennis players who finally banded together in the Tennis Club in 1892. In 1900 four new tennis courts were constructed. It is hard to say when handball was first played, though, guessing from its popularity, it might have been a contemporary of baseball. There were several handball alleys of wood, but the most popular one of all was of brick, constructed in 1900.

For those interested in outdoor winter sports there was a large variety of activities: skiing and tobogganing on the hills, skating on the lake until the ice became covered with snow, ice fishing on the lake, ice hockey when someone could be found ambitious enough to shovel the snow from an area close to the laundry, from which it was possible to get water for flooding. Another sport was the chase, defined by one wag as "the hunt of rabbits and squirrels with a slingshot." Firearms were banned from the college.

As for indoor sports, ideal accommodations were unavailable, though St. John's did its best to provide them. In fact, there were few colleges of this era who did better than St. John's and there were others who did nothing at all. In 1886 St. John's provided "a spacious play hall (60 x 80 feet)" in the basement-now the part of the present day refectory below the Alumni Lounge. It was provided with a bowling alley and a handball court, two pool tables, and several gymnastic items such as a punching bag and weights for weight lifting, parallel bars, etc.

According to Fr. Alexius, the play hall was never considered a permanent provision for indoor activities. In 1892 he wrote about it as follows:

Among the improvements for the new school year (1892) was the renovation of the Play Hall in the basement. A new bowling alley was fitted up, also a pool table, horizontal bar, chest weights, punching bag, Indian clubs, and dumb bells. The quarters were close (i.e., poorly ventilated) and gloomy and oil lamps lit up the place in the evening. (*Electric lights were first installed in the buildings of St. John's in 1896). Still it was a step towards a gymnasium, an ideal that was realized ten years later (Hoffmann, p. 100).

It seems that the system of independent athletic clubs worked out successfully for at least fifteen years. If the club needed new equipment of any sort, the officers merely "passed around the hat" -an expression commonly used in the committee reports of the athletic association-and then bought it. There is no reason for doubting that the club members had a royal good time playing with friends of the same athletic interests.

Sometime during the 1880's, however, dissatisfaction arose with the club system, possibly because as the school grew in numbers there were too few small clubs, or possibly also that the early zest for athletic competition was waning and there was too much lazying around and not enough physical activity. Whatever the situation, the school magazine, *The Record*, was founded in 1888, and in its first number. urged the Ajax Athletic Association to call upon the student body, and particularly the clubs, to get busy for the spring outdoor sports campaign.

The season of outdoor sports is at hand. The ball clubs have already made a move in the right direction. They are organized. What they have done excellently omens an interesting season. But what about the other sports? Baseball will become more or less stale as the season advances, and very few provisions are made for other field sports, boating, etc. The Ajax Association ought to lose no time but at once provide for other sports. We suggest a field day for the middle of May. The consent and co-operation of the faculty are assured, and there is no reason why the present season should not be an active and energetic one (*The Record*, January, 1888, Vol. 1, p. 42).

The above editorial by the pen of P. F. McDonough (later Rev. Patrick McDonough, '89), who was both president of the Ajax Athletic Association and co-editor of the *Record*, is all that is known of the Ajax

Association in operation. It seems to have disappeared in thin air, and the officers of club athletics reverted to their traditional inactivity as independently of one another as before. Fr. Alexius wrote of the Ajax Athletic Association: "This club, which had for its motto 'No mouthing: all training,' did not live long enough to secure recognition in the annual catalogue" (Hoffmann, p. 87).

Stagnation continued in the intramural system, however. By 1895 the Tennis Club had dissolved, and about the same time the boats of the Boating Club disintegrated beyond repair and without complaint. In 1897 a *Record* writer railed against the apathy reigning over the campus: "There is no backbone or life! Wake up, managers and captains, make things lively! Let people know you are in it, and remember that it is only by your cooperation that you can make college days golden days" (*Record*, April, 1897, Vol. 10, pp. 119-120).

In 1897-98 Fr. Alexius recorded the final decision that followed the charges leveled against the negligence of athletic officials: "Repeatedly," he noted, "dissatisfaction was expressed with the system according to which sports were conducted; here and there a voice timidly queried, Why not start something like an Athletic Association?-The question was finally taken up and an organization by that name was called into being during the second term" [i.e., spring of 1898] (Hoffmann, pp. 117-118).

The athletic association referred to by Fr. Alexius in his history of St. John's as having been established in the spring of 1898, apparently failed to impress the student body as a viable, vigorous organization, for in the fall of 1900 we read the following statement: "October 8 found the allied athletes of St. John's assembled in their assembly hall for the purpose of reorganizing and electing officers. Presiding was Moderator Fr. Bruno Doerfler, O.S.B.; President J. O'Leary; Secretary and Treasurer, C. Houska." Fr. Bruno, only recently returned from Rome after four years of study and appointed Director of the college and *ex officio* moderator of athletics, was liberal-minded, and without much ado gave his approval to a request to organize an American style football team and schedule games with St. Cloud High School. Discussed in the meeting was the resolution to amend the constitution by the addition of a new association objective-"to foster athletics in all its branches" (*Record*, October, 1900, p. 314).

In February, 1901, at a second meeting of the association, the resolution to make official the new regulation adopted in October, 1900, was confirmed. The confirmation reads as follows: "The St. John' Athletic Association met for the second time with a report on the constitution. The constitution was accepted. The aim of the constitution is the furtherance of athletics. Moderator, P. Bruno, O.S.B.; President, J. O'Leary; Secretary and Treasurer, C. Houska." The editorialist for athletics commented on the new reorganization: "The permanent founding of the Athletic Association will be good news to all sports loving students. The aim of the society is the promotion of all athletics. The staff elected last fall has drawn up a constitution and a set of by-laws which were unanimously adopted at the last meeting" (*Record*, February, 1901, p. 75).

Such was the beginning in 1900-01 of the new St. John's Athletic Association, popularly known by the initials A.A., as it was generally called. The A.A. was directly responsible for the organization of a new intramural system that for the space of seventy-eight years has continued to make it possible for any St. John's student to join some team that matches his abilities and interests. But even more, it was the chief moving force that directly introduced intercollegiate athletics on the St. John's campus and indirectly led to the construction of a new gymnasium by calling faculty attention to the need of new physical development facilities. The gymnasium was the pride of St. John's and for several years was spoken of as "the finest gymnasium in the Northwest."

All this did not happen by mere chance. By 1900 St. John's had passed its years of "beginnings" and was now a thriving college that inspired feelings of a high destiny that awaited it sometime, somewhere in the future. Remarkable as it may seem, the students had the same feeling of destiny and looked forward to the time when the college would be famous not only in academics, which they took for granted, but also in

athletics. The building of the gymnasium therefore clinched the students' conviction. When, on his return to the college in the fall of 1901, the *Record's* sports columnist inspected the partially completed gymnasium, he wrote an enthusiastic prediction of St. John's future greatness in sports: "With the school year 1901-1902 a new era has dawned in the field of athletics. Although heretofore St. John's has enjoyed an enviable record, this year will bring it much higher on the ladder of fame" (*Record*, October, 1901, p. 268).

In view of St. John's smallness and isolation in the woods north of St. Cloud, the pronouncement of future fame may have sounded like sheer rhetoric to the skeptical, as it certainly did to unsympathetic ears in 1901. On the other hand, Minnesotans were accustomed to talk in big terms regarding future developments in the state, and St. John's was no exception. The A.A. went all-out for expansion of athletics. Interest in intercollegiate athletics had risen high in all the colleges of the nation around this time, and at St. John's the prospect of a victorious St. John's first team competing with other colleges in the state loomed up strongly in the imaginations of the Johnny athletes. Intramural athletics, while affording many moments of enjoyment, could offer nothing so exciting as the prospect of matching strength, skill and speed with other colleges of its own size and class—and winning! As for the faculty, the ease with which the introduction of intercollegiate sports was accomplished is proof that the comparatively young men who formed the major part of the faculty at that time were eager to make St. John's an attractive, up-to-date college that would appeal to the youth of 1900, the future business men, doctors, lawyers, teachers and priests of the church.

It is doubtful that the promoters of the intercollegiate program were fully aware of the problems they would encounter. One of the first problems was the inconvenience of team travel. At that particular time all distant travel, with the exception of that by railroad, had to be done with horse and buggy. For the Twin City colleges, St. Thomas, Hamline and Macalester, games with one another were easily arranged, whereas colleges outside the Cities had a distance to travel by train—a matter of considerable expense, for the Association was responsible for the cost of travel, the purchase of uniforms, etc.

Another problem was the difficulty in obtaining competent officials who both knew the rules of the games and administered them with authority and impartiality. Charges of partiality made officiating for years a fearsome business. In a game played on the Fargo Agricultural College floor even as late as 1909, and which St. John's won by a score of 30-18, a crowd of spectators surged out onto the floor to mob the referee. "When the whistle was blown, thus ending the game," states the *Spectrum* (the Fargo College newspaper), "everyone made a rush for the referee; . . . with difficulty he was piloted unharmed to the dressing room. The crowd was then forced out of the gym, where they awaited their victim, but when he arrived at last the crowd had nearly dispersed, and those who were left deemed it unnecessary to do him permanent injury, although they did follow him down town just to make things cheerful." It is hard to take the above account seriously, though there is no doubt that the incident bordered on a riot.

That feelings ran high during the course of the games we know from other reports published in the newspapers of the time. In 1905, on one occasion the St. Cloud Normals, behind in the score 6-0 in a football game, disputed an off-side penalty of five yards regarding which the umpire and referee differed in their interpretation. When the referee refused to change his decision to suit the umpire, the Normals withdrew from the field and forfeited the game to St. John's. On a later occasion St. John's returned the compliment to the St. Cloud High School over the completion of a forward pass. On two occasions quarrels arose when the scorekeepers differed in their final count of free-throws in basketball games.

Perhaps the most faulty of the early practices was the manner of determining championships at the end of the season. Fr. Oliver Kapsner, O.S.B., a member of the 1919 baseball team, the first baseball championship team during the period from 1900 to 1920, writes, "There was no official conference to decide championships nor official recognition, and so whoever with a good winning record hollered first and loudest could be the unofficial champion."

An unsuccessful attempt to overcome problems such as those listed above was made in 1908, mainly on the initiative of the then new St. John's football coach, Bill Brennan, along with the coach of Shattuck Academy, J. A. Foster. Foster and Brennan, both men of vision and energy, hoped, by the organization of a Minnesota College Conference that would include college preparatory schools, to do away with most of the problems intercollegiate athletics was afflicted with at that time. In a news item that appeared in the St. Paul *Daily Times*, for October 12, 1908, we read: "The most important meeting ever held between Minnesota colleges took place this afternoon when representatives of all the leading institutions of the state met for the formation of a Minnesota college conference." The article continues: "The plan is to have the schools meet annually in executive session and arrange foot- ball, baseball, and track schedules, as was done several years ago. This would eliminate friction in the arrangement of dates and would bring about a series of contests that would definitely decide the state championships in the different branches of sport."

An article in the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* for the next day, October 13, 1908, added to the above article another objective of the meeting- "to make arrangements for securing a number of well-known and impartial judges for the football games to be played among the schools this fall." The colleges, however, decided against a conference: "While a form of organization was perfected, no conference was organized, and each of the teams will continue to carry on its athletics entirely independently of each other." Something was gained, however: "each of the schools presented a list of the men thought eligible for the coming schedules and the rules of the game as they now stand" (*ibid*).

Chapter II: Football

The Beginnings

Although each season of the year had its special sport at St. John's, this was not true of football. In fact, football thus far had never had a "season" on the St. John's campus in all its existence. Baseball was then the king of all sports at St. John's and was played from the first warm days in April until June, and from September until freeze-up in the fall. And yet, much as baseball was appreciated in the first warm days of early autumn, it was inevitable that surfeit would set in during the fall months and interest would shift towards football, whether soccer or the American variety of "tackle football," the offspring of British rugby. The truth of the matter is that baseball could no longer hope to maintain its autumn monopoly in a period when football was beginning to occupy long columns of print in the daily newspapers. As was basketball in winter, football in autumn was almost the criterion of what was in style in college sports. It is not in the least surprising therefore to read in the 1900 September issue of the *Record* a rather plaintive plea for football. "Since the baseball season is coming to a close, what are the chances for football? There is certainly a good amount of material on hand. Why not organize a few teams and practice for a few match games?"

The wish thus publicly expressed was probably planted in the *Record* by the football enthusiasts themselves in order to arouse student sentiment and interest in a seasonal issue, or at least to call attention to a sport better adapted to autumn weather. At any rate, a month later, when on October 8th the Allied Athletes met for the purpose of reorganizing their athletic association and electing officers, the expectation was that approval would be granted by the administration to organize a football program and possibly to play an outside team. All three of the elected officers were football players, president John O'Leary, vice-president John Thill, and treasurer Charles Houska; each one a promoter for the extension of approved sports to the new games of football and basketball. As has been stated above, they attained their goal.

The amazing thing about that October 8th meeting is that football literally sprang into being that very light-like Minerva out of the forehead of Zeus, fully grown and fully armed. We read the following account in the

Record: "The following morning found President O'Leary on the campus with eleven selected candidates for the university team. The first work was awkward and quite discouraging, but the persistence of the president overcame all obstacles, and after ten days of hard work the eleven was in good trim." A challenge from St. Cloud High School was accepted and a game scheduled for October 20.

- 1900 -

The first game was played on October 27 and ended as a 5-0 loss for St. John's. The return game with the St. Cloud High School was a second 5-0 loss suffered by St. John's. The *Record* reporter moaned in disappointment. On the other hand, little more than defeat could have been expected of a hastily organized group of eleven inexperienced players, managed by an equally inexperienced student-coach who had only ten days of preparation before meeting a well-coached, well-trained high school team. Nevertheless, in spite of their disappointment and humiliation, the St. John's players lost none of their courage and looked optimistically to the next year.

- 1901 -

The 1901 football team was made up mainly of leftovers from the 1900 second and third teams, except for three veterans, a halfback, a guard, and the fullback. It turned out, however, to be one of the most celebrated in St. John's history, one of those rare combinations of spirit and talent that crop up occasionally in college athletics. The team succeeded beyond all expectations and drove towards victory with absolute confidence in its ability to conquer all its opponents. In a four-game schedule, St. John's defeated St. Cloud High School twice by scores of 11-6 and 11-0, St. Cloud Normal School 17-6, and in the climactic game of the entire season, defeated St. Thomas 16-0 (three touchdowns and a point after touchdown) (*At this time a touchdown was credited as five points, a drop-kick four points, and the after-touchdown kick one point) in a game played at ten o'clock Thanksgiving Day morning at Lexington Park, St. Paul.

When the news of the victory reached St. John's, the campus went wild. It was heady news for the young partisan-minded St. John's fans. In a burst of enthusiasm the *Record* reporter called out to all and sundry to read his challenge:

"St. John's football team has surpassed all expectations. In defeating St. Cloud High School it has defeated not only all the local teams, but also one of the ringers (Duluth), and in defeating St. Thomas it holds the ball over all Minneapolis and St. Paul teams. Through four hard-fought battles it has carried the Cardinal and Blue to victory, and, still unconquered, is willing again to put on the armor to maintain her championship rights" (*Record*, December 1901, p. 359).

It was most appropriate that, of four of the stars of this never-to-be-forgotten first intercollegiate game played by St. John's, three were the three introducers of football on the St. John's campus: John O'Leary, halfback, John Thill, guard, and fullback Chuck Houska, who "hurdled" the St. Thomas line for two touchdowns, the first and third. The fourth star was a remarkable young man named Ignatius O'Shaughnessey, who, though a tackle, carried the ball for a total of 76 yards, an average of eleven yards per try. In one brilliant run, the *Record* reported, he carried the ball to the St. Thomas two-yard line, from where Kilty, an end, *was shoved over* for the second touchdown. It is evident to all that the rules and scoring systems of the game have changed radically since the year 1901. As for Ignatius O'Shaughnessey, it is still a subject for jestful comment at St. John's the fact that the future great philanthropist, the generous endower of Catholic schools, colleges and universities, did not remain at St. John's. He transferred and graduated from the College of St. Thomas. Fr. Walter Reger, O.S.B., once jokingly remarked, "Someone goofed at St. John's."

- 1902 -

The football season of 1902 was a complete reversal from the enthusiastic spirit of the previous year, 1901. St. John's played only one game for the season, and that one game was a loss to the St. Cloud Normal School by a score of 17-0, played on November 8. It was a dismal season, to say the least. On the other hand, it is an example of what has happened so often in the entire history of athletics at St. John's that it will be profitable to consider it in detail at this point.

The *Record* ascribed the St. Cloud Normal loss to student apathy and the lack of moral support by the student body. Two of the best players on the squad had withdrawn early from the team, and student coach Brotherton resigned from his position as manager on November 12, four days after the defeat.

The very obvious reason for the poor showing against the St. Cloud Normal School team, however, is, first of all, that the four or five stars of the 1901 team had departed; and, second, the fact that boredom could have easily set in from a long series of practices, from September to November, without the relief of games and foreign competition to break the monotony. The "lack of games" we read so frequently about in the athletic reports of the first years of intercollegiate competition at St. John's is precisely the fault that Bill Brennan complained of and unsuccessfully tried to correct in 1908 by the formation of a Minnesota college conference.

Another point worth considering is the reason why, during the coming years of athletic competition at St. John's, we find these paradoxical, abrupt changes in fortune coming immediately after a sometimes even brilliant year, such as the one now under consideration. In reading this history of the early years at St. John's it must be kept in mind that, although St. John's was a four-year liberal arts college with a strong classics and philosophy curriculum, especially in the junior and senior college years, the large majority of the student body left St. John's at the end of two years. The excellent Commercial department offered a two-year course in business, after which the graduates left to take up work in the various business enterprises current at the time. Pre-medical, pre-law, and science students, after two years of college, were accepted by most, if not all, the universities of the time for admission to professional studies, and hence students transferred there at the end of the sophomore year. Even more damaging to year-by-year consistency in athletics was the practice of priesthood students entering the novitiate or the seminary in their junior-senior years, during which time they were not permitted to take part in intercollegiate competition. It should not need to be explained further why, almost up to the 1930's, coaches at St. John's only rarely were fortunate enough to field a team with more than one or two juniors and seniors in the line-ups.

- 1903 -

The 1903 season proved to be an improvement over the previous season, though the inability of St. John's to secure games was still in evidence. St. John's defeated the St. Cloud Normals by a score of 5-0 in its first game, then lost to the Normals 17-5 in the return game. Spirits were high, nevertheless, mainly because manager Frank Neary (later a prominent member of St. Martin's Abbey in Washington) was indefatigable in trying to secure more games.

The season stands out, however, because it brought the first coach to St. John's, Peter Boquel, a highly qualified Physical Culture instructor, who only reluctantly accepted "the irksome task of coaching football" (*Record*, November 1903, p. 356). The coming of Peter Boquel was an auspicious event in St. John's athletic history for the reason that he was not only a popular addition to the faculty, but was also a trained conditioner and the introducer of gymnastics, one of the important features of St. John's athletic activities clear up into the early 1920's. We read commendations of his work in the field of intercollegiate athletics such as the following review of the 1903 season: "The coaching of Professor Boquel is entirely responsible for the victory of the University eleven over the St. Cloud Normals.... During the first half the Normals became aware that they were up against the real thing now" (*Record*, November 1903, p. 356).

It is true that despite the success of the team, there were disquieting rumors circulating in opposition to football as a game "dangerous and productive of crippling injuries." In a defensive editorial written by a worried, indignant defender of football, the writer railed at the critics who "bring serious charges against this great national college game. Beware of these sophisticated people who try to stuff you with the dangers connected with football. . . . Football is a promoter of health, both physical and mental" (*Record*, November, 1903, p. 350).

Over against the criticism of football referred to above, the *Record* contains abundant comments approving the game of football as being far more suitable for the fall season than baseball. The new attitude is well illustrated in a comment of 1903 that contrasts baseball and football as fall sports. After writing an appreciative account of a September baseball game with the Old Reliables (the faculty team), the correspondent adds: "The greatest interest manifested at present, however, is for the autumn sport, football. When the time approached for the season to open, the greater part of students arose, as if by common consent, and demonstrated their interest in the game by paying into the treasury of the Athletic Association the small fee of \$1.50 each."

We fortunately have the minutes of this particular Association meeting at which the student body presented the A.A. with this financial windfall. It gives us an insight into the workings of the A.A. and the spirit of fun that prevailed in meetings of the Association members. As part of the meeting, the chairman asked the treasurer to give an account of their resources in handling the fall affairs of the football season. The treasurer responded: "After deducting the amount of a bill of fifty cents at the shoemaker's, there was a measly \$5.50 remaining. Thereupon the chairman spoke further on the object and benefits accruing to the members of the society. Aided by his deep knowledge of physiology and hygiene, he made such an impression on the Society that money seemed to jump spontaneously from their pockets onto the desks and floor, a fact that made the prospects look bright." ("Signed Henry J. Sausen"-a few years later known as Fr. Alphonse Sausen, O.S.B., who became Rector of the University, 1920-1924, a dignified gentleman with his own private sense of humor). '

Purely an incident as is the above report on the collection of dues for sports activities, it illustrates the role of the Athletic Association in the development of football as an intercollegiate sport at St. John's. In the first years of football, the A.A. purchased the equipment and uniforms and paid for their repair. It paid travel expenses, scheduled games, and elected from its membership the manager (now called the coach), and the captain of the team. The manager was probably the most experienced player of the team and certainly the one who knew most about the technicalities of the game. At the same time he was the best player. The captain was the man most highly respected for his playing ability and leadership qualities.

And now a word about the moderator of athletics and his influence on sports.

According to the A.A. constitution, the association worked in collaboration with the Faculty Moderator, sometimes called the Athletic Moderator. These men were always outstanding faculty members chosen for their ability to get along with young men and to understand athletic problems. Some were recognized scholars, such as Fr. Bruno Doerfler, O.S.B., later abbot of St. Peter's Abbey in Canada, and Fr. Virgil Michel, O.S.B., from 1912-1916. Frs. Pius Mainz, O.S.B., and Sylvester Harter, O.S.B., were the most athletic of the moderators. Fr. Richard Simmer, O.S.B., a fine organizer and accomplished intermediary between the A.A. and the Administration, was the one to whom the A.A. owed most. When he was sent out for parish work in Minneapolis in 1907, the A.A. recognized that it had lost a great organizer and friend. It was he who was responsible for the draining of the swamp and planning of the present football field in 1907, when it became apparent that, in the words of the *Record*, "the teams representing the various schools of the State have been loathe to come to St. John's to play outdoor games on account of our poor campus. The top of the new field is to be black, soft soil, making it possible to raise a heavy crop of grass, an ideal gridiron" (*Record*, December, 1907, p. 510). Fr. Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B., later Abbot Alcuin, was

moderator from 1909 until 1912, when serving as Rector of the University. He was an enthusiastic promoter of intramural activities only!

- 1904 -

The 1904 season was slightly more successful than that of 1903, with a record of two victories in a schedule of three games—a defeat of St. Cloud High School, 48-0, and St. Cloud Normal, 18-0. The second game with the Normals was a loss, 26-0. The *Record*, in its game report, humorously described the Normal football field as "88 yards long, with two goal posts at one end and the Mississippi at the other." The St. John's field of sun-baked clay, where now is the Mall in front of the Church, was scarcely much better! An outstanding member of this team was the well-known University of Minnesota football star Dr. John Sprafka, who later became an athletic figure in public life and a prominent Twin City physician.

- 1905 -

The 1905 season, a season in which one game made up the entire schedule, was marred by the embarrassing forfeiture of the game by the St. Cloud Normal team to St. John's by a score of 6-0. Harry Comeau, the new physical culture instructor, was spoken of as the St. John's coach for the year 1905. He was an expert in gymnastics, fencing, boxing and wrestling, but appears to have known little about football beyond the necessary work of developing physical condition. After scanning all the *Record* reports of the game, it is evident that he was of little help in settling the controversial play that led up to the forfeiture. The game was bitterly fought, and in the second half St. John's was clearly out-playing the Normals. At this point the referee, a St. John's man, called an off-side penalty on a pass play and stepped off the five yards required according to the rules for an off-side violation. The umpire, a St. Cloud man, disputed the penalty and accused the referee of dishonesty. When the referee refused to reverse his decision, the umpire then advised the captain of the St. Cloud team "that if he accepted the penalty he himself would leave the game." After a wait of five minutes, during which time the Normal team refused to continue play, the game was declared forfeited by the referee, who then awarded it to St. John's.

In the newspaper account of the game, the St. Cloud *Times* accepted the Normals' version of the play. Even President Shoemaker of St. Cloud Normal School became involved, and in a public conference with the Normal students cast aspersions on the character of the referee. The Normals then announced through the *Times* that they would never play St. John's again unless games were officiated by outside referees.

Who was wrong? After the intervening 75 years since the dispute arose it is impossible to reach a decision. One can say offhand that St. John's was extremely unwise in having anyone associated with the school act as an official in a home game, and especially a game that would be hotly contested between two nearby rivals. The incident is an example, however, of the incompetent officiating that was one of the problems that plagued the colleges in their first "intercollegiate" days.

There is no documentary evidence to indicate what was the reaction of the St. John's administration to the dispute, though the drawing up of a revised constitution in January, a few months after the game, indicates that the authorities thought it advisable to exercise closer supervision over the Athletic Association. The pertinent statement in the new constitution that suggests this conclusion is the decision that "In the future, the president of the A.A. will be a member of the faculty appointed by the university authorities. Provision has been made whereby the president is to have charge of the A.A., and the director of athletics and physical training will have general supervision and control over all athletics." A further provision was made that "a board of three managers, with the Director of Athletics as chairman, will, among other things, constitute a committee to decide about the awarding of monograms and numerals." The writer of this passage adds: "This is a very desirable reform. At present a free graft exists at St. John's in the matter of wearing monograms which will be abolished in the future and only those who earn their letters by playing in

winning games or making sub [sic] on the teams will be allowed to wear the insignia of the St. John's A.A."

- 1906 -

The 1906 season can be passed over with brief mention of two high school games, one lost to Blaine High School of Superior, Wisconsin, by a score of 17-6, the other a win over Mechanic Arts High School of St. Paul, 64-6. The attempt to secure college games was again unsuccessful. St. Cloud Normal was no longer available and St. Thomas declined to play St. John's. "We failed in our attempt to get a game with St. Thomas. Their team issued a challenge to the football teams of any school of equal rank in the state for a game to decide the championship of Minnesota for 1906. St. John's accepted the challenge and negotiations for the game were commenced, but the managements of the two schools could come to no satisfactory agreement, and hence all prospects for the game were shattered. It is sincerely hoped that St. John's and St. Thomas may come into closer relations and that no difficulties may ever arise to destroy those relations" (*Record*, December, 1906, p. 316).

- 1907 -

After two years at the helm, Mr. Comeau resigned his position as Athletic Director at St. John's for a position in Aberdeen, Washington. He was succeeded in the fall of 1907 by Frank Cassidy, the new instructor in Physical Culture. Frank Cassidy was without doubt a fine gymnast, wrestler, and director of physical training and track, with experience as assistant director of the YMCA programs in Patterson, N.J., and New York City. He was only twenty-one years of age and, while a fine gymnast, was hardly the mature person to have charge of university athletics. It is probable that he had never played football and was ignorant of the techniques of the game.

The 1907 football season opened with a journey to St. Thomas in St. Paul. St. John's lost this opening game by a score of 21-0. Unfortunately, Ted Harter (later Fr. Sylvester, O.S.B.), the super-star of the time, was lost for the season because of a broken ankle. The following day the team played the crack North High School team of Minneapolis and lost again by a score of 23-0. The sting of this second loss in two days was mitigated somewhat by the fact that "North High" was a genuine powerhouse that went through an undefeated season, trampling over Shattuck and Hamline University on its way. It was coached by the famous Dr. Burgan who the next year moved up to Hamline, where he coached successfully in a brilliant career in football, basketball and baseball. A third game with the St. Cloud High School ended in a satisfying 26-0 victory for the home team.

The final (and unfortunate) game with the St. Cloud High School team in St. Cloud closed the season. It was an unfortunate game for the reason that it ended in forfeiture of the game by St. John's in a manner that detracted somewhat from its cherished reputation of sportsmanlike conduct on the field. The fact that the forfeiture was brought on by incompetent officiating, augmented by a partisan St. Cloud sportswriter who charged that St. John's could not take a loss gracefully, was never properly disclosed.

It was another pass play, just as in the St. Cloud forfeiture two years earlier, that set off the fireworks. St. John's was leading by a score of 5-4 when a pass, judged complete by the referee, but claimed to be incomplete by the St. John's players and the umpire, brought on a delay in the game. The players insisted that the referee was out of position and unable to follow the play as could the umpire, who also agreed that the pass was incomplete. The referee may have panicked, for after a two minutes' delay he declared the game forfeited to the high school. Bad publicity resulted from the newspaper reporter stating that this was the second time St. John's had refused to continue play. St. John's in reply reminded the newspaper that it was the Normal school that had forfeited the previous game, not St. John's. It was this game probably that inspired a St. John's editorialist a month later to publish in the *Record* a four-page attack on intercollegiate athletics, partly on the ground that examples could be given to show that, instead of fostering a spirit of

friendliness between schools, they often beget "a spirit of enmity." After enumerating other drawbacks, he concluded: "We might go on to show that there are other drawbacks to these games, drawbacks so serious that we believe they will, if they do not put the ban on them, in the course of time they will at least greatly limit them. Sport would then cease to be for the primary purpose of victory, and would again become a means of recreation and amusement, and only as such does it have its legitimate existence" (*Record*, November, 1907, pp. 446-449).

The 1907 team was not one of the great elevens turned out by St. John's. The *Pioneer Press* reported on the North High School game that St. John's was slow and ponderous, and though made up of good material, "they sadly lacked knowledge of the game and fighting spirit, except when their goal line was endangered" (*Record*, December, 1907, p. 506). It was admitted by the *Record* that the team had been weak in pass defense throughout the season.

- 1908 -

But 1908 was a year of awakening from mediocrity. With the coming of Bill Brennan, the new and first real coach of football St. John's ever had before this year, the entire campus was electrified by a driving personality that no longer permitted the charge of sluggishness to be aimed against a St. John's football team. "Coach Brennan's arrival on September 2 completely changed the order of things at St. John's. Baseball was completely forgotten. . . the pigskin was the only attraction of the day" (*Record*, October, 1908, p. 384). And again: "Coach Brennan is without doubt a first-class man at his job, as his work with the champions of Eau Claire last season clearly shows" (*ibid.*). Then, finally, contrasting the spirit of the 1907 with that of 1908, the reporter added: "If the present squad was ever in need of spirit, they certainly have it now. . . , They are learning plays and tactics never seen at St. John's before" (*ibid.*, p. 385).

The year 1908 was a banner year in St. John's athletic history. After two warm-up games, both won, St. John's defeated the St. Cloud Normals 12-4, and St. Cloud High School 33-0. This year St. John's faced Hamline University on the local field for the first time in its athletic history. It was the finest game ever played on the St. John's field, and yet, although Hamline won the contest by a 27-0 score, there were no regrets. Hamline, which in a game with the University of Minnesota held the Gophers scoreless, was the strongest college team in the state, tactically as well as physically. The St. John's team, on the other hand, was out-weighted by Hamline fifteen pounds to the man, and in addition was coached by the former University of Minnesota star Dr. Burgan, who had coached the Minneapolis North High School team that defeated St. John's the year before. St. John's was gracious in defeat and after the game the Director of the College, Fr. Albert Erkens, O.S.B., hosted the Hamline team royally. The *Oracle*, the Hamline college paper, reported that "The boys had a royal good time and wish they could have brought the armory (the new gymnasium) back to Hamline with them. The trip to St. John's was not only an athletic event, but was something of an eye-opener to those unacquainted with the equipment of the Collegeville institution and the hospitality of Father Erkens." Incidentally, Hamline reported that "The St. John's crew suffered to some extent with injuries. . . . The hardness of the field was responsible for the majority of the bruises." Fr. Oliver Kapsner, O.S.B., recalls that Fr. Sylvester once described what it felt like to land on the hard, stony field they had to play on.

The next game, won by St. John's over its arch-rival St. Thomas by a score of 9-6 (a touchdown, a drop-kick, and a point after touchdown), was the climax of the whole season. It was the first victory over St. Thomas since 1901, and spirits were high on the St. John's campus. St. Thomas-still undefeated in one of its best years-after having read the score of the Hamline game in the newspapers, came to Collegeville with high hopes of an easy victory. The game had been hailed in the newspapers of the Twin Cities and St. Cloud with extravagant hoopla as the game of the year, doubtless because of the reputation of Bill Brennan, the St. John's coach, who was well known in St. Paul to all the newspaper sportswriters.

The account of the game following the victory was typical of the meetings between the two colleges in their lifelong rivalry of some seventy and more years: "The visitors had come with the avowed intention of having an easy time with the local bunch, threatening to make a better showing than Hamline did the week before, and of giving their pony backs, substitute quarterback, and scrub ends a little experience in the second half if the regulars should make a satisfactory showing in the first half" (St. Cloud *Times*, October 26, 1908).

As for the game, St. John's made all its nine points in the first half. During that half Harter attempted a drop-kick from the 25-yard line which was blocked. St. John's recovered the ball a few plays later, and being unable to gain in two plays, Harter stepped back for the second drop-kick and scored for a 4-0 lead. A few plays later St. John's scored a touchdown on a 60-yard run. Phil Knaeble, another star, missed the extra point. St. Thomas scored in the second half by a 70-yard return of a punt.

From the account of some 70 years ago it is difficult to picture the jubilation on the St. John's campus following the game, but we do have the report of the St. Cloud *Times*: "The faces of the supporters of the Cardinal and Blue are wreathed in smiles since yesterday afternoon when Coach Brennan's protégés took the fast and thus far undefeated St. Thomas aggregation into camp to the tune of 9-6. The enthusiasm of the local rooters was so intense that each of the mud bespattered warriors was serenaded, and Coach Brennan found himself in the agreeable position of being compelled to respond in a neat little speech."

Fr. Sylvester Harter, O.S.B.

Among the stars of the 1908 football season the stand-out player was Theodore Harter, who was given the name "Sylvester" when he entered the Benedictine Order in 1909. Fr. Sylvester Harter was the first St. John's athlete to be honored by being selected to the Minnesota all-state college football team. He was a colorful player, a rare combination of poet and star football player of great talent. He contributed a poem to practically every issue of the *Record* in the years when he was playing football. He was a stellar guard, and, like George Durenberger of more than a generation later, was pulled out of the line to do most of the punting, place-kicking and drop-kicking for the team. In his first year (1907) he had the misfortune to break his right ankle in the first game and was out for the season. He then served as team manager. He came into his own in 1908, now kicking with his left foot and doing well enough to receive special commendations for his skill as a kicker, one of the qualifications which merited for him the all-state honor.

The announcement of his selection for all-state honors reads as follows: "We have placed Harter, the speedy St. John's guard, in the line next to Peoples, the Hamline All-State tackle. He is as fast as Schmidt, the Hamline guard. He played as nervy a game as Hodgman for Macalester, and had the better of it over Swanson of Carleton, Carr of St. Thomas and Matsche of Shattuck. His ability in placing punts, drop-kicking, and getting off fast with his plays mark him above his rivals. As an all-around player he is well adapted to the innumerable shifts and formations made possible by the style of game now in vogue. Harter is fairly entitled to the place, guard, for the superior game he has played throughout the season" (*Pioneer Press*, December 8, 1908).

In a Football Field Day competition held at the end of the season by Coach Brennan, Harter won the gold medal for a total number of points (22) in eleven events, mostly in first place; Punting for distance, 45.66 yards; Forward Pass for distance, 48 yards; Forward Pass for accuracy, 3rd place; Kicking for distance, 1st place; Kicking from 35 yards, all angles, 1st place; Charging for distance, 11 yards, 1st place. Some of these distances may appear small to us today, accustomed as we are to the prodigious feats of professional football, but if we compare the heavy, snub-nosed, pigskin-covered footballs of those days with the light, streamlined football now in use, we bow in recognition of a fine football player.

Fr. Sylvester Harter in his ninetieth year was still straight-backed and walked with the smooth light step of

the born athlete. (N.B. He died May 31, 1978.)

- 1909 -

Unfortunately we lack the abundance of newspaper clippings to cover the 1909 football season, such as we had for 1908. It was not a brilliant season, but neither did it have the stars to carry on the momentum established the previous year. There were only four holdovers to supply experience for the large number of newcomers that made up the squad. Especially missed were Harter and Nicholas Kopveiler, a bruising fullback who scored three touchdowns in 1908. The four holdovers, however, were sterling characters and players: Karl Hinz (father of Chuck Hinz '38), center and team captain; Phil Knaeble, halfback, who was the second St. John's player to win all-state recognition; and Eugene Reinhart, end, who won an end position on the all-state second team. The team played only four games, defeating Macalester in a close game, 3-0, losing to Hamline, 27-0, to Shattuck, 16-0, and to St. Thomas, 23-6, for a season record of one victory and three losses. The lack of veteran personnel contributed to the losses, but this lack was compounded by the strength of Hamline, that placed five players on the all-state team, and of St. Thomas that was having one of its best years. The team was feared, however, despite its record, as we know from the account that appeared in the *Pioneer Press* of the St. Thomas game—namely, that St. Thomas closed its season by defeating St. John's 23-6, its oldest and most feared rival.

This was Bill Brennan's last team at St. John's. In December, 1909, the faculty decided to drop intercollegiate football, partly because it was getting to be an expensive sport—the salary of a special football coach, the increased cost of game officials, travel and hotel bills (the team was put up in a hotel overnight so as to be able to play St. Thomas on Thanksgiving morning) and, to be frank, the administration's disapproval of football as a game.

In bidding adieu to Bill Brennan, St. John's still has a vote of thanks to offer him. It was he who taught St. John's a few of the things it should have known long before. Bill Brennan was a man of action who would not tolerate forfeited games simply because two officials were incompetent. He was to an eminent degree the first man St. John's ever had on its faculty who by sheer personality and vigor brought the school to the attention of newspapermen.

The history of football at St. John's from 1900 to 1910 would be incomplete without a word of appreciation for his work. In an article that appeared in the sport section of the *St. Paul Dispatch*, December 6, 1908, the writer states that his old friend Bill Brennan, "a St. Paul boy in every sense of the word, has won success at Collegeville in the face of big obstacles. It is true that he won no championship, but out of the most unpromising situation he wrought the semblance of order and rounded out a team that made good up to the limit of its possibilities. No coach can do more than this."

Bill Brennan, who came to St. John's at the expiration of a season of umpiring in the Western League, and later advanced through the American Association to become a well-known umpire in the National League, was more than a sharp-eyed czar behind the plate. Probably the first things he noticed when he assumed the coaching position at St. John's were the complaints of incompetent officiating that had led to two forfeited games; the lack of a central office or conference for the annual arrangement of football, basketball, and baseball schedules that would assure a series of contests before the beginning of each season. It is not inconceivable that he inspired the Hamline school reporter to write in his school paper after the football game of 1908 that "The St. John's crew suffered to some extent from injuries, not from the game but from the field: the hardness of their field was responsible for the majority of the bruises"—which was probably true.

It was no mere coincidence that after the coming of Bill Brennan there were no more St. John's men refereeing at the outside football games. The only game officials he accepted were men who knew the

game, former football stars from the Universities of Minnesota, Northwestern, Wisconsin or George Washington. They were very likely recommended in the list of "well known and impartial judges" drawn up at the 1908 October meeting with college representatives already mentioned before.

It is hard to estimate the full extent of Brennan's influence in the publicity that was showered on the St. John's teams during his stay at St. John's. In one book of clippings from the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and St. Cloud newspapers for the academic year 1908-1909, there are five photos of the entire squad, two of which are quarter-page size. There are fifteen cuts of individual members of the team, and three portraits of Brennan himself. News stories give advance notice of St. John's games to be played, then follow them up with accounts of the games in the sport section of the day following. In addition to all this, the Twin Cities colleges, Hamline and Macalester, for the first time began scheduling football games with St. John's. From all the evidence that can be gleaned from newspaper accounts and the *Record*, Brennan must have been an attractive person along with his special qualifications for success in the field of athletics. Fr. Edgar Kees, O.S.B., an octogenarian and former member of the faculty, in answer to the question whether he knew Bill Brennan, exclaimed: "I surely did! He was tremendously popular among the students. Oh my, you couldn't forget him!"

The Abolition of Football

The abolition of intercollegiate football at St. John's in 1910 should not have caused great surprise on the St. John's campus. Intercollegiate sports in general had been disapproved of in various *Record* editorials, particularly one in 1907, a four-page editorial that proposed their abolition on the grounds that they are contrary to the best interests of the college—that they do not promote loyalty to St. John's nor friendliness between contesting colleges. The editorial ended with the proposal that they be dropped and that the school revert to an exclusively intramural program. "Sports would then cease to be for the primary purpose of victory and would again become a means of recreation and amusement—the only legitimate reason for their existence" (*Record*, November, 1907, pp. 446-449).

The first positive blow against intercollegiate athletics, and especially football, was delivered in the January issue of the *Record*, 1910, page 29. It is a brief, almost curt statement of fact: "At a meeting of the faculty on December 5 [sic], it was decided to abolish intercollegiate football, and Coach Brennan has been notified to that effect." There was nothing to be said further, it seems, for the finality of the statement precluded any argument pro or con. Coach Brennan was notified that his services were no longer needed, and that was that! On the other hand, there was certainly some discussion on campus, for in the editorial section of the same issue of the *Record* (page 27.) the writer complained that the faculty had been the object of unjust criticism:

In abolishing intercollegiate football at St. John's, the faculty has suffered censure from many. Is this criticism just? We can best answer the question by inquiring into the true object of college athletics and comparing result. The object of college athletics is to afford an opportunity for each and every student to develop his physical powers. Intercollegiate games do not fulfill this condition. All attention is put on the representative team; everything else is sacrificed to them. Would not a big, well organized football league among the students do more good to the student body at large? Let money that is spent on the football team be spent on the student league and in strengthening our other varsity sports" (*Record*, January, 1910, p. 27).

The eventual outcome of the controversy over intercollegiate athletics ended a year later in the publication of an amendment to the 1909-1910 interdict that appeared in the 1910-1911 St. John's University Catalog, pp. 49-50. After a repeated denunciation of all intercollegiate contests, the passage concludes as follows: "Accordingly, it will permit very few athletic contests between the students of St. John's and those of other colleges, and *only in basketball and baseball.*" In other words, intercollegiate football remained prohibited

according to the St. John's athletic policy.

Lest it be assumed that St. John's alone had problems concerning intercollegiate football during the early 1900s, we quote from Dr. Merrill Jarchow's admirable book on Minnesota Private Colleges:

For a time early in the century football labored under a cloud of disfavor. When, for example, eighteen or nineteen young men died playing the game in 1905, complaints regarding the game's brutality reached clear to the White House. The introduction of the forward pass the next year reduced partially the advantage of sheer strength, such as that exemplified in the famous flying wedge, but numbers of colleges nevertheless suspended the sport for several years. At Macalester President Wallace joined in the outcry, suggesting: "The authorities of the State Fair should by all means arrange to exhibit a lot of these football giants next September in one of the barns along with the prize bulls." Macalester then gave up competition for a time. The Augustana Synod was even more extreme, declaring in 1905 that "athletics, as it is carried on at the present time, is a real evil." Thereupon Gustavus Adolphus, despite student rumblings, dropped intercollegiate football until 1917. Little interest in the sport was evinced at Concordia until 1915, and St. Olaf also put a stop to intercollegiate competition until the end of World War I" (*Private Liberal Arts Colleges in Minnesota*, p. 52, Merrill E. Jarchow).

There is no doubt that the power behind the abolition of intercollegiate football at St. John's was Fr. Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B., Rector of the University and Seminary, who later in 1922 was elected Abbot of St. John's and retained his abhorrence of intercollegiate athletics to the end. In justice to the memory of this truly great abbot, it must be said that his attitude towards intercollegiate athletics was based on a genuine interest in St. John's as a rapidly developing college. It sprang from an innate distaste of any activity that would detract from the primary purpose of a college, the love and pursuit of learning. He was also the enemy of all forms of physical violence and, as Dr. Jarchow admitted, the football of the time was in need of drastic changes in the rules and format of the game.

As seen in retrospect, Fr. Alcuin Deutsch can be considered as a forerunner of Robert Maynard Hutchins who as president of the University of Chicago in the early 1930's banned all intercollegiate athletics in his university and introduced an intramural system that changed the public image of the school from a football power under its famous football coach Alonzo Stagg into that of an outstanding center of learning in the United States, if not in the world. What neither Fr. Alcuin Deutsch nor President Hutchins could believe was that, under proper guidance, intercollegiate and intramural sports could exist together harmoniously for the good of the entire student body which happens to have been the guiding purpose of Athletic Director George Durenberger when the plans for the Warner Palaestra were being drawn up. Hopefully that objective has been realized.

- 1920 -

St. John's Enters MIAC

St. John's entered the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in the fall of 1920. The MIAC, as it is popularly called, was a reorganization of the Minnesota-Dakota Intercollegiate Conference, founded in 1914-15, of which St. John's was a member. The MIAC differed primarily from the earlier organization in the limitation of membership to the nine private liberal arts colleges of Minnesota, and operating under a new constitution planned for the "promotion of sportsmanlike competition between Minnesota colleges." It is still one of the finest athletic conferences in the nation on the private college level.

Although St. John's was not required to reinstate football as an intercollegiate sport, it was almost a foregone conclusion that, after a year of experimentation, it intended to do so. The college would then be competing in the three major conference sports of that time: football, basketball, and baseball.

At St. John's there was no problem involved in entering the MIAC with teams in baseball and basketball. With football, however, it was a different matter. St. John's had dropped intercollegiate competition in football ten years before, and now, after ten years of exclusive intramural football, it needed time in order to field a college team capable of giving good competition to strong MIAC opponents such as Hamline, St. Olaf, Macalester, Carleton, and St. Thomas that were manned by veteran squads.

There was, however, a crucial eligibility problem that required special consideration before applying to the MIAC for the admission of St. John's in football. The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference allowed only full-fledged freshmen with 15 high school units to play in conference games, a ruling that would exclude from the St. John's football team their top-flight prep school seniors who lacked one or two units short of the required fifteen, but who had played with the team in the Minnesota-Dakota Intercollegiate Conference. These would now be lost.

Since St. John's had always depended on the Prep School "home grown" athletes as the backbone of their teams, the athletic authorities decided that the Prep School should join a conference of the surrounding towns in the area, the objective being to give their preps the experience of playing "outside football."

The experiment was overwhelmingly successful. Their first year in three high school games the Prep School team scored 96 points without having their goal crossed. They also tied Cretin High School of St. Paul, then in one of its best years, by a score, of 6-6.

In the meantime, the new coach, Edward Cahill, was grooming the college squad for two non-conference games with the St. Cloud Normals. When the Preps were not playing, the coach merged the best of the Preps into the college line-up so as to give them a year's experience working with the college varsity before meeting the MIAC powers. St. John's lost both of the games to the Normals, the first by 9-0 and the second by 7-0. But in spite of the defeats of the combined team, the coaches were encouraged to apply for admission of a football team in the conference for the 1921 season.

Members of this Prep School team who were selected for conference play in 1921 were Leo Leisen (later Fr. Marcellus Leisen, O.S.B.), Donald Ryan, John Decker, Doug Ormond, and Marcellus Haines. The official re-entry of St. John's into intercollegiate football was hailed by the *Record* with enthusiasm:

The days of Bill Brennan and his husky aggregation of Cardinal and Blue warriors back in the days of '08 and '09 were vividly recalled by the Old Timers upon the announcement that St. John's would enter a team into the Conference world again. The authorities came to the decision as a result of the splendid showing of the High School gridders of last season and because of the increased college attendance this season which makes possible a great variety of selection. St. John's will not count her games this season as conference tilts, since at least four conference games must be played on a trial basis before the team can be considered of conference standing. Nevertheless, the contests count as conference games by the opposing college" (*Record*, October, 1921, p. 398).

- 1921 -

St. John's debut was not as glorious as had been anticipated. The MIAC was, and still is, a tough conference, and St. John's learned quickly that the climb to the top would be slow and painful-and all uphill. The 1921 team lost its first three conference games: to Hamline by 17-0, St. Mary's by 14-7, and Macalester by 14-0. Its one consolation on which to build hopes for the future was its defeat of St. Cloud

Normal to the tune of 28-0, a tremendous improvement over the two losses in 1920.

Alexandria High School, however, administered a resounding defeat to the Johnny team by a 20-14 score.

Needless to say, the defeat came as a humiliation, but after the game Don Ryan, one of the St. John's players, was able to dismiss his embarrassment with a laugh: "They did not look like high school kids to me. Some of them had real whiskers." In retrospect, however, St. John's can still reply in 1978 that it had the honor (?) of losing to two of the most famous high school teams in Minnesota high school history, Minneapolis North in 1907 and Alexandria in 1921.

Stars in this first conference football season were Donald Ryan, captain; Ernie Koepp and Leo Leisen, tackles; McDonald and John McNally, halfbacks. It was a good season record for a team that was entering a college league mainly with freshmen. Among them was the great John McNally, who after college played professional football under the name of Johnny Blood with the Green Bay Packers. It was McNally's first season in a game he had never played in high school. Years later, in 1963, he was voted into the Professional Football Hall of Fame.

- 1922 -

The 1922 football team was the victim of the almost traditional "Sophomore Exodus" that throughout the years agonized the football coaches, but especially the new coaches, when they sized up their squads for the coming season. As so often happened in the early years of MIAC competition, men of the caliber of the 1921 stars were no longer on campus in 1922. Ryan and McDonald were in law school, Decker and Haines in the University School of Medicine, Leo Leisen in the seminary, and Keaveny in the University School of Pharmacy. Remaining on the squad was the incomparable John McNally who did most of the running, passing, and kicking but lacked the line of the Green Bay Packers to exhibit all his tremendous physical talents. There was also "Iron-Man" Tony Gornick, a modest performer from the Iron Range, who ranks with the finest all-around football players of St. John's history. The fiery Buff Mollers was playing tackle and Doug Ormond, the runner, was at halfback. The team was not strong enough to match the seasoned powers of the MIAC. Coach for the 1922 season was Fred Sanborn, a former St. Thomas star who had replaced Coach Edward Cahill. Sanborn was inexperienced as a football coach and faced with the problem of organizing a strong team from a squad made up of three veterans and a flock of inexperienced freshmen. He was bound to be disappointed.

The season was far from being a successful adventure into the MIAC football battles. St. John's lost all of its five scheduled conference games. After an opening 20-0 victory over the Little Falls High School team, it was defeated by the following MIAC teams: Hamline, 20-0; Macalester, 6-0; St. Thomas, 21-0; St. Olaf 20-10; and-a resounding St. Mary's thumping by the score of 55-7. The defeat by St. Mary's was accomplished by a brilliant running back named Cashman who was aided by a devastating passing attack against which St. John's was helpless. The *Record* sportswriter appended a post mortem to his account of the season: "This game was the last act of our little game of football."

The *Record* reporter, who ordinarily is not supposed to judge a season or game emotionally, in this instance exercised his rhetorical skills with what must have been a cruel piece of reading for the defeated warriors:

And so, for this season at St. John's, Old King Football is dead. 'Vive le Roi Basketball!' It is useless and unprofitable to multiply excuses for the many defeats. Without doubt there is something wrong, but who can say with justice where the fault lies. Let the curtain be mercifully drawn over the most disastrous season in the annals of any sport at St. John's, and let the balm of future victories soothe the sting of these past defeats (*Record*, November, 1922, p. 448).

-1923-

After the "Disaster Year" of 1922, it might have been expected that a pessimistic spirit would invade the St. John's campus on the opening of the 1923 football season. It was quite the contrary. Coach Sanborn had

attended a six-weeks' summer course on the coaching of football at the University of Michigan under its famous coach Fielding Yost, and the St. John's players were eager to absorb some of the Yost mystique in the art of winning football games. Even the *Record* that had indirectly pilloried the coach the preceding year, reported that "Those who have seen him drill his men agree that he has the 'stuff' " (October, 1923, p. 341).

But there were still other reasons for optimism. The 1923 squad had been fortified by the presence of an extraordinary crop of fresh men to fill the large gaps left by the departure of sophomore "veterans." Among the freshmen were former Prep School stars Eddie Powers and Gus Carroll in the backfield, Ben Osendorf and Al Nordhus on the line. There was Walter "Matt" Miller in the backfield, Pierre Thomey and Tony Terrahe from St. Cloud Tech, Donald Blake from Hopkins.

Of these, Eddie Powers merits special attention. He was a gifted all-around athlete and a superb competitor in all the three major sports then being played at St. John's, whether baseball, basketball or football. As a freshman quarterback in football he was a triple-threat performer as passer, runner and kicker. He was (potentially) close to being the ideal quarterback, as exemplified in present-day professional ranks. He demonstrated his versatility in the Hamline game when, exasperated by failures to advance the ball by plunges after two downs, he drop-kicked the ball over the crossbars from the 38-yard line. Unfortunately he did not return to St. John's after his freshman year but transferred to the University of Wisconsin where he starred in basketball for three years.

Spread among the freshmen were veteran linemen Ev Schoener from St. Cloud Tech and ex-Prep Hubert "Buff" Mollers, a formidable tackle and, on occasion, an end; both these men were rugged battlers on a team that, according to the *Record*, "would never say die."

In the matter of percentages the 1923 football season was unimpressive, but as a coaching achievement it was an outstanding success. The coach faced the handicap of molding a squad of light, inexperienced recruits into a well-balanced unit. Then, after only a week of practice, the Johnnies met and lost to Macalester by a score of 25-6. In the next two games they lost a heartbreaker to Concordia 3-0, and defeated Stout Institute 12-6. The loss to Hamline was another disappointment. The Johnnies fumbled the ball in the second play following the kickoff; Hamline recovered it, and scored within the first two minutes of the contest. In the second period the Johnnies out-battled the Pipers to a scoreless standstill.

The final game of the season was the crowning point of a good coaching performance. Now an efficient team of battlers with Eddie Powers running the offense like a veteran, St. John's defeated strong Gustavus by a score of 14-12, the first St. John's victory over a conference foe.

Freshmen Eddie Powers and guard Al Nordhus were selected for berths on the second string team of the conference.

From George Durenberger to John Gagliardi

1924-1977

If there is anyone person who has left the stamp of his personality upon the athletic program and physical education at St. John's University, it is George Durenberger. As football and basketball player in college, as assistant coach and athletic director, from time to time, track and baseball coach and phy-ed instructor, George was identified with the sports program of St. John's University and Prep School from his freshman year in college (1924) until he retired in December, 1972. And during his leisure moments, he and his efficient wife Isabelle gave invaluable assistance to Fr. Walter Reger, O.S.B., in alumni work. George was born in Le Sueur on November 21, 1906, attended St. Anne's parochial schools and graduated from high

school in 1924. He had had no experience in football because St. Anne's High School dropped that sport in his freshman year, but he played four years of what he called mediocre basketball.

But his ambition was to play football. Why did he pick a small college behind the pine curtain? The reason was that St. John's did not rate very high in intercollegiate sports at that time, and he thought that this would give him the opportunity to get into the action. During his senior year in high school, he attended a basketball tournament at St. Thomas College and two St. Thomas athletes tried to recruit him for that school. But he had heard of the rugged Tommy football teams of those years and looked around for a school where he would have a chance to make the team.

St. John's filled the bill in that respect. He wrote for information and received a bale of literature on "the school in the heart of a landscape paradise." He liked what he saw, applied for admission, and was accepted. St. John's almost lost him, however, on the first day of his arrival. The literature on this paradisiac school had given the impression that the Greyhound buses run conveniently near the school, so George debarked from the bus at the intersection of the old road and Highway 52, a mile and a half from the buildings. It had rained the entire day and was still drizzling when he set out with two heavy suitcases to cover what he thought would be just a stroll around the next bend in the road. The road had been graveled, but the good earth had oozed up through the gravel and the going was extremely sticky. He arrived at the buildings in a state of near exhaustion an hour later. Despite his early discouragement, he got through the next day and began to meet friendly prefects (i.e., faculty residents), especially kindly Fr. Clarus Graves, O.S.B., and easy-going Fr. Theodore Krebs Bach, O.S.B., both now deceased. He also began to experience what the literature had described as the "home" atmosphere of the school.

The next day he reported to Coach Gene Aldrich, who had replaced Coach Fred Sanborn that fall to serve as head coach of football and basketball. Coach Ed Flynn had returned to act as athletic director and moderator of the highly developed intramural program. A friendly high school coach had told George that if he didn't know much about playing football, the easiest position to learn to play is guard. So when Aldrich asked George what position he played, he said: "Guard!"

- 1924 -

He played guard in the 1924 season, which resulted in one tie (Macalester), one victory (Eveleth Junior College), and four defeats. However, he recalls the last game with Gustavus at St. Peter as the turning point in his athletic career. When Coach Aldrich was naming the starters, he put George at guard, Al Mahowald at center, Ben Osendorf and Al Nordhus at tackles, Carl Schumacher at halfback (to name only the future Benedictines). But Al "Fritz" Mahowald said he didn't think he could play because of a badly sprained ankle. Aldrich said: "OK, Durenberger, center."

George admits with modest pride that he was the Johnnie star of that game. Although the score was lopsided, George was spectacular on defense. He said that with scores of relatives and in-laws from four or five neighboring towns looking on, he just had to put out. Carleton, which was a member of the MIAC in those years, won the MIAC title.

Bill Houle, now deceased, became head coach in 1925, but there was never any doubt as to who was to be the starting center for the next three years.

- 1925 -

Bill Houle, assistant coach at the College of St. Thomas, was hired as head football, basketball, and baseball coach in the spring of 1925. He had starred at quarterback for St. Thomas from 1921 to 1923, and twice made all-conference in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) which had been founded in

1919-1920. He also led his team to the conference title in 1923. In 1925 he coached the St. Thomas baseball team, which lost only one game during the season (although St. Olaf won the title). Houle had also been a star in hockey, so there was no question of his versatility as an athlete.

However, the change of coaches did not do much to change St. John's standing in the conference. In 1925, the Johnnies lost all six games, four of them by one touchdown. The title went to Macalester

that year. Memorable names on that team, in addition to that of Durenberger, are Norb Schoenecker, who was the Jays' leading threat in basketball; Lawrence Hall, now deceased, who became prominent in politics as one of the young men who, with Stassen as governor, ran the state in the 1930's; Al Nordhus, now deceased, who became a Benedictine under the name of Fr. Lanfranc; Ben Osendorf, now Fr. Cornelius, O.S.B., who is working in the St. John's missions in the Bahama Islands; John ("Here") O'Fallon, father of William, '56, John, '59, and David, '65; Heinie Zimmermann, now Fr. Odo, O.S.B., a member of St. John's daughter house in Mexico City; Carl Schumacher, now Fr. Blase, O.S.B., a member of St. Gregory's Abbey, Oklahoma, and former successful basketball coach at St. Gregory's junior college; Bill Froembgren and Gordon Tierney, who was also a basketball star.

George was named all-conference center, the first St. John's player to be so honored-although Ed Powers and Al Nordhus had made the second team in 1923. This contrasts with the number of all-conference berths won by the national champions of 1976-eight spots — on the 22-player all-conference team.

- 1926 -

Fifty men answered Coach Houle's call for candidates in the fall of 1926. By this time most of the stalwart candidates for the Benedictine Order who had played the preceding two years had entered the novitiate, but veterans George Durenberger, Lawrence Hall, and Norb Schoenecker showed up for practice. There were also some promising freshmen-Mahlon Gann, Hub Latterell, Fred Baker (former Prep and brother of Fr. Damian Baker, O.S.B.), Hermie Linnemann, who commuted from St. Joe and operated a vital taxi service for the isolated Johnnies, Roman Niedzielski, now deceased former Prep, Al Siebenand, Frank Weier, Matt Miller, Adolph Pohl, *e.a.* The season's results were somewhat better than those of 1925, with two victories and one tie (Augsburg). Gustavus took its first title that year by defeating St. John's 20-0. George Durenberger was named all-conference center for the second time.

-1927-

Fifty men again reported for practice in the fall of 1927, but despite the return of Durenberger and guards Gann and Latterell, and the addition of three future Benedictines-Tony Lawrence (now Fr. Emeric, O.S.B.), Linus Tekippe (now Fr. Owen, O.S.B.), and Ed Schirber(now Fr. Martin, O.S.B.), along with Al Bauman, Ken Raymond, Ray Heisler (first string pitcher on the baseball team), Robert Lowe, Paul Lansing (now Fr. Lansing, of the St. Cloud Diocese), *e.a.*, the Johnnies won games only over the small non-conference schools of Park Region and Phalen Luther and lost the final conference game to league leading Gustavus 0-38. George again was the only Johnnie to receive all-conference recognition.

Durenberger gives much of the credit for his selection as all-conference center in 1926 and 1927 to the two rugged guards who could plug the center of the line, and allow him to rove and make a large number of tackles. Those guards were Mahlon Gann, '33, and Hub Latterell, '29. (Gann stayed out of school for two years and returned in 1931 to team up with Al Ethen, all-time stellar guard for St. John's, both in Prep School and college, and lend priceless aid to Joe Benda in reversing St. John's fortunes on the gridiron.)

However, George's performance on the field was not only skill in diagnosing opposing plays and nabbing the ball carrier. He showed a great deal of versatility. When Houle needed a player who could plunge with

authority, he would shift George to the backfield for a few plays. He also became known for his booming punts at a time when St. John's punters were not known for getting distance. One of George's kicks sailed over the safety's head and went for 82 yards, with Niedzielski hovering over it and waiting to touch it down the moment it ceased rolling. He was also called upon to kick field goals and points after touchdown.

Before graduation in May of 1928, George had been told that the administration was thinking of hiring him as assistant to Bill Houle. However, by the end of the school year, Abbot Alcuin, who was never enthusiastic about intercollegiate athletics, informed him that budget limitations would make it impossible to add him to the athletic staff (translation: "I should like to de-emphasize intercollegiate athletics."). George accordingly began looking for a job in the summer of 1928. He was about to accept an offer from Green Giant Company of his home town of Le Sueur (then called Minnesota Valley Canning Co.), when he received a letter from Fr. Cuthbert Goeb, O.S.B., secretary to Abbot Alcuin (later abbot of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N.D., now deceased), informing him that if he would divide his time between the Liturgical Press which was then expanding rapidly, and the Athletic Department, it would be possible to piece together a salary for him. The upshot was that Green Giant lost a prospective executive and St. John's gained a coach and athletic director who shaped St. John's athletic programs and policies for over forty years.

-1928 -

In George's first year as assistant coach, the fall of 1928, he and Coach Houle were met with the smallest turn-out of candidates in years. The three candidates for the Order had been mercifully absorbed into the novitiate, Gann had temporarily left school, and Baker and Linnemann and a few others had discontinued. A few new names appeared along with those of veterans like Latterell, Bauman, Niedzielski, and Lansing. These were: George Tegeder (now Fr. Vincent, O.S.B.), Ray Hite, Johnny Zaic (former Prep), Myron Wiest, now deceased, and Ralph Koll, who was prevented by injuries from displaying his slithering ball-carrying as much as had been hoped. Again the scores were close, but St. John's won only one conference game (against Macalester) and tied another (Concordia) to rank below .500. St. Mary's and Augsburg tied for the championship.

- 1929 -

The year 1929 was a re-run of 1928 except that St. John's lost all of its games, including a non-conference encounter with St. Paul (Phalen) Luther, which was one of the two teams which St. John's defeated in 1928. St. Thomas won the title.

It was clearly time for a change, and Fr. Mark Braun, O.S.B., now deceased, dean of the college (later abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey, Oklahoma), began a search for a new head coach. A promising young Notre Dame star had just returned to coach at his alma mater, Cathedral High School in Duluth, and had had a successful season in football in the fall of 1929. Fr. Mark offered him a position as head football and basketball coach in March, 1930, and hired him soon afterward. Benda Becomes Head Coach

The new coach was Joseph Benda, who attended Duluth Cathedral 1918-23 and played football and basketball during most of those years as a member of the Cathedral state championship football team in 1922. He was prominent enough in prep football to be noticed by Notre Dame scouts, and applied for admission to Notre Dame in 1923. He played under Knute Rockne in 1926, but injured his knee in the Army game and was sidelined much of the time that season. But he was again first string end in the fall of 1927, and also played end in 1928, until his trick knee gave out again. He also played basketball for two years under Coach George Keogan. He was graduated in the spring of 1928 and was named head football coach at his alma mater, Duluth Cathedral, in the fall of 1929. He guided his team to a tie for the Head of the Lakes championship with a 7-1 record in that year.

- 1930 -

Joe introduced the Notre Dame system to St. John's in the fall of 1930, but it worked no miracles the first year. The 1930 season was no more successful than the dreary string of seasons which had preceded it, and was distinguished primarily by the belligerent cry of Al Hermanutz as he went into the St. Olaf game in the waning minutes, with the score 0-82: "Come on, guys, let's show these farmers how to play football!"

- 1931 -

The most striking feature of the 1931 season was the complete turn-around from Benda's first year, signaled by the convincing 13-0 victory over the team which had clobbered the Johnnies 82-0 the year before. It is recorded that the score was so incredible that the Northfield newspaper called St. John's four times, asking each time that the score be repeated. The 1931 team had a sprinkling of former Prep stars coached by George: Lee Hartmann, Gus Luckemeyer, now deceased, Walter Thuente (later Fr. Adelard, O.S.B., now deceased), John Zaic, Ambrose Osendorf (now Fr. Cassian, O.S.B.), to mention only those who had not graduated in the spring of 1930. To these were added Red Fairbanks, halfback, Al Ethen, guard, and Roy Donaldson, end. Several promising grads from public high schools also added their power to the team and helped provide beef for the championship team of 1932-George Klasen, fullback and punter, who was recruited from the intramural leagues; Si Ryan, halfback, and all-round backfield resource man; Al Schoeneberger, end; Al Schaefer, Bucky Hennen, and Ralph Koll, halfbacks. Mahlon Gann, veteran guard, returned from a two-year leave of absence, teamed up with Ethen, also a guard, to make the center of the line impregnable on defense and devastating on offense. Benda was evidently becoming a drawing card for football talent.

St. John's won its first five games and allowed its goal line to be crossed only once. However, they lost to Concordia on a muddy field in Moorhead, and another heartbreaker to Macalester in the season finale. After trailing most of the game, Macalester began to fill the air with desperation passes in the final minutes of the game and connected with a touchdown pass just before the gun sounded. Mac made both points after touchdowns and the final score was St. John's 13, Macalester 14.

It was in the St. Olaf game and in the preceding game against Augsburg that the Gann-Ethen combination showed its power, taking Luckemeyer for yards through center at every crunch, and stopping everything that tried to come through the middle of the line. If it had not been for the frenzied passing of Macalester and the spotty pass defense of the Johnnies in the last few minutes of the game, St. John's would have ended up in a first place tie with Concordia. As it was, their final standing was fourth place.

St. John's was clearly no longer a push-over. Benda once remarked that up to this time he had always been one of the most sought-out persons at annual meetings at which coaches and athletic directors worked out football schedules (that was before George worked out the round-robin schedule which became effective in 1938 and requires every school to play each conference member school every year). After 1931, Benda's popularity as a choice of opponent waned.

- 1932 -

The avoidance of Benda at the coaches' meetings became all the more pronounced after St. John's won its first football championship in 1932, in a season in which the St. John's goal was never crossed. The Johnnies were stopped by Concordia on the one-yard line on a muddy field and had to settle for a 0-0 tie, but all other teams had experienced at least one loss, so the Johnnies were undisputed Number One. The Gann-Ethen combination had been broken up because Gann had used up all of his eligibility, but he made his contribution by serving as line coach. He was adequately replaced in the line by Lawrence "Zook" Iten, who was later shifted to end, where he regularly made all-conference. Other names to be remembered in

this championship year, along with the Luckemeyers, Ethens, Klasens, Ryans, and Hartmanns are Ken Bloms (now Fr. Romuald, O.S.B.), quarterback; Elmer "Bull" Madsen, now deceased, fullback; Walter Johnson and Bill Arth, halfbacks; Lane Scofield, now deceased, guard; Jim Scofield, now deceased, quarterback; Roy Donaldson, Al Schoeneberger, and Jim Coyne, ends; Jim McCormack, tackle. Al Ethen, Lee Hartmann, and Gus Luckemeyer made all-conference.

The freshman rule was in effect for the first time, and was retained until dropped temporarily, first during the war years, and later in 1951, for good.

- 1933 -

In 1933 the Benda-men were on the move but lacked the scoring punch to put the ball across after getting to the five-yard line. They tied in two conference games and lost two by one touchdown. After dropping a game to St. Cloud State, they came to life with a bang to beat St. Thomas 7-6 and to throw the championship to Gustavus. St. John's finished in fifth place. Al Ethen was chosen all-conference guard for the second time; "Zook" Iten, now converted to end, was all-conference selection for that position.

Some new names began to appear in the line-up along with Elmer "Bull" Madsen, Jim Coyne, Jim McCormack, Si Ryan, Jim and Lane Scofield, both of whom were now listed as quarterbacks along with Ken Bloms. Other new names were the following: Joe Marx (now Fr. Michael, O.S.B., professor of theology and editor of *Worship*), halfback; Duke Campbell, who recently retired as commander of the Alameda Naval Air Station in California, an iron man who played 60 minutes of every game except those in which reserves were inserted in order to keep the score down; John Van Buren, fullback, consistent punter; Jim (now Dr., M.D.) O'Keefe and the Uberecken brothers, centers; scrappy Bill McCauley, guard; and George Toman, now deceased, tackle.

- 1934-

The coaching staff in 1934 was strengthened by the addition of Jim Dincolo who had captained the Boston University football team as an undergraduate. He gave Joe invaluable assistance as line coach when he was not busy teaching accounting. Gus Luckemeyer was also retained for the season as backfield coach. St. John's lost only one game this season, the last game of the season to St. Thomas 12-0, and tied St. Mary's on a muddy field to end up in fourth place, with two victories, one loss and one tie. The overall record looked better than that, however, since the Johnnies won three non-conference games to end up with an overall standing of 6-1-1. Something unusual for the period was a 35-yard drop-kick by Al Ethen against Superior State College.

Despite the disappointing season, St. John's had impressed the coaches sufficiently to place four men on the all-conference team: Al Ethen, guard; Lawrence Iten, end; George Toman, tackle; and Si Ryan, halfback.

George recalls that the only genuine athletic scholarship ever awarded by SJU was in favor of Si Ryan in his freshman year. Si's father had said that he would send Si to St. John's if he got some sort of scholarship in recognition of his athletic ability. While quick of wit and able to think faster on his feet than the majority of mankind, Si was not the type of student to merit a scholarship on the basis of his high school record, and St. John's had a policy of not awarding athletic scholarships (unless the student gave signs of a vocation to the priesthood). Si did not qualify on either basis. But to make sure that Si would not be lured away from us by a "ride" and soon be met playing against us, Joe and George asked the business office to deduct \$25 from their salaries for two months and apply it to Si's account. Result: Si attended St. John's and starred in football, hockey, and baseball. Several years later when George and Joe were in need of cash, they each received a \$100 check in the mail. George calls this the best investment he ever made. It really should not

have been called an athletic scholarship, he says. It was rather a student loan at a very high rate of interest.

- 1935 -

The Benda-men had to settle for a three-way tie for first place with St. Olaf and Gustavus in 1935. St. Cloud State was the only team to cross the Johnnie goal line that year, although St. John's won that game 21-7. Vern McGree, John Van Buren and Ed Callanan, halfbacks; "Bull" Madsen, fullback; and Lane Scofield, quarterback, running through holes opened by Maurice "Tiger" Hynes, Frank and Jim O'Keefe, Tony Schultheis, Clarence La Selle, Norb Vos, Duke Campbell, George Toman, and former Preps, scrappy Fran Johnston and brothers Ray and Heinie Uberecken, piled up a total of 118 points to 7 for the opposition. Vern McGree crossed the opposing goal line with monotonous regularity, often after sprints of 40 to 60 yards and dragging anywhere from three to five would-be tacklers with him. In the Hamline game he made 307 yards and five touchdowns, one of them after a 56-yard gallop. Despite this brilliant display of ball carrying, he was not chosen all-conference this year.

The final game of the season was a punting duel between Van Buren of St. John's and De Marce of St. Thomas. Neither team took chances, and the game ended in a scoreless tie. All-conference selections were Lane Scofield, quarterback, and George Toman, tackle.

- 1936 -

In 1936 the Benda-men won their third championship in a period of five years, this year sharing it with Gustavus. The Johnnies lost their first game to Duluth (which was not yet a member of the MIAC) by a field goal late in the game, but snapped back to dump St. Mary's and St. Olaf by convincing scores. They lost to Superior 6-9, but held all remaining conference opponents scoreless. The Armistice Day game with St. Cloud State was canceled because of bad weather. McGree, Callanan, Van Buren, backed up by Vedic Himsl, Lane Scofield, and Clarence La Selle, piled up a total of 110 points against 18 for opponents. Linemen who opened the way for this performance were Fritz Schneider, Phil Rath (former Prep), Guido Sartori, Maurice "Tiger" Hynes, Chuck Trudelle, Fran Johnston, and John Murphy. Tiger

Hynes and Lane Scofield were chosen all-conference.

With a record like that of the past six years, it was inevitable that Joe Benda would be invited to use his talents at a bigger school. In 1937 his alma mater invited him to return as end coach under Elmer Layden, to replace Johnny O'Brien who had been killed in an auto accident. George Durenberger reluctantly took over as head football and basketball coach, but still retaining most of his duties as athletic director. On top of this load he also began to work on his master's degree at the University of Minnesota.

- 1937 -

Three additional shocks hit the Johnnies in the fall of 1937. First, Jim Dincolo, who had been of invaluable assistance as line coach, resigned to join the accounting staff of Notre Dame University; the second was the tragic auto accident which befell the team on the way home from the Gustavus game, the second game of the season, and which took the life of Bud Carlin and injured Vern McGree and Vedic Himsl. Finally, all-conference "Tiger" Hynes did not return to school. Something seems to have gone out of the team. They lost to River Falls by one touchdown but came alive with the return of McGree to the line-up and made a clean sweep of Moorhead State, Macalester, Concordia, and St. Cloud State. Only traditional rival St. Thomas survived this resurgence, with a score of 14-7. St. John's was able to end up in third place, behind Gustavus (5-0) and Concordia (3-1). All-conference selections went to halfback-fullback Ed Callanan and halfback Vern McGree.

- 1938 -

With a wealth of home-grown material which he had coached when serving as Prep coach, and with a good assortment of graduates from other high schools such as Al Brenny, George Grace, Bernie Lorenz, Omer Sieben, Harlan Hurd, Norb Vos, and others, George went on to take the MIAC title in 1938, his second year as head coach in college. He gives a lot of credit to assistant coach Vern McGree, Johnnie star halfback and dedicated competitor of the previous three years. Vern coached the backfield that fall.

In the 1938 season, St. John's lost the first game to Jordan College and the second to St. Norbert's but took all conference games by comfortable margins. They climaxed the season with a 37-0 victory over St. Cloud State. St. John's piled up 158 points to 74 for the opposition for the year. Ed Callanan, "Phantom Halfback" Jim Roche, and end Fritz Schneider made all-conference. Edward Callanan was chosen Little All-American.

- 1939 -

With the former Prep touchdown twins Jim Roche and Jim Boyd sparking the backfield and backed up by Omer Sieben, who had starred in high school at Melrose, along with Ben Lorenz, Norb Vos, Benno Marx (now Fr. Paul, O.S.B., Executive Director of the Human Life Center at St. John's), and a beefy line powered by Phil Rathes and Nick Stoffel (former Preps), Al Brenny, Konnie Prem, Clancy Grell,

George Grace, Ade Born, and Ed Schnettler, the 1939 team seemed all set to repeat its 1938 performance. However, Phil Rathes was lost through injuries, and after winning games over St. Cloud, St. Norbert's, St. Mary's, and Concordia, the Johnnies were clobbered by Gustavus and lost a squeaker to Macalester, to end up with five wins and two losses overall and three wins and two losses in the conference for fourth place. St. Thomas took the title with a 4-0-1 record.

Jim Roche and Ben Lorenz tied for high scoring honors in the conference with 42 points each. Roche was selected all-conference halfback and ended his career with the greatest number of touchdowns, 24, in the years 1937-39.

- 1940 -

The 1940 season was unspectacular and marked by narrow losses to St. Thomas and Hamline and a tie with Macalester. The end result was a record of two wins against three losses, one tie in the MIAC, and fifth place. The Johnnies, however, defeated Duluth and St. Cloud State, and so their overall record was 4-1-3. Gustavus won the title with a 5-0 record.

One-half of the Roche-Boyd combination, Jimmy Boyd, was still in operation, but the replacements in the backfield-Eraime Patrias, Tom Paul, and Bob Turek-failed to produce a break-away runner of Roche's calibre. Nevertheless, Jim Boyd was the main groundgainer, accumulating 200 yards in the St. Cloud State game alone. Jim Boyd and Al Brenny, halfback and center respectively, made all-conference.

- 1941 -

Joe Benda returned from Notre Dame in 1941 on the eve of the U.S. entry into World War II, and resumed where he had left off in 1937. George also resumed his former positions as line coach, Prep basketball coach, and athletic director. Most of the stars of the 1930's had graduated and the coaches were faced with a serious rebuilding job. The Johnnies lost all but one conference game (Augsburg) but won two non-conference games (River Falls and Duluth). They lost to St. Cloud State by the close score of 0-6, the first victory of St. Cloud over the Johnnies since 1933.

Some of the new candidates showed real promise as the season progressed-Alex Winkler, end; Ted Seep, guard; Jack O'Connell, center; Heinz Arnold, former Prep, center; and Val Marchildon, halfback-quarterback. Eraine Patrias, a leading ground-gainer from 1940, continued to improve, but Tommy Paul, a triple-threat player from Faribault, was obliged to drop out because of a broken leg. The passing of Austin Shanahan was a strong point in the Johnnies' offense but it could not offset the loss of Tom Paul's running and punting.

Ted Seep, guard, and Alex Winkler, end, made all-conference. St. Thomas won the title.

- 1942 -

The war did not eliminate football all at once, and the suspension of the freshman rule and the enrollment of a promising crop of freshmen in 1942-especially Bill Osborne, Red Maenhout, and Barney Gervais, who came in one bundle from Marshall, Minn.-gave promise of a revival of former St. John's power on the gridiron. The Johnnies started out strong, taking Augsburg 31-7, Macalester 20-0, and St. Mary's 28-13, but they lost to the two powerhouses of that year- St. Thomas (0-18) and Gustavus (13-24), and tied Concordia 14-14. The result was a third place finish. The team played no non-conference games this year.

The passing of John Heimann, pass snatching by Maenhout and Chuck Gregory, and the kicking of Al Rowe were features of the season. Toward the end of the season, backs Osborne and Jack Schmidt had acquired experience of college football and began to show power as ball carriers.

Three players were named to the all-conference team: Clarence "Clancy" Grell, tackle, Al Rowe, halfback, and Chuck Gregory, end. St. Thomas and Concordia tied for the championship.

- 1943 -

In 1943 the student body had shrunk to less than 150, and most of these were IV-F' s (physically deferred), priesthood students, and students under 18, so it was impossible to field a football team. Joe and George devoted their energies to supervising a strong intramural and the physical training program of the Air Force cadets who were sent to St. John's for short periods of basic education before going onto Air Force bases for intensive flight and military training. As the war dragged on, Benda decided to accept an offer as assistant coach of the Cleveland Rams in the summer of 1944 and served in that capacity for the entire 1944 season.

However, to keep the program from folding entirely, Henry "Bruts" Welsch, a member of the Johnnie baseball team, coached a small squad which played two games with the non-program school of Macalester, winning the first and tying the second.

- 1945 -

By 1945 military men were being discharged from the service and it was easier for the 18-year-olds to get deferments if they were doing satisfactory work in college. Benda returned from Cleveland, and, anxious to tryout the new T-formation, was ready to field a football team that fall. The season was unsuccessful largely because several of the other colleges had Navy training programs (V-12) which permitted trainees to participate in intercollegiate sports. It is not surprising, therefore, that St. John's won only one game with a non-program school (Macalester) and another by default, when Augsburg's all civilian team folded. The T-formation could not compensate for the sparseness of material.

Memorable features of the season were a 90-yard touchdown run by guard Bill Prickril on a pass interception, and the elusive running of Doug Gits (now a priest of the Winona Diocese). The team received

an injection of new strength with the return from service of John Heimann, Ken Schoener, and Tom Donlin of the 1942 team. Schoener, a newly discharged Navy ensign, was chosen all-conference end.

- 1946 -

The 1946 season appeared promising (they all do!) with Coach Benda again at the helm, assisted by Chet Grant, former Notre Dame player and assistant coach at that school. He was a valuable addition to the St. John's traditionally undermanned coaching team, and particularly so because he had built a highly diversified attack around the T-formation. The effects of demobilization were apparent in the 88 candidates who turned out for practice-75 of whom were war veterans. But despite the power brought to the team by such performers as Jack Blommer, Bill Osborne, Barney Gervais, Jack Schmidt, Konnie Prem (now M.D. on the University of Minnesota medical staff), Chuck Miller, Pete Neumann, Don Gray, and Ev Trebtoske (now Fr. Trebtoske of the Austin, Texas, Diocese), Sam Weber and Skip Linnemann, former Preps, and Art (Dick) Schmitz, father of Tim Schmitz, who starred as top ball carrier for the Johnnies from 1974-77, St. John's found its three principal rivals, St. Thomas, Gustavus, and Concordia a bit more powerful and ended the season in fifth place in the MIAC with two wins and three losses.

Overall the Johnnies looked better with three resounding victories over Bemidji, Loras, and St. Cloud for a 5-3 overall record. Gustavus took the title. Konnie Prem and Jack Blommer made the second and third all conference teams. Bill Osborne, Chuck Miller, and Bob Mayer were standouts in the backfield.

- 1947 -

In 1947 St. John's was rated as a top contender for the title, but "Big Red" Murnane Maenhout was sidelined with a knee injury most of the season. Halfback Bill Osborne was nursing an ankle broken during spring baseball, and saw only limited action. St. John's squeaked by Augsburg 7-6 and St. Mary's 20-13, but lost to Gustavus and St. Olaf to end up with a 3-2 record and a tie with St. Olaf for third place. Macalester and St. Thomas tied for the championship. The Johnnies played no non-conference games this season, partly because the last game of the season with St. Cloud State was snowed out.

In addition to the names that stood out during the 1946 season were newcomers like Ed Hasbrouck, Bob Fitzgerald, Don Gray, Louis Senta (later coach and currently teacher at St. John's Prep School), Mick McNeely, Chuck Kranz, Ev Trebtoske, and Pete Neumann (now the FBI agent who spent five years on the Piper Kidnap Case of 1972, and succeeded in securing indictments of suspects just before the statute of limitations expired in July, 1977).

- 1948 -

In 1948, with an experienced line and a strong backfield inherited from 1947, with Red Maenhout healthy again, and team additions like Bill Weyandt, Al McGinnis, Frank Fischer, George Marsnik, and Joe Cascalenda, there were strong hopes that St. John's would go all the way. They started out strong and demonstrated the real strength of the MIAC by comfortable wins over St. Cloud State (14-0) and North Dakota U. (14-0), but losing heart-breakers to Hamline (6-14) and Gustavus (13-20), to end up in fourth place with a 3-2 record in the conference and 6-2 overall. St. Thomas won the title.

Vern Fahrenkrug gave a preview of the pass-grabbing he was to perform in 1949, and Chuck Miller and Pete Neumann took turns making touchdowns, while captain Don Gray, Sammy Weber, former Prep and vicious tackler, Jack Blommer, immovable guard, Ed Hasbrouck, Ken Zirbes, and Ev Trebtoske were all reasons for the closeness of the scores. Jim Schumacher helped along with his toe, establishing a record up to that time of 16 points-four points after touchdowns and twelve field goals. Maenhout was the only member of the team to make all-conference.

- 1949 -

In the fall of 1949 Coach Benda was greeted by a star-studded squad. In addition to the veterans who came within a single touchdown of an undefeated season the year before, two promising sophomores reported for practice-Terry O'Hara, star quarterback from Glencoe High School, and Joe Cascalenda, halfback, who had set rushing records at Monroe High School in St. Paul. They teamed up with veterans Chuck Miller, Chuck Kranz, Pete Neumann, Bob Evans (later coach at St. John's Prep School and now assistant headmaster) to present a formidable and versatile backfield. The line was strengthened by the addition of Jim Kavanaugh and Bill Schwob, tackles; Judd Pribyl and John Lalonde, guards; and Dick Juba, center. In addition to these there was George Marsnik, who made history as one of St. John's greatest linebackers. He became known for his ability to diagnose an opposing play before it got started and then strongly interfering with its execution.

Despite the brilliant play of both the line and the backfield and the piling up of more yardage than the winners in the two games, the Johnnies lost to Gustavus (14-19) and St. Thomas (27-28). The Johnnies ended up with a 4-2 record and in third place. Those who saw the final game with St. Thomas are still talking about it. It was undoubtedly the most thrilling encounter ever enacted in the local bowl. St. Thomas came from behind three times, the last time to stay, just before the gun sounded. St. John's was leading with only three minutes to go, and St. Thomas in desperation began filling the air with passes. Finally, Jim "Popcorn" Brandt, speed merchant of the Tommies, caught a long pass on the far sideline, bobbled it a couple of times, powered past the St. John's safety man, and kept going another 30 yards to a touchdown. St. Thomas made the point after touchdown and the final score was St. Thomas 28, St. John's 27.

That one point prevented a three-way tie between St. Thomas, Gustavus, and St. John's. As it was, St. John's ended up in third place behind St. Thomas, 6-0, and Gustavus, 5-1.

In his column in the St. Cloud *Daily Times*, sportswriter Frank Farrington described Benda's acceptance of that defeat: "Joe stayed there on the field after all the thousands of people had gone. . . . He knew it was probably the last game he would see. . . . He just wanted to be by himself on the turf that he loved so well-the gridiron of St. John's University. . . . He stayed a long time and then walked slowly away" (St. Cloud *Daily Times*, June 21, 1950).

The game was marked by the brilliant passing of O'Hara to Vern Fahrenkrug, and by the hard rushing of the new set of TD twins, Miller and Cascalenda, who between them racked up ten touchdowns for the season. Also notable was the strong defensive play of George Marsnik and Judd Pribyl. Vern Fahrenkrug and George Marsnik made all-conference.

Benda had resigned as basketball coach in 1948, ostensibly to devote more time and energy to football and the physical education program in general, but there was a deeper reason. He was suffering from Hodgkins disease and becoming progressively weaker. By the end of the 1949 season he became so weak that he was unable to stand for any length of time and finally had to drive his car to the practice field and coach from the front seat. At the end of the season, he took a year's leave of absence and by the end of November, he had to enter the St. Cloud Hospital, which he did repeatedly for the next few months. A news story widely circulated by the International News Service described how his players showed their loyalty and affection. When they learned that he needed many blood transfusions, the entire Monogram Club of 66 athletes, representing all sports at St. John's, piled into a bus and went to the St. Cloud Hospital where they contributed several gallons of blood to the St. Cloud blood bank. Gustavus lettermen also sent flowers to Joe in the hospital and offered to donate blood if it was needed.

Joe died at his home in Flyntown on June 20, 1950, at the age of 45, and was buried in the Collegeville Parish Cemetery overlooking Lake Sagatagan. His funeral was attended by his fellow coaches from around

the state and many of his former players and a host of friends. His wife Gertrude, a graduate of St. Catherine's College, St. Paul, and sister of the Brownes (Bill, '40, Don, '43, and Jack, '48), is buried beside him.

Editorials and statements by those who had known and worked with Joe Benda mentioned again and again the high ideals he brought to the conduct of the athletic program and inspired his players with a will to win, but always within the rules of complete sportsmanlike conduct. His success as a coach is evidenced by his 58-32-8 record in the MIAC, and the winning of the first MIAC football title by St. John's (1932), which was followed by two more in 1935 and 1936.

He also turned out 19 all-conference players, some of whom were two and three-time winners of that distinction.

St. John's was fortunate in having an able replacement for Benda right at hand—the colorful John (Blood) McNally, who had attended St. John's from 1920 to 1923 and starred in all sports from football to track. He had had no experience in sports in high school, and to compensate for this deficiency, undertook a rigorous program of self training and the study of fundamentals. This self-discipline paid off.

He starred in four sports and became St. John's first four-letter winner. McNally transferred to Notre Dame in the fall of 1924, but dropped out of school after one semester to enter the ranks of pro ball. He was a star halfback with the Green Bay Packers from 1929 to 1936, but left the Packers to become playing coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1937 to 1939. He then took a similar position with the Kenosha Cardinals, leaving them to enlist in the Army. In World War II he served as a cryptographer in the China-Burma-India theatre, and returned to St. John's in 1949—after a lapse of twenty-five years—to complete his work for a major in philosophy. He was graduated in June, 1949, at the age of 46. Since he had done a good deal of studying of economics in the preceding 26 years, and took courses in this subject after returning to St. John's, he was engaged to teach a course in the principles of economics and to coach the freshman football team in the fall of 1949. He piloted the freshmen through an undefeated season and was the natural successor to Benda as head coach in the fall of 1950.

- 1950 -

Prospects for the 1950 season were good. Not only had McNally shown his coaching ability in the pro leagues and at St. John's, but he had an experienced assistant in Big George and additional help from John (Buster) Hiller, head basketball coach, and Vernon McGree. The strong 1949 team, like the 1975 team sixteen years later, had been heavily sprinkled with sophomores, and these players were now seasoned veterans. Only Chuck Miller, Pete Neumann, Jack Smith, and Chuck Kranz were lost through graduation, and Terry O'Hara through withdrawal from school. Most of the gaps were filled with sophs from the championship freshman team of 1949 or by the conversion of lettermen of the previous year to new positions.

Dick Kelly and Curly Gasperlin replaced Terry O'Hara at quarterback; Ted Joyce was converted from quarterback to fullback, and alternated with Dan Coborn, Judd Pribyl, converted guard, and Tom Reichert, converted end. Jerry Hovey, Augie Donovan, Don Chisholm,

Bob Brendan, Dick Juba (father of Michael, '78 and Gregory '80), and Joe Denzer added beef to the line, while all-conference end, Vern Fahrenkrug, was still on hand to continue his performance in snatching passes. The other 1949 all-conference selection, George Marsnik, was converted to end on offense and to safety on defense, where he could use his speed to good effect. Unfortunately, Marsnik was sidelined with injuries a good part of the season, although he had an able replacement in the person of Bill Christopherson, who had been standout on the freshman team the year before. Another promising prospect

from the freshman team was Don Rubertus, who added speed to the backfield.

However, this remodelling of the 1949 machine didn't payoff. St. John's won three and lost three in the conference, all but the Gustavus game being by one or two points, for a fifth place standing. Overall, the record was four wins and three losses. Gustavus won the title with a 6-0 record. No members of the 1950 team made all-conference.

- 1951 -

The abolition of the freshman rule in 1951 resulted in a large turnout in September of this year. Only a few regulars had been lost by graduation or withdrawal from school to enter the service, and these holes were plugged by new men from among the promising crop of freshmen and sophomores. New prospects were Tom "Whizzer" White, halfback, John Vachuska, end, Clem Schoenbauer, fullback, Dick Coy and Jim Sexton, tackles, Bob Aufenthie, guard, Don Dvorak, center, Casey Vilandre (former Prep star) and Don Westbrook, halfbacks, and Bob Forster, linebacker. However, the new men were inexperienced and needed more seasoning, and several of the regulars were lost through injuries. Result: a 4-1 record and fourth place in the conference, 4-3 overall. Gustavus (6-0) won the title.

A heartening feature of the 1951 season was the potential revealed by the new recruits. Some of these names were to resound throughout the conference during the next two years. However, during this year of rebuilding, no member of the team made all-conference.

- 1952 -

Fifteen lettermen reported for practice in August, 1952, led by co-captains Bill Christopherson and Maurice Chevalier. The Jays took St. Cloud 19-7, but lost to Hamline 19-21, largely because of a spotty pass defense. Then they rolled over Duluth, St. Olaf, and Augsburg by good margins, but, though losing to Concordia (6-32) and Gustavus (0-19), they instituted the tradition of beating St. Thomas which has persisted to this day. St. John's played heads-up ball in that game, as Mike O'Brien raced 57 yards with a pass interception and Tom "Whizzer" White broke away for another 78 yards for a touchdown. Result: St. John's 13, St. Thomas 7.

But despite the pass-snatching of Jeb Vachuska, the chugging ground-gaining of Casey Vilandre, and the consistent gains through the line by Clem Schoenbauer, St. John's again ended up with a monotonous 3-3 record in the conference and fourth place (5-3 overall). Most depressing was the 19-0 beating administered by Gustavus in the final game in which the Gusties rang up 500 yards to 100 for the Johnnies. This also entitled Gustavus to a tie with Concordia for the title with a 6-0 record.

Despite the disappointing season, three players, Bill Christopherson, Maurice Chevalier, center, and Dick Coy, tackle, made all-conference. However, the feeling around St. John's could best be expressed in the French expression: *"Il faut que ca change."* Something should be done to get out of that 3-3 and fourth place rut. And get out they did!

The 1953 football season witnessed a revolution in St. John's football fortunes comparable to that wrought by Joe Benda in the early 1930's. This change was executed by a smallish man, like Benda of Italian descent, from Trinidad, Colorado, and more recently from Carroll College, Montana. His name was John Gagliardi.

Coach John Gagliardi

John was born in Trinidad, Colorado, November 1, 1926, of first generation immigrant parents, whose

accent betrays their origin. He attended the Catholic grade and high schools in Trinidad and was graduated in 1944. He played halfback during his high school years, but when his coach was drafted in his senior year, John, although only 16 years of age, was called upon to coach football and other sports that year. Holy Trinity High School won its first championship that year, and John was retained for three more years, making the runner-up spot once, and winning the championship in two other years. He ended his four years there with a 28-8 record.

During these years, John attended the junior college in Trinidad and played on the junior college basketball team. News of his success got around, and the priest-director of St. Mary's High School, Colorado Springs, arranged to have him attend Colorado College in Colorado Springs, while coaching all sports at St. Mary's. He lived up to his advance billing by pulling St. Mary's up to second place in his first year, and winning the championship of his league in his second.

By the time he graduated from college in 1949, his reputation as a winning coach was solidly established, and he received an offer to be head coach of all sports and athletic director at Carroll College, a diocesan college in Helena, Montana. He lived up to his reputation at Carroll, and was only half a game out of first place in his first year, and then went on to win three consecutive championships in 1950-52. During these years he never lost a conference game, and compiled a record of 25 wins in 31 games overall. His teams were noted for their tight defensive play and their alertness in capitalizing on the breaks. It was evident that bigger schools would soon be after Gagliardi. It is to Bill Osborne, '48, who starred in three sports at St. John's and later was head coach in basketball and baseball and assistant coach in football from 1953 to 1959, that St. John's owes the good fortune of snaring Gagliardi before some big-name school had snapped him up. As a high school coach in Montana, Osborne knew of the performance of the Gagliardi teams, and urged Fr. Arno Gustin, O.S.B., SJU president, to snap him up while he was still a free agent.

John was not eager to leave Carroll. He had excellent working relations with the priests and others on the college staff. His assistant coach was Fr. Raymond Hunthausen, who later became president of the college, then bishop of Helena, and who is now archbishop of Seattle, where he still watches for reports of St. John's as well as Carroll College games. The faculty representative in athletics during John's years at Carroll, Fr. Bernard Topel, became the bishop of Spokane, now retired, whose saintliness and simplicity of life was a legend in the Northwest. So it was evident that John was working with high caliber people. He also loved the climate and the people of the West.

One thing impressed him about St. John's, however, and that was Bill Osborne's high regard for his alma mater. John felt that there must be a genuine basis for such loyalty.

When he visited the school for interviews, he found that he would have a larger theatre of operations and personnel to work with who would be as cooperative as was the staff at Carroll College. One of these was Fr. Adelard Thuente, O.S.B., '37, now deceased, a halfback of the early 1930's and an enthusiastic supporter of intercollegiate sports. He was also professor of biology and prefect (faculty resident) of St. Mary's Hall, where John was to live during his unmarried years. Fr. Adelard was also faculty representative of St. John's to the MIAC in 1958-62 and served as friend, critic, marriage counselor, and entertainer of Gagliardi during those years of the middle 1950's.

John particularly valued his advice as marriage counselor. He was going with a lovely student nurse by the name of Peggy Doherty, but like all members of closely knit Italian families, John wanted the advice and approval of his family for such a major step as marriage. [This was particularly crucial since Italian families tend to consider a marriage to a non-Italian as a mixed marriage.] However, Fr. Adelard fulfilled the role of parental advisor. He had many evenings with John and Peggy and had associations with them on other occasions, and readily saw how ideally Peggy would complement John's personality. His advice was: "Sign her, before she jumps to another league!"

John signed her in 1956 and Fr. Adelard acted as ecclesiastical witness to the contract.

- 1953 -

And now to get back to football: after coming to St. John's in the fall of 1953, accompanied by a brilliant coaching record in Colorado and Montana, John was clearly on the spot. However, the Benedictine Fathers, who as he has often pointed out, always expect the impossible, didn't go so far as to expect him to beat Gustavus, the perennial champion at that time, and win the title in his first year-especially in view of the beating St. John's received from the Gusties in 1952. But that is just what he did. For some unexplained reason, the Johnnies lost the first game to St. Cloud State and the fifth game to Duluth, but won all the rest, including a stunning 26-13 victory over South Dakota State, a much larger school, and North Central Conference champion of that year. It was necessary to beat Gustavus because we had lost a conference game to Duluth, but St. John's took the Gusties by the respectable score of 21-7, which meant that *they tied us* for the championship. St. John's record for that year was 6-1-0 in the MIAC and 6-2-0 overall. They won all other conference games by comfortable margins, with the exception of the 7-6 squeaker over Concordia.

Veterans of the strong 1952 team put on weight and gained experience in adapting to the Gagliardi style of football. Many standouts from the 1952 team were on deck in the fall of 1953-Casey Vilandre (former Prep star), Jeb Vachuska, Bill Braun, Bob Aufenthie, Chuck Froehle (a four-year Prep star and son of Chuck, Sr., '27, who died of a heart attack while watching his son Rich, '65, perform at Gustavus in 1962), Jim Sexton (father of Terry Sexton, '78, end on the championship teams of the 1970's), Dick Coy, iron man at tackle, John Schwob, *et al.* A new name that was to resound throughout the conference in the next few years was that of Jim Lehman, halfback, a wraith-like ball-carrier in the tradition of Jim Roche who alternated with Casey Vilandre in pounding the opposing line or scooting around it.

Four men made all-conference: Casey Vilandre, halfback, who gained a total of 604 net yards for the season in 136 tries; Dick Coy, tackle; Chuck Froehle, guard; and Bill Braun, end. John had lived up to his reputation.

- 1954 -

With most of the championship team back in 1954, there were expectations of back-to-back championships. But the revenge-seeking Gusties and traditional rival St. Thomas shattered that dream (28-6 and 7-6 respectively). The latter game was a heart-breaker. The Tommies got a first period touchdown and made it stick for a 7-6 lead, despite the total of 75 net yards to which the Johnnies restricted them. In the final game against Augustana, of Sioux Falls, Lehman put on one of the greatest scoring displays in SJU history, putting 33 points on the board. His total for the year was a record-setting 89 points from 13 touchdowns and 11 points after touchdowns. The final score of the Augustana game was 39-7. Other big ground-gainers were the following: Don Catton, halfback, and Dick Miller, fullback. Dick Coy, Jim Sexton, and Chuck Froehle-all stalwarts in the line-made all conference. The final standing was 5-2 in the MIAC, good enough for a third place tie with St. Thomas, and a 6-2 record overall.

- 1955 -

The year 1955 opened with three victories as Jim Lehman, Dick Miller, and Don Catton took turns at crossing the goal line through holes opened by the rugged line; but again St. Thomas and Gustavus stood in the way of an undefeated season. In compensation for this, St. John's romped over Eau Claire 33-6, and took Augustana by the more modest score of 6-0, to finish with a 4-2 record and a tie with Macalester and Concordia for second place in the conference. Overall the Johnnie record was 7-2.

During the season Lehman had a rushing average of 8.1 yards per carry, 117.6 yards per game, and a total of 16 touchdowns and 13 points after touchdowns, to lead all the Johnnies in scoring. Lehman ended his career with the St. John's record number of touchdowns (30 in three seasons, 1953-55), the most in one season (16 in 1955), and the most in one game (5 in 1954 against Augustana). He was accordingly named the MIAC's most valuable player for 1955.

The record number of touchdowns in a career has since been broken by Dave Arnold, end (32 from 1969-72), and the most in one season by Tim Schmitz (17 in 1976).

- 1956-

The 1956 team was beset with injuries, with all but two starters, Chuck Froehle and Ray Olson, sidelined at some time or other. The Jays ended up with a conference record of 2-4-1 (3-4-1 overall) to rank in sixth place, their lowest standing since the resumption of a full schedule in 1946. St. Thomas took the title and Concordia was second. New names appearing in the line-up along with Chuck Froehle, Don Dvorak, Dick Matchinsky, Dave Boyle, *et al.*, were Len Kos, end; Roger Ludwig (later wrestling coach and assistant football coach), tackle; Sev Youso, fullback; Felix Mannella, guard; Joe Crotty, halfback; and Bernie Archbold, quarterback. A familiar name which had dropped out of the line-up after 1952 was that of Tom "Whizzer" White, while its owner put in a three-year stint in the armed services. The speedy halfback now returned to lead the Jays in scoring and to take third place behind Joe Crotty and Ron Deutz in rushing.

Chuck Froehle, guard, made all-conference for the fourth time and was chosen on the second Little All-American team. Don Dvorak, tackle, made the second MIAC all-conference team.

- 1957 -

Only two starters from 1956 reported with the 43 candidates in August, 1957. Twenty of the candidates were freshmen. Names which had appeared on the roster in 1956 and became regulars in 1957 were Len Kos, Chuck Twomey, and Tom O'Reilly, ends; Joe Louis and Roger Ludwig, tackles; Felix Mannella, Bill Anderson, and Sev Youso, guards; John Ficenc and Bill Chalmers, centers; Bernie Archbold, Jerry Kollodge, and Bob Ilg, quarterbacks; Joe Crotty, Mick Mullen, Duane Deutz, and Myron Wiest (son of Myron, Sr., '31, halfback, now deceased) halfbacks; and Tom Irving and Ron Deutz, fullbacks. The Jays were unscathed upon their home field and rolled up big scores against St. Cloud State and Hamline but lost three out of four games away from home. One source of consolation was the 13-0 victory over troublesome Gustavus, in a game in which Ron Deutz scored on a 75-yard punt return. He and Crotty repeated that feat in a 23-0 defeat of Augsburg the following Saturday, but the Johnnies lost to Concordia and Macalester, which on top of an earlier loss to St. Thomas resulted in a 4-3 finish and fourth place in the conference. The overall record was 5-3.

Len Kos, end, was chosen to the first all-conference team and Duane Deutz to the second team.

- 1958 -

The 1958 team displayed a strong, aggressive line and fast, hard-hitting backs. Behind the blocking of Sev Youso, Felix Mannella, Gene Kramer, Bob Henry, and Bob Stich, the fast backfield of Joe Crotty, Duane Deutz, Tom Irving, Bernie McNerny, and Bob Ilg crossed the goal line 22 times in racing to five quick victories. One of these was a 13-0 win over St. Thomas in a great defensive game in which SJU held St. Thomas to 12 net yards in rushing. The Jays scored on a 25-yard run by Tom Irving in that game and on a 35-yard pass play from Bob Ilg to Joe Crotty. Two bad breaks for the Johnnies- a clipping penalty which nullified a touchdown and a blocked punt-helped Gustavus to win the highly publicized Swiggum-Deutz contest three weeks later by a score of 18-7. As a result, St. John's ended up with a 5-2 record (6-2

overall) and third place in the conference behind Gustavus and Concordia.

Duane Deutz, halfback, Felix Mannella, guard, Sev Youso and Roger Ludwig, tackles, Dave Boyle, end, and Tom Irving, fullback, made the all-MIAC team. Duane Deutz was also chosen Catholic Little All-American. Roger Ludwig was named the most valuable player in the MIAC, the first St. John's lineman to win that distinction. As was stated above, Bill Osborne, '48, who had served as head basketball and baseball coach and assistant football coach, left St. John's to go into the insurance business in Billings, Montana, and Ed Hasbrouck, '50, former Johnnie basketball and baseball star, took his place. John Gagliardi gives Hasbrouck a great deal of credit in building the championship teams of the 1960's, especially for his early recognition of talented players, so that they could be pushed into action and given experience as early as the middle of their freshman year.

- 1959 -

St. John's opened the 1959 season by losing to Concordia, the team which had humbled them (40-8) in the last game of the 1958 season. They then counted three straight victories, but lost by a close score to Duluth, and by 0-14 to Gustavus in a hard-fought contest which featured the running and passing of the Swiggum-Skoog combination. The Johnnie team suffered crucial injuries-Deutz, Irving, and O'Reilly- and could never snap back. The final standing was 4-3 (5-3 overall), and fourth place in the conference. Gustavus won the title with a 7-0 record.

Despite his injured knee, Duane Deutz accumulated a rushing record of 1,993 yards during his four years at SJU (1956-59). This has since been surpassed by Tim Schmitz, whose total for the four years (1974-77) was 3,933. Duane failed to make all-conference in 1959, however, and only Felix Mannella and Gene Kramer were so honored. Other names which stand out in the 1959 season are Dick Miller, fullback, and Bernie Kukar, halfback, who also starred in basketball.

- 1960 -

The Johnnies lost heavily through graduation in the spring of 1960 and it took five weeks and three losses (Augsburg, Concordia, and pesky Macalester by another 15-14 score) before the new material began to shape up in the 1960 season. They finally did this with a bang, turning on St. Thomas and blasting them 34-13. In a game which Duluth was doped to win easily and with the Bulldogs leading 7-0, Jim Glowack tossed a pass to Ken Roering, who romped for a touchdown. The Jays missed the point after touchdown, but with the score 6-7, they scorned settling for a tie. Glowack hit Bob Spinner in the end zone for a two point conversion. The Jays then went on to tie Gustavus 6-6 on a wet field at St. Peter and ended the conference season with a 3-3-1 record and fifth place (4-3-1 overall). However, with the pressure off, St. John's rolled over St. Cloud 50-0 in the final game. Duluth took the title with a 6-1 record.

Gene Kramer and Tom O'Reilly, ends, Bernie Kukar, halfback, Fred Philipson, tackle, and Bob Gavin, guard, made all-conference, and Gene Kramer was elected to the Little All-American team. Tom McIntyre set a high standard in punting with a total of 1,566 yards in 47 attempts, for an average of 35.4 yards per punt.

- 1961 -

The prospects for 1961 were promising. Only a few starters from the previous year had been lost through graduation, and some new talent was starting to show up: Craig Muyres, Bernie Beckman, and Bob Spinner, the latter two becoming the touchdown twins of the early 1960's, rivaling Boyd and Roche of the 1930's. Also on the squad were Rich Chalmers, Dave Sieben (son of Omer, '40, halfback of the late 1930's), Tom McKasy (former Prep and son of George, '28, catcher on the baseball team in the 1920's), Paul Labinski, Bill Wagner (son of Lee, '36, who played under Benda), Rich Froehle (son of Chuck, '27, and

brother of Chuck, Jr., '57), and a number of others. Other regulars from 1960 were Bob Gavin, Bob Praus, Dave Honer, Fred Philipson, Tom McIntyre, Bob Stolz, and "Mack-Truck" John Mc- Dowell. The Johnnies surely appeared to be loaded this year!

The 1961 Johnnies bombarded their first four opponents-Bemidji 30-6, Gustavus 36-0, Concordia 48-6, and Augsburg 42-0, but suffered a let-down against Macalester in a homecoming game on their field,

14-15. They rebounded against St. Thomas 38-14 and used practically only the second and third teams to roll over Hamline 51-0. Finally, they lost a heart-breaker to Duluth on a muddy field in the last two minutes. The Johnnies' standing at the end of this exciting season was 5-2 in the conference (6-2 overall), and a tie with St. Thomas for second place behind Duluth.

The power of the team is indicated by the number who won allconference awards: Tom Wagner, fullback; Jim Glowack, quarterback; Bob Gavin, guard; Fred Philipson, Tom McIntyre, and Bob Stolz, tackles; and Ken Roering, end. Wagner, Philipson, and Stolz made the Catholic All-American team that year. Tom Wagner won the MIAC rushing title with a total of 696 yards. Jim Glowack was named most valuable player in the MIAC.

- 1962 -

When interviewed by sportswriters early in the 1962 season, Gagliardi said: "Anything can happen. We'll play each game one at a time, one quarter at a time." But in making this broad generalization, he grinned. And justifiably so. The 1962 team was a veritable horde of seasoned veterans who in workman-like fashion cut down everyone of their opponents, beginning with Bemidji (30-14) and ending with Hamline (36-0). They took Gustavus by the ample score of 28-8, Concordia by 31-14, but just squeaked by St. Thomas 28-23, with the help of a 75-yard runback of a pass interception by Craig Muyres, quarterback, to complete the first undefeated, untied season in the school's history. (Concordia tied St. John's 0-0 in the first championship season, 1932.) Despite this record (7-0 in the conference, and 9-0 overall), St. John's was too little known to receive a play-off bid. As Gagliardi expressed it: "The Johnnies were untied, undefeated, and uninvited." The team was, however, grooming itself for greater things.

The power of the 1962 team is revealed by the following statistics: they compiled a total of 2,416 net yards rushing and 960 yards passing for an average of 375.1 yards per game. They scored 39 touchdowns, 27 on the ground and 12 in the air. Total yardage by opponents was 1,196 and 913, respectively, and 13 touchdowns. With this record the Jays were ranked in the eighth place in the nation in the NAIA poll.

All-conference nominations were Tom McIntyre, tackle, Bill Wagner, center, Craig Muyres, quarterback, Ken Roering, end, John Mc- Dowell, tackle, and Bob Spinner, halfback. Tom McIntyre had looked good enough to be given a try-out by the Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League. Four players were nominated Little All- Americans-Tom McIntyre, Bill Wagner, Craig Muyres, and Ken Roering.

- 1963 -

With a good number of veterans from the undefeated squad of 1962, and strong replacements for the few who had graduated, St. John's in 1963 cut down its conference opponents by wide margins: Hamline 38-14, Duluth 60-6, St. Thomas 32-6, Gustavus 34-7, Augsburg 26-6, Concordia 28-0, Macalester 40-6, and one non-conference opponent, St. Cloud State, 40-0, to finish 7-0 in the conference and 8-0 overall. Such a performance could not be overlooked, and St. John's was invited to compete in the playoffs of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). They met their first post-season opponent, Emporia State of Kansas, in the Metropolitan Sports Stadium in the Twin Cities in a game organized and promoted by the area alumni in early November. They lost no time in demonstrating their right to be there. A blocked punt

by Jim Dey resulted in a safety, and touchdown runs of five and four yards by Rich Froehle put the Johnnies out in front by 15-0 at the end of the first quarter. Bernie Beckman and Bob Spinner scored in the second quarter to bring the score to 28-0 by half-time. After scoring four more touchdowns in the third quarter, Gagliardi pulled his first team and the rest of the game was a scoreless battle between Emporia and the reserves. St. John's made 502 yards on the ground and 41 more through the air to establish an NAIA record of 540 yards in total offense. Final score: St. John's 54, Emporia 0.

The Camellia Bowl

This victory won for the Johnnies the opportunity to meet the allblack team of Prairie View College, Texas, in the Camellia Bowl, Sacramento, California. The Texas college had reached the title game by coming from behind to defeat Kearney State of Nebraska 20-7.

At the beginning of the Camellia Bowl game, it looked as if the game would be a walk-away for Prairie View. Speedy Jimmy Hall, substituting temporarily for Jim Kearney, star quarterback, ran 29 yards for a touchdown on the first Prairie View play from scrimmage, following a blocked Johnnie punt. John Harris kicked the point after touchdown, and the score was Prairie View 7, SJU 0, with only 3:40 minutes gone. St. John's soon snapped back, however, with a 41-yard punt return by halfback Bob Spinner, aided by a magnificent block by Jim Dey. Hartman's place-kick was blocked and the score was 6-7.

Minutes later Prairie View's Otis Taylor snared a Jim Kearney 61-yard pass for a touchdown, and Harris again added the extra point. The score: Prairie View 14, SJU 6.

But the Johnnies were by no means out of the game, and they staged another rally consisting primarily of the interception of a pass by John McCormick, defensive back, who ran it back 44 yards for a touchdown. Muyres passed to Beckman for the extra point and the score was Prairie View 14, St. John's 13. (At that time points after touchdowns counted only one point, even if made by a pass or a run.) After the intermission, St. John's needed only six minutes to take the lead for good. Muyres tossed a 23-yard pass to Hardy Reyerson, who leaped five feet in the air to grab it, to cap a 60-yard drive. Then. Muyres tossed another short pass to Ken Roering for the point after touchdown. Score: SJU 20, Prairie View 14.

When the Johnnies got the ball again, Beckman climaxed a double reverse with a pass to Roering in the end zone, and St. John's now led 26-14, as Muyres' pass for a point after touchdown fell incomplete. Prairie View, however, was not ready to give up and executed a 69-yard drive, ending with a 14-yard Kearney pass for a touchdown. Harris again kicked the extra point. It looked as if Prairie View was about to take off again, but they fumbled on their own 23-yard line and St. John's recovered. Muyres hit Reyerson with a perfect touchdown pass and then passed to Spinner for the conversion. Score: SJU 33, Prairie View 21.

It took Prairie View only nine plays to grind out 60 yards for their next touchdown, as Ezell Seals plunged for the final yard. The Texas school then tried an on-side kick which was caught by Ken Roering, after which St. John's ran out the clock. Final score: SJU 33, Prairie View 27.

Bernie Beckman was named the game's most valuable player, Ken Roering the top lineman, and Jim Kearney of Prairie View the top back. Kearney had completed 11 out of 21 pass attempts for 208 yards and ran for 55 more. Muyres hit 9 of 16 attempts for 136 yards. Seals was high in rushing with 64 yards, while Spinner and Beckman ended with 59 and 52 yards respectively.

The quality of the opposition in that game is indicated by the fact that both Jim Kearney and Otis Taylor became pro stars and are still playing professional football. Taylor was also chosen all-pro back for several years.

The stay-at-home Johnnies were beneficiaries of a special bonus on the occasion of the Camellia Bowl game by it being made available on television in the Upper Midwest through the efforts of an alumni group headed by Fred Hughes, '31.

The statistics of the Johnnies for this season are impressive. Craig Muyres completed 23 out of 50 pass attempts, for an average of .460, while Ken Roering, end, caught 12 Muyres' tosses for a total of 233 yards and two touchdowns. The Johnnies out-scored their opponents 298 to 45 in the regular season, and allowed only a meager 12.9 yards per game in the eight regular season games. They also broke the NAIA record for the least number of yards allowed during a season, a record formerly held by Florida A & M, giving up only a grudging 103 yards in conference play. The St. John's 1963 season record was 7-0-0 in the conference and 10-0-0 overall.

The performance of the 1963 team won special recognition in the Johnnies' home territory. The Jays were awarded 12 of the 22 positions on the MIAC all-conference offensive and defensive units. Only eight individual players were so honored because four of the Johnnies were named to both the offensive and defensive squads, namely, Craig Muyres, quarterback and safety man; Bernie Beckman, halfback; Ken Roering, end; John "Mack-Truck" McDowell, tackle. Others who made one or the other of the berths on either all-conference unit were Rich Froehle, fullback, Bob Spinner, halfback, Hardy Reyerson, end, and Dave Honer, guard. Spinner won the MIAC rushing title with 530 yards, and Beckman was awarded the St. Paul *Pioneer Press-Dispatch* trophy as the MIAC's most valuable player. John McDowell was drafted soon afterward by the Green Bay Packers and played professional football for several years.

An interesting footnote to the 1963 season is the fact that all conference end and top Camellia Bowl lineman, Ken Roering, went on to graduate school, earned a doctorate, and is now teaching at the University of Missouri.

- 1964 -

The 1964 squad lost heavily through graduation, but 17 of the men who helped to win the NAIA championship in 1963 were on hand when Gagliardi issued his call for fall practice. It should be noted that the MIAC rules no longer permit spring practice and also limit the pre-season practice—all of which makes competition with non-conference schools that have spring practice very difficult. This year John had to build around a core of returning regulars supported by an assortment of sophomores and freshmen: ends, Hardy Reyerson and Joe Mucha, backed by Jack Schoenecker (nephew of Norbert, '27, who starred as a basketball player in the 1920's); veteran tackles Mike Collins and Fred Cremer, backed by George Korbel and Bill Dircks; Gary Youso, guard, backed by Bill Smock, John Ford, and Sid Prom, a junior. Previously injured Ed Donatelle was ready to return to his old guard slot.

Center-guards Paul Labinski (250 pounds), Jack Hickey (313 pounds), and Joe Ruhland (205 pounds) provided beef in the center of the line, while senior Jim Dey was available as an alert linebacker. Backfield men who filled in the holes left by the graduation of St. John's all-time greats Craig Muyres, Bernie Beckman, Bob Spinner, and defensive back John McCormick, were veteran Rich Froehle, Pat Hare, Randy Halstrom, Joe Hartle, Stan Suchta, Terry Hartman (son of Lyle, '39), and freshmen Don Nett, Roger Trobec, and Jim Shiely. A major change occurred in the coaching staff this year. Ed Has- . brouck had resigned as head coach in basketball and baseball and assistant in football, and his place was taken by graduates Joe Hartle and Paul Labinski in 1965. Later other Johnnie grads served as assistant coaches.

Although St. John's took St. Thomas 24-0 and Duluth 21-12, Hamline and Gustavus managed to squeak by SJU 8-6 and 15-14, respectively, while Concordia rolled to a 20-0 victory. St. John's won all its other games, to end with a 4-3 record and a tie for third place with Gustavus. (St. John's played no non-conference games this year.) Concordia won the title and represented the MIAC in the ninth annual Small

College Playoffs (NAIA) by defeating Linfield, Oregon, 28-6 in the semi-finals and tying Sam Houston of Texas 7-7 in the NAIA title game.

All-conference selections were Jack Hickey, Hardy Reyerson, and Rich Froehle. Rich was awarded the St. Paul *Pioneer Press-Dispatch* trophy as the MIAC's most valuable player for 1965. His 1,541 total yards rushing from 1961 to 1964 ranked him as eighth among the great ball carriers turned out by St. John's, although all of these high marks of the past have been eclipsed by Tim Schmitz's near-4,000 yards from 1974-77. Paul Labinski, center-guard, was invited to tryout for the Minnesota Vikings at their summer camp in 1964.

- 1965 -

The year 1965 witnessed a change of pace. After polishing off River Falls State 16-0 and Bemidji State 8-0, St. John's methodically decapitated all conference opponents for a perfect 1.000 standing for the season: St. John's 48, Macalester 0; St. John's 18, St. Thomas 0; St. John's 34, Hamline 6; St. John's 17, Duluth 8; St. John's 34, Gustavus 0; St. John's 28, Augsburg 6; St. John's 10, Concordia 0.

This performance produced a second invitation to compete in the NAIA play-offs. The contests this year lacked the drama and suspense of the Prairie View encounter of 1963. In the first play-off game, St. John's dispatched Fairmount State of West Virginia 28-7, and in the title match, played in Augusta, Georgia, smothered Linfield, Oregon which had been defeated in the semi-finals by Concordia in 1964, by a score of 33-0. This gave the Johnnies their second national championship within a space of three years, and a 11-0 record for the season. The NAIA showed its appreciation for the high quality of football and sportsmanship displayed by Gagliardi and his team by awarding him the NAIA title Coach of the Year. The MIAC extended a similar honor, this for the third time.

All-MIAC selections were the following-defensive unit: Fred Cremer, tackle, and John Ford linebacker; offensive unit: Dave Griffin, end, Mike Collins, tackle, and Jim Shiely, halfback. Other stand-outs for the season were Roger Trobec, fullback, and Don Nett, halfback. Terry Hartman kept the opposing teams off balance with his consistent punting; in addition, he made 21 out of 23 conversion attempts and 5 out of 7 field goals, which together with one touchdown made him high scorer for the season. Other high scorers were Jim Shiely, Don Nett, and Dave Griffin.

- 1966 -

One might begin to wonder how long this could continue. Well, in 1966 the Johnnies did let up somewhat. They won a close victory over Bemidji State 26-20, then won three and lost three in the conference, all but one of the losses by one touchdown or less. They tied Gustavus 7-7. This resulted in a fifth place finish. Overall the record was 4-3-1. Stand-outs in the line were Mike Collins, Mike Perry, and ends Terry Underwood, Ed Kranz, and Dave Griffin. The latter snared 20 passes by Gillham, Hartman, and Provinzino for a total of 333 yards and five touchdowns. Other ground-gainers were Roger Trobec and Don Nett; the latter won the conference rushing title with 513 yards. Fred Cremer was chosen all-conference as both offensive and defensive tackle.

- 1967 -

The coaching staff was strengthened the following year, 1967, by the addition of Terry Haws, who had been hired primarily to replace Bob Dumonceaux, now Dr. Dumonceaux, chairman of the SJU mathematics department, who relinquished his position as wrestling coach and took a leave of absence to continue his graduate studies. Haws had been highly successful as wrestling and football coach at St. James High School and at Cathedral High School, St. Cloud, where his wrestling teams took seven state championships in ten

years. As football coach, he had a record in high school of 67 wins versus 39 losses in 12 years of coaching.

His addition to the staff was especially needed since 1967 was clearly a re-building year. The Jays lost their first game to St. Cloud 0-10, and four more games by close scores. The bright spot in the season was the 12-7 final-game victory over Gustavus, conference champions for that year. The victory left a pleasant taste in the players' mouths for 1968. St. John's finished in fifth place with three wins and four losses (3-5 overall).

Names that stand out in 1967 were John Agee and Tom Klein, defensive backs, Joe Mullen, linebacker, Terry Underwood, end, and Tom Schutta, tackle. In the backfield Don Nett, his brother Joe, and Tom Gillham executed the ball-carrying and passing duties. Linebacker Joe Mullen and defensive back Tom Klein were awarded places on the defensive unit of the all-conference team, while Tom Schutta, Joe Cronin, fullback, and Terry Underwood and Dave Tripp, guard, received honorable mention.

- 1968 -

The year 1968 showed some improvement over the preceding two seasons. Although Gagliardi had trouble finding a dependable quarterback, spectacular rushing by John Balestri (787 yards in 179 tries, third best for SJU up to that time), and by scat back Bill Laliberte (501 yards in 116 attempts), supplemented by a strong rushing and pass defense led by Tom Schutta and Mike Starr in the line, Tom Klein and Mike Shea in the secondary (third in total defense in the conference), carried the Johnnies to a 4-3 finish and a tie for third place. Their overall rating was 6-4. Gustavus took the championship with a record of 6 wins and one loss.

All-conference selections were Dave Tripp, offensive guard, and Mike Shea, defensive back. This year the name Bob Nasby began to appear in the line-up followed by a "K". Bob became a dependable place-kicker for the next three years. Jim Winkels turned in a creditable performance in punting-47 punts for 1,776 yards, an average of 37.8 per kick. John Stencel also showed brilliance in returning punts and kickoffs.

- 1969 -

The year 1969 saw St. John's back in the groove. Scatback Bill Laliberte was still eluding the defense who came up with a handful of air much of the time when they tried to tackle him. He piled up a total of 892 yards for the season, or 5.0 per carry. Mike Halloran, fullback, was second with a total of 582 yards and 4.0 yards per carry. Haskins, end, snared 21 passes thrown by Tom Kafka and Joe Nett for 251 yards. Dave Arnold, end, although only a freshman, was beginning to show promise of his future unparalleled pass receiving by catching 18 passes for 448 yards and six touchdowns. Chuck Hanish, end, also aided the pass offense by grabbing a respectable 13 tosses for 169 yards.

In the MIAC St. John's rated fifth in total team offense, third in rushing, and fourth in total team defense. In the final standings, St. John's came up with five wins, one loss (to Concordia) and one tie (7-7 with Gustavus). Victories over University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and St. Cloud State brought the overall record to 7-1-1. This record was good enough to merit an invitation to the seventeenth annual Mineral Water Bowl in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. In this game St. John's methodically cut down Simpson College of Iowa by a score of 21-0, the fifth straight post-season victory. The sportswriter for the Kansas City *Star* for November 30, 1969, who covered the game, was loud in his praise of the Johnnies' defensive play, led by Tom Schutta (voted the most valuable lineman of the game), supported by Denny Merritt, Mike Starr, Jim Anderson, and Mike Donovan. Simpson made only 65 yards by rushing and 19 by passing, and never got beyond the Johnnie 25-yard line. But the offensive play of the Johnnies was equally brilliant. Simpson had thoroughly scouted Laliberte and had developed a strategy to contain him on sweeps, but, said the Kansas City *Star*, "He was deadly on traps and delays up the middle." He carried the ball 26 times and piled up 103 net

yards, a record which caused him to be voted the most valuable backfield player of the game.

When Laliberte and Halloran were not riddling the line, Tom Kafka and Joe Nett were hitting Dave Haskins and Dave Arnold for a passing total of 132 yards.

Named to the all-conference team were Bill Laliberte, offensive halfback, defensive tackle Tom Schutta, linebacker John Lynch, and defensive back John Stencil. Honorable mention awards went to John Agee and Mike Donovan, defensive backs; Dave Haskins, end; Tom Kafka, quarterback; and Denny Merritt, linebacker.

- 1970 -

Only eleven regulars from the bowl-winning 1969 team reported for practice in August, 1970. Juniors and seniors were Tom Kafka, quarterback; Bill Dorgan, halfback; Bob Nasby, kicker; Mike Starr, tackle; Frank Hudoba, center; Jim Anderson, guard; and John Lynch, linebacker. Several sophomores had looked promising the previous year: Jim Kruzich, defensive end; Gary Eustice, brother of Brad Eustice who starred in 1976, fullback; Tom Schirber, fullback; Steve Best, linebacker; Dave Arnold and Charles Kessler, ends. Senior Tom Kafka continued his excellent passing attack of the previous year, averaging 104.2 yards per game, 12 going for touchdowns. Sophomore Dave Arnold continued his brilliant pass receiving, snaring 36 passes, thrown mostly by Kafka, to better his performance of 1969 with a total of 536 yards or 59.5 per game. This performance caused him to rate first in the number of touchdowns and second in total scoring in the MIAC that year. It also resulted in his selection to the all-conference offensive unit, along with Frank Hudoba, center. Jim Kruzich was chosen on the all-conference defensive unit.

However, St. John's lost to Concordia and Gustavus and had to settle for second place with a 5-2 record (6-3 overall because of an unusual loss to St. Cloud State, 22-84).

- 1971 -

The Big Red had started out strong in 1971 by methodically picking apart Wartburg's offense, and posting a 49-13 win. They had the usual tilt with St. Cloud State and repaired the loss of the previous year with a 32-7 win. They then took arch-rivals St. Thomas (10-0) and Gustavus (20-10), and won the rest of the games with one exception- a loss to Duluth. Leading 21-16, the Johnnies lost the ball on Duluth's three-yard line with three minutes showing on the clock. One of the Johnnie defensive backs let a receiver get open, and our linemen, although practically smothering the Duluth quarterback, let him wriggle loose long enough to unleash a wobbly pass to his receiver, who ran unattended for a touchdown. Final score: Duluth 22, SJU 21. Friends have been warned not to remind John of that game: the memory is too excruciating. However, the Card 'n Blue ended up with a respectable 6-1 standing in the conference and a tie with Gustavus for the championship (8-1 overall). They were also ranked seventh nationally in the NAIA.

Paul Schmit, quarterback, who replaced the injured Gary Marlow, starred in the game against Duluth with his brilliant passing, and continued to do so for two more seasons. Joe Nett, Gary Eustice, Bill Dorgan, and Tom Schirber piled up a total of 1,381 net yards by rushing versus 959 for the opponents, and a total of 1,235 in passing (1,088 for opponents) and 17 touchdowns. The backfield had a good deal of help from the line and linebackers. Names that will be remembered by fellow Johnnies and by former backfield men around the conference are Kurt Wachtler, Chuck Mahoney, Nick Lynch and Greg Soukup, tackles; Steve Setzler, former Prep, middle guard; Lyle Mathiasen and Dick Humphrey, guards; Dave Arnold and Chuck Kessler, offensive ends; Jim Kruzich, Jim Brown, and Tom Dailey, defensive ends; and Bruce Hentges, Bill Haen, and Bob Bertoni, defensive backs. Seven of this crew were recipients of all-conference awards. The offensive unit included Dave Arnold, Lyle Mathiasen, and Joe Nett; on the defensive unit were Jim Kruzich (for the second time), Steve Setzler, Bruce Hentges, and Bob Bertoni. Steve Setzler was drafted by the San

Francisco Forty-Niners for a defensive end position.

- 1972 -

A good sprinkling of veterans showed up for practice in August, 1972: Dave Arnold, the uncontrollable pass-snatcher; Jim Kruzich, rock-like defensive end; Lyle Mathiasen and Kurt Wachtler, tackles; Steve Best, linebacker; Chuck Mahoney, offensive guard; Mike Sanders, center; Tom Daily, end; and Bill McNamara and Jim Fergle, tackles. Paul Schmit continued to hit Dave Arnold with passes but had some able decoys in the persons of Chuck Kessler and Mike Messerschmidt, who served as targets when Arnold was being doubleteamed. Marty Cella showed great speed in the backfield, producing 937 yards, while Dick Humphrey and Tom Wachlarowicz, older brother of Frank, the star basketball player, made passing by the opposition a risky undertaking. Together they intercepted ten passes for run-backs of 128 yards.

Despite the evident power of the team and its considerable experience, it lost to Gustavus (6-23) and Hamline (14-20) to end up 5-2 in the conference and 7-2 overall. This added up to second place. Seven players made all-MIAC. On the offensive unit were Marty Cella, halfback; Dave Arnold, end; Chuck Mahoney, guard; and Lyle Mathiasen, guard. The defensive unit included Jim Kruzich, end; Kurt Wachtler, tackle; and Steve Best, halfback. Jim Kruzich was also chosen on the Academic All-American Team, in competition with players from colleges and universities throughout the country.

- 1973 -

St. John's started the 1973 season with the usual victory over St. Cloud State (42-7) and then clobbered Concordia and Macalester. St. Thomas, however, after losing 13 of the preceding games to St. John's, finally turned on its tormentor by a score of 17-10. St. John's snapped back to take Hamline 14-7, but then lost the last three games to Duluth, Gustavus, and Augsburg, to end up with a 3-4 record (4-4 overall) and fifth place in the conference. St. Thomas won the title with a 6-1 record.

Schmit again excelled in hitting Todd Watson, successor to Dave Arnold, and Mike Messerschmidt, end, and Larry Novakoske, halfback. Brad Eustice continued his steady pounding of the line, while the elusive running of John Laliberte (125-pounder, brother of scatback Bill, who used to exasperate would-be tacklers by not being there when they sought to wrap their arms around him), added variety to the Johnnie attack.

Stand-outs in the line were Nick Lynch, Greg Miller, Mike Sanders, Lyle Mathiasen, and Jim Fergle. Jerry Haugen, current baseball and assistant football coach at St. John's, together with Bill Manthey, put up a formidable pass defense, and intercepted a total of 11 passes during the season (as compared with three interceptions against St. John's). One player whose contribution counted in the clutches was Horace "Bubba" Small, whose name appeared in the line-up followed by a "K" for "Kicker." Small used his toe in all departments-kickoffs, points after touchdowns, and field goals, and had both good distance and accuracy.

- 1974-

Although St. John's opened the 1974 season with a 46-14 rout of the University of Minnesota-Morris, in which Marty Cella ran wild and Kozlak hit Watson with passes all afternoon, the Jays dropped two games-to Duluth and Concordia-to end up with a 5-2 record in the conference, and 7-2 overall. However, this was still good enough for a tie with Concordia for first place.

The season was marked by the continuation of the brilliant ballcarrying of Marty Cella, who in 1972 had established the record for the highest season yardage up to that time (937 yards), a mark which was soon erased by Jim Roeder (986) and Tim Schmitz (964) in 1975, and again by Schmitz (still a junior in college) with a whopping 1,475 in 1976.

Cella's rushing was backed up by the brilliant passing of Mike Kozlak and the equally brilliant pass receiving of Todd Watson and Mike Messerschmidt. Kozlak established a record this year with 81 completions and a total of 1,322 yards, marks which have not been equalled or surpassed since. This, however, did not represent the highest percentage of completions (53.1), which was achieved by Paul Schmit in 1973 and surpassed by Jeff Norman in 1976 (56.4). Next highest in total yards by passing was Tom Kafka in 1970 (938), followed by Jeff Norman in 1976 (913). In helping to establish some of the records, Todd Watson established a new high of 42 pass receptions and a total of 634 yards for the season. This surpassed Dave Arnold, his coach, in number, but not in yardage (664 for Arnold versus 634 for Watson). Arnold also surpassed his understudy in total number of pass receptions during his career, 1969-72, with 118 vs. 80, and in yardage, 2,038 vs. 1,311. These Arnold marks are still unequalled. Another bit of unexpected help came from Brad Eustice who revived a skill of his high school days, and did the punting for the Jays. In the UM-Morris game, his kicks averaged 39 yards.

In the closing minutes of the last game of the season against Augsburg (won by St. John's 21-7), it was announced over the public address system that St. Olaf, which had left the Midwest Conference to return to the MIAC after a 25-year absence, had defeated Duluth 7-0, thereby throwing St. John's into a tie with Concordia for first place. St. John's had welcomed St. Olaf into the conference earlier with a 51-21 thrashing, so the Northfield school's response was an example of turning the other cheek.

Stand-outs on defense were Jerry Haugen, Peter Cheeley, and Jim Spaniol, who made passing by opposing teams a hazardous practice by snaring 23 interceptions. Others who served as massive obstructions to opposing teams were Nick Lynch, linebacker; John Herkenhoff, defensive end; Kurt Wachtler and Greg Miller, the last the present head coach of wrestling and the assistant football coach at SJU. Starring also were end Terry Sexton (son of Jim, who was a tackle on Gagliardi's first championship team in 1954, also an end), and Joe Wentzell, tackle. The names of Jim Roeder and Tim Schmitz began to appear in game write-ups, even though the former was only a sophomore transfer and the latter only a freshman. By the end of the season they had amassed 278 and 250 yards, respectively.

Another new name began to appear in the write-ups-that of Jeff Norman, who began early in the season to add points to the score by his unerring kicks for points after touchdowns and sometimes from farther out. The words "Norman Kick" began to replace that of "Small Kick."

All conference selections were Todd Watson and Mike Messerschmidt, ends; John Herkenhoff, offensive guard; Greg Miller, defensive tackle; and Nick Lynch, linebacker.

- 1975 -

With a promising though still unproven backfield (John called 1975 a rebuilding year), and Todd Watson still on hand ready to continue his phenomenal pass snatching career with throws from the new quarterback, Jeff Norman, the Jays looked hopefully for a good season. The offensive line was strong, but with some untried replacements on the defense, all of which was balanced by a strong pass defense, the prospects for 1975 were promising. Championship expectations (if any) received a rude jolt when UM-Morris, whom the Jays had flattened 46-6 in 1974, squeaked by with a score of 8-6. It should be mentioned that this team was vastly improved over that of the preceding year, and went on again to win the title of the Northern Intercollegiate Conference (NIC) and repeated in 1976.

However, the Johnnies went to work the following Monday and won all the rest of their games except for a tie with St. Olaf, which occurred in the closing minutes of that game. Another cliff-hanger was the game with Duluth. St. John's was behind until the fourth quarter, when Norman unleashed a bomb to Todd Watson, who scampered for the winning touchdown. Score: St. John's 13, Duluth 10. That game gave the team the confidence that they needed to go all the way which they did. St. John's ended up 6-0-1 in the

conference, and 8-1-1 overall. All the other teams in the conference had lost at least one game, so the Johnnies improved over their tie for the championship in 1974. It was Gagliardi's tenth MIAC title in 23 years.

After getting back into the groove, the 1975 team performed like veterans, amassing a total of 3,278 yards from scrimmage, or 327.8 per game, while the defense yielded a stingy 1,381 yards and intercepted 18 passes. Jeff Norman gave a preview of what was to come in the following year when he came close to matching Jim Lehman's 1955 record of 109 points by scoring a total of 98.

A bonus to the team this year was an invitation to substitute for an opponent which failed to show up at Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington. On a muddy field the Johnnies pulled out a 7-3 victory to remain undefeated for the season.

Again this season's victories were, as in 1962 and 1963, such all-out team efforts that it is impossible to single out any particular individuals for special mention. The quality of the manpower, and Gagliardi's genius in developing it, can be gathered from the number of those who were chosen all-conference: Todd Watson, offensive end for the third time; Tim Schmitz, fullback; Jim Roeder, halfback, and John Herkenhoff, guard, for the second time; Joe Wentzell, defensive tackle, for the second time; and Jerry Haugen, defensive back.

- 1976 -

Gagliardi's strategy is to take each game, one at a time. But in concentrating on each game as it came along, he not only piloted St. John's to four straight titles, but also led them to a level of performance that won national recognition. Not only was 1976 a season of matchless football, but it also culminated in a game for the national title of NCAA Division III (colleges which do not grant athletic scholarships). The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) invited St. John's to the Alonzo Stagg Bowl game in Phenix City, Alabama, on December 4, 1976. For thrills, suspense, and clutch plays the game rivaled the memorable Camellia Bowl game of 1963. The opponent was Towson State (Maryland).

Graduation had taken a heavy toll of the championship squad of 1975. Gone were defensive backs Hank Foehrenbacher and Jerry Haugen, who were sadly missed in the title game with Towson State. Gone, too, were middle guard Terry Hartman, tackle Paul Osberg, defensive end and guard John Herkenhoff, and veteran record-breaking pass receiver Todd Watson. But able replacements were waiting in the wings or, more properly, on the bench, and they soon demonstrated their right to be counted as members of the Big Red.

As in 1975, St. John's first opponent was NIC champion UM-Morris and, as in 1975, they proved to be the toughest—at least judging from the score. The Johnnies dominated the first half with a 37-yard scoring run by Jeff Norman, a 27-yard scoring pass from Norman to Scott Edstrom, halfback, and a 47-yard field goal by Norman. Both points after touchdown attempts were blocked. But the indomitable Morris rallied in the second half to tie the score 15-15—the only blemish on the Johnnie record that season. Incidentally, Morris was also undefeated in the NIC.

St. John's next rolled over Hamline 59-28, but was severely tested in squeaking by St. Thomas 14-11 on the Tommie field. The Johnnies built up to a 14-3 lead in the first half and held on to sink the Tommies for the third straight year. It was in this game that the line, both offensive and defensive, showed its power, with the defense turning back thrusts of the Tommies time after time. Names like Dave Grovum, center; Steve Glocke, Dan Dorgan, and John Kessler, guards; John Ringle and Bob Brigham, tackles; tight end Mike Grant; Joe Wentzell, defensive tackle; Tom Young, defensive back; one-man-gang Ernie England, middle guard; Mark Griffin, linebacker; Terry Sexton, defensive end; and Terry Geraghty, defensive back; were

heard time and again over the public address system and were featured in game write-ups.

The steadily improving Johnnies took Augsburg 62-12 at homecoming, using 112 players in the onslaught, and Concordia 49-0. Against the usually tough Cobbers, with Norman connecting on 9 out of 13 passes for 123 yards, and Schmitz rushing for 79 yards and one touchdown, the Johnnies piled up 270 yards on the ground and 181 through the air, for a total of 428.

The story was pretty much the same with Macalester the following Saturday. The Macs put up stiff resistance for the first quarter, but wilted under the pounding of Tim Schmitz and Brad Eustice. Total yardage of running plays netted 562 yards and a final score of 70-13. The defensive line, led by nose guard Ernie England and linebacker Mark Griffin, held the Macs to 43 yards in 39 running plays.

St. John's was now rated Number One in the NCAA's Division III and sixth in the nation by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The contest with Gustavus the following Saturday did nothing to disturb this ranking. Against the usually tough Gusties, St. John's piled up 480 yards on the ground and 50 yards through the air versus 137 to 176 by the Gusties for a score of 44-14. Things were so well in hand by the end of the first half that Gagliardi removed Norman from the game and reserves Bill DeWitt, John Welsh, Chris Deckas, and Jerry Thygeson led the nation's number one small college team.

This 44-point score was an all-time high in the series between the two schools, dating back to 1923. Gustavus holds a 24-15-3 edge for the entire period, but the Johnnies hold an 11-10-3 edge since Gagliardi took over in 1953 and won his first championship.

St. Olaf was the last MIAC opponent, but the Johnnies did not take the ales lightly. They had tied St. John's the year before and couldn't be expected to lie down and play dead in 1976. Coach Tom Porter bewailed the loss of regulars by graduation, but his team put up stiff resistance to the Johnnie juggernaut, holding them to 200 net yards rushing, as compared with their average of 370 for the season, and 90 yards passing. St. Olaf accomplished the unusual feat of making the Johnnies punt nine times in that game. Four fumbles prevented the Johnnies from getting up steam, but they kept coming back and back and finally pushed over four touchdowns, two of them in the last quarter. Final score: St. John's 29, St. Olaf 13.

A revived scoring power was unveiled in this and the preceding two games in the form of Brad Eustice, who had been a consistent ground-gainer in 1973 and 1974, but who had been obliged to stay out of school in 1975-76. He found his former slot filled to overflowing by Tim Schmitz, but he cheerfully accepted the supporting role, and did it with such power that if it had not been for the extraordinary talent of the man ahead of him, he would have rated all-conference.

Although playing only part of the St. Olaf game because of injured ribs, Tim Schmitz re-entered the game to rip off a 51-yard touchdown run, which iced the game for the Johnnies, and raised his total yardage for the season above the 1,000 mark. His 100-yard total for the 17 carries against St. Olaf earned for him the designation by the ABC commentators as the Chevrolet Offensive Player of the Game. This Honor won for St. John's a \$1,500 general-funds scholarship for the 1977-78 school year. An additional \$7,000 in scholarship funds was awarded by Chevrolet to be divided between the two schools.

The defensive play of the Big Red in the final game was nothing short of brilliant. Despite five fumbles (four of them lost), the defensive unit limited St. Olaf to 112 net yards, 64 by rushing and 28 by passing, and gave up only one first down in the second half with 42 seconds remaining in the game.

With the record just described, it was inevitable that St. John's would receive a play-off bid. In fact, the record was so good that the team received bids from both the NAIA and NCAA. There was a bit of a hassle as to which bid to accept, since St. John's had applied for participation in the play-offs of both

organizations; but in the end, Gagliardi decided to go with NCAA, even at the risk of offending the rival organization.

St. John's first opponent in the NCAA Division III play-offs was Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, which finished second to Carroll College (Wisconsin) in the College Conference of Illinois-Wisconsin (CCIW). Like SJU, Augustana had never tasted a postseason defeat, and on top of that sported a 24-0-1 record and a 1.000 average on their home field since 1971. The pre-game statistics of senior tailback Thompson's rushing (3,759 during his three-year career) and the passing of quarterback Necastro, who was leading the CCIW with 86 completions out of 170 tosses, for a season total of 1,295 yards, together with a complete supporting cast of linemen and blockers, provided sufficient evidence that St. John's would be in a for busy afternoon.

However, it really didn't turn out that way. The game was just a 46-7 romp on a beautiful, sunny November day. Behind their fast charging line, the Johnnies established four new NCAA Division III play-off marks: Quarterback Norman scored five touchdowns, surpassing the single game record of Lloyd Ball of Wittenberg in 1972; Tim Schmitz led the team with 530 yards rushing, erasing the record of 446 set by Capitol College in 1970; and the clock-like performance of the line and backfield resulted in piling up 592 yards of total offense, bettering the Randolph-Macon mark of 514 set in 1960. The Johnnies also set a new record for first downs-31, compared with Bridgeport College in 1969.

The next Johnnie victim was Buena Vista College of Storm Lake, Iowa, which had got to Round Two by slipping by Carroll College, winner of the CCIW title, by a score of 20-14. The Buena Vista game was played at St. John's in six-degree (Fahrenheit) weather, but a few degrees either way wouldn't have made much difference. While piling up a 61-0 score, Jeff Norman scored one touchdown, passed for two more, and kicked seven points after touchdowns. Several NCAA records fell as a result of this onslaught. Jeff Norman scored 47 points in two games to break the three-game play-off record by 11 points. The 61 score set a single-game high; and a two-game total of 107 points surpassed the old mark of 100 points set by Wittenberg in 1975. St. John's out-gained Buena Vista 449 to 98 yards, and 365 to 35 in rushing. Middle guard Ernie England broke up play after play of the lowans, and the fast-charging of his teammates and the alertness of the pass defense held the pass completions of Buena Vista star quarterback Rollie Wieber to only 6 of 23 for 62 yards. St. John's was ready for the title game.

The opponent for this game was Towson State of Maryland, which had won the right to meet the Johnnies in the Alonzo Stagg Bowl in Phoenix City, Alabama, by beating C. W. Post College of New York 14-10 and St. Lawrence College 38-36. It has already been mentioned that this classic ranks with the famous Camellia Bowl game of 1963 against Prairie View College. The main difference between them is that the suspense of the 1976 game, played in the warm Alabama sunshine on December 4, was all crowded into the last half of the fourth quarter.

The Johnnies, who were enjoying the 60-degree weather, were relaxed and confident and went about their business of playing football as usual, piling up a 28-0 lead by the end of the third quarter. It looked like another Augustana or Buena Vista walk away. For the first touchdown the Jays marched 66 yards with the opening kickoff, capping it with a 32-yard run by Norman on a keeper. Early in the second quarter, Norman tossed a pass to Schmitz, who rambled 46 yards to score. Then Norman threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Jim Roeder for the third touchdown, and late in the same quarter Schmitz crashed for 52 yards off tackle for the fourth touchdown. Norman kicked all the conversions and the score was SJU 28, Towson 0. Everyone thought this was a re-play of the first two play-off games, and some people were already beginning to leave the stands.

But Towson had other ideas. Although the alert Johnnie defense had intercepted three Towson passes and contained them on the ground until then, the Maryland school began showing the stuff that put them in the

bowl game in the first place. Their star quarterback, Dan Dullea, began filling the air with passes, and during the final 15 minutes had completed 9 of 18. He tossed a 57-yarder to the elusive Towson end Ken Snoots, which took Towson to the five-yard line. Four plays later, Mike Maloney plunged over from the one. With so little time left in the game, this did not seem too disastrous to St. John's. It merely meant that the Johnnies had been deprived of a shut-out. However, Towson was fired up, and Dullea continued hitting Snoots with needle-threading passes.

Less than three minutes later, after completing three straight passes for 53 yards, Towson had its second touchdown. The Johnnies were still not terribly disturbed. However, despite some brilliant interceptions by Mark Hall, Jim Geraghty, and Joe Luby, as well as Ernie England's sacking of Dullea for a 17-yard loss, Dullea, aided by a pass interference call which would have been Geraghty's third interception, hit end Snoots for a 22-yard touchdown pass, with 1:03 remaining. After an on-side kick recovered by Towson's Bill Doherty, Dullea found Mike Bennett with a 5-yard pass in the end zone, and Bielski made the conversion. The score with 34 seconds remaining was SJU 28, Towson 28.

But at this point the championship quality of the Johnnie team showed through. After a penalty for spiking the ball, Towson kicked off from their own 25 and St. John's got the ball on their own 41-yard line with 25 seconds remaining. On the second play Norman unleashed a long pass to injured Jim Roeder who was streaking down the right sideline. The ball fell into his arms and he cut in, picked up interference from an out-of-position official, and got to the one-yard line with seven seconds left on the clock. After a time-out to kill the clock, Norman called for a quarterback sneak, but the players were over-anxious and he never got his hands on the ball. Ever-alert Tim Schmitz fell on the ball a couple of yards from the goal, and St. John's called time-out again with only seconds remaining.

The rest is history. As the three seconds ticked away, Norman calmly kicked a 19-yard field goal, and the scoreboard showed SJU 31, Towson 28.

The game was televised and seen by hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, in the Southeast and Midwest. St. John's has a video tape of the game and it has provided fascinating entertainment for alumni at alumni meetings and wherever football lovers gather. Further evidence of the championship quality of this team is that they played this game with a number of regulars out with injuries (and others who would have been if there had been reserves for them). Norman had suffered a shoulder separation three weeks before the game. Roeder, who had not even started because of a knee injury, came into the game when Chris Boyd, who was substituting for the injured Scott Edstrom, had to leave because of a back injury. Defensive end Terry Sexton sat out the entire game with a knee injury and tackle Joe Wentzell and defensive end Tom Kost were so banged up that they practiced only once during the week before the title game. Dan Dorgan missed the entire last quarter with an injured hip. It was fortunate that the season didn't last any longer!

The team spirit which characterized the 1976 Johnnie crew is illustrated by a news story told by Bob Schabert, the St. Cloud *Daily Times* sportswriter who was mingling with the players and crowd of well-wishers on the field after the game, looking for human interest stories. One of the sportswriters got to Norman after he had finished signing autographs for Phenix kids, and asked him whether he would like to be remembered as the quarterback who threw the long pass that put SJU on the one-yard line, or as the place-kicker who split the uprights with the winning field goal in the last three seconds. Those who know Norman could have guessed the answer: "Actually, I just want to be remembered as part of the team that won the national championship."

Jeff Norman, who was voted the game's most valuable player, accounted for three touchdowns. He ran 32 yards for one, passed to fullback Tim Schmitz for the second, and to Jim Roeder for the third. Schmitz ran 52 yards for another touchdown and was the game's leading rusher, with 153 yards in 30 carries. Brad

Eustice, back-up for Schmitz, came up with 103 yards in 12 carries. Norman made 137 yards through the air on four completions out of 12 attempts, but two of these four were for touchdowns.

The superb coaching and field performance brought nation-wide recognition to the coach and to the team. Gagliardi was named NCAA Division III Coach of the Year, and gave the principal address at an awards dinner in Miami in January. He was also invited to address the Gridiron Club in Washington, D.C., and to receive an award for the second time (1965 was the first). In addition to the Division III championship trophy presented to the team and the school, Norman was designated the Chevrolet Offensive Player of the Year and won a \$1,500 scholarship for St. John's students.

The championship quality of the team was also given recognition at home. Eight players were named to the all-MIAC team: Joe Wentzell, defensive tackle; Terry Sexton, defensive end; Jim Roeder, halfback; Ernie England, though only a freshman, middle guard; Joe Luby, defensive halfback; Dave Grovum, center; Jeff Norman, quarterback; and Tim Schmitz, fullback. Jeff Norman was named the most valuable player in the MIAC at the St. Paul *Pioneer Press-Dispatch* annual college football awards dinner. Anything that could happen after a year like this would be anticlimactic.

- 1977 -

The 1977 season could be described as bitter-sweet. It was sweet to take a fourth MIAC championship in a row, and be chosen twice in succession to participate in the NCAA play-offs. That would normally be the fulfillment of a coach's wildest dreams. But with the powerhouse of 1976 returned pretty much intact, and memories of the methodical way in which the Johnnies dispatched all conference rivals, there was general expectation that they would go all the way to the top as they did in '76.

The 1977 team performed as expected. With the exception of a 16-3 setback at the hands of pesky UM-Morris in the opener, which the Johnnies think might have been a different story if the game were played after they had more than their ten or twelve days of practice behind them, they rolled over all conference opponents in convincing fashion.

Not only were the scores convincing, but the comparative yardage provided definite proof of superiority as well. Following is a summary of the season in scores and yardage:

SJU OPP.

56 Hamline 7

25 St. Thomas 20

49 Augsburg 9

31 Concordia 0

70 Macalester 0

28 Gustavus 18

21 St. Olaf 7

YARDS

561 vs. 205

363 vs. 243

500 vs. 200

389 vs. 96

630 vs. 57* (over 100 Johnnies used in this game)

335 vs. 202

334 vs. 196

This record again merited an invitation to take part in the NCAA play-offs. St. John's was matched in its first game against Wabash, a small school in Indiana with about 800 male students, and an 8-1 season record. The winner of this game was to meet UM-Morris, the NIC champion, which was matched against Albion, Michigan. There was hope that both Minnesota teams would win and settle things by a late season game. But this was not to be.

St. John's met Wabash on the home field on a cold, snow stormy day. The game looked like the usual post-season contest for the Johnnies when Tim Schmitz seized the ball and ran for a touchdown on the first play of the game. However, Wabash came back with a terrific passing attack, and the game ended: SJU 9, Wabash 20. The Johnnies had several bad breaks. Two touchdowns were called back, one on a very questionable clipping call. Their worst break was an off-side penalty on the one-yard line with four downs in which to score a touchdown.

Wabash went on to beat UM-Morris, but was itself defeated by its next opponent.

On December 8, 1977, Tim Schmitz, senior fullback on the 1977 team, was named to the Associated Press Little All-American football team and senior quarterback Jeff Norman received an honorable mention award to the third team. The honors showered on Little All-American and Most Valuable Player of the MIAC fittingly terminated the spectacular career of one of St. John's greatest football players. During his four years as a member of the St. John's team he rushed a total of almost 4,000 yards, averaging over 1,000 yards per season in his last three years. He averaged 315 yards per game in his senior year and helped St. John's be the top offensive team in the NCAA Division III in two consecutive years, 1976 and 1977. Honored with Schmitz with the all-conference award were Ernie England and Tom Kost, linemen, and Joe Luby, backfield on the defensive unit. On the offensive unit were Tim Schmitz, fullback, Jeff Norman, quarterback, Mike Grant, end, and linemen John Ringle and Steve Glocke. As we go to press everyone is wondering what Gagliardi, stripped of the stars he developed, will come up with in 1978.

Chapter III: Basketball

The Beginnings

The beginning of basketball at St. John's was simple in comparison with that of football. Football was not accepted at first at St. John's, whereas basketball received a complete bill of health and was tacitly accepted as a forward moving sport when the authorities announced their building plans for the summer of 1901: "The authorities of St. John's have decided to erect a fine new gymnasium during the following

summer, as well as a three-story library that will contain a museum, an art gallery, and a photographic studio (*Record*, January, 1901, p.381).

There were several announcements regarding progress in the building plans during the following months, finally culminating in a report made by the athletic editor of the *Record* when he returned to school in September. On seeing the exterior of the new gymnasium he wrote enthusiastically that "the completion of the new gymnasium will bring another epoch in the history of athletics." He was confident that new sports would be added, "the most prominent of which will be basketball. This game is becoming very popular in the leading colleges, and, although not as exciting as football, is every bit as interesting" (*Record*, October, 1901, p. 268).

The construction of the gymnasium and the new library marked a tremendous step forward, a calculated decision by the faculty to meet the trends of the new century that had just opened up before their eyes. In an article of the *Record*, a student writer congratulated the administration for their foresight:

For years past the authorities of St. John's were contemplating the erection of a spacious gymnasium in which they recognized an indispensable adjunct to a first class educational institution, one which they thought doubly necessary in our severe northern climate. Various causes, however, combined to make the erection of a suitable gymnasium impracticable for the time being (*Record*, November, 1901, p. 301).

With the opening of the twentieth century, however, it was decided to put off the matter no longer. . . . St. John's is to be congratulated for the fact that it now possesses a gymnasium that is not only a beautiful piece of architecture, but also the finest gymnasium in the entire Northwest" ("The New Gymnasium," *Record*, November, 1901, p. 304).

The interior of the gymnasium was not completed in 1901, however. In his chronicle history of St. John's University for this year, Fr. Alexius Hoffmann, O.S.B., wrote: "When the rugged season set in, the new gymnasium, although not finished in the interior, was opened up for use." Lacking were the physical culture fittings and equipment and, as we discover later, a wooden floor that was planned but finally installed only in October, 1902. Nevertheless, the students, nothing daunted, played indoor baseball and basketball on the dirt floor, despite the dust and inconvenience. As for the future of basketball, they made use of the opportunity to practice and organize a squad for intercollegiate competition during the next academic year.

The high hopes for basketball and pride in the gymnasium were by no means unjustified. There were very few college gymnasiums in Minnesota in 1903. Carleton, St. Olaf and Hamline, for example, made use of basement playrooms with low ceilings and oddly shaped dimensions for basketball—some long and narrow, some almost square, and almost all of them too small. Gustavus Adolphus had what the students called "the old barn" for gymnastic purposes, "small, inadequate and unsightly" (Conrad Peterson: *A History of Eighty Years, 1862- 1942*, p. 90). It was inevitable that St. John's gymnasium would eventually be outmoded by newer structures such as Carleton's Hill- Sayers gymnasium and swimming pool (1909), and Hamline's new gymnasium and pool (1910). The St. Olaf gymnasium was not built until 1919, despite a student's complaint in 1914 "that the little gymnasium in the basement of Ytterboe Hall was an embarrassment; 'the other colleges of the Northwest are refusing to compete with St. Olaf in basketball' " (Joseph M. Shaw: *History of St. Olaf College 1874-1974*). But for the meantime, from 1902-1909 St. John's could rightly claim to have "the finest gymnasium in the Northwest."

- 1902-1903-

With the completion of the gymnasium floor in October, 1902, interest in basketball redoubled, and at the end of the football season the Athletic Association scheduled two games, one with Sauk Centre High School (which St. John's lost 17-25), and a second with St. Cloud High School (also lost, 15-16). Nevertheless,

despite the losses, the future of basketball looked bright. The basics of the game had been mastered and, most important, the experimental games had brought out the presence on campus of four accomplished players, Peter Tierney, James Mienes, Frank W. Hughes, and Frank Tewes, on whom to build for the following year.

- 1903-1904-

The hopes of 1903 were realized in the team of 1904. Games were scheduled with two high schools, Sauk Centre and Melrose, and arrangements were made for a home and home game series with St. Cloud Normal. The Johnnies played inspired basketball and piled up a total of 176 points against only 50 points by the opposition. Scores of 68-15 against Sauk Centre and 65-13 against Melrose indicated that the team was in need of stronger competition. Two victories over St. Cloud Normal School, 20-11 and 21-11, were even more encouraging. Stars for the season were again Peter Tierney, James Mienes, and manager (coach) Frank Tewes. Frank W. Hughes was a fine forward.

- 1904-1905-

The St. John's Athletic Association first began to experience difficulties in drawing up a good schedule of games in 1904-05, a problem that plagued the intercollegiate program until 1914, when, in desperation,

St. John's entered the Minnesota-Dakota Athletic Conference. The coaches of the high schools were reluctant to play the college after their catastrophic defeats of 1904. To complicate the situation, St. Thomas College and the University of Minnesota failed to reply to St. John's letter of invitation.

The schedule, when completed, called for only three outside games. And yet, although only three games were played, the season was a resounding success. The team overwhelmed the St. Cloud Normals in the first game 42-5, then defeated North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, 43-29. The second game with the Normal School proved to be somewhat different. Probably flushed with victory and overconfident, the players boarded the train for St. Cloud in high spirits. But instead of a pushover, as they expected, they met a cornered tiger in a small basement gymnasium and barely escaped a loss by winning 19-17. Captain Peter Tierney was the star performer in 1905. Physical Culture Instructor Professor Comeau was nominal coach, though he knew practically nothing about basketball as a game. It is probable that Tierney did most of the coaching.

- 1905-1906-

The 1906 season opened with the ominous announcement that the basketball team would be competing with the most formidable schedule ever attempted by any team representing St. John's. It turned out to be a four-game schedule, however, and at first did not seem to present all the problems the pre-season forecasts anticipated. After an initial victory over the North Dakota Agricultural College by a score of 24-13, in a return trip to Fargo St. John's dropped two games by scores of 33-43 and 22-29. Highlight of the season was a 52-20 victory over Mechanic Arts High School of St. Paul, one of the Twin Cities powerhouses of that year.

Outstanding players were Captain Tierney and a freshman by the name of Matthias Locnikar, later known as Fr. Florian Locnikar, O.S.B. The latter was one of the outstanding athletes of this period, together with James Mienes and Peter Tierney. For the next two years he starred both in basketball and baseball and became one of the legendary heroes of St. John's first decade in intercollegiate competition. In later years he was very successful as the developer of basketball among the Indian young men on the Red Lake reservation in northern Minnesota.

- 1906-1907-

The 1907 basketball team enjoyed a successful season—a record of three wins in a schedule of four games. After an unexpected defeat on the St. Thomas floor of 22-16, St. John's in a return game crushed the Tommies by a score of 40-21. In the meantime St. John's defeated two other teams, both weak opponents, the St. Paul Amateur Athletic Club 61-9 and the University of Minnesota Freshmen 59-11. Actually, there was nothing unusual about these scores beyond the fact that they are to be expected when a strong team is pitted against one that is unusually weak. The 1907 Johnnies were a cocky lot, however. After having clobbered the Minnesota freshmen, the *Record* reporter declared that they were capable of matching their skills with those of the University of Minnesota Varsity, but that unfortunately it was too late to ask them for a game, and since there were no other teams in the state worthwhile playing, they were claiming the intercollegiate title of the state: "It being practically impossible to arrange a game with the State University first team, and there being no other team in the state worthy of our steel, the championship was unquestionably ours when the season was declared closed" (*Record*, Vol. 20, p. 211). Stars for 1907 were John Knaeble, '07, Fred Thielen, '07, and Martin Unser, '07.

The aftermath of this bit of bravado was indeed surprising. To anyone familiar with sports and championships, the claim of a championship on the basis of four games, one of which was a defeat by the only bona fide college team played, borders on the absurd. The only plausible excuse for the claim is the fact that at that time rules regulating inter-college competition were extremely loose:

Colleges competed with teams from academies, seminaries, and the YMCA. . .as well as with squads from institutions of higher rank. Claims and titles, as a consequence, were frequently misty, mythical, and eminently controversial in supportive evidence" (Merrill Jarchow, *Private Liberal Arts Colleges in Minnesota*, p. 52).

Dr. Jarchow added that the organization of Minnesota colleges into permanent conferences with set schedules, eligibility rules and other controls, was a post-World War I phenomenon—namely, the organization of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (our MIAC) in 1920. Note: The MIAC requirement for a championship in any sport is that it be *awarded*, not merely claimed; that it be awarded on a percentage basis; and so in order "to be eligible for a state championship in football a team must have played at least four conference games; in basketball at least eight conference games with four colleges, and four of the games must be played on foreign courts; in baseball at least six conference games with at least three colleges" (MIAC "Code of Rules," 1936).

- 1907-1908 -

The stated goal of the 1908 team was to retain "the Intercollegiate Championship." Although the 1907 claim to a title was at best controversial, the record of nine victories in a ten-game schedule and a total number of 494 points scored against 224 by the opposition, ranks the 1908 team among the strongest of St. John's early athletic history. On the team roster were the names of several alumni-athletes such as Matthias Locnikar, Ray Kraus and Raymond Smith (star quarterback of Coach Brennan's football team of the same year), all of whom would have been candidates for the St. John's Hall of Fame, had there been such an establishment in 1908. The *Record* boasted that the team was in a class by itself and second to none in the Northwest ("Annual Report of the A.A.," 1908, p. 5). It was a closely knit team and doubtless merited the praise of being the most successful and formidable in the history of the Athletic Association (*ibid.*). Especially commended was Locnikar, who was both captain and coach, besides maintaining his position as one of the highest scorers.

The St. John's Athletic Association claimed a double championship in 1908, the Northwest Championship and the Intercollegiate. (The *Record* never identified the Northwest title beyond simply claiming it.) As for

the Intercollegiate title, St. Thomas also claimed it! Apparently the newspapers favored the St. John's claim, for the *Annual Report* quotes passages from the St. Cloud and St. Paul papers to the effect that St. John's had the better record. Following is an example taken from the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, April 5, 1908:

St. John's basketball team has finished a very successful season, having passed thru a schedule of ten games with but one defeat. St. Thomas, by winning 7 out of 12 games and defeating St. John's in the return game, claims the intercollegiate championship. St. John's makes the same claim, on the strength of having won 9 out of 10 games, and defeating two teams which have handed St. Thomas a defeat. Further comments as to the better claim is needless, as the above facts speak for themselves.

- 1908-1909-

The 1909 basketball schedule and scores are as follows:

	SJU	Opponent
U. of Minn. Ag College	88.	. . .10
Dakota Business College	52.	. . .11
Dakota Business College	33.	. . .33 (tie game)
Fargo Agricultural College	30.	. . .16

The championship fever that was so characteristic of the 1907 and 1908 basketball seasons was never so evident as it was in 1909. The team manager for 1909 began by feeding the newspapers of St. Cloud, St. Paul and Minneapolis with optimistic forecasts for the new basketball season. Typical of them is the following for the December 19, 1908 in the *Minnesota Journal*:

The defenders of the Cardinal and Blue have all the earmarks of winners. Last season St. John's had the best team in its history, winning nine of ten games played with the best quints of the state and the Northwest. With all but two of last year's regulars back, the basketball tossers of 1909 will be strong factors in the intercollegiate race.

The news story concluded with the statement that "Manager John Seibel has been flooded with challenges during the past month" by colleges in Fargo, North Dakota, St. Paul, Minneapolis, St. Cloud and Illinois. "Probably," he noted, "all would be taken on, including return games."

For some reason, however, only five games were secured, three with North Dakota teams, one with Little Falls High School and one with the U. of Minnesota Agricultural College. As a result of not being able to schedule any of the Minnesota colleges, not even St. Thomas, the team had to give up hopes of the Minnesota intercollegiate championship. It would have to settle with a try for the Northwest title. In an expansive moment the manager of the team challenged the world through the *Record*: "We not only want again the Northwest championship, but we must have it, and we will" (*Record*, January, 1909, p.53).

The team had a great season, won four games, tied one, and piled up 278 points to 86 by the opponents. As will be seen in the introductory schedule above, the opposition must have been extraordinarily weak, for high scores of seventy-five and eighty-eight points, according to early 1900 techniques, would have required unusual skill if the opposition was strong. Stars of the year were Captain Ray Kraus, '10, Ray Kappel, '10, Alfred Steichen, '09, and John Jershe, later well known in the Minnesota Iron Range as Monsignor Jershe. Incidentally, he was an extraordinarily generous contributor to the J-Club until his death

in 1973.

Reports of the 1909 basketball games are lavish in praise of the team for its skill. The *Record* called it "the best team in St. John's history." The Fargo *Daily* for 1909 speaks of the team as "a strong aggregation and fast as the wind." It is true that Kappel and Jershe were particularly fast men in track as well as in basketball.

As for the Northwest Championship, Manager Seibel found himself confronted with the problem of claiming the title, despite his meager five-game schedule. In order to compensate both for the weak schedule and the small number of games, he apparently sought to place the blame on the teams he had hoped to schedule, charging them with not daring to play St. John's and sidestepping the challenge of a superior team. In a packet of clippings made by the archivist of St. John's, Fr. Francis Mersmann, O.S.B., from Twin City and St. Cloud papers, are records of news articles challenging all teams and sundry others to meet St. John's on the basketball floor—that is, if they dared to dispute the Northwest title.

The St. Cloud *Times*, February 27, 1909, writes as follows: "While having the best quint that ever represented St. John's, basketball has been a disappointment, not from a playing standpoint but because neighboring quints seem to be shy about giving St. John's a game." Defies were issued to practically all the Twin City papers, challenging any team of class that aspired to the Northwest championship. "The Colledgeville quint wishes to reiterate its defy to any team out for the

Northwest championship, and is willing to meet any other five here or on a neutral floor who consider themselves in St. John's class" (Minneapolis *Journal*, February 28, 1909). Sometime later, the *Record* (March, 1909, p. 158) reported: "Thus far our tossers of the inflated sphere have suffered no defeat, so we may justly claim the Northwest championship. A defy to play any five claiming the title was published in the Twin City papers. No response resulted, so who can honestly and justly dispute our claim?"

The defy evidently aroused at least one reader to a response, implying that the St. John's opposition had been particularly unimpressive: "In a certain newspaper," the *Record* reports, "a writer smartly asked: 'St. John's claims the Northwest championship. Whom have they beaten?'-Our curt reply: 'We have played and defeated every team in the Northwest that had the grit and nerve to play us. Satisfied?' " The barb may have struck home, however, for this was the last claim to a championship we encountered in later years.

- 1909-1910 -

The spirit that prevailed over the athletic scene at St. John's at the beginning of the 1910 basketball season was almost a complete reversal from that of 1909. The strident claims of largely fictitious championships were silenced. It was as if the heads of the athletic staff had suddenly decided to follow a more modest and better balanced publicity policy. Another change we notice is that for the first time in the history of St. John's basketball the schedule had become distinctly intercollegiate.

St. Thomas was again scheduled, as was Luther College of Iowa. Scheduled also was Hamline. Hamline had just completed its fine new gymnasium that enabled the Piper athletic department to emerge from the dungeon of a college basement.

In fact, basketball first came to full maturity in the Minnesota private colleges with the construction of the Sayles-Hill gymnasium on the Carleton College campus. The St. John's team for 1910 was one of the best in St. John's early athletic history. Holdovers from 1909 were such stars as Captain Ray Kraus, Ray Kappel and John Jershe to carry on St. John's quest for excellence in athletics. The team won five games of a seven-game schedule. It defeated Hamline 44-13; the University of Minnesota freshmen 51-27; Luther College 25-24; St. Thomas 44-13; St. Cloud A.A. 39-16. Ironically, the only losses sustained by St. John's

were to the St. Joseph Athletic Club of Minneapolis, an amateur parish club made up of former St. John's basketball stars-Fred Thielen, '07; John Knaeble, '07; and Oscar and Peter Faber, '07.

It would be an injustice to members of the first team to single out any individual star. This was probably the most closely knit team in St. John's early history. It is best to name as stars of 1910 Ray Kraus, Ray Kappel, John Jershe, Frank First and Joseph Kain.

- 1910-1911-

There is little to say about the 1911 basketball team beyond the fact that it was coached by Physical Culture Instructor Edward Flynn in his first experience as director of activities other than gymnastics, his specialty. It is probable that he was assisted by Ray Kappel, a three-year veteran in basketball. Only two games were scheduled, unfortunately, both with the College of St. Thomas. St. John's won the first game on the home floor by a score of 33-20. The second game with St. Thomas was played on the Hamline floor, for St. Thomas as yet had no gymnasium of its own. It was won by St. John's in a "sudden death" overtime period, 24-22.

Stars for this year were Captain Ray Kappel and Roy O'Connell.

- 1911-1912 -

When the 1912 basketball season opened, interest in the game was at a low ebb because of the small number of games scheduled in the previous year. Interest revived suddenly, however, when the new moderator of athletics, Fr. Benedict Schmit, O.S.B., took things into his own hands and came up with a schedule of eight games, five of them authentic intercollegiate contests: the University of Minnesota Agricultural College, the University of North Dakota, Hamline University (two games) and St. Olaf College. There were also three games with amateur Twin Cities teams, the St. Paul YMCA and the St. Joseph Athletic Club (two games).

The season was a disappointment to the team followers. Following two opening victories, the first over the St. Joseph A.C. and the second over the University of Minnesota Aggies, the team dropped the remaining six games. The two losses to Hamline University were not wholly unexpected, however, for this year Hamline began its first long period of athletic dominance in basketball. Prior to 1910 Hamline had not been seriously interested in the game, but with the building of their gymnasium in 1910 a drastic change took place. As one of the Hamline historians wrote, "Basketball, which was only peeping over the horizon as a college sport, was destined to shine as a fully risen sun" (*Hamline History*, p. 101).

The newly risen sun at Hamline was the legendary Franklyn Blume who with his teammate Swanson dominated the basketball scene in Minnesota for the next three years.

The lowly record of the SJU 1912 team is easily explained. Not only was it a new team of freshmen and only one holdover from 1911, but for the first time St. John's was meeting the tough university and college teams of North Dakota and Minnesota, each of which was coached by men with university athletic backgrounds.

Budding stars of the team were Frank Kettler, a powerful six-foot three- incher, who in 1916 furnished the muscle for the first championship team St. John's ever had, and Frank Braun (later Fr. Mark Braun, O.S.B.). Alois Goeb (later Fr. Cuthbert, O.S.B.), appointed abbot of Richardton Abbey in North Dakota in 1932, was a clever hot-shooting forward.

- 1912-1913 -

Fr. Benedict Schmit's energy and determination to establish an authentic intercollegiate athletic program was again manifested in the 1912-1913 basketball schedule of nine games, eight of which were with college teams. The season record of four wins and five losses, while satisfactory for the period, was a disappointment for those who had looked forward to something better. Team play was erratic at times, although Captain Frank Braun, affectionately nicknamed "Old Reliable" because of his consistent play at guard, was an inspiring leader.

After losing the first game to Hamline 14-26, the Cardinal and Blue won the next three games against stout competition: Luther College 50-10; St. Olaf 24-15; North Dakota University 27-25. Prospects for a big year took a nose dive, however, for the next four games were lost, partly through erratic play, partly because of the strength of the opposition: to Hamline 21-41, the University of Minnesota Aggies 27-30, the YMCA 18-23, and the St. Cloud Normals 7-32. The team regained some of its lost prestige in its last game by defeating the Minnesota Aggies 27-25.

The poor score of the St. Cloud Normal game is a good illustration of the influence an inadequate gymnasium played in determining the outcome of a game. The St. Cloud gymnasium in which St. John's lost to the Normals 7-32 was poorly lighted and, in addition, was a narrow room with a height of twelve feet from floor to ceiling. Unaccustomed to the low ceiling and being unable to arch their shots, the Johnnies were easy victims.

- 1913-1914 -

In the fall of 1913, Fr. Virgil Michel, O.S.B., though not yet ordained, succeeded Fr. Benedict Schmit as moderator of athletics. It would appear that the era of the dynamic student-presidents of the Athletic Association had ended. However that may be, the frequency of the commendations of moderators that now appear in the *Record*, especially of Fr. Virgil, seem to indicate that the moderators were beginning to take a more active interest in athletics and recreational activities. It soon became evident that the athletic policy of the college was changing for the better under the leadership of the last two moderators, Frs. Benedict and Virgil.

The *Record* claimed that the 1914 team was the finest to have appeared on the St. John's campus since the memorable five of 1908. In a schedule of eleven games the team emerged victorious in seven games against four losses. On the other hand, only five intercollegiate games were scheduled, three fewer than the previous year—which means that the scheduling committee still found it difficult to secure more games with the colleges—which was what they were looking forward to. Six games were scheduled with high schools and amateur clubs of the Twin Cities and St. Cloud, simply to present a full program of athletic activities. Moreover, it was a strong team. Although the team lost three games to the colleges, the losses were by low scores. For example, of the two losses to Hamline, one was by a score of 16-21, and Hamline was at that time top team in the state. Hackner in one game held the great Blume to a single basket. Losses were also counter-balanced by decisive victories over the Minnesota Aggies 40-16 and St. Olaf 33-16.

Stars for the year 1913-1914 were Robert (Bob) Hackner, Frank Braun, Roman Steichen, and Bernard Karels, a highly talented Prep School recruit from the intramural ranks, who the next year was to be the first all-state basketball player in St. John's athletic history. Hackner and Frank Braun completed their sophomore year in college and moved on, the former transferring to the Armour Institute in Chicago, and Frank Braun entering the Benedictine Order and taking the religious name of Mark, by which he was known for the remainder of his life. He became somewhat of a legend as dean of the college from 1929 until 1933, the wise, progressive, no-nonsense educator. He was appointed Abbot of St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, Oklahoma, in

- 1914-1915-

Basketball at St. John's took a turn for the better in the fall of 1914 when St. John's formally entered the Minnesota-Dakota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. For ten years the St. John's scheduling committee each fall had struggled with only partial success to arrange a satisfactory schedule of games. With Fr. Virgil Michel as moderator of athletics, it was finally realized that the old system of arranging outside games was completely outmoded. There were only two alternatives, either to drop intercollegiate games entirely or to join the newly organized (1911) Minnesota-Dakota Athletic Conference.

The first and only notice of St. John's joining the conference was an entry in the December issue of the 1914 *Record*: "As St. John's has entered the new conference, a goodly number of games is assured. Now, fellows, give St. John's your best and we surely will gain a position at the top, if we do not win the championship" (*Record*, December, 1914, p. 580).

The announcement was greeted with enthusiasm, particularly because a new crop of promising athletes was coming up that would represent St. John's brilliantly in conference competition. With one exception (Al Wipfli) they were big men: Bernard Karels, Louis Mohs, Jack Stroeder, Frank Kettler, and Urban Knaeble.

The first burst of enthusiasm waned when suddenly it was learned that Coach Flynn and his family had been quarantined because of a contagious disease. But Fr. Vigil, who in his two years of association with the coach had formed a close friendship with him, took over the team. His enthusiasm and fire were an inspiration to the young players, who swept through a heavy schedule of ten games with six wins, three losses and one tie. Highlights of the season were a 36-13 defeat of St. Thomas and a 21-19 defeat of the University of North Dakota. The tied game was due to the Hamline scorer failing to register a St. John's free-throw. The Hamline faculty representative two days after the game apologized to Fr. Virgil and expressed his hopes that their good relations with St. John's had not been harmed.

The last game of the season, with St. Thomas on their home floor, St. John's lost 9-14. It was played on the dirt floor of the St. Thomas Armory. Not every college had as yet a satisfactory gymnasium!

In 1915 Bernard Karels, a freshman, won a place on the all-state team, the first in St. John's basketball history. Other stars were also freshmen: Louis Mohs, Urban Knaeble, Frank Kettler, and James Stroeder.

- 1915-1916 -

After thirteen years of basketball, St. John's finally had its banner year, the championship of the Minnesota-Dakota Athletic Conference. Unfortunately it had to share the honor with Carleton with its identical record of nine wins versus one loss. What is most remarkable about the championship is that St. John's had joined the conference only two years before and suddenly emerged as a powerhouse, placing three of its players on the all-state first team and one on the second team. The one loss of the season was to Fargo College by a score of 25-18, a team the players had underestimated and suddenly were taken by surprise by a smaller, fast-moving outfit that had been having an erratic up-and-down season.

The 1916 season was Captain Bernard Karels' second year on the all-state team. Other players who were awarded all-state berths were Louis Mohs and Urban Knaeble, the last of the outstanding Knaeblebrother athletes. A younger brother, George, was not as well known as an athlete as his older brothers. Frank Kettler was called "Shorty" because he was six-feet-three and weighed over two hundred pounds. Bernard Karels was a genius with a basketball. Working by himself, he developed the long one-hand jump shot before it was recognized as the most valuable shot in basketball, one that ten years later was to change basketball from a low scoring to a high-scoring game. At the end of the 1916 basketball season the *Record* reporter expressed the appreciation of St. John's for the work of this extraordinary player who, of a total of

465 points scored by the team, scored 219 himself:

This being Captain Karels' last year here, the school loses one of the best basketball players in the state. For the past three seasons he has worn the Cardinal and Blue. Last season and again this year he was awarded a forward position on the Minnesota All-State team. Many consider him not only one of the best players ever seen at St. John's, but also one of the most accurate, troublesome and sensational "shots" in the Northwest. Through his wonderful aggressive work he has far surpassed the enviable record set by Blume of Hamline University fame in the basketball arena (*Record*, April, 1916, p. 247).

Time has not changed the reputation of Bernard Karels among those who ever saw him play. While he was in the seminary he used to visit the gym once or twice a week all alone to practice his one-hand jump shot, the sweat pouring down his face as he spun around the basket like a whirling dervish, popping basket after basket with one hand. Once during a rest between spasms of activity he came up to the present writer, who was standing nearby marveling, and confided his conviction that the coaches he knew were half blind and possibly dumb: "When I was playing they could see me shoot fifteen baskets a game with one hand, and still they'd say it was a freak shot no one else could learn."

- 1916-1917 -

The 1917 basketball season has already gone down in history as the worst in St. John's athletic history. The *Record* lamented that it was a disaster year of major proportions. There were, for example, no holdovers from the championship year of 1916, and Coach Flynn was confronted with the problem of beginning at the bottom with an entirely new squad of players with fewer athletic talents than he had ever worked with prior to this year. One of the features of former years was that line-ups for games varied very little from the beginning to the end of the season. This year, however, the frequency of substitutions and obvious experiments from game to game make it apparent how desperately the coach was trying to find a winning combination. The only victory in a nine-game schedule was a 30-21 triumph over Kimball High School, a game originally scheduled to serve as a warm-up for the conference opening.

It would be an injustice to the coach and his squad not to mention the unusual circumstances they had to contend with. Some of the eight losses were by close scores: Luther College 26-27, St. Cloud Normals 21-23, South Dakota State 18-23—a fact lost sight of when the scores are compared with the overwhelming accumulation of points of the preceding year.

There were no stars to emerge in the 1916-17 season. The captain and chief inspirer for the year was Horace Lee, a hard-working leader who was faced by insurmountable handicaps.

- 1917-1918 -

The *Record* makes no reference to the military draft and preparations for World War I that were decimating the number of athletes, actual or potential, on college campuses throughout the nation. St. John's was no exception. It was still a small college, however, and the loss of even one athlete was more acutely felt than in the other conference colleges that had larger enrollments on which to draw. On the other hand, St. John's was unique inasmuch as its main source of candidates for athletic teams was the College Preparatory department. To a great extent, the outstanding athletes at St. John's were "homegrown," and as one generation succeeded another there would always be groups of Prep School graduates waiting to fill the gaps left by departed students, whether they left for the world of business and graduate school or for the military service.

In the absence of statistics it is impossible to say to what extent the war years affected the sports program at St. John's in 1917-18. Observable from *Record* reports of games played there was the usual constant

upward movement of Prep School stars to serve as substitutes when the regulars faltered, especially such coming athletes as William "Bart" Rooney, Matthew "Bill" Barry, August Kapsner, and George Reuter, all of whom were still seniors in the Prep School and evidently were considered eligible.

The 1918 basketball season was a moderate success, with an overall record of six victories and five defeats. Surprisingly good was the fourth place final ending in the conference race. Whatever embarrassment the team might have felt after two defeats by St. Thomas was softened by two victories over St. Cloud Normal School. Concordia College of Moorhead made its first appearance on a St. John's schedule in 1918, losing by a score of 22-20.

Outstanding players for this year were Captain Earl Stussi, Steve Tlusty and Joseph May.

- 1918-1919 -

Although the 1919 team ranked no higher than the midpoint in conference standings, it nevertheless enjoyed what was considered a successful season. St. John's was just recovering from the "disaster" years, 1917 and 1918. The conference record was an average percentage rating of .500-three victories versus three losses. Highlight of the conference games was a double sweep of St. Thomas, St. John's ancient rival. The overall record was six victories and six losses.

Of all the players on the team, the most versatile and talented was Captain William "Bart" Rooney, who, though only a freshman, was respected by all his fellow players for his leadership and knowledge of game tactics. The *Record* reporter wrote of him: "He was the mainstay of our Five, not only by his strong offensive and defensive play, but also his fine, inspirational leadership." Steve Tlusty was the only veteran on the squad, but the young, talented graduates from the Prep School made up for any lack of experience. Among the newcomers were George Reuter, center; August Kapsner, guard; Matthew "Bill" Barry, forward; and John Daleiden, one of the most versatile of St. John's athletes, who supplanted the veteran Steve Tlusty at his favorite forward position.

One great disappointment for the 1919 basketball season was the loss of two games to the St. Cloud Normals, through the play of their great center Freed.

- 1919-1920 -

The 1919 basketball season had ended in an euphoric mood with the student body confident that their 1920 team would make a strong race for the conference championship. Their optimism received a severe jolt in January when it was learned that John Daleiden and August Kapsner, forward and guard, respectively, were incapacitated for the entire season by knee injuries sustained in football. To cap their disappointment, their star center, George Reuter, failed to return to school after the Christmas holidays. Coach Flynn was faced with the difficult task of finding adequate replacements.

Notwithstanding his disappointment, the coach was able to mold together a new team that won third place in the Minnesota-Dakota Conference behind Carleton, the champion, and runner-up Hamline. On the team were Captain "Bart" Rooney, Bill Barry, Marcellus Haines, Donald Ryan, John Decker, Leo Galvin, and Melvin McDonald, the latter a newcomer from outside the Prep School circle. The schedule was entirely intercollegiate, as Fr. Virgil Michel had envisioned six years before when he engineered the entrance of St. John's into the new conference. The Cardinal and Blue was victorious in four games, but sustained six losses, two of which were to the St. Cloud Normals. Prospects looked good for the future.

Unfortunately for basketball at St. John's, Bart Rooney and Bill Barry, both stars, transferred to Notre Dame for their last two years of college work. Barry was the high scorer on the team, and Rooney a star at his

guard position. He was awarded a place on the all-conference team, the fifth all-conference basketball player in St. John's history.

Fr. Mark Braun, Dean of the College, who had followed St. John's athletics closely for several years, both as a player and an observer, once remarked that Urban Knaeble '16, and Bart Rooney were the two most natural athletes he had ever seen at St. John's. Bart was quiet and unassuming, yet he bore the marks of leadership even in his freshman year when he was elected to the captaincy. He served the year following again as captain. Donald Ryan, a teammate, remarked recently: "Bart was a born leader of men. It was simply part of his nature to lead." Bart Rooney never lost his love for St. John's. At his death a few years ago he willed a considerable part of his large estate to his alma mater. A member of the squad was Laurence Glenn, later Bishop Glenn.

Interim History-1920-1921

At the close of the 1919-20 academic year Coach Edward Flynn resigned to accept a similar position with the Fargo, North Dakota, Knights of Columbus. The move coincided with the entrance of St.

John's into the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, the present MIAC. Though there was no obvious connection between these two moves, it was known that Coach Flynn had found burdensome the position as director of all gymnasium activities, classes in physical culture, Moderator of Athletics since 1916, and coach of baseball and basketball.

Coach Flynn came to St. John's during the year 1909-10 as replacement of Frank Cassidy, then director of the gymnasium and instructor in gymnastics and physical culture. Flynn was a man of solid worth and character and quickly gained the esteem of the entire faculty. Soon he was given the additional tasks of coaching the basketball and baseball teams, as well as organizing a gymnastics program that was outstanding in the Northwestern gymnastic meets held annually in the Twin Cities. In his coaching years he enjoyed a moderately successful career. His basketball teams won 44 games and lost 42, for a percentage average of .511. His baseball teams followed the same pattern-36 victories to 33 losses, for a percentage average of .521.

The Minnesota-Dakota Athletic Conference that St. John's joined in 1914 had become unwieldy in 1920, primarily because of its widespread fifteen-college membership in the three states, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. There was dissatisfaction also with its rules as being too loosely observed, particularly in such matters as the eligibility of players and the methods of determining conference championships.

One rule of the new conference that worked to the disadvantage of St. John's was the ruling that required formal high school graduation of athletic candidates for membership on conference teams. This eliminated from competition the occasional Prep School senior who prior to 1920 had been permitted to play on the college varsity. What worked also to the disadvantage of St. John's was the elimination from eligibility of all Commercial Department students, since they were not registered in the Liberal Arts program of the college. The result of the new requirements of the conference was that Edward Cahill, the successor to Edward Flynn, found himself faced with a situation he had not anticipated.

From the Twenties to the Seventies

- 1920-1921 -

Coach Edward Cahill was a graduate of St. Mary's College (Missouri) and St. Louis University, where he starred in baseball and football. On his call for basketball candidates he was greeted by a diversified crowd

of some thirty candidates, one-third of whom were ex-Prep School stars who had played as seniors on the college varsity. Coaching in a field in which he was not as well acquainted as baseball and football, Cahill met the challenge by limiting his squad to ten players, eight of whom had gone through the tough intramural basketball of the Prep School. And they did well in the conference. The overall record of the first St. John's team in the MIAC was a record of eight wins in a schedule of fourteen games. Sparkplug and captain, John Daleiden led the team to a conference record of five wins to three losses, good for third place in the first conference season. Everything considered, it was an extraordinarily fine debut into the unknown.

Strangest loss of the year was a 21-1 freak loss to St. Cloud Normal in which John Decker, forward, played the role of hero by dropping in a free-throw and thereby saving the Johnnies from the ignominy of a shut-out.

The 1920-21 line-up: John Daleiden (now Fr. Charles, O.S.B., Richardton, North Dakota), captain and forward; John Decker (deceased), forward; Henry O'Donnell, center; Melvin McDonald (deceased), guard; Marcel Haines (deceased), guard. Reserves: Leo Leisen (Fr. Marcellus, O.S.B. (deceased); John McNally, who never played basketball before but who was advancing fast; Henry Engel (deceased); Andrew Wahl and Paul Treanor.

- 1921-1922 -

The slogan of the 1921-22 basketball season was "Champs or Bust." It was "Bust," for the team landed in fifth place. Spirits were high at the beginning of the season, however, since the team had been successful in the previous year and the only expectation possible under the circumstances was for improvement. Gone, however, were the 1921 sparkplug John Daleiden and the rangy O'Donnell who had been especially effective in controlling jump situations.

The 1922 team was not a high scoring machine, although it had an accurate shooting forward in Gordon Tierney and established a fine record in defensive play. Since the highest number of points scored was 28 on both sides, won or lost, most of the games were close. Two conference games were won by one point and one was lost. The overall record was eight games won and six lost. The conference record was four victories versus five losses, for a percentage of .444, slightly below average. The final MIAC standing was fifth place.

An interesting feature of the team was the large influx of graduates from well-coached Catholic and public high schools, whereas prior to this year the athletic squads were made up almost exclusively of ex- Prep School athletes. In 1922 the proportion was nine ex-Preps versus eight "outsiders." Among the outsiders were six authentic top athletes: John McNally, Gordon Tierney, Ernie Koepp, Tony Gornick, Joe McGovern, brother of Johnny McGovern, the famous All-American quarterback from the University of Minnesota, and Ben Siebenand. Melvin McDonald was named guard on the all-conference second team and Gordon Tierney placed third in conference scoring.

The squad line-up was as follows: Gordon Tierney, forward; Marcel Haines, forward; John Decker (captain), center; Melvin McDonald, guard; Joe McGovern, guard. On the reserve list were John McNally, Don Ryan, Andrew Wahl, Tony Gornick, and Ben Siebenand.

This was Coach Cahill's last year at the basketball helm at St. John's.

- 1922-1923 -

The 1922-23 basketball team was called the "Hard Luck Champion," and the title was fitting, for of the ten conference games, four were lost by the margin of one or two points, generally in the last few seconds.

The season had a really zany beginning. There were only two lettermen on the squad-Johnny (Blood) McNally and Tony Gornick and the problem was to get the two men together to elect the captain. The *Record* reports the election as follows: "Jacta est alea! (The die is cast!). John V. McNally was at last made captain of the basketball team after two months were spent presumably in discussing ways and means of election. He and Gornick were the only lettermen of last year, and as each was too modest to vote for himself, they flipped a coin for the office. Mac won the toss. Congratulations, Mac!" (*Record*, 1923, p. 133).

The new coach, Fred Sanborn, a former star at the College of St. Thomas, found himself faced with the task of rebuilding the team on the basis of only two experienced players. He struggled with the problem and eventually came up with the best combination of players possible under the circumstances: G. Collins; Maurice Noack; John McNally, center; Tony Gornick, guard; Ernie Koepp, guard. Reserves: Andy Parnell, Leo Terrahe, Pierre Thomey, Frank Bauman.

The overall record was five victories against nine losses. In conference play St. John's finished the season with two victories and eight losses-as could be expected, in the cellar.

The only stars for the 1923 season were John McNally, who rang up 96 points, and Tony Gornick. Gilbert Collins, a forward, and Ernie Koepp did good work, especially Collins with timely baskets when needed.

The Prep School, 1923

St. John's, on the recommendation of Fr. Albert Huring, O.S.B., moderator of athletics, in 1923 organized a Prep School basketball team, partly to give special training for future athletes in the college. The Prep School team performed brilliantly and provided several stars for the college in the years following. Halsey Hall, then sports writer for the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, wrote of them as "the fighters from little Collegeville, that hotbed of athletics." A *Record* wit with dry humor responded: " 'Hotbed of athletics' is right! As soon as our athletes get a good sturdy start they transplant themselves to other fields."

- 1923-1924 -

Fred Sanborn's second year in basketball was distinguished by one of his players, freshman Edward Powers who, according to the standards of the Minnesota College Conference at that time, was the equivalent of a superstar in the making. Powers was the crack forward on the 1923 Prep School team on which were based many of the hopes for the success of the college varsity in 1924. When Anthony Gornick, the captain-elect of 1923, failed to return to St. John's at the end of his sophomore year, the squad elected the Prep School phenomenon, even though he was only in his freshman year.

The team did not do well, despite the appearance on the squad of Eddie Miller, all-district center from Aitkin, Ray Humphrey (brother of Professor Steve Humphrey), Fred Budworth, Notker Thelen (now Fr. Constantine, O.S.B.), and Leo Terrahe. The conference record was one victory against six losses. The overall record was slightly better, four wins and ten losses.

The natural tendency to speculate and ask what is wrong when teams fail to improve found its inquirers at St. John's, and especially in 1924 when it was thought that the material had been steadily improving from one year to the next. In retrospect, however, it is easy to see that the problem lay in the fact that St. John's at the time was more like a junior college than a four-year college, as were those against which its teams were competing. It was the practice for all students, and not only athletes, to drop out of college at the end of their sophomore year in order to commence their professional studies in the universities, to go into business, or to enter the Benedictine Order or the seminary. What was wanting in the teams was not material but experience and maturity, both physical and mental. Championships are not usually won by freshmen and sophomores.

It was in recognition of this fact that Fr. Mark Braun, when he took office in 1925, made it an objective of his regime as dean to develop courses and programs on the junior and senior college levels not for the sake of athletics, although he thought of that, but for the sake of the college itself. Failure in athletics was only a symptom of the general problem that faced the growing St. John's. It was due primarily to Fr. Mark's efforts on the academic level that St. John's was enabled to become a genuine four-year college, and eventually a major power in the athletic conference.

- 1924-1925-

The basketball squad began the 1925 season with three lettermen and two subs from the previous year. The Prep School program of building up high school athletes who became feeders for the college was beginning to payoff, for it contributed five first-class stars: Norbert Schoenecker, the two Schumacher twins, Carl (now Fr. Blase, O.S.B., of St. Gregory's Abbey, later a successful basketball coach in his own right) and Leo (now a pastor in the Sioux City, Iowa, Diocese); Henry Zimmermann, now Fr. Odo, O.S.B., a member of St. John's daughter house in Mexico City, and Joseph Conway. Finally, among the newcomers was George Durenberger, who in his four years of college at St. John's was to add luster to the name of the school in the fields of football and basketball. In addition, for the first time since 1920, St. John's appeared to be maturing as a four-year college, with sufficient athletic material to measure up to the requirements for strong competition in the MIAC.

1925 line-up: Walter Miller (captain), forward; Leo Terrahe, forward; Norbert Schoenecker, center. Reserves: George Durenberger, Carl Schumacher, Leo Schumacher, Henry Zimmermann, and Joseph Conway.

- 1925-1926-

But the fates were not propitious to the new coach, Gene Aldrich. The changes in the style of play and the lack of experienced personnel on the team did not permit the team to realize its potential. The three games won in conference play were a marked advance over the past two seasons but insufficient to save the team from a place in the conference cellar. The overall record for the season was six wins and eight losses.

Top performers of the season were Leo Terrahe and Walter Miller, both of whom were all-around athletes in football as well as basketball. Another star was Norbert Schoenecker, the outstanding basketball player in the 1924 Parochial Tournament held to determine the champion of the Catholic high schools of the state. Not mentioned in the *Sagatagan* as outstanding but already recognized as a star in the making was freshman George Durenberger: "His rangy build, his ability to cage tip-ins and long-range shots were the admiration of all who witnessed them. It does not require a vivid imagination to picture him as the holder of a regular berth on next year's varsity." Quite an understatement!

After unsuccessful seasons in both basketball and baseball, Gene Aldrich resigned in May, 1925, eventually to become a long-time coach at Cretin High School, St. Paul. His place was taken by Wilfred Houle, former football, baseball, and hockey star at St. Thomas College. His call for basketball candidates in the fall of 1925 was answered by some 40 men, the largest turn-out on record. The squad included Gordon Tierney, star forward on the 1922 team who returned after a three-year absence to team up with George Clifford at forward, George Durenberger at center and guard, and Norbert Schoenecker at guard. This nucleus was backed up by the Schumacher twins, Carl and Leo, Walter (Matt) Miller, Dan Buscher, and Fred Baker.

The Johnnies compiled a record of 10 wins in 17 engagements, several of which were with independent teams. In the conference their record was 5-5, good for fourth place. A bright spot in the rather colorless season was a resounding 40-20 victory over St. Thomas in the final game.

The title this year went to Gustavus.

- 1926-1927-

The return of veterans Schoenecker, Clifford, and Durenberger, the maturing of Moynihan, Baker and Miller, and the addition of freshmen Mahlon Gann, Leo Manion, and Al Siebenand, gave the Johnnies a well-balanced squad. Although out-scored by 332-313, the team concentrated its scoring in certain games and ended with a 5-5 record in the conference which was good for fifth place. Augsburg won the title this year for the first time.

- 1927-1928-

The squad suffered crucial losses this year, as George Clifford left to enter medical school and Norb Schoenecker transferred to Gonzaga of Spokane, Washington. Lettermen Durenberger, Moynihan, Siebenand, and Baker formed the experienced nucleus around which Coach Houle built his team. He received help from Walter Woock, Bob Lowe, and Tom Bohnen, but the drive and experience of Schoenecker and the sharp-shooting and ball-handling of Clifford were sorely missed. The team's record was 8-7 overall and 3-5 in the MIAC, which landed it in sixth place.

Gustavus again walked away with the title, for the third time in four years.

- 1928-1929 -

The 1928-29 season held forth promise of changing fortunes. George Durenberger was now a member of the coaching staff, sharing duties in both the Prep School and the college. Siebenand was developing into a sharpshooter from the outside and Vince Hensler at the other forward was also coming along fast. They received strong support from Tom Bohnen, Joe (Bucky) Hennen, Fred Holzapfel, Francis Weier, and Ken Raymond, who provided some height at the center position.

This season is remembered for the last-minute upset of the league leading Concordia Cobbers. Siebenand, who is now George's neighbor at Upper Spunk Lake, near Avon, gives a vivid description of the game. Concordia had beaten St. John's earlier in the season, 31-24, and was leading the league as they and the Johnnies squared off at Concordia for the final game of the season. Before the game, the Concordia officials had invited the crowd to remain in their seats after the game to witness the presentation of the championship trophy and the awarding of gold balls to the players, after dispatching their last victim in their march to victory. The score at the end of the first half was 8-8. Neither team had had a lead of more than one basket in the second half, and with only seconds to play, the score was again tied at 16-16. Then Ken Raymond (now deceased) was fouled. He stepped to the free-throw line and sank the shot. Seconds after the ball was centered the gun went off. Final score: 17-16.

Bucky Hennen, '33, recalls that he and Fred Holzapfel contributed to the upset by taking turns guarding Helmrast, the Cobbers' high scoring forward, keeping him from making a single basket all evening. The St. Olaf team sent a telegram congratulating the Johnnies and thanking them for throwing the championship to them. The victory enabled the Johnnies to end up in third place with a 5-4 standing (7-6 overall). Al Siebenand was chosen all-conference on the second team, and Tom Bohnen and Lambert Keeley made honorable mention. This was the Johnnies' highest standing in the conference since 1920-21,

This gives us an excuse to take time out to ask why the scores in those days were so low. George Durenberger and Al Siebenand list several reasons. After every free-throw or basket, several seconds were wasted holding a center jump. Secondly, the usual way of shooting was a two-handed set-shot, with the player starting it about his knees, making it easy to guard. Gene Aldrich had been teaching the one-hand

shot in 1924-25, but when players started using it under Coach Houle, he told them to cut out the circus stuff. Most coaches of that day considered it a trick shot of some kind.

The one-handed set-shot which was coming into use in the late 1920's has since evolved into the one-handed jump-shot of today.

A third reason for higher scoring is the fact that practically every city kid and most country kids now have a basketball hoop in their back yards and are practicing shooting from the time they can lift the ball. George also adds that modern youth get much better coaching in basketball from the grades through college. In the early days, a coach would be hired because he was a good football coach, but he would also have to coach basketball, and possibly, to piece out his salary, he might have to help with track or baseball. Usually, they could only excel in one sport, and too often basketball was considered merely an activity to keep the coach employed between the football and baseball seasons.

- 1929-1930 -

Captain Al Siebenand returned with four other lettermen in the fall of 1929-Ken Raymond, Lambert Keeley, Bill Geist, Vince Hensler, and several new prospects showed promise-especially Ambrose Osendorf (now Fr. Cassian, O.S.B.) and Roy Donaldson, both former Preps, and Rusty Hogan. However, St. John's suffered a loss of scoring power when Vince Hensler, running mate to Siebenand, broke his collarbone and was out of the line-up until mid-January.

Although the team won four non-conference games, including a 31-27 victory over St. Cloud State, they won only one conference game and ended up in the cellar. St. Olaf won the title. This dismal conclusion of the basketball season, on top of a disastrous football season, motivated Coach Houle to turn in his resignation, effective June 30, 1930. The question was now whether a change of coaches could turn the Johnnies' fortunes around.

- 1930-1931-

Upon Coach Houle's resignation, the school authorities began a search for a successor. As described in Chapter I, Joe Benda, who had starred in football at Notre Dame and had been a successful head coach at Duluth Cathedral in 1929-30, was chosen for the position. He reported on April 1, 1930, to take over spring football practice, while Bill Houle devoted his last few months to coaching the baseball team.

In basketball, as well as in football that fall, there was no noticeable improvement. Only five lettermen answered Benda's call for candidates- Bill Geist, Rusty Hogan, Jack Murphy, Ambrose Osendorf, and Bucky Hennen. Other prospects included Roy Donaldson, former Prep star, Martin Ernesti, and George Klasen, who later played an important role on the 1932 championship football team. St. John's squeaked by St. Cloud State 23-22 on the home floor but lost another squeaker, 23-24, in the new St. Cloud State gym a week later. The Johnnies clipped Hamline twice, the second time on the strength of a last second basket by Roy Donaldson. The highlight of the season was a 40-32 victory over a powerful Gustavus club, in which Osendorf made 17 points for St. John's.

However, St. John's won only three conference games (4-11 overall) to rank seventh in the conference. Concordia won the title with an undefeated season.

- 1931-1932 -

Although the Johnnie fortunes in football took a turn for the better in 1931, the same could not be said for basketball. Red Fairbanks, former Prep star of whom much had been expected, dropped out of school, and

Bill Geist was injured in mid-season and dropped off the squad. Donaldson at center and Osendorf at forward, with the support of George Klasen and Bucky Hennen and Zook Hen, piled up points, but usually not quite enough. The Johnnies won only two conference games (5-10 overall) and finished again in seventh place. Hamline won the title for the first time and began its long reign as the winningest basketball team in the MIAC. Roy Donaldson, one of the high scorers in the conference, was chosen all-conference center on the second team.

- 1932-1933 -

Although St. John's won its first football championship in 1932, things were not so bright on the hardwood court. Ambrose Osendorf had entered the novitiate, Bill Geist did not go out for basketball, and George Klasen was sidelined with heart trouble midway through the season. Coach Benda had to rely heavily upon veteran Bucky Hennen, Earl Meinz, former St. Cloud Cathedral star, now deceased, and Robert "Red" Burkard, former Prep. The team finished with a 4-7 record in the conference and 6-7 overall, good for sixth place. Hamline took the title for the second time in a row. Donaldson and Hennen received honorable mention by the coaches.

- 1933-1934-

The 1933-34 season showed no improvement. Five veterans- Burkard, Iten, Donaldson, Geist, and Meinz- were on hand, but the freshman crop was inexperienced and did not provide much back-up. St. John's won only one game, a 29-26 victory over St. Cloud State, in which Zook Iten, whose exploits on the gridiron are described in Chapter I, made 16 points. He almost equalled that mark against Gustavus later in the season, but the Johnnie effort that night fell short by five points.

The team won no conference games and ended up in the cellar. Hamline took the title for the third time in a row.

- 1934-1935 -

Through the addition of freshmen Bernard "Barney" Meinz, former St. Cloud Cathedral star and brother of veteran guard Earl, and Vedic Himsl, later a big league baseball pitcher, and with the alert play of Bob Halverson, Sparky Coyle, and Ralph Koenig, the '35 Jays won five and lost seven games (5-9 overall). The wins included two thrilling victories over St. Thomas which in part offset the severe beating St. John's received from Hamline in the last game of the season. Earl Meinz was high scorer in several games, and second highest in the league with 102 points. However, he was chosen all-conference only on the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* second team. Hamline took the title for the fourth straight time.

- 1935-1936 -

Since most of the 1934-35 squad, including the Meinz brothers, were returning, expectations for 1935-36 were high. However, after two victories over St. Cloud State, the Johnnies went into a slump from which they emerged only after the middle of February when they rose up and clobbered league-leading Hamline 33-30 and Concordia 42-35. This resurgence was squelched by St. Thomas in the final game of the season by a convincing 36-21 score.

Despite the stellar performance of both Meinz brothers and Vedic Himsl, the Johnnies won only two out of ten conference games and five out of fourteen overall. The championship was taken again by Hamline for the fifth time in a row.

- 1936-1937 -

Strengthened by the addition of freshmen Jim Roche, phantom halfback in football, Joe Kirchner, later Fr. Kirchner of the St. Cloud Diocese (now deceased), Homer Hurd, Bud Carlin (also deceased), and Orner Huntington, the Johnnies split with the Brainerd Independents in the first two games, then lost to St. Cloud State, Duluth Teachers, Virginia Junior College and Macalester in that order before coming up with a win-a thrilling 38-37 squeaker over St. Cloud State.

They then slipped into a slump until about mid-season when they came alive and won five straight games over Augsburg, St. Mary's, and Concordia, and two games over St. Thomas. This skein of victories enabled the Johnnies to end up in third place with a .500 standing in the MIAC and 8-11 overall-its highest standing in the conference since 1928-29.

Vedie Himsl, second highest scorer in the conference with 120 points, was named to the all-conference first team-the first Johnnie to win that distinction since Bart Rooney was similarly honored in 1920 in the old Minnesota-Dakota Conference. Bud Carlin with 99 points received honorable mention.

Macalester finally broke the hold of Hamline on the championship by taking the title with a 10-2 record.

- 1937-1938 -

In 1937, Joe Benda left to join the coaching staff at his alma mater, Notre Dame, and George Durenberger, with a good deal of hesitation, took over as head coach of football and basketball, while retaining most of his duties as athletic director and professor of physical education. Only three lettermen-Himsl, Kirchner, and Roche-were among the 50 players who responded to his call for basketball. Several promising prospects were among them-Jim Boyd, running mate in Prep School of Jim Roche, Joe Erchul, Tim Donahue, up from the intramural ranks, and freshmen from other high schools-Bill Browne, Francis Modde, John Ebnet, Homer Hurd, Ben Lorenz, Gerald Sheehy, and several others. With all this inexperienced material on hand, the season's prospects were more of a question mark than usual.

The team started out with a bang and won its first five games, one of which was against North Dakota State on the dedication night of the expanded and remodeled St. John's gym-a game in which Himsl and Boyd produced 25 points between them, a rather high scoring performance in the day of the two-handed set-shot.

But after taking St. Thomas 42-33, the team went into a midseason slump from which it never emerged. The Johnnies lost all the rest of their games, three by only one point. But close doesn't count in basketball, and they ended up with a 1-11 record and last place' in the conference (5-11 overall). A contributing cause was Himsl's departure for the South to begin baseball practice with a pro team, obliging him to miss the last two games, one of which St. John's lost by one point. Himsl had done well enough in the earlier games, however, to make the all-conference second team. Gustavus and St. Mary's tied for the championship.

- 1938-1939-

In 1938, the Johnnies began to roll in basketball as well as in football. Led by the former Prep Touchdown Twins, Jim Boyd and Jim Roche, Durenberger's team took the championship in football, and his basketball team came up with their best performance ever. The experienced first string of Jim Boyd and Joe Erchul, guards, Bill Browne and Joe Kirchner, forwards, and Dick Maertz, center, backed up by a strong bench, carried St. John's to a 10-7 record overall, and an 8-4 standing in the conference, good for third place. This matched the previous high records of 1920-21, 1928-29, and 1936-37.

Joe Kirchner, who became a priest of the St. Cloud Diocese and died of cancer some years later, was second highest scorer in the MIAC and made the all-conference first team. Bill Browne made the second

team, and Red Erchul and Jim Boyd (who was later killed in a plane crash in World War II) made honorable mention.

In the sensational 39-37 win over league-leading Hamline, Kirchner poured in 19 points. That, however, did not prevent Hamline from tying St. Mary's for the championship.

- 1939-1940-

The loss of Kirchner, Boyd, and Lorenz was felt this year, as the Johnnies finished the sixth place, with four wins and eight losses (12 out of 23 games overall, including wins over North Dakota State and Moorhead Teachers). High scorers were Red Erchul with 154 points, Bill Browne with 148, and Dick Maertz with 144. A high point in the season was the St. John's comeback against Gustavus from 24-7 at half-time to a 40-36 victory.

Erchul was chosen guard on the all-conference second team and Bill Browne made honorable mention. St. Mary's laid undisputed claim to the title.

- 1940-1941 -

A resounding 55-36 victory over Augsburg in the final game of the preceding year built up expectations which were not realized in 1940-41. Erchul, Browne, and Maertz had graduated, and it was evident that St. John's was in for a year of rebuilding. The decimated squad of inexperienced players could manage only 2 wins to 10 losses in the conference (5 to 15 overall), and returned to the bottom of the MIAC standings. Tom Paul and Walter "Spud" Tooley, reserves of the previous year, were the main support of veteran Ed Claussen. Hamline resumed its leadership of the conference with an undefeated season.

- 1941-1942-

Joe Benda returned in the fall of 1941 to resume his former position as head football and basketball coach, but the change in coaches had little effect on the team's performance or conference standing. Captain Ed Claussen and freshman Henry "Lefty" Ranweiler (each with 106 points for the season) carried the brunt of the attack, aided by Pat Freuen (now deceased), Spud Tooley, and freshmen Fran Miller and Otto Schaefer. The latter pair showed great promise for the future- Miller by his height and Schaefer by his speed and ball handling. Maertz, who had dropped off the squad to hit his studies, returned for the last five games but failed to reverse the trend. The Johnnies won only one conference game (3-13 overall) and ended again in the cellar. Ed Claussen and Lefty Ranweiler received honorable mention. Hamline won the title with a 10-1 record.

- 1942-1943-

Although World War II had made inroads in the St. John's student body, the school made an effort to continue business as usual. The football team finished in third place, and it was hoped that the basketball team would finish higher in the win column than in the past three years. However, there was no noticeable improvement in the Johnnie performance on the hard court. They won three out of eleven in the conference (3-13 overall) which was good for seventh place, above St. Olaf and St. Mary's.

Fran Miller was gaining experience and showed his potential scoring power by almost matching veteran Ed Claussen in total points- 93-95; Otto Schaefer continued to display his wizardry in dribbling and ball handling.

The team was strengthened by the addition of three freshmen from the Marshall, Minnesota High School,

who held out great promise in all sports-Murnane "Red" Maenhout, Bernard "Barney" Gervais, and Bill Osborne.

A bright spot in the season was a 51-41 victory over St. Thomas, which was threatening to take the conference lead from Hamline. The latter came through, however, with an 11-0 record to win the title for the ninth time in twelve years.

- 1943-1944-

By 1943 the war was at its height and the college student body at St. John's, which had fallen to less than one-fourth of its pre-war enrollment, was composed mostly of pre-divinity students, students under 18, and others who were deferred for reasons of health or physical disability. Coach Benda hesitated to field a team because four MIAC schools had Navy training programs (V-12) which permitted the cadets to compete in intercollegiate athletics, whereas the Air Force program at St. John's was not of this type. However, when it was decided not to award official championships, St. John's decided to play a full schedule.

One benefit of this decision was the discovery of Stan Wilfahrt, a freshman from New Ulm, Minn., who was high scorer in the MIAC that season (162 points in ten games) and who starred for three more years at St. John's. However, despite Wilfahrt's performance, St. John's ended up in eighth place, with two wins and eight losses. St. Thomas finished in first place with a 12-2 record. Wilfahrt was chosen as forward on the all-conference team and was elected captain for the following year. As agreed before the season opened, no championship was awarded.

- 1944-1945-

This was the last year of the war, and again no championship was awarded. Led by Stan Wilfahrt, who was supported on offense by Jerry Kosek, LaVerne "Red" Soltis, and Bob Cesnik, and on defense by Dave Rodgers and Henry "Bruts" Welsch, the Johnnies had their best season since 1938. They finished in a tie with St. Olaf for fourth place with a 5-5 record in the conference, and 6-5 overall. Gustavus finished in first place.

- 1945-1946-

The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought an end to the war, and St. John's was already returning to normal as GI's returned to finish their studies. Stan Wilfahrt left for a year to complete his tour of duty in the service, but this loss was to some extent compensated for by the return from the service of play-maker Mouse Schaefer and other returning servicemen, some of whom, like Fran Miller, were clapped into a basketball suit and thrown into the fray the day after they hit the campus. Others who returned to help St. John's in its reversion to normal were Tom McHale (father of Timothy, '77, and Shaun, '80), Bud Streit, Doug Gits (now Fr. Gits of the Winona Diocese), Chuck Miller, and Don Gray (a charter member of the J-Club, its first vice-president and now district judge of the Seventh Judicial District of Minnesota). The latter three were primarily football players whose performance on the gridiron is described in Chapter I, 1946, p. 43, but they wanted to give their all for good old Siwash, so went out for basketball as well. Miller made a real contribution on the hard-court and was named to the all-conference second team, but Gray had trouble distinguishing when football ended and basketball began, and it was thought that it would be more merciful to have him confine himself to the one sport in which he could use all his energies without being interfered with by men in striped shirts. Which he did.

Other standouts on this first post-war team were Jim O'Brien, a former Cretin High School star, and Chuck Jackson and Myrle Welsch, forwards.

Since the teams of the other schools were also strengthened by returning servicemen, the Johnnies gained no advantage and finished with a lower standing than in 1944-45, with three wins and nine losses, good for seventh place in the conference (5-13 overall). Augsburg and St. Thomas tied for the championship.

- 1946-1947-

This year saw a complete turn-around. In addition to the exservicemen who had given the team a shot in the arm in 1945-46 were Red Maenhout, whose long suit was catching passes in football and

throwing the shot-put in track; also Jerry Landsberger, whose son starred in basketball at the University of Minnesota in the 1970's, George Borgerding, Jack Browne, John Kasch (now Fr. Kasch of the Sioux Falls Diocese), Bill Osborne and Ed Hasbrouck. The latter two eventually became head coaches in basketball at SJU-Osborne from 1953 to 1959 and Hasbrouck from 1959 to 1964. The team received another boost with the return of Stan Wilfahrt, who was high scorer in the conference in 1943-44.

The team performed brilliantly on the home court, but had trouble getting up steam away from home. They won eight and lost four on the home court, but only four out of eleven on foreign courts. With a record of 7-5 in the conference, they tied for third place with St. Thomas. Overall, their record was 12-8.

Hamline again won the title, beginning another skein of seven championships, one of which was a tie with St. Thomas. Fran Miller made all-conference center and Otto Schaefer all-conference guard. Miller was third high scorer in the MIAC with 196 points.

- 1947-1948-

The loss of Fran Miller, Otto Schaefer, and Carroll Seymour through graduation or discontinuing school, and the lack of comparable replacements, dashed the hopes for a continuation of the performance of the preceding year. Wilfahrt, Osborne, and Landsberger bore the brunt of the attack with support from George Marsnik, George Borgerding, Jim O'Brien, Jack Pollei, and Jack Browne (brother of Bill, '40), but they couldn't get it all together and finished in last place with a 1-10 record and 4-18 overall.

Some brilliant individual play was forthcoming from Wilfahrt, who was high scorer for St. John's with 183 points, and also from Jim O'Brien, who established a new St. John's individual scoring record with 31 points. But this didn't show up in the win column. Hamline took the championship with a 12-0 record.

- 1948-1949 -

Joe Benda was gradually losing his battle with Hodgkins disease, and so it was decided to relieve him of basketball and allow him to devote his waning energies to football. His successor on the hard-court was John "Buster" Hiller who starred in basketball and baseball at Notre Dame, and had also rated All American in baseball at St. Michael's High School, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

At the end of his sophomore year at Notre Dame in 1942, Hiller entered the Navy, and after boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Station, stayed on to work in that program, which involved a good deal of basketball with other players of his calibre. In 1944 he was sent to a gunnery school in Virginia and then to an amphibian base on Long Island, where part of his duties consisted in coaching the basketball team, some of whom later became prominent in college and in pro ball.

Hiller returned in 1946 to complete his work for the bachelor's degree at Notre Dame, and was on the first teams in both basketball and baseball, and received All-American honorable mention in basketball in his senior year. He was graduated in the spring of 1948 and came to St. John's that fall as head basketball

coach and assistant coach in football and baseball.

Hiller inherited a last place club, but had some promising veterans who had gained experience in the preceding years—Stan Wilfahrt, Jerry Landsberger, George Borgerding, Jack Pollei, and George Marsnik. New prospects were Don Chisholm, Merle Micheau, Bill Mosso, centers; Marty Cashman, Ed Chambers, Rich Rawlings, Jack Simonitsch, Dick Miller, and Bob Dahms, forwards; and Jake Leinen, Jim Heine, Jack Broeren, and Dick Calhoun, guards. Hiller shaped this assemblage of raw material into a speedy, high-scoring club, and pulled the Johnnies again up to a tie for third place with Macalester (with a 6-6 record in the conference and 9-11 overall). Wilfahrt made all conference and closed his college career with a total of 791 points.

Hamline and St. Thomas tied for first place with 11-1 records.

-1949-1950 -

In 1949-50 Coach Hiller built his attack around six lettermen from the preceding year: Rich Rawlings, Jack Pollei, Jake Leinen, Marty Cashman, Ed Chambers, Merle Micheau, and Jack Simonitch. The team also received strong support from freshmen Bill Christopherson and Bill McMahon as the season progressed. However, despite consistent play by Rawlings (209 points) and Simonitch (193), the Johnnies recorded only four wins out of 25 starts and won only two conference games (Gustavus and Concordia) out of twelve, to rank in eighth place. The title went as usual to Hamline.

-1950-1951-

In this season Rich Rawlings, two-time all-state guard from Wahpeton, North Dakota, transfer student Jack Litchy, and fast developing Bill Christopherson piled up a total of 871 points between them and helped the Johnnies improve their record to 8-15 and a tie with Macalester for eighth place. Bill Christopherson (father of Pat, '78, whose .400 hitting in 1977 and three homeruns with men on base was highly instrumental in copping the title for St. John's that year and whose .418 hitting in 1978 helped to hold the Jays to a fourth place finish and tie with St. Thomas), displayed terrific energy on the court and netted a total of 335 points with an average of 17.5 per game. This performance resulted in his nomination to all-MIAC forward by the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*.

The score of the final game against Hamline was 19-28, reminiscent of the 1930's. The reason for the low score was Hiller's tactic of taking the ball across the center line and then having one player just stand and hold it. Hiller argued that if the opposing team didn't try to get its hands on the ball, St. John's was not obliged to do anything, so the two teams just stood there and looked at each other. Here is how a sportswriter for the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* described the game in the issue for March 4, 1951:

Although the Pipers have won most of the time by wider margins, no victory during the season came easier as St. John's chose to hold the ball from play for more than 18 minutes of the first half after Hamline took a 2-0 lead in the opening seconds.

So disgusting was the first half, 25 persons left the game between halves and all received their money back as they left.

THE JOHNNIES DID NOT TAKE A SINGLE SHOT AT THE BASKET DURING THE ENTIRE FIRST HALF.

After Hamline scored on the tip-off with four seconds gone, St. John's brought the ball across the center line and then held it.

The Pipers, in front, let them stand, and stand they did for more than seven minutes without making a pass. Bob Gussner almost intercepted the first one and then the Johnnies became a little more cautious again. In the final minutes of play (of the first half), Hamline got the ball on a double dribble call (which Hiller questioned), and the Pipers missed the second shot they got of the half.

During the first six minutes of the second half, while the Pipers, who came out to force the play despite the fact that they were leading 4-0 after Jim Fritsche scored on a second half opening tip-off, the Johnnies opened up and took four shots. During that time the Pipers built up a 9-3 lead, St. John's points coming on a trio of freethrows by Bill Christopherson.

The Pipers pushed their lead to 17-7 before the Johnnies with Jack Litchy doing most of the scoring, cut the margin to 18-14 with seven minutes to play. Then the Pipers pushed ahead 27-15 as Thorgaard broke away for a trio of field goals and Jim Fritsche hit one.

Final score: 28-19.

All of these shenanigans did not prevent Hamline from winning the title for the fifth time in a row, while St. John's was 4-8 in the conference for eighth place and 8-15 overall.

The Johnnies and Hiller will go down in history as the instrumental cause for the new rule which requires that a player must get rid of the ball whenever an opposing player gets within three feet of him.

- 1951-1952 -

With eight returning lettermen, it was hoped that St. John's would turn the corner in basketball. They started out strong and won eight out of the first ten games, including two games against St. Cloud State, and one each against North Dakota University and St. Olaf. Then, as in 1946-47, they began to cool off. Despite brilliant individual performances and high scoring by Jack Litchy (337 points), Bill Christopherson (262 points), and Jerry Opatz (205 points), the Johnnies finished 11-10 overall and 4-8 in the conference, ending up in seventh place.

Despite the lowly station in the win column, the team broke several records this season-highest total points in one season (337) and most field goals in one game (15) by Litchy, most points in one season for the entire team (1469), and highest game average (69.8). The trouble was that most of this high scoring was in non-conference games. Hamline, ho-hum, won the title.

This season represented Rawlings' fourth year of basketball at St. John's, during which he started in every game he played.

- 1952-1953 -

The 1952-53 season started out strong with a 100-78 victory over Eau Claire State, and closer victories over Stout and Superior. However, after that the roof fell in. Of the next 11 games St. John's was the winner in only one (72-60 over Concordia), and then lost seven out of the next nine to finish 8-14 overall and 4-12 in the conference and seventh place.

One reason for the poor showing was the loss of guard Jerry Opatz through induction into the Navy and of other lettermen through graduation or dropping out of school.

Bill Christopherson played brilliantly, almost tying the conference record of most points in one game (41 against Augsburg); sophomore Bill Sexton began to give indications of his future greatness as a deadeye

shot from the outside; and both players received recognition by being chosen on the Midwest All-Catholic Team, with Christopherson making the first team and Sexton the second. However, no matter how you cut it, it was an unsuccessful season in most respects, and Buster Hiller decided to resign. His place was taken by Bill Osborne, '48, former football, baseball, and basketball star.

Hiller went on to great heights as a basketball coach. After leaving St. John's, he returned to New Mexico where he coached in turn at a high school in Farmington, at St. Michael's in Santa Fe, his alma mater, and at Albuquerque Academy. After five years at Albuquerque, Hiller took a flier at the big time—becoming head coach at St. Francis University in Pennsylvania, which was seeking to become a name school in basketball. However, his family could not get used to the chill and dampness of the north, so he accepted an appointment to his present position as head basketball coach and physical education instructor at New Mexico Military Institute, Roswell, N.M.

He has been highly successful in high school ball. His present team handed him his 500th career victory in 1975, and by the spring of 1978, he had run his total to 550 won and 208 lost, for a won-lost ratio of 72.5 percent. He had been pointing toward that 500th victory, but says he is not going to stop now. He hopes to coach for another ten years, if possible, because he enjoys kids.

When leaving St. John's Hiller took something precious with him a beautiful Sauk Rapids girl as his wife. He married Donna Varner, sister of Mrs. Claude Menzhuber, the wife of the proprietor of the El Paso Club, popular watering place of the Johnnies in the 1940's and '50's.

- 1953-1954 -

Bill Osborne, whose performance in all major sports at St. John's has been described in these pages, took over as freshman coach in football and head coach in basketball and baseball. He had had an excellent record as head coach at Central Catholic High School in Billings, Montana. As was described in the chapter on football, it was he who alerted Fr. Arno Gustin, O.S.B., then president of St. John's, to the capabilities of another Montana coach, John Gagliardi. Bill's success as coach in a large high school made him a natural to succeed Buster Hiller.

Osborne lived up to expectations in his first year and compiled an 11-12 record overall, and 8-8 for fifth place in the conference, the highest the performance of Captain Bill Sexton, master of the one-handed jump shot, disdained by some coaches of the 1920's. Although only a junior, he had amassed a total of 969 points by the end of his third season. More spectacular was his 49 point production against Macalester in the final game of the season. This established a new conference record and insured his nomination as all-conference forward. The team also established a new St. John's record of 72.9 points per game.

Gustavus finally broke the Hamline strangle hold on first place with a 13-3 record, with Hamline and St. Thomas close behind.

- 1954-1955 -

Prospects for this season were bright. Only one first-string man, Bob Johnson, was missing from the previous year's line-up, and not only had Bill Sexton developed into a star of the proportions of Stan Wilfahrt of the 1945-49 period, but he also had a strong supporting cast in the persons of Jake Lynch, 6-4, and Fred Ethen, 6-5, at center, in addition to a strong back court in the persons of Dick Matchinsky (father of Richard, Jr., '76, and coach and teacher at Perham High School), Jack Stackpool (coach and teacher at Glenwood, whose son was named all-state quarterback in 1977), Bob Kleinschmidt, Jack Rowles, and Bill McMahon. He also received help from forwards Bob McBride and Tom Sande. Although long on experience, the Johnnies were somewhat short on height, and became shorter still when Kleinschmidt and Ethen

dropped off the squad soon after the start of the season. Nevertheless, the team charged into its formidable 25-game schedule with enthusiasm, and came up with more wins than any other Johnnie team in history up to then including the first win in sixteen years over Hamline. They didn't lose a game on the home court until they dropped the last two games to Augsburg and Gustavus.

The Johnnies won 14 out of 25 overall and 7 out of 16 in the conference to rank in sixth place. They had piled up a total of 1,858 points for the season against 1,827 for the opponents. High scorers were Sexton with 511, Matchinsky with 399 and Lynch with 280. Sexton finished his career in a blaze of broken records-most points in one game (49 in '54), most field goals in one game (19 in '55), most points in one season (511 in '55), best free-throw average in one season (.883 in '54), and highest average points per game in one season (21.7 in '54). He was a shoo-in for all-conference forward, the first Johnnie to achieve that honor twice. He also made the All-Catholic Midwest Team.

Gustavus won the title with a 15-1 record.

-1955-1956 -

For the first time in years, St. John's did not have a serious height problem; the starting line-up averaged 6-3. Three of the starting five- Jake Lynch, center, Dick Matchinsky and Jack Rowles, guards, also had had considerable experience. They were supported by freshmen Norb Kowalkowski (ex-Prep) and Jerry Grow at the forward slots. After a spotty season they ended up with an 11-14 record overall and 6-10 in the conference, to rank in seventh place. Captain Matchinsky was second high scorer in the league and made the all-conference team. Gustavus won the title.

- 1956-1957 -

St. John's looked like a contender in the early part of the season, then suffered heartbreaking losses to St. Mary's, St. Thomas, and Gustavus, and began to run out of steam. However, they broke even with 11-11 overall and 8-8 in the conference, which was good for a tie with St. Thomas for fourth place, the highest standing since Hiller's first year in 1948-49. The highlight of the season was a victory over perennial champion Hamline, the only Piper loss of the year-which, however, did not prevent them from taking the title.

Four Johnny starters averaged in double figures: Lynch, Matchinsky, Kowalkowski, and Grow. Joe Crotty, whose speed at halfback was responsible for many long gains on the gridiron, showed the same speed and shiftiness on the hard-court and made his contribution by helping to work the ball in to where the taller men could get a shot at the basket.

- 1957-1958 -

This year the Johnnies hit bottom. They lost Jake Lynch through graduation and Jerry Grow through the death of his father, and the replacements-Pat Dolan and Dick Breen-lacked experience. The team failed to win a single game during the first half of the season and adopted the fast break in the second half in an effort to change their fortunes. This resulted in victories over Macalester and St. Mary's, but the final result was a 2-14 record in the conference for last place and 5-19 overall. The monopoly over first place by Hamline and Gustavus was finally cracked by University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD).

- 1958-1959 -

Veterans Norb Kowalkowski, Dick Breen, Joe Crotty, and Jake Muhvik were given a real shot in the arm this season by the spectacular point production of freshman Bernie Kukar. He poured in 392 points and inspired

Kowalkowski (with 348), Breen (378), and Muhvik (320) to go and do likewise.

This high-scoring quartet amassed a total of 1,749 points, an average of 72.8 points per game. However, the total for opponents was 1,995 for an average of 83.1. Part of the difference was due to the fact that St. John's was badly out-rebounded throughout the season.

The Johnny performance was, moreover, highly erratic. They lost by wide margins to teams which they had defeated earlier in the season, e.g., losing to Gustavus 71-101 after defeating the Gusties 90-89 a couple of weeks earlier. The explanation for these losses was evidently weak defense. The overall record was 8 wins out of 24, and 6-10 in the conference, good for seventh place. Duluth again took the title with a 15-1 record.

Bill Osborne decided to resign as coach and returned to Billings where he became a highly successful insurance sales representative. In 1978 he ran for the office of U.S. Senator from Montana. He was defeated in the primaries, but is expected to run again when opportunity arises.

- 1959-1960 -

Upon the departure of Bill Osborne, Ed Hasbrouck, '50, returned to his alma mater to serve as head basketball and baseball coach, and as assistant to John Gagliardi in football. In the years since his graduation, he had had good records as coach at Albany, Wadena, and St. Mary's High School, New England, N.D., and it was thought that he was a likely prospect for the position of college coach.

His debut at St. John's was, however, inauspicious. The Jays lost their first 13 games and won only three after that, for an overall record of 3 out of 21 (3 out of 16 in the conference). The one bright spot in

the season was the performance of sophomore Bernie Kukar, who caged 433 points and won the conference scoring championship with an average of 21.9 points per game. Hamline took the title with a 15-1 record.

- 1960-1961-

Despite the high scoring of Captain Bernie Kukar (406 points), Craig Muires (351 points), Ken Roering (296), and Mel Kohorst (305), St. John's had another disastrous year, winning 7 out of 24 overall and 3 out of 16 in the conference. Roering and Muires were building a reputation as a great passing combination in football and were highly instrumental in pulling out the thrilling victory over Prairie View College in 1963 for St. John's first national championship, as described in Chapter I, 1963, p. 57.

In basketball, however, the Johnnies held sole possession of the cellar, while Duluth took the title with a 15-1 record.

- 1961-1962-

Coach Hasbrouck's third year as coach showed a glimmer of improvement. Craig Muires, a natural athlete, was coming on strong and even out-scored his teammate Bernie Kukar, the former averaging 18.3 points per game and the latter slipping to 13.1. It was apparent that Bernie was receiving extra attention from the defensive members of the opponents' teams. The Jays' defensive play improved somewhat as a result of Mel Kohorst's strong rebounding. They won 8 out of 24 overall and 4 out of 16 in the conference. This performance lifted them just onenotch above the cellar, which was monopolized by Macalester. ' Bright spots in a dreary season were an 80-64 victory over Gustavus in the final game, and the election of Craig Muires to the all-conference team. Duluth won the championship for the second time in a row.

- 1962-1963-

This season was almost a carbon copy of the preceding one. Lack of height and inexperience were partial explanations for the failure of the club to climb higher in the scoring column.

The mediocre team performance was in strong contrast to the play of Craig Muyres, who broke all previous scoring records by pouring in 538 points from his guard position. His 195 field goals and an average of 24.5 points per game also established new school records. He also led the conference in scoring and was elected to the all-MIAC team for the second consecutive year.

Captain Mel Kohorst led his teammates in rebounding for the third time and helped to strengthen St. John's defensive game. However, despite these brilliant individual performances, St. John's ended up 7-15 overall and 4-12 in the conference, good for seventh place. Augsburg won the title.

- 1963-1964-

St. John's started this basketball season with several members of the team who either played in or attended the Camellia Bowl football game against Prairie View College in Sacramento-particularly Craig Muyres and Hardy Reyerson, who starred in that game. Although the Johnnies won the Red River Classic Holiday basketball tournament held in Moorhead, they finished with a 10-13 rating overall and 4-12 in the conference, to rank just one notch above the cellar-dwelling Tommies. The title again went to Augsburg.

Stand-outs for the season were Joe Mucha, John Christopherson, and Tom Durenberger, son of George Durenberger. At the end of the season, Ed Hasbrouck resigned to go into the insurance business, first in Albany, Minn., and then in Austin, Texas.

- 1964-1965-

Ed Hasbrouck's successor was Jim Smith, a product of that basketball capital of the Midwest, Marquette University. Smith had starred as a prep at St. Edward's High School in his native Elgin, Ill., and was a member of the strong basketball squad at Marquette from 1952 to 1956, playing under Coach Tex Winters for one year and Jack Nagle for three years. He stayed on as a graduate student assistant coach to Nagle for one year and then for one season as full-time assistant under Coach Eddie Hickey (a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame). His experience included playing and coaching in both the NCAA and the NIT play-offs.

Smith didn't turn things around for St. John's in his first year. The team ended up with a 9-15 rating overall, and 6-10 in the conference, to tie for sixth place. However, he developed an exciting fast break and a strong defense which were enjoyed by the fans. The loss of Bob Ryan, former Prep, through injuries when the Jays had a record of 4-1, led to a losing streak of 11 games before they could make a comeback.

By that time three freshmen were starters and ready to get the Johnnies moving upward in the following season.

Joe Mucha, forward, with an average of 15.9 points per game, Bob Ryan, guard, with 13.1, and Roger Hipwell, with 8.4 points, were high scorers for the season. Augsburg won the title for the third time in a row.

- 1965-1966 -

The Johnnies really began to roll this season. With Joe Mucha raising his average points per game from

15.9 to 23.3, Tom Melancon, former Cretin star, developing fast and coming up with 12.4, and freshman Paul Bernabei, a graduate of St. Bede's Academy in Illinois, giving a foretaste of his future performance with 11.4, the team established an 11-13 rating overall and 10-6 for third place in the conference, their highest ranking since Hiller's second year, 1948-49.

Others who contributed to this resurgence were Bob Ryan and Greg Motl, guards, and Bud Foster and Bob Thibedeau, forwards. Joe Mucha's highest average per game for the season (23.3), his highest number of points in a single game (34 against Augsburg). His grabbing of the greatest number of rebounds in a single game (also against Augsburg) insured his election to the all-conference first team.

He was also chosen to the first All-American Catholic Team. Bernabei received honorable mention.

This year St. John's played several large colleges outside its region as in previous years-Western Illinois, Ball State, and Loyola of Chicago- and suffered defeats which made the overall standing seem less impressive. Smith chalked all this up to experience, which paid off in future years.

- 1966-1967 -

Despite the loss of Most Valuable Player Joe Mucha, the Johnnies continued to improve. They posted a 14-10 record overall, and 11-5 in the conference, to finish in second place. They finished the season with a real story-book victory over St. Thomas in the final game (84- 76), ending a Tommie 30-game winning streak. This was the highest ranking ever reached by the Johnnies up to that time. The record of 14-10 is the more remarkable when it is remembered that the team played the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (95-102), Detroit University (74-95), and Otterbein (53-68). Smith in three years had moved his team from seventh place to third and now to second place. But there was still room at the top.

Tom Melancon, forward, replaced Joe Mucha as high-point man, with 20.0 points per game overall and 20.8 in the conference. Paul Bernabei, guard, 6-1 sophomore from Dalzell, Ill., came on strong with a 13.2 and 14.1 points per game average, in addition to his alert floor play. Close behind him was Bud Foster, 6-5 forward. Jim Holmes, 6-4, who also held the high-jump record at SJU with 6 feet, 8Yz inches, was top rebounder for the Johnnies, snaring 20 caroms in the Duluth game. Others who lent strong support to this best performance in history were Bob Ryan, Joe Weber, and Greg Motl.

Tom Melancon was unanimous choice for all-conference. The title this year went to St. Thomas.

- 1967-1968 -

St. John's dropped a notch in conference standings this year, but was a contender right up to the end, finishing the season with a 94-82 victory over traditional rival St. Thomas. The Johnnie standing in the conference was 10-6 and a tie for second place with Macalester and St. Mary's. Overall, the record was 15-10. But again non-conference opponents included such big-name teams as DePaul, Detroit, and Loyola.

Bernabei, Melancon, Foster, and Weber averaged in double figures. Bernabei had the highest number of field goals per game (12 against St. Mary's), and the highest number of points in a game (31 against the same opponent). He was accordingly a shoo-in for a position on the all-conference team.

The championship was taken by Gustavus with an 11-5 record.

- 1968-1969 -

Smith didn't let up in his crusade for the championship. The team had made steady improvement from third

place in the conference in 1965-66 to second place and a tie for second in the next two seasons. The only way to go now was up. He took the championship with a 12-4 record in the conference and 20-9 overall (again including some big-name teams).

St. John's defeated Winona State in the District 13 NAIA playoffs, the final game of the best-of-three being a breathtaking 66-61 overtime win.

The team then went on to the NAIA National Tournament in Kansas City and lost a last-second heart-breaker to Henderson, of Arkansas, 78-76. This game was vividly described ten years later by Gary Larson, sports editor for the St. Cloud *Daily Times*: St. John's had held the lead most of the way against Henderson and led by six points with three minutes to play. But Henderson sank seven free-throws in the final two minutes and pulled even at 76-76, with 27 seconds remaining. Following a time-out, St. John's guard Paul Bernabei dribbled off 15 seconds before tossing a pass to Tim Muller, 6-7 center. Muller drove for the basket but had the ball tipped away from him. Henderson called time out with three seconds left.

"They had to go almost the length of the floor, so I tried to impress on our kids that the one thing we didn't want was for them to get the ball behind us," said Smith. Then it happened.

Six-foot-eight Henderson center, Ted Davis, threw the pass-in like Joe Namath would throw a football and hit Warren Harshaw in perfect stride ten feet from the basket. . .behind the Johnnie defense. Harshaw, who was in the game for only that single play, took a pair of steps and lifted in a lay-up at the buzzer to give Henderson the victory.

"We were shocked," said Smith. "I think it took a couple of hours before we realized what had happened."

Muller led St. John's in that game with 21 points, while Bernabei had 11. They were joined in the starting line-up by forwards Joe Weber and Jim Holmes, while Tom Grudnowski was the other guard. The top reserves on that team were Jerome Barney and Mike Dady (St. Cloud *Daily Times*, March 13, 1978, p. 21).

The 1968-69 season had been a genuine team effort which Smith compares with that of the 1978 regional champions. Two of the members, Paul Bernabei and Jim Holmes, were named to the all-conference team, and Bernabei received the first annual Joe Hutton Award as the most valuable player in the MIAC.

- 1969-1970-

After the tremendous effort of the 1968-69 season, and the loss through graduation of Bernabei, Holmes, and Melancon and the transfer of Jerome Barney to another school, the Jays paused to re-group. However, they managed a record of 11-12 overall and 7-9 for fifth place in the conference. St. Thomas took the title. Two stand-outs for the season were Tim Muller, who led the team in scoring and made all conference, and Tom Grudnowski, guard and all-round floor man.

- 1970-1971 -

Ten lettermen, including Muller and Grudnowski, and the entire first string from 1969-70 reported for practice-Kevin Coleman, 6-8, at center, Mike Dady, 6-6, paired with Muller at forward, and Tom Grudnowski, 6-0, paired with Bill Moeller, 6-1, at guard. Close competitors for places in the line-up were Vic Moore, 6-5, and Gary Marlow, 5-10, guards.

Smith followed his practice of opening games with big-time teams. This year the Johnnies gave Loyola a good contest, losing 56-68 in the last few minutes, but they couldn't stay with Marquette, which rolled to a 87-58 victory.

The days came on strong against local opposition and had built a 5-1 record by the middle of January. However, after mixing with some of the MIAC leaders, the SJU standing in the conference was cut to 6-4 by mid-February, as compared with 9-1 for St. Thomas, and 6-3 and 7-4, respectively, for Augsburg and Duluth. By the end of the season St. John's standing was 10-6 in the MIAC and 13-12 overall. St. Thomas won the title with a record of 15-1. Kevin Coleman was chosen all-conference center.

-1971-1972-

With most of the regulars back, St. John's was one of the four teams in the scrap for second place. St. Thomas, conference champion in the previous three years and undefeated in the early part of this season, had locked up first place, but Augsburg, Macalester, Duluth, and St. John's were battling for the runner-up position, which would entitle the fortunate one to a spot in the NAIA play-offs. However, Macalester staged a couple of upsets and pulled into second place. St. John's, with a 10-6 record, ended up in a tie for third place with Duluth. The overall record was 12-13, a lopsided figure which is deceiving because the opposition included such giants as Marquette, Loyola, and the highly ranked Stephen F. Austin College of Texas.

The team's disappointment in failing to make the play-offs was somewhat softened by their upset victory in the final game. With seven seniors-Kevin Coleman, Terry Maloney (6-6), Gary Marlow, Dave Plafcan, Dave Homan, Vic Moore, and Tom Grudnowski playing their last game, and with their parents and girl friends looking on, the Johnnies rose up and clobbered league-leading St. Thomas 87-79. Kevin Coleman was again chosen all-conference, while Tom Grudnowski made honorable mention.

- 1972-1973-

This season Jim Smith was faced with a two-fold handicap-the loss of eight veterans and a schedule which he dubbed the toughest in the state, with the exception of the University of Minnesota. Three of these toughies-Loyola, Marquette, and Detroit-served as openers to condition the team for the grueling MIAC season. A fourth big-name team, Creighton, was scheduled for early in February.

Only two players who had seen action in 1971-72 reported for practice- 5-9 junior guard Sharon Storr, from Nassau, Bahama Islands, who out-jumped 7-4 Tom Rosier at the opening tip-off at the Tommie game in the Palaestra, and Bob Bauer, 6-4, forward. New prospects who looked promising in early season work-outs were Mike Schneider, 6-4 center, Scott Furey, 6-6 forward, Bill Sullivan, 5-9, and Steve Ward, 6-1, guards. In looking over the squad, Smith expressed two concerns: inexperience and lack of a big man to defense the opposition's big man.

These shortcomings showed up in the early part of the season during which, according to Bob Held in the St. Cloud *Daily Times* for January 2, 1973, the Johnnies "stumbled through six defeats while gaining a pair of triumphs." The team developed steadily, however, as the season progressed, and finished in third place in the conference with 8 losses and 8 wins (11 to 16 overall). The momentum the team

had gathered by the end of the season, however, carried them to resounding victories in the last three games over St. Cloud State, 78-76, Gustavus, 90-71, and Concordia, 82-74.

Sharon Storr was named all-conference guard and most valuable player on the SJU squad. Smith was pleased with the development the team had shown: "They had real togetherness and, with almost everyone back for next year, I'm looking forward to an enjoyable season" (St. Cloud *Daily Times*, March 19, 1973).

During this year, Jim Smith added the duties of Athletic Director to those of coaching and teaching, when George Durenberger reached retirement age and ended his long period of service to St. John's. Smith held

the position of Athletic Director and chairman of the Physical Education Department until he was succeeded by John Gagliardi in 1976. During this time he also coached cross-country and track.

- 1973-1974-

The 1973-74 season is memorable for two things: the first basketball season with home games played outside of the old 1902 battle scarred Rat Hall, and victory over traditional rival St. Cloud State in the first game played in the spacious new Warner Palaestra. St. John's, as usual, had its practice games against Loyola, Marquette, and Detroit, giving the last named a real scare before it pulled out an 81-77 victory in the last three minutes. These games were followed by the inaugural game with St. Cloud State on December 9, won by the Johnnies 67-53. Smith attributed the victory to the tight Johnny defense and the sharp passing of Sharon Storr to Mike Schneider, Steve Ward, and Scott Furey, who often completed the sequence with lay-ups.

After participating in the Granite City Classic at St. Cloud State, in which the Johnnies won the consolation title and Sharon Storr was named all-tournament player, the Johnnies turned their attention to the conference. They won the first game against UMD, and engaged in some very close and exciting contests during the remainder of the season, until the league-leading Tommies used their height (7-3, 6-6, 6-4, against the Johnnies' 6-6, 6-4) to defeat them 79-69 in the final game before a jam-packed crowd in the Palaestra.

The Johnnies ended up with a 10-16 record and 7-9 in the conference, for a sixth place tie with St. Mary's. Sharon Storr made all conference with 8 losses and 8 wins (11 to 16 overall). The momentum the team had gathered by the end of the season, however, carried them to resounding victories in the last three games over St. Cloud State, 78-76, Gustavus, 90-71, and Concordia, 82-74.

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1974-1975-

Practice for the 1974-75 season opened without three of the leading scorers of the preceding season- Sharon Storr, Scott Furey, and Mike Schneider. However, Schneider returned as assistant coach while completing some graduation requirements, and there was a strong nucleus of veterans, including Steve Ward, 6-1, who was top scorer and had shot a torrid 53 percent in the preceding season-Terry Booth (6-2), Tom Witt (6-4), Jerry Berg (6-3), and Dave Super (6-0)-all of whom had seen a good deal of action in 1973-74. Other promising candidates were Mark Kosiek (6-0), Mike Koshmrl (5-11), Gary Putz (5-10), Tom Witucki (6-6), Mark Lenss (6-6), Ted Nowak (6-5), Jim Hoesley (6-1), Ken Bednar (6-9), Jim O'Connell (6-1), and Dave Theisen (6-2).

After the usual warm-up games with Loyola and Marquette, St. John's lost to St. Cloud State 67-72, before turning attention to the St. John's Invitational scheduled for December 13-14. The Johnnies rolled over previously unbeaten Southwest State 79-64, while Bemidji was finishing off Luther College 72-63. St. John's then met Bemidji in the finals and, supported by the sharpshooting of Steve Ward (30 points) and Terry Booth (15), slipped by the Beavers 67-61 to win its own invitational. Booth and Ward were elected to the all-tournament squad, and Ward was chosen the tourney's most valuable player.

After a short rest for the holidays, the Johnnies rushed into another tournament, the Granite City Classic at St. Cloud State. The treatment received in this engagement was less gentle. University of Wisconsin- La Crosse did everything right and rolled over St. John's 81-62. This game to a large extent set the pattern for the rest of the season. The Johnnies lost two more games in the Granite City Classic (to St. Thomas and St. Olaf), then managed to win 6 games during the rest of the season, ending up with an 8-19 overall record and 6-12 in the conference, good for fifth place, seven games behind co-champions Augsburg and Gustavus.

One encouraging feature of the season was the development of men like Jerry Berg, Terry Booth, Tom Witt, and Dave Super, as also the emergence of new talent in the persons of Mark Lenss, Mark Kosiek, and Tom Witucki. These men were to be heard from in the future. Steve Ward, who starred with three 31-point games during the season, was high point man for the Johnnies (averaging 17.5 points per game), and was chosen all-MIAC.

During the 1974-75 school year the St. John's basketball team was chosen to travel to Poland by the Enculturation Athletic Committee and the Polish Students' Organization. The players raised money to finance the trip through various money-raising projects and left in June, 1975, for a 16-day trip through Poland, during which they played ten basketball games, breaking even with a 5-5 record.

- 1975-1976 -

Over fifty players, including 11 lettermen and 30 freshmen, reported for practice in the fall of 1975. Smith told reporters that there was no one outstanding player on the squad, but that there would be keen competition for the five starting positions. By the end of the season it was necessary to revise that statement. It is true that he had a balanced crew of starters, but by the end of the season St. John's had in Frank Wachlarowicz one of the most outstanding players in its basketball history.

Under the boards were seniors Tom Witt (6-4) and Tom Witucki (6-2), who were being pushed by juniors

Terry Booth (6-1) and Dave Philp (6-3). At the forward positions Smith was planning to rely on sophomores Mark Lenss (6-6) and Ted Nowak (6-4), with support from the strong freshman squad. As guards Smith could choose from seniors Dave Super (6-1) and Dave Theisen (6-2), juniors Jim Hoesley (6-1), Mark Kosiek (6-0), Jim O'Connell (6-1), and sophomores Gary Putz (5-11), Mike Koshmrl (5-11), and George Chovancek (6-1).

Most gratifying was the speedy adjustment to college competition by freshman all-state center Frank Wachlarowicz from Little Falls. He was the answer to Smith's prayer for a big man, the kind of player St. John's had lacked for years. Not only did he make the team in his freshman year, but he was also the key man on both offense and defense. As Smith told a reporter toward the end of the season: "Wach's most obvious contribution is his offensive play. Frank is shooting nearly 65 percent from the field. His defensive rebounding is an important key to our fast break. He always adds two or three tip-ins a game. He has also contributed with solid defensive play inside. At 6-5, he's generally playing against bigger men, but he has contained them very well." One evidence of his contribution was that the Johnnies, who finished fifth in the conference in 1974-75, ranked second in 1975-76.

But Smith had said that the Johnnies were not a one-man team. Wachlarowicz fitted into the team as a cog in a well-oiled machine, not as a prima donna striving for personal prominence.

St. John's won its first three games against the U. of Minnesota- Morris, St. Cloud State, and St. Olaf, and then won its own invitational by taking Jamestown 84-79 and Bemidji State 82-65. It lost the next three to schools outside this region-Eastern Montana, Gonzaga University, and Boise State, and then launched into the conference race, winning four straight games. Mixing in a few losses to perennial stalwarts like Gustavus (two games), St. Thomas (one game), and Augsburg (one game), the Jays hammered out victories against all other conference rivals, to end up with a 12-6 record in the conference and third place (17-10 overall).

Wachlarowicz led the team in scoring with 19.4 points per game and was chosen all-conference in this his freshman year.

- 1976-1977 -

At the beginning of this season Smith was given a chance to see his crew in action against a remarkably strong alumni team on November 20, and they gave a good account of themselves. Although matched against 1971 star alumnus Tim Muller, 6-7 center, freshman Frank Wachlarowicz poured in 27 points to lead the varsity to a convincing 97-73 victory. The scoring was well distributed, with co-captain Jim O'Connell, forward Mark Lenss, and guard Tom Witucki each accounting for 11 points, while Gary Putz and Paul Wotta added 10 and 8, respectively.

St. John's confined its practice games to only one toughie this year-Loyola of Chicago-losing 53-69. They failed to bounce back from this encounter, losing their second game to Minnesota-Morris 66-79 and their third to St. Cloud State, 80-90.

The Johnnies then lost their chance to claim a victory in the St. John's Invitational when little (5-9) Otis Carter of Jamestown College, North Dakota, swiped the ball from Mark Kosiek with the score tied 70-all and 46 seconds remaining, and, in the words of Dave Anderson of the St. Cloud *Daily Times*, "converted the theft into two points." Wachlarowicz evened the score at 81-81, but Carter again got his hands on the ball and dropped an 18-footer just as the buzzer sounded. Jamestown went on to win the tournament, while St. John's won the consolation crown by defeating Winona State.

Two weeks later the St. John's crew was eliminated from the Granite City Classic by University of

Wisconsin-Green Bay, a top team in NCAA Division II which went on to win the tournament. The Jays salvaged something out of a spotty early season by winning the consolation game against College of Great Falls by the convincing score of 94-74. In this game Wachlarowicz paced the Johnnie squad with 29 points and 20 rebounds. His output for the entire tournament was 91 points and 43 rebounds. He was deservedly proclaimed the tournament's most valuable player.

The victory over College of Great Falls started the Jays on a five game winning streak which received an impetus from the return to the line-up of Dave Neisen, 6-1, who poured in 34 points in the 87-79 victory over Hamline. They stretched this skein to six straight MIAC victories by taking the formidable Tommies 75-65, in a game which, according to the St. Cloud *Daily Times*, left the colorful Tommie coach fuming (too many fouls called on the Tommies, too few on the Johnnies by referees intimidated by the Rats).

An uprising by St. Mary's and a loosely played game snapped the SJU winning streak (63-78), and although the Jays scored easy wins over Macalester, 73-57, St. Olaf, 95-88, and a cliff-hanger over Hamline, 47-45, they fell apart at the end of the season. They lost heartbreakers to Augsburg, 72-80, in an overtime to St. Thomas, 79-82, and a double overtime to Macalester, 70-72, to end up with 14-12 overall and 10-6 and third place in the MIAC.

This record entitled the Johnnies to meet Minnesota-Morris (20-5), a team which had proved too rugged earlier in the season in the NAIA play-offs. Morris was just as rugged at the end, as the final score of 62-50 showed.

Although failing to win the MIAC title and losing to Minnesota- Morris in the first game of the play-offs, the Johnnies had played firstclass basketball and gained a great deal in experience. There was little doubt that they would be heard from in the following season.

- 1977-1978 -

Despite the widely proclaimed power of Augsburg, St. Thomas, and St. Mary's, Jim Smith told reporters at the beginning of the season that although some teams in the league were much improved over the previous year, "I like our chances." He was probably looking over his squad as he said that-two-time All-MIAC and two-time Most Valuable Player Frank Wachlarowicz (6-5); Mark Lenss, 6-7 senior forward who had developed rapidly the previous year; forwards Dan Smith 6-5, Ted Nowak, 6-5, and Paul Wotta, 6-5; great floor-man, Pat McKenzie, 5-10; guard Gary Putz; and reliable reserves Mike Koshmrl and George Chovancek. Other as yet unproven but promising prospects were John Patterson, 6-3, Scott Erickson, 6-6, Dave Philp, 6-2, and Pablo Montanez, 5-10 sophomore from Puerto Rico. There were also several freshmen who were left to the care of Mark Kosiek, highscoring forward from the preceding season who replaced Denny Lorsung as assistant to Coach Smith.

Smith's confidence in the squad seemed verified when the team rolled over St. Olaf 101-87, with four players scoring in double figures. They received a setback in a hard-fought game with pesky Minnesota-Morris (64-67), but returned to form by beating St. Cloud State 91-84 in the championship game of the St. John's Invitational, in which some of the so-called inexperienced players began to show their stuff, especially Pat McKenzie, Pablo Montanez, Gary Putz, and Paul Wotta. St. Cloud took revenge for that defeat by trouncing St. John's 87-81 a few days later, but the Johnnies snapped back, defeating Duluth 96-88, and went on to the tough Granite City Classic at St. Cloud State where they defeated University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse 97-90 in overtime, to reach the semi-finals, where they lost a squeaker to Augustana of Illinois (77-78), and to Indiana-Purdue 80-86 in the contest for third place.

The Johnnies then settled down to the grueling MIAC schedule, during which they won every game except two fiercely fought contests with Augsburg and one with St. Thomas (65-57) to end up with a 15-3 season

in the conference and 22-7 overall. This was good enough for first place in the conference.

In the play-offs, the Johnnies rolled over second-place Gustavus 92-66, while Moorhead State flattened St. Mary's, which had tied for second in the MIAC, by 82-71. Two days later the Johnnies methodically decapitated Moorhead State by a score of 98-85 and earned their second trip to the National NAIA Tournament in Kansas City.

For its first game in the NAIA tournament St. John's drew Central Washington (21-7), a school which had made twelve appearances at Kansas City, with 1978 being its fifth straight trip. The Johnnies, though an unknown quantity as compared with Central Washington, were unawed. Under the brilliant floor leadership and ball handling of little (5-10) Pat McKenzie, who seldom tried to shoot ("because if I do it'd be blocked") and the point production and rebounding of Wachlarowicz, Nowak, and Wotta, the Johnnies won their first game, 83-63.

Their second encounter, against third-seeded Drury of Missouri, was not decided until the final minutes. The score was 39-38 in favor of St. John's at the half, and they were leading 70-69 with 4:31 left in the game. Then Drury pulled ahead, but Wachlarowicz tied it with two free-throws. Then he drew his fifth foul, and the Johnnie attack was blunted. The final score: 79-86. Drury went on to the semi-finals.

The crowd gave Wachlarowicz a standing ovation when he left the game, the first player in the tournament to receive such acclaim.

The Johnnies also won other distinctions. The coach and the team were named the most sportsmanlike participants in the tournament.

Wachlarowicz was named to the All-American NAIA squad. Other honors were heaped upon Smith and the team after they returned home. Smith was chosen all-MIAC and all-NAIA District 13 Coach of the Year, and Wachlarowicz was awarded the Joe Hutton Award as the most valuable MIAC player—the second St. John's player to receive this award since it was granted for the first time to Paul Bernabei in 1969. Wachlarowicz was also chosen for the third time on the all-MIAC team, along with Ted Nowak, Mark Lenss, and Pat McKenzie.

The final record of 23-8 represented the greatest number of wins during any season by the Johnnies.

Dave Anderson, sportswriter for the St. Cloud *Daily Times*, who with his colleague Kevin Simpson covered the exciting sports events at St. John's, as well as off-campus engagements such as the NAIA Nationals, summed up the basketball season in one line: "The Johnnies have reached a new plateau, moving from good to great" (St. Cloud *Daily Times*, March 9, 1978).

Chapter IV: Baseball

The first recorded outside baseball game played at St. John's was with the "St. Cloud Crackers" in 1889, a game that was lost by the score of 15-7. The *Record* reporter wrote derisively: "We advise the home club to do a little more practicing and a little less mouthing if they want to invert the score" (*Record*, Vol. 2, p. 54). The next two games were played in May, 1900, with St. Cloud High School. St. John's was the challenger, quite certain of the superiority of its team. But the Cardinal and Blue (the school colors) lost the first game by a score of 4-14. It was a humiliating and wholly unexpected experience when it was discovered that in spite of its thirty-six years of intramural play there was still a lot to learn about caution in challenging outside opponents. The *Record*, for the comfort of the team, offered the almost naive consolation that, after all, they had not done badly, for "although they lost the game, they nevertheless found the pitcher 'well'- so well, in fact, that if the wind had not been against them the ball

would have been batted out of the reach of the fielders" (*Record*, Vol. 13, p. 194). In a return game, however, St. John's won by the score of 12-11 and the local pride was restored.

These two games, though of little importance in themselves, touched off the movement that ultimately led to the initiation of intercollegiate athletics at St. John's. The two games were well attended and enjoyed on both campuses. It was inevitable that the appetite for more outside games would be whetted to a degree never experienced before, now that the break-through had been accomplished. Moreover, with the public interest in football running high, it was certain that eventually the next proposal to the faculty would be for football games with the St. Cloud High School also-which was exactly what happened. As has already been told in the section devoted to football, permission was obtained to schedule football games with the St. Cloud High School, then with the St. Cloud Normal School, and finally with the other private colleges in the state.

The history of baseball at St. John's until 1907, when the first college games were scheduled, was comparatively uneventful, though it furnished both faculty and students alike with a variation from the accustomed daily diet of intramural sports. On the other hand, with the inauguration of the new St. John's Athletic Association in 1900, a new spirit was born on the St. John's campus. Intramural sports of all the contemporary varieties then popular were played on a grander scale than ever before, especially baseball. The spring issue of the *Record* for the year 1901 reports as follows under the title "The Campus": "It will be quite impossible to do justice to the sports of April in the short space allotted for this column. So successful has the new Athletic Association been in its efforts to keep the ball rolling that the sports correspondent is at a loss where to begin." He concludes: "The principal interest was centered on the baseball diamonds" (*Record*, Vol. 14, pp. 151-152).

- 1900-1906 -

During the period from 1900 to 1906 St. John's "first team" played a total of twelve games, mainly against high schools in the surrounding area such as St. Cloud, Little Falls, Melrose and Sauk Centre, as also with the town teams of St. Joseph and Elk River. Of these twelve games, ten were victories and two were defeats. The "first teams," as they were called, were more representative of the St. John's Athletic Association than of St. John's proper. They were scheduled by the Association and financed in every way by the Association, both in the purchase of uniforms and paying for travel expenses, the supplying of baseball equipment such as bats and balls, etc. It was only in 1907 that the intercollegiate phase of St. John's baseball really had its beginning.

Following is a brief resume of the players and the games they played from 1900-1906. Beginning with the players themselves, they were not only good athletes and prominent students in their time, many of them became successful men in their public lives. Members of the teams who later became Benedictine faculty members were such priests as Frs. Daniel Bangart, Alphonse Sausen, Pius Meinz, Lambert Weckwerth and Polycarp Hansen. Among the lay members were Alfred Knaeble, '00, the first catcher in an outside game under the auspices of the Athletic Association. Dr. John Sprafka, captain of the 1905 team, later attended the University of Minnesota where he was famed as one of the earliest of Minnesota's football greats. He was well known in athletic circles in the Twin Cities and Chicago. Frank Tewes, '04, who became famous as an architect, was city architect of St. Paul for years and the planner of many of the most important of the St. Paul city public buildings.

Perhaps the best known of all the early baseball players was Fr. Polycarp Hansen, O.S.B., who did all the varsity pitching without a loss for three years, after which time the high schools declined to schedule games with St. John's any further, partly because of the overwhelming defeats they sustained, partly because they began to form their own high school conferences where the competition was on their own level.

Though St. John's tried to schedule games with them, the A.A. finally decided to give up the attempt, thus leaving the year 1906 without an outside game to record.

- 1907 -

As was stated above, no university baseball games were scheduled for 1906, probably because the high schools were discouraged from accepting the St. John's invitations for games only to be clobbered by overwhelming defeats. Moreover, the St. John's A.A. was aware that the baseball teams were in need of stronger competition and that the logical move for the future would be to follow the example of football and basketball and enter into intercollegiate competition.

Accordingly, in March of 1907 games were scheduled between St. John's and two Twin City colleges, St. Thomas and Macalester, with a high school game with Sauk Centre sandwiched between the college games. The Sauk Centre game was won easily, as was usual, with an overwhelming score of 19-1. But the games with St. Thomas and Macalester proved definitely that St. John's was unable as yet to match the experience and power of the Twin City colleges. St. John's lost to St. Thomas 9-6 and to Macalester 17-4.

Stars of the 1907 season were Peter Tierney, catcher, and Edward Callanan (incidentally, the father of Edward Callanan, '39, St. John's first All-American football player). These two losses were partly due to the intermission of baseball in 1906, which forced the management to experiment with entirely new players. On the other hand, much was gained, for the line-up fairly bristles with the names of future stars who were to grace the annals of brother athletes who were to appear in the line-ups of all the major sports at St. John's until 1917. Among them were also Matthew (later Fr. Florian, O.S.B.) Locnikar and Fred Thelen, stars in both basketball and baseball.

- 1908 -

The 1908 baseball team was captained by Edward Callanan, who batted an astounding .480 for the season. Spring came later than usual, however, and handicapped the team's progress. Though this was one of St. John's best years in football and basketball, the baseball team lost to Ramline, a team directed by the coaching phenomenon of the period, Professor Bragan. Though St. John's out-hit Ramline 12-8, the fielding was erratic. The Cardinal and Blue made eight errors and were almost defenseless against the clever base-running of the Ramline players.

Again, Callanan and Locnikar were the individual stars of the season. The 1908 team split a double-header with Fargo College (now North Dakota State). Coach for St. John's in 1908 was Frank Cassidy, an outstanding gymnast and professor of Physical Culture, but who knew very little about the game of baseball. This was the period when Physical Culture and gymnastics began to hold first place in the estimation of the faculty.

In the meantime, while the baseball team was struggling against opponents and weather, the intramurals were having one of their best years. In the St. John's Athletic Association report for the year 1908, eight baseball teams played approximately seven games each, for a total of forty-nine games from early spring until June 16. There were two handball leagues, a major league comprising eleven teams, and a minor league of seven teams. Each team played from fifty-four to sixty-two games. A sidelight of the handball season was a "Grand Lunch" served to the champions of the two leagues by Fr. Lambert Weckwerth, O.S.B., manager of the handball program.

LINE-UP

Ralf Capron, '08 ss
 Hyacinth Cismowski '14 1b
 Edward Callanan '08 2b
 Raymond Kraus '10 c
 John Gores '10 cf
 John Quinlan '08 rf
 Joseph Kopp 3b
 Matt. Locnikar 1f
 Scott McHenry'08 p
 Fr. Sylvester Harter '10 p
 Norb. Borgerding '10 3b

Coach -Cassidy
 Captain -Callanan
 Stars -Callanan, Locnikar

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
15.....	Alumni.....2
10.....	Elk River....7
2.....	Elk River.....1
20....	Alumni.....4
4.....	Hamline.....9
3.....	Fargo.....7
5.....	Fargo.....4

- 1909-

Only two intercollegiate teams were played in 1909, with Ramline and Macalester. The first game with Ramline was close until the eighth inning when the opponents scored five runs to win the game 9-4. Again it was a matter of superior play and better batting on the part of Ramline. Ramline out-hit St. John's 11-7, and stole nine bases to six by St. John's. Commended by the *Record* for the best showing in this game were Captain Ray Kraus, the star slugger, and John Steichen, first base.

The *Record* correspondent found it too painful to publish the score of the Macalester game. Elsewhere it is listed as a loss, 18-1. That the St. John's correspondent was a true fan we can surmise from his report of the game:

Baseballically, a hurricane must have struck St. John's on May 15. After the dust had finally settled down at the end of a seven-inning affair, the Macalester bunch were eighteen counts to the good, while one run was all St. John's could make. Our men had a decided off-day, which, coupled with heavy hitting by

the visitors, ended disastrously for the Cardinal and Blue. Pitcher Davies of Macalester was almost unhittable, allowing only two singles. The particular feature of the game was the slugging by the Mac boys, who clouted the sphere for eleven hits, including four homeruns (*Record*, Vol. 22, p. 337, June 1909).

LINE UP

John Rowland '10 1f
 John Jershe '16 c
 Ray Kraus '16 rf
 Carl Kapsner '14 cf
 James Morrison '09 ss
 John Steichen '09 1b
 Theo Harter '09 2b
 Louis Gravel '09 3b
 Ray Douville '10 p

Coach -Frank Cassidy
 Captain -Kraus
 Stars -Steichen, Kraus

Scores

SJU Opponents

4....Hamline.....9

1....Macalester...18

- 1910-

The 1910 Cardinal and Blue was the best hitting team up to this time. It was Coach Flynn's first year as baseball coach and, though the team lost four games, it was a marked advance in power over the past. The team was more solidly dedicated and the game strategy devised for winning was better employed by an admixture of bunts and good base stealing. Philip Boll, a big man from Breckenridge (died in 1977), was a power hitter (.333 for the season) who headed a group of three other players: Carl Kapsner (Fr. Celestine, O.S.B.), batting .208, Bob Hackner (.214), and Herman Vonderhaar (.214).

Unfortunately the same cannot be said of the defensive capabilities of the team. The club as a whole committed thirty-five errors in contrast to the twenty-five errors by the opposition. The lack of fielding skill was offset by the first triple play by St. John's in intercollegiate baseball.

Stars of the season were Philip Boll, Bob Hackner, and third baseman Herman Vonderhaar.

LINE UP

Frank O'Donnell '11 ss
 Phil Boll '10 2b
 Ray Kraus '10 rf
 Carl Kapsner '14 lf
 Frank First '16 c

Herman Vonderhaar '10, 3b
 Gustave Dierkes '12 1b
 Robert Hackner '14 cf
 John O'Brien '12, p
 Ray Douville '10 p

Coach -Ed Flynn
 Captain -First
 Stars -Vonderhaar. Boll

SCORES

SJU Opponents

9.....Elk River.....0

14....Macalester.....16

3.....Hamline.....2

4.....St. Thomas6

39....Macalester.....11

9.....Hamline.....10

- 1911-

Coach Flynn was greeted by a large number of candidates for his third season as coach of the St. John's baseball team. When finally chosen, the team was represented by players of excellent talent but who were not as yet molded into a compact unit. The fielding and the hitting were erratic.

The season record was two wins versus three losses. By a strange misunderstanding of baseball rules, Fargo College forfeited its one game with St. John's by refusing to take the field after the umpire called out a Fargo runner for interfering with a teammate's batted ball. St. John's was leading at the time, a fact which could have contributed to the Fargo coach's emotional refusal to accept the umpire's decision.

LINE UP

Frank O'Donnell '11, ss
 Robert Rackner '14 2b
 Carl Kapsner '14 lf
 Victor Schmitt '12 3b
 Frank Kettler '17 1b
 John O'Brien '12 p
 Ignatius Wiltzius '12 c
 Lisle Jesmer '11 rf
 Alois Goeb '14 utility
 Joseph Tims '11 p

Coach -Flynn

Captain -O'Donnell
Starts -Kettler and O'Brien

SCORES

SJU Opponents

1.....Macalester....10

1.....St. Thomas....7

5.....Macalester.....3

9.....Fargo.....0

2.....Hamline.....4

- 1912-

The 1912 baseball club was a worthy representative of St. John's and, except for the bad fortune of losing its stellar pitcher Jack O'Brien through an arm injury, might have gone far. The old saying that "pitching is the game" could never be truer. The team roster was made up of proven hitters, but with mediocre relief pitching the St. John's infield, that was unsteady at times, fell apart under heavy hitting by the opposition.

The first game of the season with Macalester College was won by a score of 6-0. Jack O'Brien was at his best, striking out seven hitters and allowing only three hits for the nine innings. The second game was also a shut-out. O'Brien struck out 15 Mechanic Arts batters and the team produced six hits and stole seven bases.

The third game was a complete reversal. Playing at St. Thomas, St. John's lost to the Cadets by a score of 2-7. O'Brien's fine pitching three hits and nine strikeouts was nullified by eight errors and general poor defensive play. In a return game with St. Thomas, lost by a score of 4-5, O'Brien wrenched his arm in the fifth inning and was replaced by a substitute pitcher. In the seventh inning the Tommies pushed over four runs on the relief pitcher and nosed out the St. John's players by one run.

The final game of the season was an eight to one loss to Macalester. Macalester had developed into a team of sluggers and against St. John's relief pitcher accumulated nine hits, among which were three extra base blows.

Stars for the year were Jack O'Brien, an outstanding athlete who must be ranked with the great pitchers of St. John's early history, Carl Kapsner (later Fr. Celestine, O.S.B.), and catcher Alois Goeb (later abbot of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota).

LINE UP

Alois Goeb '14 rf
Frank O'Donnell '12 2b
Clyde Robideau, '12 cf
Carl Kapsner '14 lf
Frank Kettler '17 1b

David Woulfe, '14 ss
 Walter Roche '14 3b
 John O'Brien '12 p
 Joseph Tims '12 p
 Val Rausch '13 p

Coach -Flynn
 Captain -Woulfe
 Stars--O'Brien, Wiltzius

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
6.....	Macalester.....0
2.....	St. Thomas.....7
5.....	Mechanic Arts....0
4.....	St. Thomas.....5
1.....	Macalester.....8

-1913-

The new policy of arranging practice games with the faculty, called popularly "The Old Reliables," was found to be a profitable venture in preparation for outside competition, inasmuch as it gave the team the opportunity to iron out deficiencies before the real season started. The season's record was three wins versus three losses. The losses, however, were by close margins that could have easily been avoided with closer defensive play. The Hamline game, lost by a score of 2-1, was one of the best ever witnessed on the St. John's campus. St. John's out-hit the Hamline nine 8-4, but lost the game through two Hamline homeruns. The University of North Dakota defeated the Cardinal and Blue in a well-pitched game by Val Rausch through a homerun in the ninth inning with a runner on base.

Stars for the year were Bob Hackner (captain), Val Rausch, pitcher, Joseph Porwoll (Fr. Method, O.s.B.), and Alois Goeb (Fr. Cuthbert, O.S.B.), catcher. Games and the scores are as follows:

LINE UP

Robert Hackner '14 cf
 Walter Roche '14 rf
 David Woulfe '14 ss
 Clarence Bisenius '17 3b
 Carl Kapsner '14 lf
 Joseph Porowoll '14 2b
 Aloise Geob '17 1b
 Frank Kettler '17 1b
 Val Rausch '13 p

Coach -Flynn

Captain -Hacker
Stars -Porwoll, Rausch, Goeb

SCORES

SJU Opponents

3.....St. Thomas.....4

14....St. Cloud H.S...2

4.....N. Dakota U.....6

8.....Macalester.....5

1.....Hamline.....2

7.....Macalester.....6

- 1914 -

The opening game of the 1914 baseball season was a close-score defeat by St. Thomas, 9-10. With the addition to the squad of pitchers Albert Flannigan and Frank Mondloch, however, hopes rose high for a winning season. Shortstop John W. "Stump" Schmitt was also a star in the making, and so the future looked bright to the new team. St. John's won the following two games over Mechanic Arts (11-1) and Macalester (10-9). The final two games were defeats, a 2-6 loss to St. Thomas and 2-4 to Hamline.

Stars for the year were John Schmitt and Frank Mondloch, the latter a Prep School fireball hurler who in 1914 initiated his four-year career on the mound for St. John's. It was also the final appearance on the field of Robert Hackner, a stellar performer in whatever sporting activity he participated. For the next fifty years he held the St. John's 100-yard dash record of 93.4seconds. (For Hackner's athletic record see Basketball.)

LINE UP

Matt Lauer '15 rf
Walter Roche '14 cf
Daivd Woulfe '14 lf
Robert Hackner '14 cf
Victor Schmitt,'14 ss
Bernard Kuh, '17, 3b
Frank Kettler '17 1b
John W. Schmitt '17 2b
Frank Mondloch '18 p
Albert Flannigan '16 p

Coach -Flynn
Captain -Roche
Stars -Lauer, Mondloch, Hackner

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
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9.....St. Thomas.....	10
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11....Mechanic Arts....	1
-------------------------	---

10....Macalester.....	9
-----------------------	---

2.....St. Thomas.....	6
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2.....Hamline.....	4
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The fact that St. John's opened its 1915 baseball season with a seasoned battery of pitchers and a veteran catcher led to fair hopes for a great year. The Fates were not all propitious, however, and the team had to settle for a record of two wins and four losses. With the exception of two games, all those that were lost could have been won with a touch of good fortune.

The 1915 team on paper was the best produced at St. John's for several years. In the infield were Alfred Wipfli, a little man with a mighty homerun bat, and Johnny "Stump" Schmitt, who captained the baseball team for three successive years. John Flannigan was a seasoned pitcher, and Frank Mondloch, though still a Prep, was a fastball pitcher with great promise for the future. In addition, there were on the team basketball stars James Stroeder, Frank Kettler, and Urban Knaeble.

The feature game of the season was a no-hit-no-run game by Flannigan against Shattuck, won by a score of 2-0. In the fifth game of the season St. John's fell to Macalester by a score of 5-14. Flannigan was off form and left the game in the third inning after allowing five successive hits to Macalester. Frank Mondloch finished the game with not much better success. It was after 1915 that Mondloch became one of the greatest pitchers in St. John's history.

LINE UP

Frank Kettler '17 1b
 Alfred Wipfli '16 2b
 Joe Gaffney '23 3b
 John W. Schmitt '17 ss
 Frank Manley '15, lf
 John J. Schmitt (?) cf
 James Stroeder '17 rf
 Bernard Kuhl '17 c

Coach --Flynn
 Captain --J.W. Schmitt
 Stars --Wipfli, Flannigan

-1916 -

The 1916 baseball team was resolved not to be outdone by the champion 1916 basketball cagers. And indeed the baseball men had material to work with. In their squad were four of the basketball stars, Louis Mohs, Urban Knaeble, John Flannigan and the well-known Alfred Wipfli, the last mentioned a short

wiry man with a strong arm and an impressive batting record. At times in former years there had been little reason for optimism, but in 1916 there were several first-quality veterans, especially John W. Schmitt (captain) at shortstop, Frank Kettler at first base, and Frank Mondloch, a tried fastball pitcher and power hitter.

The first conference game, with St. Olaf, ended with a winning score of 9-8. Homeruns by Mondloch and Wipfli, and two-base hits by Counihan, Gaffney, and Goblirsch featured the St. John's attack.

Mondloch pitched good ball, but had to be relieved by Flannigan in the eighth.

The second conference game was also a victory, 1-0, over North Dakota Agricultural College in a game called because of rain in the eighth inning.

The third victory of the season was a twelve-inning affair with Macalester, won by a score of 4-3. Mondloch again displayed his power in seven strikeouts and six hits, though he walked five men and was relieved by Flannigan in the ninth. Stars of the game were Mondloch and Counihan, who drove in the winning run in the twelfth inning.

The remaining games were as follows: St. John's over Luther of Decorah, Iowa, in a pitching duel between Flannigan and Streeter of Luther. Then followed a loss to St. Olaf, 3-0, with the St. Olaf pitcher striking out fourteen batters to Mondloch's thirteen. The last conference game of the season was a defeat by Macalester in which St. John's committed the almost incredible number of thirteen errors. The score, 6-17, was the worst defeat since 1909, when Macalester defeated St. John's 18-0. The *Record* reporter wrote: "Let's forget it. This was the worst defeat St. John's suffered since 1909." Despite the poor ending of the season, St. John's took second place in the Minnesota-Dakota Conference behind St. Thomas and Hamline who tied for the championship.

Stars for the season were the pitchers Mondloch and Flannigan, catcher O'Leary, and shortstop John Schmitt (captain).

LINE UP

Frank Kettler '17 1b
 Alfred Wipfli, '16 2b
 John W. Schmitt '17 ss
 Joseph Gaffney '23 2b
 Bernard Kuhl '17 lf
 Louis Mohs '17 cf
 Mike Goblirsch '17 rf
 John O'Leary '16 c
 John Flannigan, '17 p
 Frank Mondloch '18 p
 Clinton Counihan '17 ph

Coach -Flynn
 Captain -J. W. Schmitt
 Stars -O'Leary, Flannigan, Mondloch, Counihan

SCORES

SJU Opponents

1.....St. Cloud3
 9.....St. Olaf8
 1....N. Dak Aggies...0
 4....Macalester3
 2....Luther College...1
 0....St. Olaf3
 5....Shattuck.....3
 6....Macalester.....17

- 1917-

The United States entered World War I in 1917. As would be expected, the draft had already by springtime reduced drastically the male student population of all the colleges in the country. The Minnesota and Dakota colleges cancelled their spring athletic programs, thereby leaving St. John's without games for the baseball season. St. John's, however, decided to go ahead with a curtailed program along with St. Thomas, a military school with an officer training program. Coach Flynn, with Frank Mondloch the only college student on the squad, managed to scrape up a team by calling on the Prep School seniors and a few commercial students that had not yet been drafted.

In a four-game schedule St. John's garnered three victories against one loss, the latter a defeat by St. Thomas (1-0). The game was scoreless until the ninth inning when, through an error, St. Thomas was enabled to score. The other games on the schedule were victories: over St. Thomas 5-4, over the University of Minnesota High School 8-1, and Park Region College (Fergus Falls) 7-3. Stars were pitcher Mondloch, catcher John O'Leary, and Clinton Counihan, a solid hitter who came through in critical situations.

LINE UP

John W. Schmitt '17 ss
 Francis Welters 20 1b
 Clinton Counihan '17 2b
 Joseph Gaffney '23 3b
 Welter '17 cf
 August Kapsner '20 rf
 Bernard Kuhl '17 lf
 Frank Mondloch '18 p
 Clinton Counihan '17 p

Coach -Flynn
 Captain -J.W. Schmitt
 Stars -Counihan, Mondloch

SCORES

SJU Opponents

8.....U. of Minn. ...1

0....St. Thomas....1

5....St.Thomas.....4

7....Park Region....3

- 1918 -

Early predictions for baseball in 1918 were based entirely on Frank Mondloch, now a four-year veteran with the reputation of being the top pitcher in the conference. As a candidate for the priesthood, he had been exempted from military service and now was the only remaining member of the 1917 team. Coach Flynn's search for recruits among the Prep School seniors and the Commercials was eminently successful, however. Among the Prep School stars were such players as August Kapsner, William "Bart" Rooney, Matthew "Bill" Barry, Matthew "Horse" Weber, a hard-hitting first baseman, and John "Dutch" Daleiden, as backup for catcher "Gat" Hilgers. They even had their "Bird"-Lyle Orchard, a star pinch hitter whose timely base hits won at least two games that would otherwise have been lost.

It was a colorful team, as one can easily surmise from the nicknames. The season's average was five wins against three losses. Defeated were Luther College 8-1, St. Thomas 5-3, Macalester 10-2, and St. Cloud High School 3-1. Losses were to Hamline, 2-3, St. Thomas, 5-6, and St. Cloud High, 1-3.

It was a good season, so good, in fact, that St. John's contested the conference championship claim of Carleton, the official conference winner. The *Record* reporter wrote as follows: "We also have visions of a conference championship, and if there is any team claiming the championship it ought to be St. John's. We have as much right as any team in the state. Coach Flynn repeatedly tried to schedule a game with Carleton, but he was unsuccessful. It is doubtful if Carleton played two conference games" (*Record*, Vol. 31, 1918, p. 373).

In 1919, when St. John's indisputably won the baseball championship, the 1918 outcome of the conference was still rankling in the mind of the *Record* reporter: "At last the baseball honors of the conference championship rest in undisturbed peace at St. John's without any useless arguing or doubtful newspaper quibbling, as was the case last year" (*Record*, Vol. 32, June 1919, p. 319).

LINE-UP

Matt Barry '20 ss
 Matt Weber '20 1b
 Leonard Beneki '18 2b
 August Kapsner '20 3b
 Ralph Bodin '1, rf
 George Reuter '19 cf
 Joseph May '18 lf
 Wm. Hilgers '18 c
 Frank Mondloch '18 p

Coach -Flynn
 Captain -Mondloch

Stars--Hilgers, Mondloch, Reuter, Beneke

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
5.....	St. Cloud H.S.7
3.....	St. Cloud H.S.1
8.....	Luther College.....1
3.....	St. Thomas.....3
2.....	St. Cloud H.S.1
2.....	Hamline.....3
10....	Macalester.....2
5.....	St. Thomas.....6

-1919-

The year 1919 brought to St. John's its first baseball championship with an overall percentage average of .800, eight victories in a schedule of ten games. In conference play St. John's won five college games with one loss, a 6-4 defeat by their ancient rival, the College of St. Thomas.

It was an eminently successful season. Coach Flynn's young team, made up partly of senior members of the Prep School, played superbly both in the field and at bat and slugged their way to the Minnesota-Dakota Tri-State championship with timely hitting balanced by good defensive play. Captain Matthew Barry, a fine shortstop, led his teammates with a batting average of .416, with centerfielder George Reuter following closely with a .348 average. Matthew "Horse" Weber's stick work earned for him a contract from the American Association's Minneapolis Millers, which he did not accept but went into business at Cold Spring Granite *Co.* immediately after graduation.

August Kapsner, later to be known as Fr. Roland Kapsner, O.S.B., belongs among the topmost stellar pitchers in St. John's athletic history. He was a solid competitor who played the corners of the plate with all the craft of a veteran professional. To back up his pitching he was particularly effective at the plate, on occasions driving out sharply hit doubles to score a runner or advance him along the base paths. Perhaps his single greatest feat of the season was to pitch twelve innings in a 3-2 victory over St. Thomas.

From all the evidence furnished by the *Record*, it is apparent that the 1919 baseball team was a well-balanced aggregation with an abundance of poise and the ability to meet any situation that arose on the field. To try to choose stars among the ten or so that made up the team would be doing an injustice to those not chosen, for if ever a group of ball players worked in harmony and as a unit, this was true of the 1919 Johnnies. There were such players as "Little Kap," now Fr. Oliver Kapsner, O.S.B., brother of "Big Kap," the pitcher; Matt "Horse" Weber at first base; William "Bart" Rooney, leftfield; John "Dutch" Daleiden, catcher; Leo Wilzbacher; George Reuter, outfield; and "Bill" Barry, shortstop; each of whom furnished the special contribution required of his position. The most obvious of the stars were those who

handled the ball the most: the pitcher, catcher and shortstop. Leonard "Little Kap" Kapsner played a stellar game in the outfield and had the knack of coming up with timely hits that got the team out of difficulties.

LINE-UP

John Daleiden '21 c
 Wm. "Bart" Rooney '20 lf
 Matt Weber '20, 1b
 August A. Kapsner '20 p
 Matt "Bill" Barry '20 ss
 John Cullen '20 2b
 George Reuter '19, cf
 Leonard Kapsner, '20 rf
 Leo Wilzbacher '19 3b
 Fran. "Hans" Wagner '19 3b

Coach -Flynn
 Captain -Barry
 Stars -Barry, Reuter, A. Kapsner

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
2.....	St. Cloud H.S. ...1
4.....	St. Olaf.....2
3.....	St. Thomas.....2
5.....	St. Cloud H.S. ...2
5....	River Falls Nor. ...0
6....	Hamline.....5
4....	St. Thomas.....6
0....	River Falls.....7
6....	St. Olaf.....1
2....	Hamline.....1

-1920-

The year 1920 issued in a new era in athletics at St. John's. It was this year that St. John's became a charter member of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, popularly known as the MIAC. By doing so it dropped its membership in the Minnesota-Dakota Intercollegiate Conference, often referred to as the Tri-State Conference because of its membership in three states-Minnesota, North Dakota and

South Dakota.

The older conference had served its purpose well from 1911 to 1920, always, however, with some dissatisfaction because of the large number of member colleges. It had become unwieldy because of scheduling difficulties, and in addition there was disagreement regarding eligibility requirements.

The entrance into the MIAC worked definite hardships on the athletic program to which St. John's had become acquainted over the years. Heretofore St. John's had been able to use on its teams young Prep School seniors and students of the Commercial Department, many of whom supplied the maturity lacking among the younger Liberal Arts members, regardless of their athletic talent. The academic regulations, however, were enforced with a stern severity that at times seemed almost too severe.

The MIAC ruling regarding the use of Prep School stars and members of the Commercial Department led to the breakdown in the camaraderie that had characterized the championship team of 1919. The addition of new players failed to compensate for quality that had been lost from the preceding year. The result was that the 1920 team was merely ordinary in comparison with that of 1919.

The 1920 team won only two contests of a seven-game schedule. Of the five conference games, St. John's defeated Hamline by a score of 13-5, one of the few games in which August Kapsner, the star pitcher of 1919, was at his best. Kapsner was unwell most of the season, the result of rheumatic fever suffered during the preceding winter months and which led eventually to his early death in 1944.

LINE-UP

John Daleiden '21, c
 Matt. Barry '20, ss
 Matt. Weber '20 1b
 August Kapsner '20 p
 Lawrence Glenn '21 2b
 Joseph Kaliber (?) cf
 Carlton Ryan '20 rf
 Leonard Kapsner '22 3b
 Leo Galvin '20 lf

Coach -Flynn
 Captain -Weber
 Stars -Weber, Barry

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
4.....	St. Cloud H.S. ...1
0.....	St. Thomas.....8
7.....	St. Cloud Tech..8
13...	Hamline.....5
4.....	St. Olaf.....6
2.....	Macalester.....12
0.....	St. Thomas.....8

-1921-

The 1921 baseball team was St. John's first venture into the MIAC baseball wars. The hopes of the new

coach Edward Cahill for a good season were high. Returning from the 1919-1920 high-gearred squads were veterans John Daleiden, catcher, and Leonard Kapsner, third base. Among the ex-Prep candidates were Andrew Parnell, Andrew Wahl, and Charles Treanor. New to the campus were James Keaveny, Melvin McDonald, Joseph Tucker (later Fr. Dunstan), pitchers Bernard Wiesler and Peter Meyer.

The season turned out to be a disappointment mainly because of inconsistent hitting and fielding errors. Pitchers Wiesler and Peter Meyer performed well and gave promise of brighter years in the future.

LINE-UP

Leonard Kapsner '22 3b
 John Daleiden '21 c
 Andrew Parnell '25 lf
 Joseph Tucker '22 cf
 Andrew Wahl '22 ss
 Charles Treanor '21 2b
 Melvin McDonald '22 2b
 James Keaveny '22 rf
 Bernard Wiesler '32 p
 Peter Meyer '21 p

Coach -Cahill
 Captain -Daleiden

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
6.....	St. Cloud Tech H.S. ...0
7.....	Town Toggery.....3
1.....	St. Olaf3
1.....	Macalester.....4
4.....	St. Thomas.....7
4.....	River Falls Nor.5
4.....	Gustavus.....3
0.....	St. Thomas.....9
1.....	Macalester.....5

- 1922 -

The 1922 baseball team was by no means a great success, though it had a potential that exceeded its achievement by far. The schedule called for six games, of which St. John's won two and lost four. Coach Cahill's problem throughout the season was to develop a pitching staff, and this, combined with the lack

of timely hitting and occasional loose fielding, led to a conference finish in fifth place, despite the fact that the team defeated both St. Thomas and St. Olaf, the teams that finished in first and second places respectively in the conference. Stars for the year were Ben Wiesler, pitcher, and hitters Leonard Kapsner, third base, and Joe McGovern, first base, both of whom finished the year with a batting average of .318.

LINE-UP

Leonard Kapsner '22 3b
 Andrew Wahl '22 ss
 Melvin McDoanld '22 2b
 Joseph McGovern '22 1b
 Joseph Tucker '22 cf
 John Pape '23 lf
 Ben Siebenand '22 rf
 Andrew Parnel, '25 c
 Bernard Wiesler '23 p
 Walter Fox '23 p
 Nicholas Schmitt '25 rf

Coach -Cahill
 Captain -Kapsner
 Stars -Kapsner, McGovern

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
4.....	Hamline.....7
3....	Macalester....6
4....	Hamline.....8
4....	St. Thomas...3
3...	St. Thomas....4
2....	St. Olaf.....1

- 1923 -

Fred Sanborn succeeded Edward Cahill as baseball coach. With only Andrew Parnell and Bernard Wiesler as supporting lettermen from the 1922 team, the new coach was faced with the formidable task of developing almost an entirely new squad. On the other hand, among the candidates were two ex-Prep School stars and the versatile John McNally on whom to build his team-August Carroll and Frank Marrin, as also sophomore Ernest Koepp, a football and basketball star. Stars of the season were August Carroll, a catcher, and pitcher Wiesler. The team proved to be a slight improvement over what was expected of it until its star catcher, Andrew Parnell, was incapacitated for the entire season by a finger fracture.

1923 was the last year of John McNally at St. John's. This volatile legendary figure who became famous

nationwide in football under the name of Johnny Blood was among the charter members of the Professional Football Hall of Fame in 1963. He finished his career in athletics at St. John's by pitching- and winning-a three-hit baseball game against Macalester, his very first attempt to pitch a game of baseball. It was likewise the year that he won the silver cup for proficiency in track. In the college track meet held in 1923 he demonstrated his energy and varied talents by winning first place in the 440-yard run, the half mile, the mile, the low and the high hurdles, the high jump, broad jump, discus and pole vault. He took second place in the 100- yard dash, the 220, and the javelin throw-a total of nine first place awards and three second places. In addition he was awarded a silver cup as St. John's first four-letter man in all the major sports then played at St. John's-football, basketball, baseball and track. (*Sporting News*, September, 1963, contains an impressionistic story of John McNally's athletic career.)

LINE-UP

Francis Marrin '24 ss
 Lawrence Murphy '25 2b
 Harvey Pajeau '23 3b
 August Carroll '24 c
 Ernest Koepp '23 1b
 John McNally '23 cf, p
 Donald Norton '23 lf
 Gilbert Collins '23 rf
 Bernard Wiesler '23 p
 Joseph Weckwerth '23 p
 Andrew Parnell '25 c
 Maurice Noack '23 lf

Coach -Sanborn
 Captain -Parnell
 Stars -Carroll, Wiesler

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
14....	Little Falls....3
1.....	St. Olaf.....3
7.....	Gustavus.....5
1.....	Macalester....5
2....	St. Thomas...14
1....	Macalester....7

- 1924 -

Although St. John's scheduled six games for 1924, only four were played, two of these being a double-header with St. Olaf, May 21. Both games were losses by scores of 1-6 and 0-7 respectively. It happened

to be one of the St. Olaf glory years, with the Cleve-Swanson passing combination in football operating with equal efficiency at second and third bases in baseball. A third conference baseball game was played against Macalester on May 22, one day following the double-header with St. Olaf. In the last game, with Macalester, St. John's lost by a score of 1-7.

Two non-conference games with St. Cloud Teachers ended in a victory and a loss for St. John's. Pitching was thin for the year with Harold Lien carrying the main burden, winning one game and losing two, mainly through poor support in the field.

In the general debacle of the season, four stars emerged: catcher Leo Schumacher, pitcher Harold Lien, third baseman Carl Schumacher, and the brilliant outfielder Ray Humphrey, a line drive hitter of first quality (brother of Professor Stephen Humphrey). He was a star in basketball as well as in football. At the end of the baseball season, though only a freshman, he was unanimously elected captain for the next year. Unfortunately he was unable to return to St. John's the following year—a time when the Johnnies were in dire need of leadership in all three sports—basketball, football and baseball.

LINE-UP

John Gleason '26 2b
 Andy Parnell '25 1b
 Ray Humphrey '24 cf
 Edward Powers '24,lf
 Gus Carroll '24 ss
 Nicholas Schmitt '24 rf
 Joe Conway '26 3b
 Leo Schumacher'25 c
 Harold Lien '26 p
 William Firner '25
 Hubert Small '24 of
 John Fox '24
 Alois Hansen (?)

Coach -Sanborn
 Captain -Gus Carroll
 Stars -Humphrey, Lien, Carroll

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
3.....	St. Cloud T.C.9
12....	St. Cloud T.C.8
1-0...	St. Olaf6-7
1.....	Macalester.....7

-1925 -

Coach Sanborn was succeeded in 1925 by Gene Aldrich for a oneyear term at the helm of St. John's

athletic fortunes. The 1925 baseball team was made up of a potentially strong group of baseball players individually but who could not be molded into a unit in the short baseball season. The team was handicapped also by an undeveloped pitching staff that allowed a high percentage of unearned runs.

In the conference St. John's lost four games. The lack of victories in the conference was offset in part by twin defeats of St. Cloud Teachers' College by substantial scores: 14-8 and 11-5. Leo Kapsner, brother of the earlier August and Leonard, won both of the St. Cloud games.

Stars of the season were John Gleason at second base and Leo Schumacher, catcher. Carl Schumacher, now Fr. Blase, O.S.B., starred at the plate, batting five-for-five in one game, one of the few times this was accomplished in St. John's baseball history.

LINE-UP

John Gleason '26 2b
 Walter Miller '27 ss
 Carl Schumacher '26 1b
 Vince Goodman '25 3b
 John Sweetman '27 cf
 Leo Schumacher '26 c
 Leo Kapsner '27, rf p
 Henry Kirwin '26 lf
 Harold Lien '26 p
 John Fox '25 p
 Joe Conway '26 3b

Coach -Aldrich
 Captain -Leo Schumacher
 Stars -Gleason, Kapsner, C. Shumacher

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
2.....	St. Thomas.....14
2.....	St. Olaf.....18
4....	Macalester.....10
14...	St. Cloud T.C.8
11...	St. Cloud T.C.5
1....	St. Thomas.....11

-1926 -

The appointment of Wilfred "Bill" Houle to head the coaching staff at St. John's in 1926 was the best thing to happen to St. John's during the entire 1920's. A versatile athlete and a star in each of his four years at St. Thomas in football, hockey and baseball, Bill was accustomed to win as a player and could

not be satisfied in any position except first place in the conference as a coach.

Almost an entire veteran team greeted Coach Houle in the spring of 1926, and within two months he led St. John's, the possessors of the MIAC cellar spot, to become the leading contender for the 1926 baseball championship.

Highlight of a remarkably interesting season, with batters driving out base hits and pitchers hurling almost airtight ball, was a fourteeninning loss to Gustavus Adolphus which decided the championship. Ray Heisler, who had pitched tight baseball for 13 entire innings, weakened in the 14th inning and allowed five straight hits to the winning Gusties. Contributing to the loss was a second-inning injury to first baseman John Sweetman who was lost for the remainder of the season.

Stars for the 1926 season were pitchers Harold Lien and Ray Heisler, John Haffley, centerfielder, and the two Schumacher twins whose defensive play and ready bats several times turned possible defeat into victory.

LINE-UP

John Gleason '26 2b
 Herman Linnemann '31 ss
 Carl Schumacher '26 3b
 John Sweetman '27 1b
 John Haffley,'27 cf
 George Clifford '27 lf
 Daniel Buscher '29 rf
 Leo Schumacher '26 c
 Harold Lien '26 p
 Ray Heisler '26 p
 Stephen Tell '26 c
 Walter Moynihan '28 lf

Coach -Houle
 Captain -L. Schumacher
 Stars -C. Schumacher, Lien, Haffley, L. Schumacher, Heisler

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
0...	Gustavus.....5
20...	St. Cloud T.C. ...1
1....	St. Thomas.....3
12...	Macalester.....6
1....	St. Thomas.....9
8....	Hamline.....7

12...Hamline.....4

4....Gustavus.....9 (14 inns)

3....St. Cloud T.C.4

-1927 -

The 1927 baseball team did not quite come up to the standard set in 1926. Lost were several mainstays, especially the Schumacher twins, Carl and Leo, Harold Lien, and John "Pinkey" Gleason. The loss of Lien was particularly damaging because it left the pitching burden entirely on the shoulders of Ray Heisler. Heisler, while pitching outstandingly well throughout the season, was sometimes the victim of poor fielding, possibly aggravated by the lack of an experienced catcher. Fortunately, Coach Houle was able to find a relief pitcher, Leonard Bussen, on whom he could rely for 1927 and the coming season in 1928.

St. John's was tied with Gustavus at one point for the conference leadership with only two games to go, but lost the following game and fell out of competition for top honors. The overall record for the season was four wins and two losses. The conference record was two wins over against two losses for a conference percentage of .500.

LINE-UP

Walter Moynihan '28 rf
 Herman Linnemann, '31 ss
 Nick Goblirsch '27 c
 George Clifford '27 cf
 Walter Miller '27 2b
 John Sweetman '27 1b
 Tony Lawrence '29 1f
 Alois Siebenand, '30 3b
 Ray Heisler '28 p
 Len Bussen '28 p
 Louis Hanzel '27 of
 Leo Manion '28 of
 Fred Baker '28 of

Coach -Houle
 Captain -Sweetman
 Stars -Siebenand, Heisler, Linnemann, Clifford

SCORES

SJU Opponents

7.....St. Cloud Tech.....3

4.....Augsburg.....6

13...St. Cloud Tech.....3

4.....St. Olaf.....3

9.....Gustavus.....8

7.....Augsburg.....10

-1928 -

In 1928 Coach Bill Houle had his baseball problems—a hard-hitting club that could hand out runs to the opposition with amazing prodigality. The second game of the season St. John's lost to Augsburg by a score of 3-10. The next game they clobbered the same Auggies with 18 base hits and 16 runs, to win 16-2. In the last game of the season they allowed Gustavus Adolphus 20 hits and 17 runs, while scoring only two runs.

Coach Houle's problem apparently was that in developing a strong hitting attack he was forced to sacrifice defense, especially at the catcher's position.

It would be impossible to select stars for the 1928 season other than mentioning the steady work of Al Siebenand, Herman Linnemann, and pitcher Ray Heisler. It was an interesting experience to watch them play; nevertheless, like all Houle's teams, it was colorful and could hit the ball. The conference record was three wins, five losses.

LINE-UP

Ralph Koll '30 ss
 Adon Zimmer '29 cf
 Jim Phillips '31 rf, c
 Ray Heisler '28 lf p
 Al Siebenand '30 2b
 Syl Wonderheide '29 1b
 Herman Linnemann '31 3b
 George McKasy '28 c
 Wilfrid Boone '28 of
 Walter Moynihan '28 of
 Len Bussen '28 p
 Adolph Spiering '28 2b

Coach -Houle
 Captain -Heisler
 Stars -Seibenand, Heisler

SCORES

SJU Opponents

3.....Augsburg....10

16...Augsburg.....2

8....St. Mary's.....5

4....St. Olaf.....14

2....Gustavus.....7

8....St. Mary's.....3

3....St. Olaf.....4

2....Gustavus.....17

-1929 -

Coach Houle commenced the 1929 baseball season with the problem of creating a strong pitcher-catcher combination capable of competing successfully in the MIAC. In genial James Caveney he had a competent catcher, not particularly strong at the plate but endowed with an uncanny ability to get hit by a pitched ball without being injured- or killed. His battery mate, Vincent Hensler, was backed up by freshman Lewis Klingsporn, a Prep star in his senior year (permitted to play by a special concession obtained in 1925 from the conference representatives).

Klingsporn was a sensation with a dazzling fast ball. In his first conference game he allowed St. Thomas only one hit for a 1-2 loss. The game, tied 1-1 from the fourth inning until the ninth, was lost by a dropped fly ball that advanced a runner to third, after which he scored on a wild pitch. In another game with Concordia Klingsporn whiffed fourteen batters to win by a score of 12-5. Had Klingsporn returned to St. John's after his freshman year he would have been one of the all-time star pitchers in St. John's athletic history.

The season record was four victories and five defeats. Two games scheduled with St. Mary's and Gustavus were not reported in the *Record* or possibly may not have been played.

LINE-UP

Al Siebenand '31 3b

Joe Hennen '33 2b

John Baumgartner, '29 rf

Adon Zimmer '29 cf

Frank Schneider, '29 lf

Syl Vonderheide '29 1b

Adolph Spiering '29 ss

James Caveney '30 c

Lewis Klingsporn '29 p

Vince Hensler '30 p

Bill Carr '29 cf

Coach -Houle

Stars -Baumgartner, Klinsporn, Siebenand, Zimmer

SCORES

SJU Opponents

4.....St. Cloud T.C.2

2.....St. Cloud T.C.7

1....St. Thomas.....2
 6....Augsburg7
 12..Concordia.....5
 3....Gustavus.....17
 6.....Augsburg.....9
 8....St. Thomas.....3
 12..St. Mary's.....4

- 1930 -

1930 was Coach Bill Houle's last year at the St. John's baseball helm. It was a disappointing year for a talented coach who in his own words said: "I resigned because I could not stand defeats. When I first accepted the position at St. John's, I hoped to attract top athletes to St. John's, but I failed."

Actually, it was through no fault of Coach Houle that his 1930 season was a failure. It was the second year of the "Great Depression of 1929" and the enrollment at St. John's had declined appreciably. With the exception of Captain Al Siebenand, Herman Linnemann, and Vince Hensler, the team was made up of untried players. Especially lacking was an experienced pitching staff. The team failed to win a conference game, with the result that it ended the season in the conference cellar. The overall season record was three victories and eight losses, five of these being to conference opponents.

Al Siebenand '30 3b
 Herman Linnemann '31 ss
 GeorgeSchoener '31 lf
 James Caveney '30 c
 Anton Volk '30 p rf
 John Murphy '31 cf
 Al Krumweide '30 1b
 Vincent Hensler '30 p
 Matthew Loch '31 rf
 Gus Luckemeyer '34 ss

Coach -Houle
 Captain -Siebenand,
 Stars -Siebenand, Schoener, Linnemann

SJU	Opponents
2....Holdingford.....5
0.....St. Cloud T.C. ...10
6.....St. Joseph.....2
2....Avon.....1

1....St. Cloud T.C.2
 5....St. Olaf.....9
 1....Augsburg.....7
 10...St. Cloud Cath. ..9
 1....St. Thomas.....6
 7....Augsburg.....11
 1....Gustavus.....8

- 1931 -

The departure of Coach Houle left St. John's without a baseball coach since Joe Benda, the new basketball-football coach, was occupied with the football spring-training program. In the emergency, the newly appointed director of athletics, Fr. Roland Kapsner, O.S.B., took over the baseball team and deputized Herman Linnemann of St. Joseph, a veteran shortstop, to act as coach.

It was a low year for baseball among all the conference colleges, and St. John's decided to drop out of competition, restricting games to the St. Cloud Teachers' College and five of the nearby small town teams: St. Joseph, Avon, Rockville, and Holdingford. It was not an attractive schedule, but it served as a training period for several players who were to figure later in the 1932 and 1933 teams. Unfortunately, the star catcher, Edwin Hackert, '31, did not return the next year.

Hackert ranks among the sharpest line-drive hitters that ever performed on the St. John's campus.

Joe Hennen '33 3b
 John Eisenzimmer '34 2b
 Gus Luckemeyer '34 ss
 Martin Mieke '31 1b
 Edwin Hackert '31 c
 Louh Kelsch, '31 rf, p
 Leo Steiner '32 lf
 Herman Linnemann '31 cf p
 Ed Thelen '32 p
 Reuben Fairbanks '31 p
 Matthew Hoch '31 rf
 Edwin Welte '33
 Si Ryan '34 2b rf
 Werner Wocken (?)

Coach -Linnemann
 Manager Si Ryan
 Stars -Hackert, Thelen, Luckemeyer, Fairbanks

SCORES

SJU Opponents

8.....Freeport.....3
 15....St. Joseph.....8
 14....Holdingford....11
 7.....St. Joseph.....16
 7.....St. Cloud T.C. ...9
 10....Holdingford.....2
 1.....Rockville.....4
 2....St. Cloud T.C. ...4

- 1932 -

St. John's dropped out of conference baseball for only one year. In the spring of 1932 Fr. Mark Braun, O.S.B., dean of the college, assigned Fr. Dunstan Tucker, O.S.B., to coach the baseball team, as he said, "to revive interest in baseball and keep some of these guys on campus." There were five lettermen on hand from the 1931 contests with some small towns in the vicinity: August Luckemeyer, Joseph Hennen, John Eisenzimmer, Ed Welte, and Edward Thelen-the last named the only experienced pitcher on the squad. The problem of organizing a team capable of competing successfully with the powerhouses of the MIAC looked formidable indeed.

After an inauspicious 2-10 first game loss to Gustavus on April 10, the second day out of doors on the baseball diamond, the team advanced steadily and finished the season with a heart-warming victory of 12-1 against St. Olaf, one of the top teams in the conference. Big George Klasen, a freshman with little experience in baseball who pitched the game, gave promise of becoming an especially fine pitcher. One of the characteristics of the 1932 team was its enthusiasm and willingness to work. The shortstop-second base combination of Michael Drexler and John Eisenzimmer became one of the best in St. John's baseball history, both defensively and offensively. Drexler led the team with a batting average of .357; Robert Burkhard had an average of .354. Drexler had all the potential of a first-class professional ball player but entered the seminary after his sophomore year.

LINE-UP

LeoSteiner '32 cf
 August Luckemeyer '33 cf, p
 Edward Thelen '32 p
 Joseph Hennen '33 3b
 George Klasen '33 p
 Michael Drexler '34 ss
 Joseph Keller '37 of
 Si Ryan '34 c, of
 Eugene Roeder '36 of
 Robert Burkhard, '35, rf
 Leroy Ebnet, '32, of
 Edwin Welte, '33, 1b
 John Eisenzimmer, '34, 2b

Lawrence Iten, '34, of

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Captain -Hennen

SCORES

SJU Opponents

2....Gustavus.....10

5....St. Cloud T.C. ...6 (10 innings)

12...Reformatory.....6

4....Augsburg.....3

6....St. Cloud T.C. ...8 (10 innings)

4....Gustavus.....8

11...Albany.....6

12...St. Olaf.....1

-1933 -

George Durenberger, Director of Athletics, took over the baseball team in 1933. The 1933 team was aggressive and reacted with enthusiasm to the challenge of the conference, dominated that year by George Myrum's Gusties, who repeated their 1932 championship. The Gusties lost only one game, and that one to George Klasen and the Johnnies by a score of 8-7. Later in the season the team was handicapped by an injury to Klasen's wrist, thereby leaving the pitching jobs to rookies Kenneth Bloms and Hugh Gilmore in competition against the more mature conference pitchers.

Kenneth Bloms, a senior Prep School star, pitched a no-hit, no-run game against Phalen Luther College. George Klasen, on his return to pitching duties, won the last game on the schedule by a one-hit defeat of St. Joseph, the winner of the Great Soo championship. Gus Luckemeyer lost a St. Thomas contest when pitted against the great John Rigney, 3-10.

LINE-UP

Gus Luckemeyer '33 cf, p
 Joseph Hennen '33 3b
 Si Ryan '33 rf
 Joseph Keller '37 c
 Robert Burkhard '35 lf
 Simon Super '34 ss
 Edwin Welte '33 lb
 John Eisenzimmer '33 2b
 George Klasen '33 p
 Kenneth Bloms '34 p

William Arth '35 1b
 Hugh Gilmore '35 p
 Elmer Madsen, '35 c
 Louis Kohler '34 c

Coach -George Durenberger
 Captain -Luckemeyer
 Stars -Klassen, Keller, Hennen

SCORE

SJU	Opponents
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8.....	Gustavus.....7
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7.....	St. Joseph.....6
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10...	St. Cloud T.C. ..9
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4....	St. Olaf.....5
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6....	St. Thomas.....13
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7....	Phalen Luther....0
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9....	St. Thomas.....10
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3....	St. Thomas.....10
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9....	St. Cloud T.C. .13
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6....	St. Joseph.....1
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RECORD

Overall: 5 wins 4 losses

Conference: 1 win 3 losses

- 1934-

In 1934 Fr. Dunstan returned to coaching after a year's absence. It was a good year on the whole. The spring freshman crop was especially strong at the plate—in fact, an unusually gifted group of baseball players. There was everything needed on the team for a great year except a consistently strong top-flight pitcher. Loren Henkemeyer pitched well on occasion, but tended to be erratic on occasion. As will be noted in the scoring statistics, a majority of the games were more slug-fests than air-tight pitching duels.

The batting average of the team for the season was .304: Bill Arth .500 in five games; John Callahan .464; Joseph "Unser Joe" Keller .375; Bob Burkhard .341; Lee Wagner and Ralph Eisenzimmer .333; Eugene McCarthy .222; Simon Super .214; Norbert Lang .187; and Merle

Rouillard .111.

If excuses for a good team are ever appropriate (which is doubtful), they were for the 1934 Johnnies. The first of five losses was to the University of Minnesota, Big Ten champions for this year, by a score of 8-3. Two games were lost to the College of St. Thomas, which that year swept unbeaten to the MIAC championship behind its great pitcher John Rigney. Rigney was practically unbeatable in college ball. He went directly from the campus of St. Thomas to the ball park of the Chicago White Sox and immediately began his brilliant pitching career in the major leagues.

LINE- UP

Ralph Eisenzimmer '34 ss
 John Callahan '37 c
 Robert Burkhard '3, cf
 Bill Arth '34, 1b
 Joseph Keller '37 rf
 Quiren Klasen '36 lf
 Norbert Lang '37 3b
 John Doherty '35 2b
 Loren Henkemeyer '34 p
 Si Ryan '34 of
 John Marrinan '35 p
 Kenneth Bloms '34 p
 Simon Super '34 of
 Eugene McCarthy '35 1b
 Marvin Frejlek '34 p
 Hugh Gilmore '34 p
 Merle Rouillard '36 of

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Captain -Robert Burkhard
 Stars -Bill Arth, John Callahan, Joe Keller

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
18.....	St. Joseph.....6
3....	U. of Minnesota...8
12...St. Cl. Eagles....	11
12...St. Cl. Eagles....	11
6....St. Cloud T.C. ...	5
2....St. Thomas.....	6
5....St. Olaf.....	6

9....Hamline.....2

11...St. Cloud T.C. ...8

16...Gustavus.....11

7....St. Thomas.....15

-1935 -

The one single element lacking in the 1934 team was a strong pitching staff made up of at least three first string pitchers. That unusual commodity in college baseball in the 1930's appeared miraculously on the St. John's campus with the arrival of Avitus "Vedie" Rimsi and Austin McCarthy, brother of Eugene McCarthy. There were several infield changes that were necessitated by the departure of 1934 lettermen, but they were quickly filled by new men with equal abilities. Eugene McCarthy went to first base, Ralph Eisenzimmer was replaced by John Doherty at shortstop, and Timothy Donohue replaced Norbert Lang at third base. Philip Gravelle, another freshman, went to second base.

In a thirteen-game schedule, St. John's won ten games and lost three for second place in the conference. One of the losses was to the University of Minnesota by a score of 7-4. This game was Vedie Rimsi's first college experience on the mound and was in every sense of the word a remarkable achievement.

On Memorial Day, the last outing for the year, St. John's split a double-header with Gustavus Adolphus on the Gustie field. Rimsi won the first game 4-2, but St. John's lost the second by a score of 8-1. Prior to this defeat St. John's had won four straight games and, except for this loss, would have won the MIAC championship.

LINE-UP SCORES

John Doherty '35 ss
 John Callahan '37 c
 Robert Burkhard '3, cf
 William Blenker '36 lf
 Timothy Donohue '38 3b
 Joseph Keller, '37 rf
 Philip Gravelle '37 2b
 Eugene McCarthy '35 1b
 Vedie Himsi '37 P
 Austin McCarthy, '38 p
 John Marrinan '35 P
 Hugh Gilmore '35 p
 Lee Wagner '36 c
 Quiren Klasen '35 of
 Leo Klasen '36 ss
 Eugene Roeder '36 of

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker

Captain -Callahan

Stars -Himsi, Blenker, Doherty, Burkhard, Callahan

SJU Opponents

4....U. of Minn.7

4....Avon.....3

6....St. Cl. Eagles. ...1

1....St. Olaf.....3

8....St. Thomas7

12...St. Cloud T.C. ..9

10...St. Thomas.....9

10...Hamline.....5

11...St. Cloud T.C. .5

10...Little Falls.....0

5....St. Cl. Eagles...0

4....Gustavus.....0

1....Gustavus.....7

RECORD

Overall: 10 wins 3 losses

Conference: 4 wins 2 losses

Conference-2nd place

-1936-

The sudden popularity of baseball that had followed the 1934 and 1935 seasons was manifested again in 1936 when several highly talented candidates tried out for the 1936 team. Prominent among them were Ernie Sowada, a left-handed speed and curve ball artist who complemented the right handers, Himsl and McCarthy, to give St. John's the perfect pitching staff. It was and is still considered the strongest pitching trio in St. John's baseball history. After graduation, Himsl was signed by the Cleveland Indians and is now an executive in the Chicago Cubs' organization. Ernie Sowada, following his graduation, pitched several years with the Minneapolis Millers until the outbreak of World War II, during which he served as a Navy officer in the military service. Austin McCarthy, even as a freshman, was considered by the Detroit scouting staff the best pitching prospect in the state. Ironically, both Ernie and Austin are now exercising their talents in the medical profession.

The 1936 team won the first St. John's baseball championship since 1919 with a record of eight victories and one loss in the conference. The only other loss was to the University of Minnesota by a score of 4-2 in a game pitched by Himsl.

The season was not without its theatrics, especially in the final game at Gustavus Adolphus which decided the championship. With the score tied at 2-2 in the 10th inning, team captain Lee Wagner drove a Gustavus pitch over the left field wall to break the tie. This was followed by a single by Bill Blenker and a steal of second. A double by Linus "Skeets" Ebnet scored Blenker with the winning run.

LINE-UP SCORES

Timothy Donohue '38 ss
 Joseph Keller '36 rf
 Lee Wagner '36 rf
 Bill Blenker '38 cf
 Linus Ebnet '38 2b
 Bernard Mainz '38 1b
 QuirenKlasen '36 lf
 Philip Gravelle '36 3b
 John Callahan '37 c
 VedioRimsl '38 p, lf
 Ernest Sowada '39 p, rf
 Austin McCarthy '38 p, of
 Leo Klasen '36 ss
 EugeneRoeder '36 lf
 Joseph Achatz '39 1b
 John Rughes '36 c

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker

Captain -Wagner

Stars -Blenker, Keller, Wagner, Ebnet, Rimsl, Callahan, McCarth

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
12....	St. Joseph.....1
8.....	Avon.....0
10....	St. Olaf.....1
7.....	St. Cloud T.C. ..2
13....	St. Thomas.....1
0.....	Gustavus.....2
1.....	U. of Minn.....2
6.....	Albany.....5
21....	Augsburg.....1
13....	Ramline.....0

10....St. Thomas.....2

20....Augsburg.....3

13....Ramline.....1

4....Gustavus.....2

RECORD

Overall: 14 wins 3 losses

Conference: 8 wins 1 loss

Conference -1st place, championship

-1937-

The story of the 1937 baseball season to repeat the 1936 championship is one of those that stir the memories of alumni when they recall the three great pitchers, Himsl, Sawada, and McCarthy, who by some happy chance happened to be on the same team during their college years. When candidates for the 1937 team appeared in the batting cage for tryouts, it soon became evident that the three stellar pitchers were the best hitters on the squad, and that the available outfielders, with the exception of ever reliable "Unser" Joe Keller, were unable to fill the shoes of the graduated sluggers Bill Blenker and Lee Wagner. It was apparent that if St. John's was to repeat as MIAC champions it would have to be by making use of the triumvirate bats.

In order to generate power at the plate, it was a matter of using one of the pitchers in the outfield for every game, at the same time not risking the danger of hurting their pitching arms. A fairly elaborate system of relays by the infielders was devised to enable the pitchers to play without loss of team defensive power. The improvisation worked. Himsl over the season hit at a .500 average with three homeruns and two doubles; Ernie Sowada batted .500 with three triples; McCarthy batted .400 with one homerun.

Highlight of the season was Sowada's pitching feat in defeating the University of Minnesota by a score of 5-3. In this game Philip "Gabby" Gravelle glowed with triumph when on a relay Himsl to Gravelle from left field, the latter threw out a runner at the plate trying to score from second on a single. Himsl set a strikeout record for St. John's of 20 strikeouts in one game (over Augsburg), one short of the MIAC record of 21 set by John Rigney when pitching for St. Thomas in 1934. Sowada's strikeout record was 19.

In a schedule of 16 games St. John's won 14 and lost two, one of these to Gustavus with whom St. John's shared the championship.

Philip Gravelle '37 3b

John Callahan '37 c

Austin McCarthy '38 p

Linus Ebnet '38 ss

Bernard Mainz '39 1b

Edward Callahan '39 rf

Leo Winkler '38 cf

Conrad Winter '40 2b

Vedie Rimsl '37 p, of

Ernest Sowada '39 p, of
 Joseph Keller '37 rf, cf
 QuirenKlasen '36 of
 Leo Klasen '37 ss
 Gerald Sheehy '40 cf
 John Kehoe '40 p
 Leo Koch (?) p
 Joseph Achatz '39 lb

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Captain -Rimsl
 Stars -J. Callahan,McCarthy, Rimsl, Sowada

SCORES

SJU	Opponent
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2.....	St. Cloud T.C.0
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10....	St. Cl. Semipros...2
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10....	Hamline.....3
--------	---------------

12....	Augsburg.....0
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1.....	St. Cloud T.C.2
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5.....	U. of Minn.3
--------	-------------------

12....	St. Olaf.....11
--------	-----------------

5.....	Ramline.....4
--------	---------------

4.....	St. Olaf.....1
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16....	St. Thomas.....2
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4.....	Gustavus.....3
--------	----------------

11....	St. CloudT.C. ...1
--------	--------------------

13....	Augsburg.....0
--------	----------------

1.....	Reformatory.....0
--------	-------------------

4.....	St. Thomas.....1
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0.....	Gustavus.....1
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RECORD

Overall: 14wins 2 losses
 Conference -1st place
 Conference: 9 wins 1 loss
 Co-championship with Gustavus
 Pitchers' records -Rimsl 6-1, Sowada 5-0, McCarthy 3-1

- 1938 -

Linus "Skeets" Ebnet, a professional baseball player who was working for a college degree and played shortstop or second base (Northern League players were eligible at that time), took over baseball coaching duties in 1938, replacing Fr. Dunstan who said he wanted to know again what spring was like, listen to the birds and see the flowers grow. Weather conditions were bad and the team was forced to practice in the gym longer than usual to get into shape. Shortly after the season commenced, star pitcher Sowada suffered an appendicitis attack and later a severely cut finger that limited his number of pitching appearances as well as sometimes his effectiveness. Even though handicapped, however, he had three wins over against two losses. Jack O'Reilly, a relief pitcher, had one win. Austin McCarthy, who had his best year, fast-balled the team into four wins and one loss. He batted for an average of .462.

The season overall record was eight victories and three defeats; the conference record stood at six wins and two losses for third place. The final game victory over Gustavus Adolphus by a score of 2-1 was a classic of team leadership on the part of player-coach Ebnet. Although the Jays were out-hit, Sowada scattered the five Gustie hits so that Gustavus did not score. In the meantime, St. John's had only one hit, but Skeets took advantage of walks and Gustie misplays to win the game 2-0. The loss dropped the Gusties into a tie with St. Thomas for the championship.

Four of the 1938 Johnnies were awarded places on the mythical MIAC all-conference team, as follows: Sowada, pitcher; Austin Mc- Carthy, pitcher; Ebnet, second base and captain of the mythical team; Edward Callanan, outfield. James Boyd and Wayne Kuesel received honorable mention.

Linus "Skeets" Ebnet lost his life tragically during the summer of 1938 when struck on the head by a pitched ball while playing with Winnipeg in the Northern League. Fr. Dunstan resumed coaching duties the next spring.

James Boyd, '41, 1b
 Timothy Donohue, '38, ss
 Linus Ebnet, '38, 2b
 Norbert Vos, '41, 3b
 Austin McCarthy, '38, p, of
 Edward Callanan, '39, rf
 Gerald Sheehy, '40, cf
 Wayne Kuesel, '39, c
 Ernest Sowada, '38, p, of
 Leo Winkler, '38, of
 Bernard Meinz, '38, of, ss
 Albert Sauerer, '42, c
 John O'Reilly, '38, p
 James Roche, '40, of
 George Grace, '41, c
 Andrew Glatzmaier, '39, ss

Coach -Ebnet

Co-captains - McCarthy, Sowada
 Stars -McCarthy, Sowada, Callanan, Ebnet
 Pitchers' records -McCarthy 4-1, Sowada 3-2, O'Reilly 1-0

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
4.....	U. of Minn.8
7.....	St. Cloud T.C. ..6
10....	Watkins.....0
14....	Hamline.....4
8.....	St. Olaf.....1
8.....	Macalester.....2
26....	Hamline.....6
1.....	St. Thomas.....6
6.....	St. Mary's.....3
0.....	St. Olaf.....2
2.....	Gustavus.....0

RECORD

Overall: 8 wins 3 losses
 Conference: 6 wins 2 losses
 Conference-2nd place

-1939 -

The presence of Ernie Sowada, star pitcher and captain on the 1939 baseball squad, was sufficient to raise hopes for first place in the conference. With the exception of Sowada and three other lettermen, the team was made up largely of freshmen. With a record of five victories and four defeats in the conference, the team had to settle for a third place ending to the season. The overall record was nine victories and five defeats.

The 1939 Johnnies were talented ball players, though due partly to immaturity they faltered occasionally in close games. The catching position, in particular, was weakened through the loss of Wayne Kuesel when he re-injured a football knee. Lost also was Gerry Sheehy, the stabilizer of the outfield, through the tearing of ankle ligaments early in the season. Nevertheless, the Johnnies led the conference until May 9. In the last two weeks they lost three of the last four games on the schedule.

The ever-willing but overworked Ernie Sowada was the star of the year. He had a record of seven wins

against two losses, one of these to the University of Minnesota. He struck out fourteen Minnesota batters but lost the game by a score of 9-0, mainly because of team misplays for which his pitching was not responsible.

Three members of the 1939 team made the MIAC all-conference team: Ernie Sowada, Norbert Vos, third base, and Jimmy Boyd, first base. Boyd also won the MIAC batting crown with an average of .424. Vos hit four homeruns, one triple and a double; Boyd two homeruns, three triples, and four doubles. The latter was one of the first St. John's athletes to lose his life in World War II.

LINE-UP

Lloyd Perron '51, cf
 James Boyd '41, 1b
 Ernest Sowada '39, p
 Norbert Vos '41, 3b
 Conrad Winter '39, 2b
 Albert Sauerer '42, c
 Wayne Kuesel '39, c
 Jerome German '41, p, lf
 Andrew Glatzmeier '39, ss
 John Boerner '41, p, of
 John O'Connell '43, of
 Verne Neer '41, c
 Frank Liewer '42, p

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Captain -Sowada
 Stars -Sowada, Boyd, Vos

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
5.....	St. Cloud T.C. ...4
14.....	Holdingsford.....5
10....	Augsburg.....2
0.....	U. of Minn.9
22....	St. Cloud T.C. ...14
7.....	Hamline.....5
10....	St. Thomas.....7
8.....	Gustavus.....3
4.....	St. Olaf.....0

5.....St. Mary's.....6
 3.....Macalester.....9
 11...St. Thomas.....10
 2....Gustavus.....6

RECORD

Overall: 9 wins 5 losses
 Conference: 6 wins 4 losses
 Conference-3rd place
 Pitchers' records-Sowada 7-2,
 German 1-1, Boerner 1-0, Liewer 1-2

-1940 -

When asked about prospects for the coming 1940 season, the coach replied that this was going to be a rebuilding season. Gone were all the mainstays of the past year such as Ernie Sowada, catcher Wayne Kuesel, first baseman Jimmy Boyd, and Conrad Winter, second base, leaving the infield with only one letterman, the redoubtable Norbert Vos at third base. The rest of the infield would have to be made up of freshmen.

What was particularly lacking was a strong, forceful catcher to handle the very promising freshman pitchers, Francis "Hack" Nierengarten and Edward Claussen. On the other hand, among the new additions to the squad were several potential stars who came into their own in the next two years: Vernon "Chubby" Ebnet, Thomas Paul, Ray Schultzetenberg, and veteran outfielders Pat Freuen, Gerry Sheehy (captain), and John Boerner.

In fact, it turned out to be a real rebuilding year. The team tended to play brilliantly one game and then make a few costly mistakes the next. The very average record of six games won overall and five lost was somewhat deceiving, for the enthusiasm and the desire to win was strong. One of the losses was to the University of Minnesota. Several other losses were in close games. The conference record was four games won, four lost, for fifth place in the MIAC standings-the lowest conference rating in Fr. Dunstan's coaching years.

The 1940 team placed two men on the all-conference team: Norbert Vos at third base and John Boerner in the outfield. Captain Gerry Sheehy received honorable mention.

LINE-UP

Robert Johnson '40, ss
 Norbert Vos '41, 3b
 Edward Claussen '48, p, 1b
 Francis Nierengarten '41, p,2b
 John Boerner '41, p, of
 Gerald Sheehy '40, cf
 John O'Connell '43, lf

Thomas Paul '47, of
 Ray Schultzenberg '41, of, 2b
 Vernon Ebnet '47, 2b
 Lloyd Perron '51, 1b
 Jerome German '41, p, of
 Roy Chyba '41, 1b
 Vernon Neem '41, c
 John Heidemann '40, 1b

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Captain -Sheehy

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
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10....St. Cloud T.C.3	
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6.....St. Olaf.....4	
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4.....Macalester.....3	
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5.....St. Cloud T.C.4	
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5.....Augsburg.....4	
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10...Macalester.....5	
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5....St. Thomas.....6	
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0....Hamline.....7	
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4....St. Olaf.....6	
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6....U. of Minn.12	
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(?)...Gustavus.....(?) won	
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CONFERENCE STANDING

Hamline, .778

Gustavus, 7-2, .778

St. Olaf, 7-5, .700

St. Thomas, 5-3, .625

St. John's, 4-4, .500

St. Mary's, 2-6, .286

Macalester, 2-6, .250

Augsburg, 0-9, .000

RECORD

Overall: 7 wins 5 losses

Conference: 4 wins 4 losses

- 1941 -

The big event of the 1941 baseball season was the addition of Vincent Plumbo of Cretin High School, St. Paul, to the team roster, thereby filling a pressing need that had been keenly felt for the past two years, 1939 and 1940. St. John's did not win the championship, however, though it led the conference until the last game of the season. Max Molock's St. Mary's team had been coming up fast during the month of May and nipped the Johnnies at St. Mary's in a ten-inning contest by a score of 7-6 on May 30.

The consensus of the coaches at their last meeting at the end of the year was that St. John's and St. Mary's had the best balanced squads in the conference. Four players on the St. John's team were put on the all-conference nine. "Hack" Nierengarten was picked as the top pitcher in the conference and Norbert Vos was the leading hitter. John "Jud" Boerner was placed at first base. Vincent Plumbo, though only a freshman, was chosen unanimously as the outstanding catcher in the league.

St. John's took second place in the conference, one game behind St. Mary's, with a record of seven victories and three losses.

LINE-UP

Edward Simonet, '47, of
 John Oilman, '47, of
 Vincent Plumbo, '48, c
 Albert Sauerer, '42, rf
 Ray Schultzetzenberg, '41, cf, 2b
 Vernon Neer, '41, c
 Julian Wolf, '47, 2b, of
 Patrick Freuen, '42, lf
 John O'Connell, '43, 3b
 Edward Claussen, '43, p
 Francis Nierengarten, '41, p
 John Boerner, '41, 1b
 William Sinner, '43, of
 Vernon Ebnet, '47, 2b
 Norbert Vos, '41, ss, c

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Manager -Bob Durenberger
 Captain -Vos

SJU Opponents

6.....St. Olaf.....0

11....Gustavus.....1

5.....Hamline.....4

9.....Augsburg.....6

3.....St. Thomas...4

6.....St. Mary's.....7

3.....Augsburg.....2

8.....St. Thomas...9

9.....Macalester....3

0.....Gustavus.....1

RECORD

Overall: 7 wins 3 losses

Conference: 7 wins 3 losses

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

St. Mary's, 8-1, .889

St. John's, 7-3, .700

Gustavus, 6-3, .667

Hamline, 5-4, .556

St. Thomas, 4-6, .400

St. Olaf, 4-7, .364

Macalester, 3-7, .300

Augsburg, 3-8, .200

-1942 -

There can be no doubt that the 1942 baseball team was and always will be considered one of the greatest in St. John's history. It was a happy-go-lucky, fun-loving aggregation made up of enthusiasts like Vincent Plumbo who was a veritable charged battery of energy, never so happy as when he went to bat with men on base or was getting the most out of his pitchers, Ed Claussen and Fred "Fritz" Blenker. The team amassed a total of 123 runs against 30 by the opposition. Claussen won five games, Blenker four, with neither pitcher ever needing relief. It was a perfect season of nine victories and no losses.

The unmistakable star of the team was Vincent Plumbo, with Claussen a close second. Plumbo batted a solid .416 and Claussen .292. The batting averages for the remainder of the team are truly impressive: Henry Ranweiler .375, Otto Schaefer .360, John O'Connell .340, Bruce Frank .333, Vernon Ebnet .243, Pat Freuen (team captain) .210, Fred Blenker .154, Edward Simonet .142.

An unusual feature of the team personnel was that among the 1942 regulars were two freshmen, Bruce Frank, first base, and Otto Schaefer, shortstop. Shortstop was the only uncertain position on the infield to be filled at the opening of the season, but within a week it was apparent that Schaefer fitted perfectly into the line of defense. His batting average of .360 was the surprise of the year.

St. John's placed three men on the all-conference team, Vincent Plumbo, Edward Claussen, and freshman Bruce Frank. Vernon Ebnet, second base, John O'Connell at third base, and Henry "Lefty" Ranweiler in the outfield received honorable mention.

LINE-UP

Vernon Ebnet, '47, 2b
 Vincent Plumbo, '47, c
 Edward Claussen, '43, p, of
 John O'Connell, '43, 3b
 Bruce Frank, '42, 1b
 Henry Ranweiler, '42, of
 Patrick Freuen, '42, of
 Otto Schaefer, '48, of, ss
 Julian Wolf, '47, 2b, of
 Fred Blenker, '43, p
 Edward Simonet, '47, ss
 John Bruggemann, '42, p

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Asst Coach -Eugene McCarthy
 Manager -Bob Durenberger
 Captain -Freuen

SJU Opponent

23....Avon.....3

8.....St. Cloud T.C. ...2

15....Macalester.....1

18....Macalester.....11

9.....Augsburg.....5

9.....Hamline.....4

20....Hamline.....1

9.....St. Thomas.....0

11...St. Thomas.....3

14....St. Olaf.....1

18....St. Mary's.....0

CONFERENCE STANDING

St. John's, 9-0, 1.000

St. Mary's, 5-2, .714

St. Thomas, 5-4, .625

Hamline, 4-5, .444

Augsburg, 4-5, .444

St. Olaf, 1-5, .167
 Macalester, 1-5, .111

RECORD

Overall: 11 wins 0 losses
 Conference: 9 wins 0 losses
 Conference --championship

Pitchers' records --Claussen 5-0, Blenker 4-0

-1943 -

By 1943 the war-time draft had drained off over three-fourths of the student body and interest in intercollegiate sports declined in the same proportion. By the spring of 1943 track and tennis schedules had been cancelled and it was being debated by the college authorities whether St. John's should not drop baseball and other intercollegiate programs for the duration of the war. The coaches settled the debate for themselves at the spring meeting of the MIAC by voting to follow a "Sports as Usual" program. Somehow a short schedule was arranged and a call for baseball candidates was issued.

With only four lettermen on campus, spring training practice was devoted mainly to training freshman candidates. It turned out to be a lot of fun, however, and in the five games played several potential stars were molded into a team that in the last two games showed themselves capable of making a good showing even in peace-time competition: especially Bill Osborne, John "Bud" Streitz, Henry "Bruts" Welsch, Jerome Terhaar, and James Sieh.

The "championship race" was a farce, however. At the end of the season the MIAC colleges suspended all conference activities for the duration of the war. Consequently, no championships were awarded for 1944 and 1945.

As for St. John's, the last three conference games scheduled were cancelled because of bad weather and, probably, lack of interest in rescheduling them. Some of the players were called up by the Navy, among them Claussen in the last part of May. Augsburg was declared the 1943 champion and St. John's the holder of third place with three victories and two losses. Julian Wolf, one of the best line-drive hitters of St. John's, was selected for second base in the mythical all-conference team of the MIAC.

Fr. Dunstan entered the Navy this year as a chaplain and relinquished whatever baseball activities there might be to Henry "Bruts" Welsch for the duration.

LINE-UP

John "Bud" Streitz, '47, p, of
 Julian Wolf, '47, 2b
 Fred Blenker, '43, P
 Edward Simonet, '47, 3b
 James Sieh, '43, 1f
 Jerome Terhaar, '48, 1b
 Henry "Bruts" Welsch, '47, cf
 Bill Osborne, '48, of
 Bernard Gervais, '48, 2b
 Edward Claussen, '43, p

Leo Graebner, '43, c
 Lloyd Fier, '48, of
 Fred Kranz, '43
 Joseph Martin, '49
 George Francis, '46

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker

SCORE

SJU Opponents

7.....Hamline.....7

4.....St. Thomas...4

3.....Augsburg.....3

11....Hamline.....11

12....Macalester....12

RECORD

Overall: 3 wins 2 losses

Conference-3rd place

-1945 -

Football coach Joe Benda took over the 1945 baseball team with Bruts Welsch as his assistant. The war was gradually coming to an end. Demobilization did not commence until months later, but there were freshman athletes appearing on campus who needed athletic competition of some sort to keep them interested in normal college life with its competitive intercollegiate sports program, as well as the necessity of keeping themselves in shape physically. Most of the material on hand was inexperienced, though there were college ability players on the squad like Bruts Welsch, La Verne Soltis (pitcher) and catcher Len Ohnsorg. Welsch, an accomplished batter, was commissioned to teach the freshmen the fundamentals of batting and fielding. He and Ollie Young were the leading hitters for the season.

LINE-UP

Peter Tschida, '45, 3b
 Ollie Young, '46, 2b
 Arnold Weber, '50, ss
 Henry Welsch, '47, cf
 Laverne Soltis, '49, p
 Eugene Wisland, '46, 1b
 Leonard Ohnsorg, '46, c
 William Prickril, '48, rf
 Andrew Ohnsorg, '47, lf
 Jack Cassidy, '49
 Norb Lange, '45

Pat Patterson, '49
 Herman Rausch, '46
 Gene Ring, 46
 Richard Fitzpatrick '50

Coach -Benda
 Assistant Coach -Welsch
 Manager -Don Hockert

SCORES

SJU Opponent

4.....St. Olaf.....7

2.....St. Olaf.....7

4.....St. Thomas...2

13....Gustavus.....8

1.....St. Thomas..10

4.....Gustavus.....5

RECORD

2 wins 4 losses

-1946 -

The 1946 season was at once a time of rebuilding and at the same time winning games. The full tide of veterans streaming in from demobilization camps had not yet reached the campus, but there were enough baseball players among them to keep the coach on the outlook for star ball players. Among the veterans were several players who had been members of the 1942 team, principally Vernon Ebnet and Otto Schaefer. New arrivals at St. John's were John "Bud" Streitz from St. Cloud Cathedral and Lawrence "Mickey" McNeely who had played professional baseball in the Northern League and on top armed forces teams.

Coach Bruts Welsch had complete charge of the team since Joe Benda was also preparing for his team, the 1946 football entry into the MIAC. Due to the large number of candidates, Welsch was obliged to make many changes in the team personnel and player shifts to other positions, but in the end he had a fine baseball team after it had finally jelled.

The season ended with St. John's in third place in the conference with an overall record of seven games won and four lost. The conference record was five wins and four losses. Leading batters were Welsch, .400; Ebnet, .317; Chuck Miller, .314; and McNeely, .310. St. Thomas won the conference title.

Unfortunately, the *Record* does not list the winners of all-conference berths nor the final standings of the other MIAC colleges. At the end of the season four members of the team played with Northern League clubs: Welsch, McNeely, and LaVerne Soltis with the St. Cloud Rox; Vernon Ebnet with Fargo-Moorhead.

LINE-UP

Vernon Ebnet, '47 2b
 Douglas Gits, '49, lf
 Henry Welsch, '47, 1b
 Lawrence McNeely, '49, ss
 Charles Miller, '50, 3b
 John "Bud" Streitz, '47, cf, p
 Moses Sowadal, '49, c
 Otto Schaefer, '48, of
 LaVerne Soltis, '49, p
 Ollie Murnane, '46, P
 Howard Carroll, '50, p
 Ollie Young, '46, rf
 Len Ohnsorg, '46, c
 Edward Zins, '47, 3b
 Elmer Dietrich, '49, ss
 Al Noterman, '48, of, p
 Paul Hammers, '49, ss
 Robert Boyd, '46, of
 Robert Gits '48, 1b
 James O'Brien, '48, 3b
 Douglas Gits, '49, of
 Lawrence McNeely, '48, 2b

RECORD

Overall: 7 wins
 Conference: 5 wins
 Conference-3rd place

-1947 -

After three years in the Navy, Fr. Dunstan returned to his usual teaching, prefecting and baseball coaching. The call for baseball candidates was answered by an exceptionally large number of fine pitching aspirants: Richard Eich, Richard "Dick" Fisher, and Joe Schleper. In fact, there were so many new candidates that it was a problem to find the most suitable position for each one on the squad.

In the meantime, all the other colleges were strengthening their line-ups with returning veterans, and the conference was becoming perhaps better balanced with strong teams than ever before. As for St. John's, the one weak spot on the baseball line-up was the lack of another experienced pitcher to help support pitcher Soltis when the freshman hurlers were in need of relief.

St. John's led the conference until the last game of the season when it yielded first place to Augsburg on a percentage basis following a defeat by Hamline 1-2. The reason for the loss to Hamline was probably an unfortunate accident to Bill Osborne, leading hitter and sparkplug of the team, who two days before the last game broke his ankle in sliding practice.

The result of the season was that St. John's took second place in the conference with a record of nine victories and two defeats (both to Hamline).

Robert Mayer, '49, c
 John "Bud" Streitz, '48, rf
 Robert Ligday, '50, 1b
 Charles Forbes, '48, 1b
 Roger Terhaar, '50, 1b
 Stan Wilfahrt, '49, ss
 Moses Sowada, '49, c
 LaVerne Soltis, '49, p
 Richard Eich, '48, p
 Joseph Schleper, '49, p
 Otto Schaefer, '47, of
 Michael Dressen, '50, ss
 Thomas Paul, '47, of
 Edward Hasbrouck, '50, of, c

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Assistant Coach -Welsch
 Captain -McNeely

SCORES

SJU Opponents

4.....St. Cloud TC...7

7.....Augsburg.....5

4.....Hamline.....7

7.....St. Cloud TC...3

8.....Gustavus.....1

4.....Macalester.....3

11....St. Olaf.....4

8.....Carleton.....7

8.....St. Thomas.....1

8.....Augsburg.....5

3....St. Mary's.....2

8.....Gustavus.....4

1.....Hamline.....2

RECORD

Overall: 10 wins 3 losses
 Conference: 8 wins 2 losses
 Conference --2nd place

-1948 -

The 1948 baseball season was a disappointment to the fans of St. John's athletic teams. The team was one of the classiest fielded in several years, but it ended the season in third place, tied with St. Mary's with six wins and four losses. The first and most damaging accident to the team was an appendectomy suffered by LaVerne Soltis, the ace pitcher and mainstay of the pitching staff. Soltis was sidelined for a full month, from the early beginning of April until the last week in May. The team was subject to batting slumps and pitchers were forced to perform heroic deeds on the mound. Mickey McNeely topped all batters with a .320 average. The *Record* reporter summarized the season as follows:

"St. John's title hopes went a'glimmering in the last week of conference play with two losses, the first to St. Thomas 6-5, in a night game, May 25; the second to Ramline 5-1 on May 26. The Johnnies came back strongly to whip Macalester's fireballer Boller 10-5, May 28. "A four-game schedule in the last week necessitated by the playing of a rained-out game with Ramline proved too much for the weakened St. John's pitching staff. 'Big Red' Soltis, with only a week of training following an appendectomy, weakened in the sixth inning of the St. Thomas game. Dick Eich, superb St. John's mainstay all spring, ired in the seventh inning to give Ramline its only win of the season, 1-5."

The conference season ended with Augsburg in first place with eight wins and two losses; St. Thomas and St. Olaf tied for second place with seven wins and three losses; St. John's and St. Mary's tied for third with six wins and four losses. The St. John's overall record was 9-4.

LINE-UP

Mickey McNeely, '49, 2b
 James O'Brien, '48, 3b
 Stan Wilfahrt, '49, ss
 Robert Mayer, '48, c
 Michael Dressen, '50, lf
 William Osborne, '48, cf
 Charles Forbes, '48, of
 Edward Hasbrouck, '50, rf
 Richard Eich, '48, p
 LaVerne Soltis, '49, p
 Joseph Schleper, '49, p
 John Pollei, '50, p
 Robert Obermiller, '51, 1b
 Richard Fisher, '50, p
 Jerome Terhaar, '48, p
 Robert Ligday, '50, 1b
 Richard Wasko, '51, 1f

SCORES

SJU Opponents

15....Carleton.....2

14....St. Cloud TC...11

3.....St. Olaf.....14

7.....Augsburg.....4

(?)....St. Olaf.....(?)

(?)....Augsburg.....(?)

2.....Gustavus.....1

8.....St. Cloud TC....6

(?)...St. Mary's.....(?)

(?)...St. Thomas....(?)

5.....St. Thomas.....6

1.....Hamline.....5

.10 Macalester 5 (The 1948 scorebook is missing from our files and the *Record* failed to list the scores of these games.)

RECORD

Overall: 9 wins,
Conference: 6 wins
Conference --3rd place

- 1949 -

The 1949 baseball season cannot be adequately covered for the reason that the *Record* published the box score for only one game, and the scorebook for this year is missing. Details had to be worked out from the "Tooley Angle" sports column in the *Record*.

Two early setbacks handicapped the team for the rest of the season. One came as the result of a poor pitching assignment with a resultant conflagration of base hits that required three relief pitchers to quench. The second loss came in the form of a ninth inning squeeze play intended to tie a game with St. Olaf but which backfired. The bunt was popped into the air, was caught on the fly and led to a double play that ended the game.

St. John's finished the season in second place with seven wins and four losses. St. Olaf won the title with eight wins, principally through its star pitcher Geske.

The St. John's overall record for the year was ten wins and five losses. Jack Pollei, the outstanding pitcher for the season, achieved an astonishing earned runs average, a record of .069 per game.

LINE UP

Stan Wilfahrt, '49, 2b
 Thomas Klein, '51, 3b
 Lawrence McNeely, '49, ss
 Michael Dressen, '50, lf
 Richard Kramer, '51, rf
 Edward Hasbrouck, '50, cf
 Robert Obermiller, '51, 1b
 Wallace Zallek, '51, c
 William Moso, '52, p
 Richard Wasko, '51, 3b
 Richard Fisher, '50, lf
 Robert Mayer, '49, 3b
 Louis Cotroneo, '52, 3b
 John Pollei, '50,p
 Bert McCarthy, '52, p
 David Roske, '50, c
 George Marsnik, '51, rf

Coach -Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Assistant Coach -Welsch
 Manager -Rich Rawlings

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
9.....	St. Cloud TC.....5
1.....	Carleton.....6
7.....	Carleton.....3
4.....	Macalester.....1
2.....	Augsburg.....12
3.....	St. Olaf.....4
9.....	St. Cloud.....3
6.....	St. Mary's.....0
4.....	St. Thomas.....6
4.....	Macalester.....9
12...	St. Thomas.....10
12...	Gustavus.....1
4.....	Hamline.....3

(?)..Gustavus.....(?)*

(?)..St. Mary's.....(?)*

* (The *Record* failed to report the scores of the last two games, merely mentioning that they were won.)

RECORD

Overall: 10 wins 5 losses
 Conference: 7 wins 4 losses
 Conference --2nd place

LEADING BATTERS

Dick Fisher .409

Dick Kramer .403

Thomas Klein .392

Mickey McNeely .344

Michael Dressen .315

- 1950 -

The St. John's 1950 baseball team was perhaps the best and most attractive entry into the conference race of the late 1940s. Nevertheless, the caprice of the weatherman combined with fate to force it to settle for a second place tie with St. Thomas at the end of the season. Late spring snows had held up the schedule until the Jays were forced to play five games in the last week of the school year. In the final game with St. Mary's at Winona the Jays were upset by the cellar-dwelling Redmen by a score of 10-3. The pitching staff was not in its usual form and two of the infield regulars, Dick Wasko and North Cornforth, were unable to accompany the team because of a conflict with final examinations.

One of the ironies of college athletics was the comment that had appeared in the *Record*: "If the John's can sweep both ends of the contest, they will be considered a strong bid for at least a tie for the crown. After the St. Thomas game only a game with weak St. Mary's nine stands in the way." The irony consists in this: that St. John's split the double-header and then lost to the supposedly "weak" St. Mary's team. The Jays should not have read the *Record*!

Stars for the year were pitchers William "Bill" Mosso, John Pollei and George Bodmer. Leading hitters were Dick Wasko, .400; Mike Dressen, .350; Dick Kramer, .350; John Pollei, .333. Bob Obermiller led the team in runs-batted-in.

LINE-UP

Lou Cotroneo'52 3b
 Richard Notermann'54 c
 MichaelDressen'50 of, 3b
 Richard Wasko'51 2b
 Richard Boys'55 ss

Ricahrd Kramer '51 of
 Wallace Zallek'51 c
 Thomas Klein '51 3b
 Richard Fisher '50 of
 William Mosso '52 p
 John Pollei '52 p
 George Bodmer '55 p
 James Loonan '53 of
 North Cornforth '50 of
 Peter Herges '52 of
 Joseph Cascalenda '52 c
 Robert Obermiller '51 1b

Coach --Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Assistant coach --John Hiller
 Captain --Dressen

SCORES

SJU Opponents

9.....Carleton.....3

5.....Gustavus.....7

17...Augsburg.....8

7....St. Olaf.....0

7....St. Olaf.....5

7....St. Mary's....3

3....Gustavus.....1

4....Macalester...0

4....Hamline.....5

10...St. Olaf.....4

4....St. Thomas..8

2....St. Thomas..0

3....St. Mary's...10

RECORD

Overall: 9 wins 4 losses

Conference: 7 wins 4 losses

Conference -2nd place (tie)

The year 1950 marks the termination of Fr. Dunstan's baseball coaching career. The tremendous increase in the college enrollment had placed heavy burdens on the English department, of which he was chairman. Moreover, after fourteen seasons of coaching the team and grooming the diamond, it had ceased to be fun or simply a hobby, as it had been in the past. Right at hand was his assistant coach for a year, highly qualified and full of energy. With that he informed Athletic Director George Durenberger that he wished to resign the position as baseball coach.

Fr. Dunstan's record in his fourteen years of coaching was the following: of the 162 games his teams had played, St. John's won 118 and lost 44, for an average of .728. In the conference, of a total of 118 games, St. John's won 85 and lost 34 for an average of .720.

- 1951 -

John "Buster" Hiller was one of the top baseball coaches in St. John's athletic history. A natural athlete himself, he had starred at Notre Dame University both in baseball and basketball. As baseball coach his three-years experience as catcher served him especially well in handling the problems of coaching the young pitchers. Added to this, his energy and enthusiasm were infectious and easily communicated to his players. A player had to work hard to remain on his squads.

In his first year as head coach (1951), Buster started out with ten lettermen, two top-notch freshman pitchers and a hard-hitting freshman outfielder, Roger Braun, who later starred at Notre Dame after transferring from St. John's at the end of his freshman year. The team took second place in the conference with a record of nine wins and two losses, only a half-game short of St. Thomas, the champion of the year.

The 1951 team was power laden with the best pitching staff in the MIAC. Especially effective was "Big" John O'Donnell, a freshman, and, like George Bodmer, a Cretin High School star. Vedic Himsl, prior to reporting at the St. Paul American Association baseball camp, spent part of March working with the freshman pitchers. The coaching paid off: the four-man pitching staff allowed only 1.37 runs per game in a 16-game schedule. Freshman John O'Donnell pitched four wins with no losses, George Bodmer five wins and one loss, Bill Mosso three wins and one loss, freshman Francis Wall one win and one loss.

Freshman Roger Braun led the team in batting with a .415 average, followed by Captain Robert Obermiller with an average of .334. Obermiller was signed to a baseball contract with the Duluth Dukes of the Northern League at the end of the baseball season. Worthy of special mention was the slick double-play combination of Dick Wasko at second base and Dick "Ditch" Boys at shortstop.

LINE-UP

Lou Cotroneo '52 3b
 Richard Notermann '54 c
 James Loonan '53 cf
 Wallace Zallek '52 c
 William Mosso '52 p
 Francis Wall '56 p
 Robert Boeser '52 1b
 Richard Boys '55 ss
 Richard Kramer '51, of
 Peter Herges '52 of

Roger Braun '51 of
 Robert Obermiller '51 lb
 George Bodmer '55 p
 John O'Donnell '54 p
 Richard Wasko '51 2b
 George Marsnik '51 of
 Thomas Klein '51 3b

Coach -Hiller 20 Augsburg
 Assistant Coach -O'Brien 19 Macalester
 Manager -William McMahon 5 St. Mary s
 Captain -Obermiller 7 Albany

LEADING BATTERS

Roger Braun .415

Bob Obermiller .334

PITCHERS' RECORDS

W L

John O'Donnell 4 0

George Bodmer 5 1

Bill Mosso 3 1

Fran Wall 1 1

SCORES

SJU Opponents

6...Hamline.....3

14...Albany.....3

2...Gustavus.....8

17..St. Olaf.....0

13..Carleton.....1

0...Fanbault.....1

9...Augsburg.....2

4...St. Thomas...3

18..Macalester...2

0...St. Thomas...2

20...Augsburg.....6

19...Macalester...0

5....St. Mary's.....2

7....Albany.....2

RECORD

Overall: 13 wins 3 losses

Conference: 10 wins 2 losses

Conference-2nd place

-1952 -

Buster Hiller's second year was almost a repetition of the first, except that this year he won the championship with a record of nine wins and one loss. Though he had only eight veteran lettermen to work with, six of them were first-class college stars: namely, the four-pitching staff of 1951, catcher Dick Noterman and the slugging outfielder James "Jiggs" Loonan. There were injury problems. Tom White, third base man, and Julian "Curley" Gasperlin, outfielder, had bad knees. Hiller succeeded in filling out the team with an extraordinary group of freshmen, however, among them Tom Krebsbach, "the fabulous freshman" who was lured away from college baseball by the New York Yankees at the end of his freshman year. Other outstanding freshmen were Tom White, Leroy Lilly, and Dwayne Hanson.

The 1952 team was not quite the slugging outfit of 1951, but the superlative pitching of O'Donnell, Captain Bill Mosso, George Bodmer, and Fran Wall carried them over the rough spots, sometimes by coming to the relief of a partner in the late innings. John O'Donnell, the former Cretin High School star, by this time had pitched two college seasons without a loss, at one time striking out 19 Augsburg batters.

Among the top hitters were Dick Noterman, .403; Jiggs Loonan, .344; Julian Gasperlin, .333; Tom Krebsbach, .265 (but batting in 15 runs to lead the team in runs-batted-in).

LINE-UP

James McCord '55 c

James Loonan '53 of

Robert Boeser '52 1b

Phil Wartman '58 of

Julian Gasperlin '58 of

Wm. Holmbeck '53 2b

Thomas Krebsbach '53 2b

Thomas White '57 3b

Leroy Lilly '55 of

George Bodmer '55 p

Wm.Sexton '55 3b

Fran Wall '56 p

Dick Notermann '54 c

Lou Cotroneo '52 3b
 Charles Hyde '53 p
 Dwayne Hanson '53 3b
 Paul Keup '53 1b
 Bill Mosso '52 p

Coach -Hiller
 Managers -Bill Christopherson and, Jack Stackpool
 Captain -Obermiller

PITCHERS' RECORDS

W L

O'Donnell 3 0

Bodmer 3 1

Mosso 2 1

Wall 2 0

SCORES

SJU Opponents

1.....St. Cloud TC.....5

7.....St. Olaf.....2

5.....Gustavus.....1

9.....Macalester.....7

11....St. Thomas.....4

9.....Macalester.....3

9.....St. Cloud Rox....3

12....St. Thomas.....6

9.....Augsburg.....4

14....St. Cloud TC.....8

8.....Cold Spring.....5

6.....Augsburg.....5

2.....St. Olaf.....7

2.....Hamline.....1

RECORD

Overall: 12 wins 2 losses
 Conference: 9 wins 1 loss
 Conference -championship

CONFERENCE STANDING

St. John's 9-1

St. Thomas 8-2

St. Mary's 0-3

Gustavus 5-5

Hamline 4-7

Augsburg 4-7

Macalester 3-8

St. Olaf 2-9

-1953 -

The old adage that championships are won on superior pitching proved true in Buster Hiller's third year of coaching. Bill Mosso graduated in 1952 and the two ex-Cretin aces, John O'Donnell and George Bodmer, were drafted into the military service. Fran "Red" Wall was still with the team, and Hiller still had his superb catcher Dick Noterman to handle his freshman pitchers, Ronald "Bucky" May, Robert Kleinschmidt, and David "Lefty" Perl. The hitting was powerful on occasion and at the end of the season the Jays found themselves in second place, the runner up spot behind St. Mary's (11-1), with a record of eight wins, one tie, and four losses. (The *Record* furnished no explanation of the tied baseball game with Hamline.)

The surprise of the season was the pitching of Ronald "Bucky" May who, until the final double-header with St. Mary's, had pitched four games without a defeat. The choice game of the year was the defeat of St. Thomas (3-2) by Bob Kleinschmidt in an eleven-inning game without relief. Another freshman pitcher, David "Lefty" Perl, performed several brilliant relief jobs when the right-handers got into trouble.

The sluggers performed their part in the success of the season by piling up a total of 89 runs to 53 by the opposition. Top hitters were again, as in 1952, seniors Dick Noterman and "Jiggs" Loonan. Freshman Donald Carlson, Leroy Lilly and Philibert Wartman proved that they could take over the batting leadership in the following year. Although hopes of a championship had been low at the beginning of the season, the team went into the final days of the year with the prospect of tying for the title should they be able to sweep a doubleheader over St. Mary's, the leading team in the conference. To their disappointment they dropped both games by scores of 6-2 and 6-1 and ended the season in second place.

LINE-UP

Dale Hartman (?) 2b
 Duwayne Hanson '53 3b
 James Loonan '53 cf
 Richard Notermann '54 c
 Peter Trebtoske '58 rf
 James McCord '53 c
 Leroy Lilly '55 of
 James Schoener '54 1b
 Fran Wall '56 1b, p
 Robert Kleinschmidt '56 P
 Ronald May '56 P

RECORD

8 wins 4 losses

Conference-2nd place

PITCHERS' RECORDS

	W	L
May	4	1
Kleinschmidt	2	1
Perl	1	0

Coach-Hiller

Assistant-O'Brien

Captain- Notermann

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
15....	Macalester.....3
5.....	St. Olaf.....8
1.....	Gustavus.....0
15....	Augsburg.....8
6.....	Augsburg.....5

17....Hamline.....5
 12....St. Thomas....3
 3.....St. Thomas.....2
 2.....Hamline.....2 (tie)
 9.....Macalester.....1
 2.....St. Mary's.....6
 2.....St. Mary's.....6
 1.....St. Mary's.....6

CONFERENCE STANDING

St. Mary's 11-1

St. John's 8-4

Gustavus 7-5

St. Thomas 5-6

Hamline 4-5

Augsburg 4-8

Macalester 0-11

- 1954 -

William "Bill" Osborne, a St. John's graduate and member of Fr. Dunstan's '43, '47, '48 teams, took over the coaching duties when John "Buster" Hiller resigned in the summer of 1953. From the beginning, Bill was an extraordinarily successful baseball coach, and in six seasons amassed two conference co-championships, one with St. Thomas and one with St. Mary's, and one championship outright. Buster Hiller had left him with a good team-eight lettermen that included the three top pitchers of 1953: Ronald "Bucky" May, Bob Kleinschmidt, and David Perl, the last a left-handed specialist. At shortstop he had Dick "Ditch" Boys, a 1951 shortstop who returned to St. John's after a three-year term of military duty. With his pitching staff, a strong infield and a great catcher in the person of Don "Beezer" Carlson, the team was a formidable defensive club. While it was not particularly strong at the plate-with the exception of Carlson who batted for a .418 average-the hitters were good competitors who generally delivered timely hits and runs in emergencies. They made up for some batting deficiencies with an aggressive base running policy that netted them 41 stolen bases, in contrast to the 12 by the opposing teams.

In a seventeen-game schedule, the Jays dropped three conference games for an MIAC record of ten wins and three losses, thereby tying St. Mary's for the co-championship.

The race for top honors in the MIAC baseball season had been close from the beginning and lasted until the end of the sixteenth inning of the final game of the season. The game was tied at 1-1 until the sixteenth inning when finally Bucky May, the St. John's ace pitcher, yielded three runs. The loss dropped St. John's into a tie with St. Mary's for the co-championship with identical records of ten wins and three losses.

The 1954 infield merits special attention. Carlson, the catcher, was the leader of the team. Smart and strong, he made the infield calls with vigor and authority. On first base was Wayne Hergott, affectionately styled "The Old Pro." Mike O'Connor was at second, Thomas Jaeb at third, and Dick Boys at shortstop. Boys was probably the best shortstop in St. John's history in handling double-play situations. Captain Lilly in left field, Marty Rathmanner in center, and Peter Trebtoske in right made up a winning outfield combination.

LINE-UP

Richard Boys So ss
 Donald Carlson So c
 Donald Catton Fr 2b
 Wayne Hergott Fr 1b
 Thomas Jaeb Fr 3b
 Leroy Lilly Sr lf
 James Muchlinski So 1b
 Michael O'Connor Fr 2b
 James Pettit Fr c, of
 Marty Rathmanner Fr cf
 Cyril Schoener Sr 1b, of
 William Sexton Jr 3b
 Peter Trebtoske So rf
 Peter Castner (?) p
 Robert Kleinschmidt So p
 Ronald "Bucky" May So p
 David "Lefty" Perl So p
 John Rian Fr p

Coach-Osborne

Co-captains-Boys and Lilly

Conference-Co-championshi p

(1st place tied with St. Mary's 10-3)

Overall: 13 wins 4 losses

PITCHERS' RECORDS

	W	L
May	6	2
Kleinschmidt	4	1

Perl 2 0

Castner 0 1

Rian 1 0

SJU Opponents

1....St. Cloud TC....0

9....St. Cloud TC....2

4....St. Olaf.....1

6....Gustavus.....7

7....St. Mary's.....6

9....Macalester.....3

7....Macalester.....1

1....St. Thomas....0

7....Bemidji.....6

7....St. Thomas....3

4....Hamline.....2

3....St. Cloud.....8

8....Gustavus.....7

11....Augsburg.....2

5....Augsburg.....7

1....St. Mary's.....4

- 1955 -

The 1955 team continued the winning ways of the Bill Osborne regime. In an 18-game schedule the Jays ended the season with an overall record of 14 wins against four losses. Losses were to the following teams: Carleton (3-7); the University of Minnesota (5-10); St. Thomas (1-6); and Hamline (4-5). St. John's won the conference championship with a record of ten victories versus two defeats. St. John's again had in Ron "Bucky" May, George Bodmer, Bob Kleinschmidt and David Perl the best pitching staff in the conference and, undoubtedly, the best catcher in the person of Donald "Beezer" Carlson, the sparkplug and leading hitter of the team. He was a veritable fireball with enough power at the plate to be nicknamed "Grand Slam Carlson" by his teammates.

Despite the superiority of the 1955 team over the rest of the conference opponents, the championship was not easily won. Some games were won by the closest of margins; some ran into extra innings. As has happened many times in the history of Hamline-St. John's athletic competition, the more powerful St. John's was waylaid by the fifth place Pipers for this year that sent the over-confident Jays home defeated by a score of 4-5. The box scores indicate a smart handling of the St. John's offensive by timely hits, cleverly placed bunts, fast base running, and generally the obstinate refusal to accept any other game outcome than victory.

LINE-UP

George Bodmer Sr p
 Don Carlson Jr c
 Peter Castner Sr p
 Albert Eisele Fr p
 Leo Eisenzimmer Fr 3b
 James Foquette Fr of
 William Gries Fr c
 Robert Hartinger Fr 2b
 Wayne Hergott So 1b
 Bob Kleinschmidt Jr p
 James Lehman Jr of 5
 Mark Lohmann Fr p
 Ronald May Jr p
 Tom Melchior Fr 3b
 James Muchlinski Jr of
 Michael O'Connor So 2b
 David Perl Jr p
 Dick Pettit So of
 Marty Rathmanner So 3b
 Russ Reiter Fr 3b
 John Rian So p
 Robert Tschida Fr ss

Coach-Osborne
 Captain -Boys

SCORES

SJU Opponents

3....St. Cloud TC....6

2....St. Cloud TC....2 (tie)

10...St. Olaf.....12

3....Carleton.....7

16...Macalester.....2

6....Augsburg.....2

3....St. Mary's.....2

27...Augsburg.....8

19...St. Cloud TC....2

5....U. of Minn.10

12....Macalester....3

5....Gustavus.....3

4....Gustavus.....3

4....Hamline.....5

1....St. Thomas...6

3....St. Thomas...1

13....Hamline.....2

6....St. Mary's....4

PITCHERS' RECORDS

W L

May 5 3

Bodmer 3 2

Kleinschmidt 2 1

Perl 1 0

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

St. John's 10-2

St. Mary's 9-3

St. Thomas 8-4

Augsburg 6-6

Hamline 4-8

Macalester 3-9

Gustavus 2-10

-1956 -

During the 1950's, under the coaching of Max Molock, St. Mary's had become one of the baseball strongholds in the MIAC. The Jays started the 1956 season with three wins against St. Olaf, Carleton, and St. Cloud, but in the fourth game they tested the St. Mary's power and lost their first conference game to the tune of 2-5. The team did not lose hope, however, and bounced back with five straight wins.

All looked rosy again until they met St. Cloud Teachers for a second season loss of 5-7, and it became obvious that they would have to struggle to retain their 1955 championship. Then followed a 6-7 loss to St. Thomas for the second conference defeat. Finally, the Jays lost three games running: to St. Mary's at Winona in a 12-20 slugfest, a loss to the University of Minnesota 4-9, and a 1-2 defeat by St. Thomas, the fourth loss in the conference schedule.

The conference season ended with St. Thomas winning the championship, with St. Mary's the runnerup in second place. St. John's was third with a still creditable record of eight wins and four losses. It is true, St. John's still had its three star pitchers, Bucky May, Bob Kleinschmidt, and David Perl, but it was also true that the conference teams came up with stronger pitching and the St. John's bats were not as effective as in the previous year. On the other hand, two new pitchers, Al Eisele and Russ Fischer, were gaining experience that made them top performers in the 1957 and 1958 seasons.

At the end of the season catcher Don Carlson was signed to a baseball contract by the Chicago Cubs.

LINE-UP

Wm. McGrann Fr ss .220
 James Foquette So cf .297
 Marty Rathmanner Jr 2b .190
 Donald Carlson Sr c .284
 Dick Matchinsky Jr rf .167
 Wayne Hergott Jr 1b .348
 Tom Melchior So lf .218
 Russ Reiter So 3b .263
 Ronald May Sr p .161
 David Perl Sr p .385
 Bob Kleinschmidt Sr p .400
 John Rian Jr p .286
 Leo Eisenzimmer So ss .300
 Pat Dolan Fr p .000
 Len Kohler Fr c .000
 Russ Fischer Fr p .000
 Al Eisele So p .000
 Jim Muchlinski Sr of .000
 Mark Lohmann So p .000

PITCHERS' RECORDS

W L

Kleinschmidt 2 2

May 5 2

Perl 2 0

Rian 1 1

Eisele 0 1

Fischer 0 0

Harrington 0 1

SCORES

SJU Opponents

4...St. Olaf.....0

8...Carleton.....3

1...St. Cloud TC..6

2...St. Mary's.....5

3...Moorhead.....0

1...Hamline.....0

8...Gustavus.....3

5...St. Cloud.....7

10...Macalester....2

9...Macalester....4

6...St. Thomas...8

3...Gustavus.....2

10...Augsburg.....9

7...Augsburg.....0

12...St. Mary's...20

4...U. of Minn. ...9

1...St. Thomas...2

-1957 -

The 1957 Jays suffered only two defeats in the entire season. The first loss came on April 24 by a score of 1-3 at the hands of Hamline, the second a loss to St. Mary's (11-0), the only shut-out of the year. The next eight games were won handily, with pitcher Al Eisele winning the next five games, then clinching the MIAC championship in a one hit performance. The ultimate outcome of the season was that St. John's ended in a tie with St. Mary's, and therefore a co-championship, since both teams had like records, ten conference victories and two defeats.

As is usually the case, a championship team has the advantage of having a star pitching staff that overwhelms the other strong teams in the league. Especially effective in the 1957 year were Al Eisele and Russ Fischer, each belonging among the pitching greats at St. John's. Eisele had a record of five wins and one loss, Fischer four wins and no losses. Eisele won five games straight in the championship drive, in the last two games limiting Gustavus to three hits and clinching the championship with a one-hit shut-out of Macalester, 7-0.

The *Record* reporter, however, credits each individual of the regulars with contributing his share to the championship—"each regular has his day!" For all-around play, Tom Melchior could be considered a super-star of the offensive as well as of the defensive game. He carried a batting average of .381, hitting two doubles, two triples, and two homeruns. He drove in twelve runs, despite being lead-off man with few men on base when he came up to bat. Close behind him in offensive action was star shortstop Tom "Whizzer" White who hit .297, drove in fourteen runs, and hit two doubles and two homeruns. Bill McGrann at second base committed only one error for the season and batted .326, with three doubles and two homers. Russ Reiter, third base, led in runs-batt ed-in (15), batted .375, with a number of extra base hits: two doubles, three triples, and two homeruns. The team batting average was .311. The number of stolen bases reached 61.

LINE-UP

James Archbold
Mark Lohmann
Leonard Kohler
John Connors
Patrick Dolan
Tom Melchior
Albert Eisele
Frank Moran
Leo Eisenzimmer
M. Rathmanner
Russ Fischer
Russ Reiter
John Getchman
John Rian
Robert Hartinger
Cyril Schoener
Wayne Hergott
Pete Trebtoske
Vernon Hruby
Thomas White
Robert Ilg
Coach-Osborne

Pitching coach-Fr. Dunstan Tucker
Co-captains-Rathmanner, Hergott

SCORES

SJU Opponents

9....Carleton.....2

9....St. Olaf.....0

5....St. Cloud TC...1

1....Hamline.....3

5....St. Thomas....4

6....St. Thomas....4

17...Macalester....13

0....St. Mary's.....11

8....Hamline.....2

19...St. Cloud TC..10

7....Augsburg.....3

8....Augsburg.....0

6....Gustavus.....1

4....Gustavus.....3

7....Macalester.....0

PITCHERS' RECORDS

W L

Pat Dolan 0 0

Al Eisele 6 1

Russ Fischer 4 0

Robert Ilg 3 1

Mark Lohmann 1 0

Bob Hartinger 0 0

John Rian 0 0

Conference-co-championship

Conference: 11 wins 2 losses

Overall: 14 wins 2 losses

-1958 -

Bill Osborne's 1958 team captured the fourth St. John's championship in five years—an unusual feat in the baseball history of any MIAC college. Naturally, hitting played an important part in the outcome of the season, but the main factor was the pitching of Eisele who won the last two games of the conference race by defeating St. Mary's, one a one-hitter, 4-0, and St. Thomas (3-2) by scattering five hits and limiting the Tommie scoring to two runs. Both of these games were crucial and the winning of both a dramatic exhibition of college baseball. St. Mary's had one of its best teams, but forfeited one game through the ineligibility of one player, thereby leaving St. John's only one game behind the leader.

The final standings of the three teams found St. John's tied with St. Mary's with nine victories and three losses. St. Thomas took third place.

It would be no more than justice to attribute the 1958 co-championship to the pitching of Eisele and Dolan, but mainly to Eisele's overall contribution to the team effort. The batting average of the team was .208, 100 points below that of 1957. Eisele himself batted for an average of .296 and five runs batted in. Two other batting leaders for 1958 were Russ Reiter, who hit .280 with four homeruns and thirteen runs batted in, and Tom Melchior .237 with five doubles, one homer, and eight runs batted in.

Should ever a St. John's Hall of Fame be drawn up, Al Eisele will be among the top pitchers in SJU baseball history. Shortly after the 1958 season he joined the Minot, North Dakota, professional club in the Northern League and pitched successfully for several years, in the meantime drifting towards a life-time career in journalism. Later, as Washington correspondent for the *St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press*, the *Duluth Herald*, and other Ridder newspapers, he followed closely the careers of Eugene McCarthy and Hubert Humphrey in the struggle for the Democratic nomination in the 1968 presidential campaign. Out of it came his outstanding book, *Almost to the Presidency*, the best and most readable report on the political struggle between these products of two Minnesota private colleges, St. John's University and Macalester College.

LINE-UP

Al Eisele Sr p .296

L. Eisenzimmer Sr rf .219

Patrick Dolan Jr p .200

John Getchman So 2b .143

Bob Hartinger Sr ss .260

Verne Hruby So 2b .182

Len Kohler Jr c .219

Robert Ilg Jr p .100

Patrick Leamy Fr ss .200

Wm. McGrann Jr If .182

Tom Melchior Sr cf .237

Frank Moran So p .000

John Nett So 2b .178
 Russ Reiter Sr 3b .280
 Richard Sabers So 1b .205
 Cyril Schoener So 1b, c .151
 Peter Trebtoske Sr rf .050

Coach-Osborne

SCORES

SJU Opponents

7....St. Olaf.....2

6....Carleton.....2

2....Gustavus.....1

5....Augsburg.....4

4....Augsburg.....5

6....St. Cloud TC..7

3....St. Thomas....2

0....St. Mary's.....8

8....Hamline.....4

8....Hamline.....3

0....U. of Minn.....2

4....Gustavus.....0

2....Macalester....0

0....Macalester....3

4....St. Mary's.....0

4...St. Thomas....2

PITCHERS' RECORDS

W L

Eisele 8 1

Dolan 2 1

Ilg 1 3

Lohmann 0 0

CONFERENCE STANDING

St. John's 9-3

St. Mary's 9-3

St. Thomas 8-4

Hamline 6-6

Gustavus 5-7

Augsburg 3-9

Macalester 2-10

Overall: 11 wins 5 losses

Conference: 9 wins 3 losses

-1959 -

The inevitable always happens-star pitchers graduate eventually! Bill Osborne lost Al Eisele through graduation and in 1959 had only Co-captain Pat Dolan and John Ozbun, a freshman, to carry on the winning tradition. Co-captain Bob Ilg had been disappointed with his 1958 pitching record and withdrew from mound duty to play at his favorite position in centerfield. He starred at center and batted a .310 average with six homeruns and 21 runs batted in. But Dolan's pitching and Ilg's batting were insufficient to win the 1959 championship. The team won eight games of its sixteen-game schedule and ended in fourth place in the MIAC with a record of six wins and six losses. The power 'teams of 1959 (St. Thomas, St. Mary's and Augsburg) ended the season in a three-way tie of nine games won and three lost.

The great event of 1959 was the St. John's 9-7 defeat of Dick Siebert's University of Minnesota Big Ten champion in a surprise upset on the Rox field in St. Cloud. Pat Dolan in a super effort held the Big Ten champions to eleven hits and seven runs. He struck out seven batters and issued five bases on balls. The victory not only redeemed the reputation of the team as a winner but raised it up equal in fame with the 1937 team that defeated Minnesota by a score of 5-3.

While 1959 was not one of Bill Osborne's best years, the large number of freshman candidates at his disposal to fill in the gaps left by graduating veterans from 1958 was a handicap, since most of them were approximately of the same ability. Pat Dolan was a proved veteran who pitched brilliantly at times, but he lacked the backing of a strong offensive team. Freshman John Ozbun, an all-state high school hurler from Grand Rapids, had a good record with two wins and three losses. Dick Johnson, also a promising pitcher, had a record of one victory and two losses. Lyle Christie, who was used only sparingly on the mound, turned out to be a strikeout artist in 1960. In fact, the pitching records of 1959 were

good, considering that the young Jays were competing against three of the best hitting clubs in the MIAC for several years.

This was Bill Osborne's last year at St. John's. He resigned to go into business in Billings, Montana, leaving behind at St. John's a record of 61 victories against only 21 losses, for a coaching average of .734 and four baseball championships in his six years of coaching. St. John's lost a fine coach and gentleman!

LINE-UP SCORES

Don Anderson Fr If .234

James Boyd Fr c .143

Lyle Christie Fr p --

Pat Dolan Sr p .179

Jerry Foltmer Fr c, of .286

Henry Gallagher Fr of .143

John Getchman Sr 2b

David Halstrom Fr c .179

Robert Ilg Sr cf .310

Dennis Leahy So ss .242

William McGrann Sr 2b .322

Frank Moran Sr p --

John Ozbun Fr p .200

John Nett So 2b --

Richard Sabers Jr 1b .286

Coach-Osborne

Co-captains-Ilg, Dolan

SCORES

SJU Opponents

2....St. Olaf.....1

13...Macalester.....18

3....Carleton.....6

7....Gustavus.....0

2....Gustavus.....0

16...Hamline.....25

5....St. Cloud State..8

3....St. Mary's.....6

2....St. Mary's.....8

12...Macalester.....1
 0....Augsburg.....10
 8....St. Thomas.....4
 1....St. Thomas.....4
 9....U. of Minn.7
 12...Augsburg.....7
 3....Hamline.....4

PITCHERS' RECORDS

	W	L
Dolan	5	3
Ozbun	2	3
Johnson	1	2
Christie	0	0
Moran	0	0
Heurung	0	0

RECORD

Overall: 8 wins 8 losses
 Conference: 6 wins 6 losses

- 1960 -

The new baseball coach, Dr. Ross Horning, was introduced to the St. John's student body with a *Record* article (March 17, 1960), "Meet Colorful, Versatile, 'Doc' Horning." Ross Horning was indeed a versatile coach for the college baseball team—a former professional baseball player, World War II Air Force pilot, specialist in Russian history and international law. He was a member of the St. John's history department.

Dr. Horning's qualifications for baseball coaching were impressive. As a player in the St. Louis Cardinal and Chicago Cub systems, he made the tour of the Nebraska and Western Association Coast leagues, even the Northern League, and once played second base in a Northern League all-star game in St. Cloud. He had coaching experience as player-manager of the Pierre, South Dakota, team in the Basin League.

The 1960 Jays made a fast start by winning the first five games of the schedule before losing the first tilt. But about the time when all looked bright for winning the championship, they dropped a

doubleheader to St. Thomas by scores of 1-5 and 1-3. Then came further reverses. Following the St. Thomas fiasco they dropped a game each to St. Mary's, North Dakota State, and Gustavus. They wound up the season with a rousing victory over Concordia by a score of 10-5.

To account for the sudden drop in victories is generally to assume that something happened to the team, some fault that should have been corrected. Actually, it was simply a matter of meeting the strong conference teams with well-developed pitching staffs. St. Thomas and Gustavus were MIAC co-champions in 1960. The Jays ended the season with a record of six wins and five losses and third place in the conference.

Outstanding players for the season were pitchers John Ozbun, Lyle Christie, and catcher Dave Halstrom. Lyle Christie, practically obscured by Pat Dolan and Ozbun in 1959, turned out to be the top pitcher and reliever in 1960. In 36 innings of pitching he allowed only ten hits and struck out 41 batters. His earned run average was 1.48.

Unfortunately, the *Record* omitted all box scores of the 1960 team and hence the best that can be done is to enumerate ten or eleven of the players with their playing positions.

LINE-UP

Lyle Christie p
 John Getchman of
 Henry Gallagher of
 David Halstrom c
 Vernon Hruby 3b
 Richard Johnson p
 Dennis Leahy ss
 John Ozbun p
 Dick Sabers 1b
 Tony Schreiner of
 Richard Thiel 2b

Coach-Dr. Ross Horning

SCORES

4....Macalester....3

9....St. Olaf.....1

3....Augsburg.....2

4....Augsburg.....2

8....Hamline.....3

5....St. Thomas....6

1....St. Thomas....3

1....St. Marys.....3

3...N. Dak. State..5

2....Gustavus.....4

10..Concordia.....5

-1961 -

Dr. Ross Horning coached baseball for only one season and was replaced by Edward Hasbrouck, a former member of the 1942, '46, '47, and '48 teams, who was appointed head basketball and baseball coach. An imposing number of baseball players met the new coach, among them several members of the 1960 team: Dave Halstrom, catcher, and two proved pitchers, John Ozbun and Lyle Christie, the latter a fastball pitcher with a good strikeout record. The entire infield had graduated or transferred, however, leaving the new coach with the problem of finding the best men to fill the vacancies.

After an opening loss to St. Olaf the Jays won four straight games, then dropped one to Macalester, defeated Concordia easily, and seemed to be in line for a run at the championship of the MIAC. A "heart rending" defeat by St. Thomas (3-6), followed by a defeat administered by Augsburg, mainly because of pitcher wildness, dimmed the team's hopes. The *Record* reporter concluded his account of the season as follows: "A marathon victory over St. Mary's, a walk-filled loss to league champion Augsburg, a narrow win over Gustavus, and the walloping of St. Cloud completed the season." The Jays completed the conference play with a record of five wins and three losses for third place in the MIAC.

Leading hitter and all-around star was third baseman John Christopherson, an ex-St. Thomas Academy stand-out, with an average of .381. Jim Boyd, an outfielder, led the team in runs batted in with a batting average of .314. John Ozbun had a 3-2 pitching record. While Lyle Christie had a good season, the find of the year was Mark Sieve with two wins and no losses, and 26 strikeouts in 24 innings of play. Marvin Kaisersatt, shortstop, led in homeruns (two) and hit for a .282 average. Ray Cipriano hit a grand slam homer in a 16-2 rout of Hamline.

Regulars for the year were the following: Dave Halstrom, catcher; Tony Schreiner, first base; Bernie Beckman and Terry Schmid, second base; John Christopherson, third base; outfielders Henry Gallagher, Ray Cipriano, Dennis Lynch, and James Boyd.

LINE-UP

Tony Schreiner
 Bernie Beckman Ronald Stueber
 Bill Beaupre Mark Sieve
 James Boyd Coach-Hasbrouck
 Lyle Christie
 John Christopherson
 Ray Cipriano
 Henry Gallagher
 Michael Gerbich
 Paul Grengs
 Dick Grommach
 Dave Halstrom
 Donald Hazlewood
 Dave Hinkemeyer
 Wally Hinz

Dick Johnson
 Marvin Kaisersatt
 Dennis Lynch
 John McCormick
 John Myler
 John Ozbun

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
-----	-----------

3....St. Olaf.....	5
--------------------	---

1....Valley City.....	0
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7....Valley City.....	4
-----------------------	---

5....St. Cloud State.....	4
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15...Carleton.....	5
--------------------	---

0....Macalester.....	5
----------------------	---

5....Macalester.....	7
----------------------	---

8....Concordia.....	6
---------------------	---

16...Hamline.....	2
-------------------	---

3....St. Thomas.....	6
----------------------	---

14...St. Mary's.....	13
----------------------	----

4....Augsburg.....	12
--------------------	----

6....Gustavus.....	5
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18...St. Cloud State...	3
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-1962-

Prospects for 1962 had not looked bright from the beginning of the baseball season. Missing particularly was John Christopherson, the batting sparkplug and fielding star of 1961 at third base. Gone also were eight regulars of 1960. Coach Hasbrouck was aware of the situation and made the most of it, devoting his energies to the creation of a comparatively new team.

The team hovered around .500 for the first part of the season by defeating two non-conference opponents, Moorhead State and Carleton. But following a split double-header with Hamline the Jays lost five of the following six games and ended the season with a conference record of two victories and five losses. The overall record was four wins and eight losses. Rains made it necessary to cancel the last two games on the conference schedule.

John Ozbun, pitcher, in five game appearances had two wins and two losses with an earned-run average of 2.67. Close behind him was young freshman Tom Durenberger, ex-St. John's Prep School pitcher, with one win and one loss in six game starts. He had a very creditable earned run average of 1.29, the lowest percentage of the pitching staff. Mark Sieve, however, was the hard luck pitcher of the year. Although he was the high point hurler in the number of strikeouts (33 in 28 frames) and had the highest batting percentage, he failed to win a game.

LINE-UP

Robert Backes 3b, ss .216
 Bernie Beckman cf .179
 Wm. Beaupre p .000
 James Boyd lf .189
 Dennis Dolan 2b,3b .159
 David Hinkemeyer 1b .212
 James Hopkins rf, 1b .100
 Robert Johnson p .182
 Marv Kaisersatt ss, 2b .233
 John Kearney c .100
 Dennis Lynch c .202
 John McCormick lf .091
 John Ozbun p .000
 Mark Sieve p .333
 Thomas Durenberger p .000
 William Beaupre p .500 (2 at bats)
 Robert Johnson p .182

Coach -Hassbrouk

SCORES

SJU Opponents

4....Carleton.....4

5....Moorhead....0

0...Moorhead.....2

1....St. Cloud.....4

6....Hamline.....4

4....Hamline.....7

3....St. Olaf.....6

1....Concordia...17

3....Macalester...4

4....Augsburg.....3

3....St. Thomas..5

2....St. Mary's....5

(Games with Gustavus and St. Cloud were rained out)

PITCHERS' RECORDS

	W	L	ERA
Ozbun	2	2	2.67
Sieve	0	4	----
Durenberger	1	1	1.29
Beaupre	1	1	1.86

RECORD

Overall 4 wins 8 losses

Conference 2 wins 5 losses

Staff ERA-2.91

-1963 -

Baseball, 1963, was a year of disaster. The Jays ended the season in the MIAC cellar with a record of ten losses and only one victory. Unfortunately, it is impossible to render an account of the games, the line-ups, the pitchers' records, the team batting, etc., for the reason that the 1963 scorebook has been lost and the *Record* reports cover only seven games. Apparently only eleven of the fifteen games scheduled were played.

According to the reports of the season, the poor record was due to fielding errors and the lack of consistent hitting. In one instance Mark Sieve struck out ten batters in a seven-inning game and yet lost because of ten fielding errors. In another game a triple was nullified because the batter failed to touch the bag when rounding first base. St. John's first and only win for the season, over Gustavus 3-0, had Sieve pitching. Bob Johnson lost the second game of the doubleheader 0-10, largely on fielding errors and weak hitting. Augsburg won over St. John's 3-4, April 25, Tom Durenberger pitching.

St. Thomas beat St. John's in a double-header 1-7, Bob Johnson pitching, and 3-7, Mark Sieve pitching. Hamline took St. John's 0-7, Durenberger pitching. The scheduled double-header was shortened by rain, resulting in only one of the games being played.

In the Concordia game, Mark Sieve, behind 5-0, was shelled from the mound in the second inning and was relieved by "little" Leonard Tomsich from the Iron Range who allowed only one earned run in seven and two-thirds innings.

Members of the team were the following: Robert Backes, shortstop; James Belisle, outfield; Thomas Brazell, outfield; Bernie Beckman, centerfield; Jeff Dunn, catcher; Thomas Durenberger, pitcher; Randy Halstrom, catcher; James Hopkins; Bob Johnson, pitcher; John Kearney, outfield; Robert Kren, first base; John McCormick, outfield; Rick Neameyer, second base; Mark Sieve, pitcher; Leonard Tomsich, pitcher; Edward Vogt, outfield.

Scores of the games of which records are available are the following:

SJU	Opponents
3....Gustavus.....0	
0....Gustavus.....10	
3....Augsburg.....4	
1....St. Thomas....7	
3....St. Thomas....7	
0...Hamline.....7	
0....Concordia.....8	

-1964 -

Despite the disappointments of 1963, Coach Hasbrouck was optimistic regarding the coming season of 1964. It was a well-substantiated optimism because, from a cellar position in the MIAC with only one win and ten losses, the team jumped to fourth place in the conference with seven wins over against eight losses. Nine of his 1963 lettermen were listed on the 1964 roster and, with the return of John Christopherson after an absence of two seasons, he was looking forward to his best year. He was satisfied with his pitching prospects: Mark Sieve, a three-year veteran who had never had the good luck he deserved, and Tom Durenberger, a junior, who had found himself as a pitcher in his sophomore year and was now a mainstay on the pitching staff. August Stuhldreher, a left-handed freshman, was highly regarded by Coach Hasbrouck and was expected to fill the vacancy caused by the loss of Bob Johnson who on graduation had signed with the Red Sox organization.

Evidence of improvement was soon forthcoming. After splitting a double-header with North Dakota University 1-3 (won) and 1-0 (lost), the team dropped the first game with Gustavus but won the second on Tom Durenberger's three-hit, six strikeouts performance. In the next outing the Jays lost to Augsburg 3-15, then swept a double-header over St. Thomas: 8-4, with Durenberger pitching, and 4-3, with Tomsich and Rademacher on the mound.

The situation deteriorated with an 0-5 defeat by Macalester and the loss of a double-header to St. Mary's, 2-4 and 0-2-evidence sufficient to prove that the Jays had not yet regained their batting power. In the first St. Mary's game, lost 2-4, the effective pitching of Tom Durenberger was nullified by six fielding errors.

The team apparently came into its own again in the latter part of the season. The Jays defeated Augsburg 6-5 and Macalester 5-2. The last three games of the schedule were not reported in the *Record*, however. It was only in the preview to the 1965 season a year later that the final outcome of

the season was reported—a record of seven wins and eight losses and fourth place in the MIAC standings.

1964 was Ed Hasbrouck's last year as coach of basketball and { baseball at St. John's. He was succeeded by Elmer Kohorst.

- 1965 -

Elmer Kohorst, the new baseball coach, first came to St. John's as Director of Athletics in the St. John's Prep School and coach of basketball and baseball. He had an impressive background for the position. A 1957 graduate from the University of Notre Dame, he had the added distinction of being Notre Dame's first All-American for two years as a baseball catcher. Following his graduation he joined the Los Angeles Dodger organization and played with Dodger farm clubs in Green Bay, Pueblo, Colorado, and St. Paul, but decided that he preferred coaching in a school over a career in professional baseball.

When Ed Hasbrouck resigned coaching at St. John's to go into business, Elmer was "loaned" by the Prep School to the college to take over the university baseball team. He was well qualified for the higher position for he had coached the Class A baseball team in Rapid City, South Dakota, and the Minnesota Travelers League in Little Falls. It is practically impossible to sketch a complete history of Elmer's first year as coach of the college team. The 1965 score book is lacking and the *Record* accounts of the season are so meager that it is difficult to make out either the team personnel or the outcome of the games. The main information to be gleaned is that the Jays, after winning the first three games in a row at the beginning of the season, dropped two double-headers (*four* games), 4-6 and 0-3 to St. Thomas-2-3 and 2-8 to St. Mary's. Subsequently they lost single games to Augsburg and Concordia. The record at this juncture was five games won and eight lost. Since this was the last issue of the *Record*, the outcome of two games with Hamline was not recorded.

- 1966 -

One of the most spectacular reversals in St. John's baseball history took place in 1966. After a slow start, the Jays found themselves by the middle of the season in the last place in the conference race. The situation looked bad. Then suddenly the team caught fire and won the final six games on the schedule without a loss for a third position in the MIAC with a total of seven wins and four losses. The overall record was nine wins versus four losses. One writer styled the 1966 Jays the Cinderella team of the year.

One of the early problems in 1966 was weak hitting, for the pitching was sufficiently strong to warrant hopes for a winning season. The success of the second half of the schedule was due largely to the brilliant pitching of Jim Trachsel, an outstanding St. John's all-around athlete of this period. Trachsel's pitching was backed up by an enthusiastic group of players who made the team a strong combination of defensive skill and batting power. Mark Plantenberg built up a batting average of .416. Trachsel's batting average was .333. His pitching record overall was seven wins versus two losses. In the conference he was the winning pitcher in six contests, with two losses.

LINE-UP

John Balestri Fr.
Paul Bernabei Fr of
Dennis Coleman Fr. p
Gerry Grochowski Fr. of
Randy Halstrom Sr. c
Lawrence Hergott Jr. 1b

Thomas Klein Fr. ss
 Robert Kren Sr. of
 James Mohs Fr. ss
 John O'Connell Jr. of, 1b
 Sidney Outten Fr. c
 Mark Plantenberg 2b
 Terry Schmid Fr. p
 Michael Shea Fr. ss
 James Shiely Sr. cf
 August Stuhldreher Jr. p
 Richard Taafe Sr. 3b
 James Trachsel Sr. p
 John Wolter Sr. p

Coach-Kohorst

LEADING BATTERS

Plantenberg .416

Trachsel .333

O'Connell .284

Taafe .282

Shiely .277

RECORD

Overall: 9 wins 4 losses

Conference: 7 wins 4 losses

Conference-3rd place

PITCHING RECORD

Trachsel:

Overall: 7 wins 2 losses

Conference: 6 wins 2 losses

SCORES

SJU Opponents

5....Morris.....0

8....Morris.....0

4....Macalester.....3
 2....Macalester.....8
 2....St. Thomas...11
 1....Augsburg.....6
 1....Augsburg.....4
 6....Hamline.....0
 5....Gustavus.....1
 4....St. Mary's.....3
 3....St. Mary's.....2
 9....St. Thomas....4
 8....Gustavus.....1

-1967-

The 1967 Jays, though they were a young team, were potential favorites for the MIAC championship. By one of those strange turns of the Wheel of Fortune so characteristic of all competitive sports, but especially of baseball, they dropped the last two games on the schedule, and instead of ending with an 8-4 record and in second or third place, they had a record of six wins against six losses and fifth place in the conference.

It was an interesting season with many dramatic moments, however. Jay Simons, a freshman, guaranteed a win over Augsburg by hitting a grand slam homerun for a 7-3 victory. Mike Shea sparked the Jays to a winning rally by a three-run homer at a moment when Macalester was leading 6-0. In the eleventh inning of a tie game with St. Thomas, Terry Schmitz tired and Dennis Coleman came on for relief and struck out the next five Tommies to save the game. Outten's winning run in the thirteenth was driven in by Suppalla's double.

Baseball-wise, the stars of the season were pitchers Dennis Coleman with a 4-3 record and Terry Schmitz with two wins and one loss. Cocaptain Gus Stuhldreher had an unlucky year and ended with two wins and three losses. Tom Klein, outfielder, led the batters with a .397 average, followed by John O'Connell .302 (son of third base star John O'Connell of 1942 fame).

LINE-UP

John Balestri So. 1b, of
 Dennis Coleman So. p
 Michael Donovan Fr. of
 Scott Froelich Fr. ss, p
 Gerry Grochowski So. of
 David Haskins So. of
 Thomas Klein So. 1b

James Mohs Jr. ss
 John O'Connell Sr. 1b
 Sidney Outten So. c
 Terrence Schmitz So. p
 Michael Shea So. 3b
 Jerome Simons Fr. cf
 Gus Stuhldreher Sr.p
 William Supalla Fr.2b

PITCHERS' RECORDS

W L

Coleman 4 3

Schmitz 2 1

Stuhldreher 2 3

RECORD

Overall: 8 wins 7 losses

Conference: 6 wins 6 losses

Conference-5th place

LEADING BATTERS

Klein .397
 Shea .342
 O'Connell .303
 Coleman .272
 Outten .255
 Growchowski .250
 Haskins .250
 Balestri .218
 Simons .204
 Stuhldreher .207
 Froelich .206
 Supalla .202
 Mohs .200

Coach- Kohorst

Co-captains-O'Connell, Stuhldreher

SCORES

SJU Opponents

4...Carleton.....3
 3...Morris.....4
 5...St. Cloud State..2
 1...St. Thomas.....3
 1...Augsburg.....2
 2...St. Mary's.....5
 3...St. Mary's.....2
 3...St. Thomas.....2
 11...Macalester.....8
 3...Macalester.....4
 1...Concordia.....3
 0...Concordia.....3

-1968 -

The appearance of Fr. Dunstan Tucker on the baseball coaching staff in 1968 came as a complete surprise both to himself and to his assistant coach Thomas Hamm, a former Georgetown University baseball player and member of the Detroit baseball chain. Fr. Dunstan had retired from coaching in 1950 and devoted the next eighteen years exclusively to university academic duties. Following his retirement as academic dean in 1967 and his return from Europe six months later, he was approached to coach the college baseball team until a new arrangement might be made to settle a problem that had arisen in the University-Prep School athletic relations.

Following the resignation of Ed Hasbrouck in 1964, Elmer Kohorst, at that time the Prep School baseball coach, was appointed to the position of college baseball coach while he was still a full-time member of the Prep School faculty. It was an arrangement which the headmaster of the Prep School, Fr. Gregory Soukup, O.S.B., did not approve. He asked that Mr. Kohorst take over the Prep School baseball team and that the college should provide for its own coach.

The 1968 team inherited by the new coaches was well disciplined and capable. Holdovers from 1967 were two sterling pitchers, Dennis Coleman and Terrence Schmitz, Mike Shea at third base, James Mohs at shortstop, and converted outfielder Tom Klein at first base. "Jay" Simons starred in centerfield and was flanked by Virgil Meyer and Dave Haskins, with back-up support from Mike Donovan and several promising freshmen: James Burrows, Thomas Breen, Michael Backes, Douglas Nachbar, and Roy Glover. Sidney Outten, a catcher with great potential, had not yet reached his peak. Gary Wehrwein, also a catcher, had occasional arm trouble to handicap his best efforts. Lee Harren, a southpaw pitcher, was exceptionally promising, but being uncertain of his educational objectives, he entered the armed services, to return to complete his college work only in 1972.

The overall record for 1968 was ten victories and six losses. The Jays ended the conference season in

second place with eight wins and four losses. The conference standings were the following:

LINE-UP

Bernard Bartholomew Fr. p
 Thomas Breen Fr. 2b
 James Burrows Fr. ss, of
 Dennis Coleman Jr. p
 Michael Donovan So. of
 Roy Glover Fr. 2b
 Lee Harren Fr. p
 Dave Haskins Jr. of
 Thomas Klein Jr. 1b
 Virgil Meyer So. of
 Douglas Nachbar Fr. p, of
 Sidney Outten Jr. c
 Terry Schmitz Jr. p
 Michael Shea Jr. 3b
 Jerome "Jay" Simons So. of
 Gary Wehrwein Jr. c
 Michael Backes Fr. of
 James Mohs Sr., ss

Coach-Fr. Dunstan Tucker
 Assistant-Thomas Hamm
 Captain-Dennis Coleman

RECORD

Overall: 10 wins 6 losses
 Conference: 8 wins 4 losses
 Conference-2nd place

PITCHERS' RECORDS

W L

Coleman 5 3

Schmitz 3 2

Harren 2 1

CONFERENCE STANDING

St. Mary's 8-2

St. John's 8-4

Augsburg 7-4

Hamline 6-6

Concordia 2-3

St. Thomas 4-6

Macalester 3-7

Gustav us- 2 8

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
-----	-----------

5....Morris.....	7
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6....Morris.....	1
------------------	---

3....Augsburg.....	6
--------------------	---

13..Hamline.....	12
------------------	----

2....St. Cloud State....	4
--------------------------	---

9...Carleton.....	6
-------------------	---

0....St. Mary's.....	9
----------------------	---

1....Macalester.....	2
----------------------	---

4...Macalester.....	0
---------------------	---

1....St. Thomas.....	0
----------------------	---

3....Gustavus.....	0
--------------------	---

8....Gustavus.....	6
--------------------	---

3....Hamline.....	1
-------------------	---

2....St. Thomas.....	1
----------------------	---

0....St. Thomas.....	5
----------------------	---

2....St. Mary's.....	1
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-1969 -

Despite two pre-conference losses to Morris, the 1969 MIAC race opened with bright hopes for the conference championship. The squad numbered six seniors, five juniors, five sophomores, and five promising freshman candidates. Once the selections for positions had been made, the team blossomed

out into a well-balanced organization that eventually captured the MIAC title with a record of eleven wins and three losses.

Highlights of the season, strangely enough, were the final two victories over St. Mary's at Winona by scores of 5-3 and 2-0. St. Mary's had played almost faultless baseball the entire season and any misplay on the part of the Jays could throw the championship to the Redmen. The two games were pitched by veteran seniors Denny Coleman and Terry Schmitz, with Sidney Outten catching the best games of his college career. Over and above the pitchers and catcher, the outstanding players were Michael Shea, third base; Tom Klein, captain and first baseman; and Thomas Breen, second base. In the first St. Mary's game the two teams were tied from the fourth inning to the ninth, when St. John's pulled ahead with a four-run rally, only to have St. Mary's retaliate with two runs. The Jays survived and won 5-3- the winning pitcher was Dennis Coleman.

The second game was still more suspenseful. Terry Schmitz shut out the Redmen 2-0 but got into trouble in the seventh inning by a streak of wildness when he walked two batters and found himself facing a situation with men on first and second and none out. In a brilliant play, catcher Outten threw to second and caught the runner off base for the first out. Then followed a pop-up to the second baseman Breen and a routine ground-out, shortstop to second, for the third out and the championship, the first since 1958.

Dennis Coleman, Terry Schmitz and Tom Klein were named to the 1969 all-conference baseball team.

LINE-UP

Michael Backes Fr. lf
Thomas Breen Fr. 2b
Dennis Coleman Sr. p
Jim Burrows So. cf
Reese Doffing So. ss, 2b
Roy Glover Sr. 2b
Dave Haskins Sr. rf
Bruce Hentges Fr. of
Thomas Klein Sr. 1b
John Linnemann Sr. ss
Virgil Meyer Jr. of
Victor Moore Fr. p
Tom Muchlinski Fr. p
Douglas Nachbar Fr. of
Sidney Outten Sr. c
David Schafer Fr. p
Terry Schmitz Sr. p
Michael Shea Sr. 3b
"Jay" Simons Jr. ss
James Taddei Fr. of
Gary Wehrwein Sr. c
James Winkels Fr. C

Coach-Fr. Dunstan Tucker

Assistant-Thomas Hamm

Captain-Klein

PITCHERS' RECORDS

W L

Coleman 6 1

Schmitz 3 2

Muchlinski 2 0

Moore 2 1

SCORES

SJU Opponents

1...Morris.....5

1...Morris.....3

7...Gustavus....1

3...Gustavus....1

10..Carleton....3

6...Augsburg...7

10...Augsburg...7

6...Concordia...5

0...Concordia...4

3...Macalester...5

7...Macalester..10

6...St. Thomas..3

5...St. Thomas..3

3...Hamline.....1

6...Hamline.....4

5...St. Mary's....3

2...St. Mary's....0

Conference-championship

RECORD

Overall: 13 wins, 4 losses

Conference: 11 wins, 3 losses

LEADING BATTERS

	Ave. RBI
Outten	.400, 10
Shea	.355, 19
Simmons	.288, 4
Klein	.237, 11
Meyer	.333, 4
Mike Backes	.323, 6
Burrows	.213, 7

-1971 -

Fr. Dunstan planned to give up coaching at the end of the 1970 baseball season but was deterred by the failure to find a qualified successor who would coach the team for one only season, approximately three months. It was with reluctance that he took over the team in 1971, and especially after a disastrous four-day training trip into Iowa which could have been spent more profitably at St. John's than traveling on a bus.

His fears were amply justified when some of the key members of the team sustained injuries that proved to be crippling. Jim Burrows, star centerfielder, hurt his arm and was unable to throw from his position for the entire season. Reese Doffing, shortstop, also developed a case of tendonitis in his throwing arm and dropped off the team early in the season. The coach was thoroughly dissatisfied with his own handling of the team, and since none would fire him as they would in professional ball, he fired himself by resigning (like writing one's own obituary). He asked Athletic Director George Durenberger to arrange if possible a transfer of Elmer Kohorst from the Prep School baseball team to the college team. Coach Kohorst rallied the squad in the last four games remaining on the schedule to end the season with two losses and two victories. The illness of Terry Haws, from which he died in 1973, opened up a full-time place on the college athletic staff to which Coach Kohorst was appointed in 1972.

The overall record of the 1971 team was four wins and thirteen losses; the conference record was three wins against eleven losses, exclusive of the training trip.

- 1972 -

The 1972 baseball season must be passed over with the briefest of comment. The 1972 scorebook has been lost or misplaced and the *Record* contains only a preliminary article regarding the prospects for the coming season. The only information regarding the outcome of the 1972 season available is the preview for the year 1973. From the preview of the 1973 season we learn that the year 1972 ended with an overall record of eight wins and eight losses and a conference record of six victories and eight defeats. The team's final MIAC standing was probably fourth place, according to the usual outcomes at this level in previous years.

The 1972 pitching staff, composed of Lee Harren, Thomas Muchlinski, Brian Vucinovich, John McDonald and Donald Nierengarten, compiled an excellent earned run average of .253 that was counterbalanced by an anemic team batting average of .219-which accounts for the disappointing won-loss record of the season.

Outfielder James Fier hit for an average of .270 and led the squad in the number of runs batted in. Fier was placed on the MIAC all conference baseball team for 1972. Other members of the squad mentioned in the preview were Dick Humphrey, catcher, Don Carlini, first base, Steve Ward, shortstop, Philip Johnson, second base, and Donald Abbott, third base.

- 1973-

The 1973 team commenced spring training with high hopes for the MIAC championship. Though they did not attain their coveted goal, the general quality of play was a decided improvement over that of 1972, mainly through the addition to the squad of a freshman pitcher, Charles "Chuck" Viskocil. Viskocil proved to be the outstanding pitcher of the year with three wins and three losses and a healthy earned run average of 2.59. The overall record for the year was ten wins and thirteen losses, the conference record seven games won and nine lost.

Offensive stars in 1973 were all veterans of 1972: James Fier, Dick Humphrey, Paul Schmit, Donald Geng, Steve Ward, Daniel Abbott, followed closely by freshman Jerry Haugen and Chuck Viskocil, pitcher, who himself carried a batting average of .272. There was no particular reason why the team did not do better in the won-lost column because the batting was above average and the team spirit was high. Coach Elmer Kohorst shortly before the last two games on the schedule expressed his disappointment: "We haven't been able to put things together this season. Our hitting has been better this year, but our pitching has suffered." Though the team had failed to realize its full potential, he nevertheless commended it for its continued effort: "They never threw in the towel. They were never content just to play out the schedule."

LINE-UP

Daniel Abbott Jr. 3b, ss
 Donald Carlini Jr. 1b
 H. Foehrenbacher Fr. 2b
 James Fier Jr. of
 Donald Geng So. of, dh
 Gary Greenheck Jr. p
 John Grunst Fr. c
 Jerome Haugen Fr. of
 Lee Harren Jr. p Ave. RBI
 Dick Humphrey Sr. c
 Charles Johnson Fr. 1b
 Phil Johnson So. ss, 2b
 Bob Kaczrowski Jr. p
 John McDonald Jr. p, of
 Craig Mauer Jr. 3b
 Don Nierengarten Sr. p
 David Schirber Fr. Ss
 Paul Schmit Jr. of
 Doug Spanton So. c
 Charles Viskocil Fr. P

Steve Ward So. ss, 3b
 Thomas Witt Fr. P

Coach-Elmer Kohorst

LEADING BATTERS

AVE. RBI
 Fier .347, 9
 Ward .326, 10
 Schmit .292, 10
 Humphrey .292, 8
 Viskocil .273, 2
 Geng .250, 3
 Abbott .239, 7

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
4....Morris.....	6
0....Morris.....	3
2....Moorhead.....	4
4....Moorhead.....	0
2....St. Cloud State..	0
4....St. Thomas.....	12
7....St. Thomas.....	4
2....Carleton.....	3
7....Carleton.....	5
26...Hamline.....	1
7....Hamline.....	0
3....Duluth.....	4
4....Augsburg.....	4
3....Duluth.....	0
3....Augsburg.....	8
4....St. Mary's.....	12

0....St. Mary's.....3

9....Macalester.....0

2....Macalester.....3

3....Gustavus.....15

7....Gustavus.....3

0....Concordia.....1

4....Concordia.....0

PITCHERS' RECORDS

	W	L
Viskocil	3	3
Vucinovich	1	0
Nierengarten	1	3
Harren	1	2
Kaczrowski	0	1
McDonald	1	1

Conference-5th place

Overall: 10 wins, 13 losses

Conference: 7 wins, 9 losses

-1974 -

In 1974 Coach Elmer Kohorst had his banner year, the MIAC baseball championship. It was a great year for the Jays, with tight pitching and clutch hitting climaxed at the end of the season by the play-off games for the NAIA national championship. The Kohorst teams had been gradually growing stronger over a three-year period through the addition each year of new blood and the retention of the core of players of the previous seasons. Finally, by 1974 he had the best balanced team of his coaching career up to this time-seven seniors, eight juniors and eight sophomores. The 1974 team was ready for its great moment with superior pitching and catching, a strong infield and outfield defense, and a strong running attack that had been developed in the new Warner Palaestra. Leading hitters were Steve Ward, .360; Jerry Haugen, .344; and Henry Foehrenbacher, .333.

The Jays came to the play-offs after building up a conference record of twelve wins and two losses with four well-established pitchers: Chuck Viskocil (5-0), Lee Harren (5-0), Bob Kaczrowski (2-1) and Tom Witt (2-1). St. John's won the first of the play-off games with Viskocil limiting Marshall Southwest State University to one run on five hits to St. John's two runs on six hits. The following two games were close with the teams tied 0-0 until the seventh inning. The seventh inning of the second game the South

westerners won to score a run on a single, a stolen base that put a man on second, and another hit that scored him. It was Harren's first loss of the year. The third game was won by Southwest in the seventh inning on a two-base hit followed by an infield error that permitted the runner to score from second with the winning run, 1-0. It was a cold, drizzly day that added no cheer to the disappointment of the Jays.

Coach Elmer Kohorst praised his tri-captains, Jim Fier, Paul Schmit and Steve Ward, for the high spirit and never-say-die attitude that animated their teammates throughout the season. Though the team worked as a unit and each player contributed his share to the success of the year, the overall star was Chuck Viskocil, who rang up an imposing record for a total of seven wins and one loss. When not pitching he was generally the designated hitter. He batted a solid .265 and drove in five runs. John Grunst and Brian Vucinovich, catchers, must rank among the top five or six fine catchers of St. John's history.

The 1974 season added four Jays to the all-conference list at the end of the season: Charles Viskocil and Lee Harren, pitchers; Donald Geng, outfield; and Steve Ward, third base.

LINE-UP

Steven Feneis Fr. 3b
 James Fier Sr. rf
 H. Foehrenbacher So. 2b
 Donald Geng Jr. of,dh
 Gary Greenheck Sr. p
 John Grunst Fr. c
 Lee Harren Sr., p
 Jerry Haugen Jr. of
 Mark Hollenhorst Fr. of
 Robert Jajtner Jr.
 CharlesJohnson So. 1b
 Phil Johnson Jr. ss
 John McDonald Sr. of, if
 Craig Mauer Sr. 1b
 Michael Murn Sr. p
 Paul Schmit Sr. If
 Douglas Spanton Jr. c
 Charles Viskocil So. p
 Brian Vucinovich Sr. c
 Steven Ward Jr. 3b
 Thomas Witt So. p

Coach -Kohorst
 Tri-captains, Fier, Schmit, Vucnovich

PITCHERS' RECRODS

W L

Kaczrowski 2 1

Viskocil 5 0

Witt 2 1

Harren 3 0

SCORES

SJU Opponents

6...Winona State.....8

0...WinonaState.....8

4...Concordia.....0

3...Concordia.....2

2...St. Cloud State...3

3...St. Thomas.....1

1...St. Thomas.....0

4...St. Olaf.....2

3...St. Olaf.....2

5...Hamline.....1

9...Hamline.....1

4...Duluth.....2

0...Duluth.....4

3...Augsburg.....0

6...Augsburg.....2

3...St. Mary's.....0

2...St. Mary's.....4

4...Macalester.....1

7...Macalester.....0

Conference-championship

NAIA PLAY-OFFS

2 Southwest State 1

0 Southwest State 1

0 Southwest State 1

LEADING BATTERS

Ave. RBI

Geng .417, 5
 Ward .357, 5
 C. Johnson .33, 4
 Scmit .310, 6
 Viskocil .265, 5
 Haugen .255, 6
 Foehrenbacher .269, 4

-1975 -

The unfortunate and unlooked for resignation of Coach Elmer Kohorst left the Director of Athletics with the task of finding his successor. After making several inquiries without success, it was decided to transfer the Prep School coach, Jerry Marlow, to the college position. The new coach found himself confronted with the problem of a team greatly depleted by the graduation of eight key members from the 1974 championship aggregation. The problem was made more acute by the failure of Chuck Viskocil, the 1974 ace, to return to St. John's.

On the other hand, there were seven lettermen who had returned, and Coach Marlow was assured of veterans on which to build a representative infield. In the outfield he still had Donald Geng and Jerry Haugen, together with Steve Ward (third base)-three all-conference selections from the previous year. Ace of the pitching staff was Tom Witt who had pitched creditably the year before with a record of two wins and one loss. New candidates for the pitcher vacancies were sophomores Rich Laba and Michael Murn, and senior Matthew Williams.

With the opening of the conference the Johnnies managed to split even with St. Mary's, Concordia and Augsburg, after which they lost six games to St. Olaf, Duluth, Gustavus, and Hamline, while winning only three. At the end of the conference season the team had lost nine games to six won and an MIAC rating, according to the *Record* reporter, "somewhere below fifth place."

Disappointing as the season was to those who expected a better showing following a championship season, an examination of the scores shows that five of the games were lost by one run and four by two runs, anyone of which could have been won by a timely single here or there. Seen more objectively, 1975 was a rebuilding year.

LINE-UP

Michael Carr So. If
 H. Foehrenbacher Jr. 2b
 Donald Geng Sr. rf
 John Grunst So. c
 Dave Hartmann Jr. c
 Jerry Haugen Sr. cf
 Mark Hollenhorst So. If

Charles Johnson Jr. 1b
 Phil Johnson Sr. ss
 Mark Kosiek So. ss
 Richard Laba So. p
 Kelly Mum So. p
 Jeffrey Norman Fr. dh
 Timothy Talbot So. 1b
 Steve Ward Sr. 3b
 Thomas Witt Jr. p
 Jeff Fadness Fr. 1b

Coach-Jerry Marlow

Conference: 6 wins 9 losses

RECORD

Conference-"below fifth place"

PITCHERS' RECORD

	W	L
Mum	2	2
Laba	2	2
Williams	1	2
Witt	1	3

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
0....	St. Mary's....9
6....	St. Mary's....0
1....	Concordia.....3
5....	Concordia.....3
7....	Augsburg.....6
3....	Augsburg.....9
6....	St. Olaf.....15
4....	Duluth.....6

0....Duluth.....2

1....St. Thomas...0

3....St. Thomas...1

2....Gustavus.....3

1....Gustavus.....2

8....Hamline.....9

4....Hamline.....1

-1976-

Coach Dennis Lorsung's first year as head baseball coach at St. John's was in every way a success. His job was to rebuild the team in player personnel and to restore the usual confidence and fighting spirit of what he hoped would be a championship team. His policy was exactly what was needed, the release of tension and the playing of baseball for fun and enjoyment. He did not win the championship, it is true, but he succeeded in creating a "hustlin', hollerin' " team of self confident ball players.

The 1976 year presented its problems in the course of the season, one of which was the failure to beat off the challenge of Gustavus in the last series of the year. As Tom Kozlak, the *Record* reporter, wrote: "The thoroughbred Johnnie baseball team started fast out of the gate this year, ran neck and neck with St. Olaf most of the way, but like many a long shot, faded in the home stretch to finish 'show' behind the Oles and St. Thomas." In the last week or so of the season the Johnnies met head-on with St. Thomas and Gustavus, two of the powerhouses in the conference. In the first game of the St. Thomas double-header, the Tommies shelled the Johnnies 12-4. The second game, however, was a classic victory (5-2) for Rich Laba, Cleveland Benedictine Prep School's gift to St. John's. The game was highlighted by right fielder Hollenhorst's homer and a double and triple by centerfielder Jerry Haugen.

St. John's would still have been a contender for the title except that they next faced the surging Gustavus nine and dropped both games of a double-header that landed the Johnnies in third place behind St. Olaf and St. Thomas. Coach Lorsung was disappointed with the ending of the season, but he was also happy to know that the team spirit had been brightened in the way he had planned. He could now look forward to 1977, fairly certain that his team would be among the favorites for the conference title.

LINE-UP, Ave.

Jerry Haugen cf .254

H. Foehrenbacher 2b .258

Jeff Norman dh .436

Mark Kosiek ss .157

John Grunst c .235

Jeff Fadness 1b .241

Mark Hollenhorst rf .377

Mike Hejny 3b .227

Mike Carr lf .280

Frank Foster 22 .111

Scott Becker of .250
 John Mee 3b .000
 Joe Schleper 1b .111
 Joe Pfannenstein c .000
 Tim Fristrom dh .333
 Brad Weydert dh .300

PITCHERS' RECORDS

	W	L
Tom Witt	4	3
Rick Laba	3	2
Kevin Hamilton	1	0
Bob Vorisek	1	1
Tom Jensen	1	0
Tom Nimmo	0	2
Keith Kerfeld	0	0
Dan Bergner	0	1

RECORD

Overall: 12 wins 10 losses

Conference 11 wins 7 losses

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
3....Morris.....	2
8....Morris.....	13
3....Hamline.....	1
6....Hamline.....	3
0...Mankato State....	8
4....Mankato State..	13
4....Augsburg.....	7

7...Augsburg.....4

6...St. Mary's.....5

3...St. Mary's.....1

3...Concordia.....0

8...Concordia.....6

2...St. Olaf.....4

1...St. Olaf.....2

13...Duluth.....14

10...Duluth.....7

4...St. Thomas.....14

5...St. Thomas.....2

8...Gustavus.....14

3...Gustavus.....7

1...Macalester (forfeit) 0

1...Macalester (forfeit) 0

Conference-3rd place

-1977-

Coach Dennis Lorsung in his second year at St. John's had a great team, both temperamentally and physically. He won not only the MIAC championship but also the coach-of-the-year award. The story of the 1977 season is one of extraordinary happenings-of superb pitching and batting heroics-Pat Christopherson (son of Bill '53) won the conference batting championship; a freshman catcher, John King, who handled pitchers as would a crafty World Series veteran; a pitching staff that kept the opponents' bats silent when occasionally the Johnnie bats were also silent. Then there was the time when, wearied by some thirty games in a period of a month and a half, both the batters and the pitchers began to show the signs of the wear and tear of the season, the team leaders, independently of their coach, then led the hurlers and sluggers to the Warner Palaestra and the batting cage where they solved their problems by practice.

The Johnnies swept the crucial final double-header against Concordia with 21 hits and 44 bases. In the first game the team collected five homeruns: three by Jeff Norman, one by Christopherson, and one by Scott Becker. In the second game, with St. John's trailing 5-3, Kosiek, not ordinarily a slugger, belted a four-bagger. Then Christopherson unloaded another with two men on base for the clinching run and the undisputed championship.

The winning of the championship was a personal victory for Coach Lorsung, and for the players the reward of a united team effort. The season had been a struggle from the beginning. The training trip through Kansas and Arkansas was an ordeal that ended in three wins and nine losses. The games were an example of unequal competition between a northern team just out-of-doors for the first games of the year, and southern teams that had already been playing for a month or more. But once back in Minnesota the Johnnies ran through a schedule of twenty games, fourteen of which were conference contests. They won the championship with only three losses, 11-3, only one game ahead of runner-up St. Olaf. It was a season of superb pitching as well as extra base hitting. Rich Laba pitched two no-hit games; freshmen sensation Randy Sieve hurled one no-hitter and one one-hitter.

In the NAIA play-offs between St. John's and Winona State, champion of the Northern Intercollegiate Conference, to determine which team would represent District 13 in the national tournament, St. John's was not so fortunate. In the first game, pitcher Rich Laba injured his arm and lasted only four innings, to lose 7-0. In the second game, with Randy Sieve on the mound, St. John's won 4-3. The third game was lost by a score of 11-1. Coach Lorsung accepted the decision of fate: "In the last game we just ran out of pitchers."

LINE-UP Ave.

Jeff Norman 1b .330
 Pat. Christopherson lf .356
 Michael Hejny 3b .297
 Tom Foehrenbacher 2b .250
 Mark Kosiek ss .279
 John King c .190
 Scott Becker rf .240
 Michael Carr lf .111
 Tim Fristrom dh .400
 Bradley Weydert dh .161
 Frank Foster if .115
 Greg Wilkinson of .259
 John Hanowski c .182
 Joe Schleper 1b .111
 John Dziura ss .125
 Scott Dressen 3b .000
 Charles Degenaar of .000
 Chris Braun of 1.000

PITCHERS' RECORDS

	W	L
Randy Sieve	4	3
Rich Laba	4	1
Kevin Hamilton	2	3
Frank Fairbanks	2	1
Dave Rockers	5	1

Tom Jensen 0 2
 Tom Petron 1 1
 Rod Bailey 0 0
 Keith Kerfeld 0 1

SCORES*

SJU Opponents

6....Morris.....2
 1....Morris.....6
 0....Mankato State.....5
 1....Mankato State.....3
 2....St. Cloud State....5
 10...St. Cloud State....5
 7....St. Thomas.....0
 12...St. Thomas.....0
 3....Gustavus.....0
 2....Gustavus.....0
 5....St. Mary's.....6
 7....St. Mary's.....6
 1....Augsburg.....2
 2....Augsburg.....0
 12...Macalester.....0
 8....Macalester.....3
 2....Hamline.....0
 16...Hamline.....0
 14...Concordia.....2
 7....Concordia.....5

*Exclusive of training trip in Kansas and Arkansas

RECORD

Conference: 11 wins 2 losses

Conference-championship

- 1978-

At the conclusion of the 1978 baseball season Coach Lorsung resigned and accepted the baseball coaching position at his alma mater, St. Cloud State University. It was with regret that his players and many friends learned of his departure. He had earned the respect and friendship of all on the St. John's campus. He was succeeded by Jerry Haugen, '76, a four-year football and baseball star who had played college baseball under two excellent students of the game, coaches Elmer Kohorst and Dennis Lorsung.

On taking over the 1978 team Coach Haugen found his squad lacking some of the stellar performers of the 1977 championship team, but he quickly found replacements-Neal Binsfeld behind the plate for all-conference John King; Pat Christopherson in centerfield for himself, Jerry Haugen; Mike Hejny, shortstop for Mark Kosiek; Jeff Norman at first base for Jeff Fadness-and several others of like stature.

They melded quickly into a well-balanced team and by May first had a conference record of eight wins and four losses and could see the possibility, with luck, of winning the title.

It was at this point that a change in fortune took place. St. Olaf, which had steadily grown in power over the spring season, dropped the Johnnies for two losses. Momentarily discouraged, the Johnnies' hopes for a high spot in the conference standing was revived by their double-header victory over Bethel, 5-2 and 4-1. However, St. Thomas had also improved and swept the St. John's series by scores of 2-7 and 3-6.

But all did not end with the defeats in the conference race. The Johnnies had one more chance to rise from the ashes and ended the season by defeating Denny Lorsung's St. Cloud State University champion team in the NIC in two games, 11-10 and 4-3. Both games had their heroes. In the first game, with the Johnnies down by three runs in the seventh inning, the St. John's baseballers launched a seven-run uprising that led them to win the game 11-10. The uprising was climaxed by Neal Binsfeld's homerun with a man on base. In the second game, with everything even at 3-3, Jeff Norman in the fourth inning connected for a homerun to bring to score to 4-3.

Sluggers for the 1978 Johnnies were Pat Christopherson with a batting average of .420 with five homeruns and 21 runs batted in. Neal Binsfeld, though only a freshman, batted for an average of .375 with four doubles and two runs batted in. Jeff Norman's average was .250 with seven doubles and ten runs batted in.

Pat Christopherson and Neal Binsfeld were named to the MIAC all-conference team. Christopherson was singled out for special honors, the All-American baseball team and the Academic All-American team.

LINE-UP

Pat Christopherson cf .420
Tom Foehrenbacher 2b .302
Jeff Norman 1b .250

Neal Binsfield c .375
 Pete Rockers ss .279
 Chris Braun of .271
 Scott Dressen 3b .000
 Charles Degenaar If .143
 Bradley Weydert .222
 Raymond Welsh dh .167
 Peter Welle rf .279
 Greg Wilkinson If .120
 Mark Zallek c .143
 John Mee ss .273
 Tom Smith .429

PITCHERS' RECORDS

	W	L
Daniel Bergner	3	1
Bob Vorisek	1	3
Frank Fairbanks	2	1
Randy Sieve	0	0
Frank Foster	3	2
Dave Rockers	1	1

SCORES

SJU	Opponents
3....Morris.....	23
6....Morris.....	12
5....Mankato.....	9
0....Mankato.....	11
1....Gustavus.....	4
6....Gustavus.....	2
4....Hamline.....	3
5....Hamline.....	0
5....Augsburg.....	4

9....Augsburg.....	4
8....Macalester.....	3
1....Macalester.....	3
3....St. Mary's.....	2
5....St. Mary's.....	2
3....Concordia.....	7
0....Concordia.....	1
2....St. Olaf.....	5
3....St. Olaf.....	4
5....Bethel.....	2
4....Bethel.....	1
2....St. Thomas.....	7
3....St. Thomas.....	6
11...St. Cloud State...	10
4....St. Cloud State.....	3

RECORD

Overall: 12 wins 12 losses

Conference: 10 wins 8 losses

Chapter V: Track

Track as an organized sport made its first appearance on the St. John's campus in 1903. Fr. Alexius Hoffmann, O.S.B., in his chronicle *History of St. John's University* for this year gives an interesting account of the occasion. "It was a great year for athletics," he wrote. "The pages of the *Record* fairly bristle with glowing reports along every line of effort. One event was well calculated to stir up a more general interest in physical development, a feature in education that is too generally disregarded. It was the Field Day held May 27, the first event of its kind in our history. On the program were a 50-yard dash, 100-yard dash, running broad jump, shot put, discus throwing, half mile relay race, not to forget the sack race" (page 130). For the next twenty years and more the track and field meet, held annually on Memorial Day, became one of the most highly featured and entertaining events on the St. John's campus.

The Memorial Track and Field Day was a truly colorful event. Faculty, students, parents and other relatives, visitors from the surrounding area, mixed together in lively camaraderie to cheer on their favorites. On some occasions even the college band paraded and led off contests with a lively marching tune. There was plenty of shouting and cheering as the spectators lined up alongside the track, urging on their favorites to muster up all the speed and power they possessed. Contestants were divided into classifications that varied according to the size and age of the individuals—from the minims of the eighth grade to the varsity athletes. Among the top groupings that offered the most interesting opposition were the Liberal Arts, known as the Seniors, and their natural enemies, the Commercials.

While no world records were broken, there were some splendid natural athletes who in a later era and with good training and coaching would match the achievements of a more favored time. One especially talented runner and all-around athlete, Robert Hackner, '14, was the St. John's record holder in the 100-yard dash at 9.8 seconds until 1967 when his record was broken by David Lamm, '68, by a new 9.5 dash. Among the strongest contestants was Edward Callanan, '08 (father of Ed Callanan, '39, the first football "All-American" in St. John's history) .

The first awards presented to winners in the various events were ribbons, probably because they lacked the funds for more expensive testimonials. Later, however, a loving cup was given to the highest individual winner at the meet. Lower awards were ,gold, silver and bronze medals. One year a gold watch was awarded the highest winner of the day.

Track remained strictly an intramural or inter-hall sport for the next seventeen years, although back in 1908 plans had been made to engage in intercollegiate competition with other colleges in the state. In the 1908 "Annual of the St. John's Athletic Association" (pp. 37-38) we read that a varsity track team was organized: "Immediately after the Christmas holidays a track team was organized. As this was the first attempt of the Athletic Association to foster this important branch of athletics, nothing remarkable was accomplished, although the past few months have demonstrated beyond all doubt that within a few years time track and field athletics will be one of the leading features at St. John's. . . . At present, arrangements are underway to promote dual meets with the best schools in the state, and, if plans materialize, the coming year will be a strenuous one for the track team" (*ibid.*, pp. 37-38), All the A.A. succeeded in doing was to arrange an indoor track meet with the St. Paul Y.M.C.A. in the St. Paul Auditorium. The St. John's trackmen did not fare well in the meet and hence the promoters could have been discouraged from going further with their plans for fostering track relations with other schools.

Another reason, and possibly the true one for not proceeding with track, was that the plans referred to above to construct an entirely new playing field for all sports where now is the football field, had been abandoned by the St. John's administration. The field was to have been 650 x 240 feet with a track around the football field. It was to have a 220-yard straightaway, with banked corners around the ends of the field. For some reason only the football field was built, doubtless to the intense disappointment of the students' Athletic Association.

The end result was that the Memorial Field Day Celebration was the only official track event of the entire year.

A new spirit swept over the campus when in 1920 St. John's entered the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. An indication that track was to become an intercollegiate sport was the decision of the administration to extend the football field to about the same dimensions as had been planned in 1908. The work was completed in the summer of 1921 by Bro. Thomas' crew of workmen, and St. John's began looking forward to a new era of intercollegiate football and track, to supplement the intercollegiate program in basketball and baseball initiated in 1914.

St. John's did not enter a track meet immediately in 1921. Fr. Albert Heuring, O.S.B., the athletic director at the time, ventured to select four men whom he would send to the 1921 track meet at Northfield to compete in the annual MIAC track meet held every spring on one of the member college campuses. The men selected were John McNally, a freshman (the future "Johnny Blood" of pro-football fame and member of the Professional Football Hall of Fame), Douglas Ormond, Marcel Haines and Bernard Decker. Coach was Robert "Bob" Hartigan, a transfer student from the College of St. Thomas who had an exceptionally fine record as a dash man and hurdler in high school circles. Though he was no older than the students under him, he did a good job in organizing a short training program in preparation for the MIAC meet.

In the MIAC state meet held at St. Olaf, John McNally took first place in the high jump at 5 feet, 6;4 inches. Douglas Ormond placed third in the 100-yard dash-St. John's modest introduction to MIAC track competition. McNally and Ormond were awarded monogram letters in recognition of their placing in MIAC competition. At the conclusion of the Memorial Day intramural tournament held at St. John's the silver loving cup was awarded to John McNally for the highest number of individual points. Marcel Haines won the silver medal; Douglas Ormond, Bernard Decker and Curtis Houck received bronze medals.

- 1922 -

The year 1922 found St. John's again sending a small contingent of four men to the state meet at Hamline: Captain Marcel Haines, John McNally, Douglas Ormond and Bernard Decker. Preparations for the meet differed from those of 1921 in that the athletes were entirely self-coached. In fact, the lack of systematic training showed up in the meager 6;4 points they garnered. They placed as follows:

Ormond: 3rd in the 100 yard dash, 5th in the 220

McNally: 3rd in both the high jump and the broad jump

Decker: 4th in the javelin throw

The four men were disappointed, as was natural, though the pain was mitigated by the realization that they could have done better had their training been thorough. McNally missed first place in the broad jump by overstepping the take-off board by one inch. Decker could have placed higher had he too not overstepped the throwing line. Marcel Haines, though as fast as any other runner at the meet, was handicapped by slow reactions to the starting gun, as was shown later when the fault was corrected. In the Memorial Field Day Celebration he was top man with 31 points, ahead of McNally with his 27 points, Conrad Diekmann (later Fr. Conrad, O.S.B.) 20, Ormond 17, Decker 17, Hugh Connor 17, Albert Schneider 11 and Peter Juba 3.

Awards for the Memorial Day meet were the following: Haines, for first place, the loving cup; McNally, the silver medal; Conrad Diekmann, the bronze medal. Five local records were broken at this meet: Haines lowered the times of the 440 and 220 hurdles, McNally the 220 dash, and Decker bettered the old marks for the pole vault and the discus throw.

The entertaining feature of the meet was John McNally's first mile race. It was no surprise to anyone who knew him when he suddenly announced his intention to run the mile race. One of the upper division trackmen, like the man with the towel in a boxer's corner, advised him how to run it: "Follow close behind Brown (the favorite for winning the event) until in the last lap he begins his 'kick' -then give it all you've got." McNally followed orders to the letter through all the three quarters of the race until, around midway in the fourth quarter, he became curious to know when Brown would start his "kick." Finally, when passing Brown at the final 220 yards before the finish line he called out: "Brown, when are you

going to begin your kick?" But there was no reply from Brown, who throughout the race had been keeping ahead of McNally and had no kick left. McNally then took off, shot ahead of Brown, and with a magnificent burst of speed, sprinted the last hundred yards and finished in a blaze of glory. It was quite a show! Mac always had by a gift of nature a vivid sense of the dramatic!

- 1923 -

St. John's did not take part in the MIAC track meet in 1923, probably because of the lack of a track coach and the mediocre showings in the 1921-22 seasons. Although the track doings in 1923 had no direct

bearing on intercollegiate track, the year deserves special attention because of John McNally, one of the greatest trackmen in St. John's history. It was in this year he demonstrated his native genius and the physical gifts that eventually led to his enshrinement in the Professional Football Hall of Fame at Canton, Ohio, in 1963.

John McNally was an unusual person both physically and intellectually. He was very precocious in his early years and graduated from high school at the age of fourteen. But he was small, and his parents, who thought him too young to mingle in college groupings, kept him out of college for three years, during which time he read voraciously and learned something about business practices and how to type. He himself said that when he started to grow he shot up fast.

When McNally enrolled at St. John's in 1920 he was tall and compactly built but slender. He quickly manifested his fine intellectual interests and his surprising athletic ability. Although he had never played on athletic teams in high school, he made the college basketball and football teams as a freshman. At the same time he was selected by the editor of the college magazine as one of the staff writers of the *Record*. He was also a member of the yearbook staff and was simultaneously elected to the captaincy of the newly organized track team. In his three years at St. John's he won three letters each in football and basketball, two in track and two in baseball. He was St. John's first four-letterman, participating in four different sports and starring in each.

John McNally had a free, blithe spirit that never allowed a difficulty to quench his thirst for adventure. When 1923 rolled around he was twenty years of age, mentally and physically mature and ready to undertake any feat ever accomplished by mankind, from the philosophy of Plato (who was a wrestler) to winning the decathlon of the Olympic games. The latter offered him a challenge that called for action. However he got the idea of making the Memorial Day track and field events as a sort of decathlon opportunity only John himself knows. At any rate, he left the baseball diamond for the day and eyed the Memorial Day activities as a marvelous opportunity to test his skills, his speed, strength and endurance.

There was a total of thirteen events in the Memorial Day meet, twelve of which McNally entered. The only event in which he did not compete was the shot put, possibly because it conflicted with one of the other events that he preferred. Of the twelve events he competed in, he won first place in nine and second places in three, as follows:

First place: 120 high hurdles, 220 low hurdles, high jump, broad jump, mile run, half-mile run, 440 dash, pole vault, discus throw

Second place: 100 yard dash, 220 yard dash, javelin throw

At the conclusion of the meet, Fr. Virgil Michel, O.S.B., professor of philosophy, presented McNally with the silver loving cup as winner of the highest number of points. Since this was John's last year at St.

John's, Fr. Virgil concluded with a special encomium in his honor as a scholar and athlete, the first athlete in St. John's history to have received letters in four different sports-football, basketball, baseball and track.

Among the many stories, both true and untrue, that hovered over the memory of John McNally was the statement that the unpredictable John, on this occasion, offered a toast to his most admired professor with his loving cup filled with the choicest of choice Minnesota 13 corn, a powerful beverage that made Holdingford famous during Prohibition days. Fr. Virgil graciously declined.

- 1924-26 -

In 1924 a new intramural system was inaugurated at St. John's which exerted considerable influence on track for several years. Mr. Edward Flynn, who resigned in 1920, returned in 1924 as athletic director, gymnastics coach, and director of the intramural system. He had had previous experience with the old traditional league system and was acquainted with its good qualities as well as its defects. The new system he now instituted was called the "Spike and Cleat Fraternity of St. John's." It operated in the form of three clubs or chapters (Alpha, Gamma, Delta) that elected its officers for the term of a year at the beginning or the closing of an academic year. The officers then served as administrators of the fraternity for a year. The Spike and Cleat Fraternity was highly successful and undoubtedly was the pride and joy of its creator. Meanwhile track was abandoned.

In 1926, however, the athletic director was confronted with the problem of satisfying the students' request for participation in conference track and tennis. Coach Bill Houle was eager to take over track and make it a major sport on the St. John's campus, but he had been too much occupied coaching the baseball team and *too* busy to organize a track team. Austin Quinn, a student interested in track, was delegated to carry out some form of track training, but apparently was without much authority to make decisions. Since there was little time before the annual MIAC track meet at Hamline, Athletic Director Flynn conceived the plan of calling for a chapter-wide Field Day meet of the Spike and Cleat Fraternity through which six men with the highest number of points would be chosen to represent St. John's at the MIAC meet.

The results of the elimination tournament were about what could be expected. The top trackmen who emerged were all runners. St. John's was unprepared at the time to provide the students with the expert coaching of specialties in the hurdles, the throwing of the discus or the shot put, the high jump and the pole vault-all the field events that make up a large track and field meet. To add to the problem, one runner, Dan Buscher, broke an ankle sliding in baseball practice and could not attend the meet, which left only five competitors.

Harold Lien, a baseball pitcher, took fourth place in the 100-yard dash, Austin Quinn fourth in the 220. Roman Niedzielski, who was in second place and gaining in the 440 when he was spiked rounding the curve, had to settle for sixth place. Norbert Schoenecker failed to place in the mile and Elmer Ethen in the half-mile. Yet, everything considered, St. John's did very well. The talent for track competition was there on the campus awaiting development.

- 1927-31 -

The history of track at St. John's for the years 1927-31 can be best presented in a rapid review. The well-intentioned plans of Bill Houle to revive interest in track and establish it as a major sport failed to survive into 1927. There was certainly apathy on the part of the student body as a whole, but it was intensified by the greater apathy of the *Record* sportswriters who devoted all the sport space to football, basketball, baseball and tennis-the last-named coming up for attention at that time through the

propaganda work of the tennis enthusiasts. A mild revival of interest in track took place in 1929 with the appointment of newly graduated George Durenberger to the athletic staff. Following the system devised by former Director of Athletics Edward Flynn for the choice of a track team by a process of elimination in a Spike and Cleat field day meet, "Big George" secured only one really dedicated trackman to send to the MIAC meet at Macalester College. George Fairbanks (now Fr. Florian, O.S.B., of Assumption Abbey in North Dakota) was his single point-getter. Fairbanks took second place in the half-mile and fourth in the 440.

In 1930 St. John's again sent a track group to Hamline for the annual meet. Once more George Fairbanks was the sole point winner. He placed third in the mile event and second in the two-mile, losing first place by only one step. Fairbanks' five points tied with St. Thomas' five for fifth place in the conference.

There is no report of interest or competition in track for the year 1931. In 1932, however, George Durenberger, who was now director of athletics, appointed William Arth, a student, to the position of track coach. In order to awaken interest in track, that spring he purchased new equipment in the hope of arousing at least the curiosity of the student body. The fact that Arth was a regular on the 1931 baseball team would seem to indicate that there was little active response on the part of the coach to the training of the squad, a group of eight aspirants to honors on the track: Al Schoeneberger, Regis Klaras, Matthias Himsl, Albert Schaefer, "Red" McBride, Theodore Korolewski, George Donaldson and "Bud" Black.

The meet took place on May 28, 1932, which happens to have been close to the last few days of the school year, a fact that accounts for the absence of any report on the conference meet results in the *Record*.

- 1933 -

There are no records available of track activities in 1933.

- 1934 -

St. John's had long ceased to consider track a viable intercollegiate sport on the campus when, in 1934, Bernard "Sparky" Coyle took over the coaching reins. The reasons for the neglect of track at St. John's must have been manifold, though the basic ones were doubtless the matter of finances and the lack of a qualified, dedicated coach who had experience in the organizing and the training of a track team. Coach Coyle was a graduate of the St. John's Prep School, but following graduation in the days of the Great Depression he was unable to continue his work at St. John's. He first attended Minot Teachers' College of North Dakota, then secured an athletic scholarship in basketball and track at Loyola University in Chicago, where he played on both the basketball and track teams. In a meeting with Athletic Director George Durenberger, after a year at Loyola, he arranged to finish his college work at St. John's, working in the athletic director's office and coaching the track team.

"Sparky," as he was named, was aware of the deficiencies of the St. John's track program. His objective was more than the selection of the highest point winners in a field day meet to represent St. John's in the MIAC meet, but rather the development of a well-balanced team through a tough training program. With the cooperation of "Big George" he placed the track program on a solid, point-winning basis the training of several individual performers in each of the events that make up a full track tournament.

Out of the large number of candidates who signed up for the team, Sparky settled on fifteen who would mesh together in what could be called his first stringers. His first dual meet was with Holdingford High

School, the only opposition available at the time, which he overwhelmed by a score of 103-507'1'. He next defeated St. Cloud T.C. in a second dual meet 537'1'-327'11 n. this latter meet Joseph Marx (later Fr. Michael O.S.B.) ran the 100-yard dash in ten seconds flat.

But a full track team is not created in one season! The team did not fare so well in the state meet held at Macalester May 26, partly because of the superiority of such well established track teams as the Macalester and St. Olaf entries, partly because of the comparatively few trained men St. John's could enter at this stage in their development. St. John's scored 15-5/6 points to finish in fourth place. It was not a high score, but it outnumbered the points that had been gathered in all past conference meets put together.

At this meet took place the much disputed "victory" of St. Olaf's Newby over Joseph Marx. Marx led Newby the whole distance from the firing of the gun to the finish line. It was the opinion of the entire crowd and of Joe himself that it was he who had broken the finish line. The judges themselves were puzzled, but since Newby was the pregame favorite, they finally solved the mystery by declaring Newby winner, with Marx and Macalester's Wilson tied for second place. St. John's is still convinced that Marx was the winner. In recognition of Coach Coyle's achievement the *Record* expressed the appreciation of St. John's: "This fine showing is a tribute to the efforts of Student-Coach Coyle who took an inexperienced squad and in two months developed it into the best track team that has ever represented St. John's" (*Record*, May 31, 1934).

Individual results: Bernard Coyle, 1st in high jump; Math Himsl, 1st in discus; Joseph Marx, 2nd in 100 dash; Joseph Conroy, 3rd in 440 dash; Albert Schaefer, 4th in discus; George Nemmers, 4th in high jump

Roster: Bernard Coyle, Joseph Conroy, William Davini, Matthias Himsl, Daniel Kelly, Lawrence McArthur, Joseph Marx, Edwin Maus, Richard Maus, James Murphy, George Nemmers, Albert Schaefer

Conference standing: Macalester 607'1'. St. Olaf 407'1'. Ramline 22. St. John's 15-5/6. St. Thomas 14, Gustavus 8

- 1935 -

In 1935 track came into its own as a recognized varsity sport. The success of Sparky Coyle had attracted the attention of the faculty and student body alike. A new cinder track had been constructed during the summer of 1934 and Athletic Director George Durenberger had purchased new hurdles and all the necessary equipment for a full-scale meet on the Johnnie campus. Big George was now able to plan his own long-cherished ambition to inaugurate the District 19 High School Invitational Track and Field Meet that was held for the first time in 1939 on the new track.

The year 1935 is memorable also as the first time St. John's entered a full track team in the MIAC track meet. The fifteen-man team of 1934 had done very well, but it was still too small in number to attain the number of points sufficient for a conference championship. Coach Coyle planned two meets to precede the state meet, the first, a triangular meet between St. Thomas, St. Cloud T.C. and St. John's; the second a dual meet with St. Cloud. The plan was to gain a higher rating through a larger number of point winners who had been well tested before meeting the MIAC track "powers."

Unfortunately, bad weather forced the cancellation of the triangular meet. In the mid-May dual meeting with St. Cloud T.C. the Jays won by a decisive score of 70-56. The score proved in the end to be a false prognosis for the MIAC track meet that was to follow on the following week. St. John's found itself pitted against the powerful, wellbalanced Macalester team that ran up a score of 58 points, more than double

the score of its nearest competitor. The Johnnies had to settle for ten points and fourth place in the MIAC track standings.

St. John's was satisfied with the outcome, however. "The Johnnies staged a gallant fight all the way in spite of the veteran competition," reported the *Record*, "but were forced to be content with a mere ten points." The report continued: "Al Schaefer made the best showing for St. John's by taking second in the discus. The high jump was a bitterly fought event, but Sparky Coyle did well enough to win a tie for third place. Fred Cary gave a good account of himself against the best hurdlers the conference had to offer, taking fourth place." Raymond Lang placed fourth in the javelin, as also Edwin Maus in the 440. The relay team came in with fourth place.

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- 1936 -

Bernard "Sparky" Coyle graduated in 1935 and was succeeded as track coach by Fred Cary, a three-letter winner from Technical High School, St. Cloud, where he had starred in the low and high hurdles, the dashes and the relay. His specialty was hurdling, however. Fred Cary was an enthusiast like Coach Coyle, and like him determined to raise the quality of track at St. John's. In his second year as coach in 1937 he extended his coaching activities to writing a weekly column in the *Record* entitled "Cinders"—"to spread the gospel of track," in called his first stringers. His first dual meet was with Holdingford High School, the only opposition available at the time, which he overwhelmed by a score of 103-507'1". He next defeated St. Cloud T.C. in a second dual meet 537'1"-327'11". In this latter meet Joseph Marx (later Fr. Michael O.S.B.) ran the 100-yard dash in ten seconds flat.

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sake of arousing interest in a sport that, unfortunately, was not as well understood as were the traditional sports of football, baseball and basketball.

Faced with over thirty candidates for positions on the squad, Coach Cary established a "Big Brothers" system, according to which each veteran picked out a man from among the newcomers and trained and guided him through the fundamentals of his particular event. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and a triangular meet with St. Thomas, St. Cloud T.C. and St. John's had to be cancelled. As a result the team entered the MIAC state meet without a workout with any competition other than the routine practice on the field. Under the circumstances, the team fared well in taking fifth place behind St. Olaf, Macalester, St. Thomas and Hamline, in that order, but ahead of Gustavus and Concordia.

Individual results: Captain Ray Lang, 2nd place, javelin; Sylvester Burke, 3rd place, 100 yard dash and 4th place, 220 dash; Edwin Maus, 4th place, 440 dash; Adolph Prickril, 4th place, 2 mile; Emerson Hynes, 4th place, pole vault; Bernard Hennig, 4th place, broad jump

Roster: Robert Ahlgren, Stanley Boyle, William Davini, Adrian Donlin, Robert Effing, Robert Halverson, Lyle Hartman, Bernard Hennig, Lawrence McArthur, George Nemmers, James O'Keefe, Ben Palubicki, Albert Perrizo, Gary Roggenbuck, Guido Sartori, Jerome Sauer, Anthony Schultheis, Joseph Snizek, Raymond Tembrock, Michael Umatum

Conference standing: St. Olaf 1st, Macalester 2nd, St. Thomas 3rd, Hamline 4th, St. John's 5th, Gustavus 6th, Concordia 7th

- 1937-

The first competition of the track team for 1937 was the annual MIAC indoor meet held in March in the University of Minnesota field house. It was St. John's first indoor track meet since 1908 when the St. John's Athletic Association scheduled a contest with the St. Paul YMCA.

Coach Cary brought six men to the meet. There were five veterans and one freshman in the group, the last named James Roche, the most promising trackman among the freshmen. Despite the small number of contestants, St. John's did very well, taking fourth place behind Macalester, Hamline and Concordia, in that order. Macalester took first place with 42 points, Hamline 30, Concordia 27 and St. John's 24. The *Record* did not report the scores of the three remaining participating schools.

Individual results: 60 yard dash-James Roche 1st, Sylvester Burke 2nd; high hurdles-Fred Cary 2nd; broad jump-Raymond Lang 3rd, James Roche 4th; half-mile relay-St. John's 1st (Burke, Lang, Maus, Roche

Quadrangular Outdoor Meet

The first outdoor meet (quadrangular) with St. Thomas, Hamline, St. Cloud T.C. and St. John's was for the Johnnies a spectacular success, the high point of Cary's coaching career, as well as the highest point at this time in St. John's track history. It was a thrilling meet, a close battle between well-matched teams. The winner was decided only in the last event, the mile relay. This last event found St. Cloud and St. John's tied with 42 points and Hamline with 40. The winner of the relay would be high point team of the meet.

Members of the St. John's relay team were all veterans-Si Burke, John Moore, James Murphy and anchor man, Captain Edwin Maus. As told by the *Record*, Maus was running in the last place at the start of the final quarter-mile lap of the relay. "He hung on doggedly around the loop and put on a beautiful sprint in

the last few yards to pass Johnson of Hamline and finish first by inches" (*Record*, May 30, 1937). The victory of the relay team was the final test of the stamina, the team spirit, and the pure will-to-win of Coach Cary's teams.

Individual results: Si Burke, 1st in 100 yard dash and 200 dash; James Roche, 3rd in 100 and 200, 3rd in low hurdles; John Kiewel, 4th in 100 dash; Nicholas Stoffel, 1st in shot put; Joseph Wolf, 4th in mile; John Moore, 4th in half-mile; Emerson Hynes, 2nd in pole vault; Fritz Schneider, 2nd in pole vault; Ray Lang, 3rd in javelin; Edwin Maus, 2nd in 440 dash; Fred Cary, 2nd in high hurdles, 4th in low hurdles; relay-Burke, Moore, Murphy, Maus

Records are unavailable for the MIAC tournament at the end of the year, other than that St. John's garnered only 13 points for a fifth place standing in the MIAC. Si Burke took first place in the 220 and second in the 100 dash.

Roster: Sylvester Burke, Fred Cary, Emerson Hynes, John Kiewel, Raymond Lang, John McNeil, Edwin Maus, John Moore, James Roche, Gary Roggenbuck, Cyril Runnoe, Frank "Fritz" Schneider, Nicholas Stoffel, Leonard Terwey, Leonard Van Hoof, Joseph Wolf

- 1938 -

Student-coach Fred Cary did not return to St. John's in the fall of 1937 and was replaced by John Uldrich as track coach. Uldrich, a former track star in the East, both in high school and college, was older than the young trackmen. His running days were over as he was accumulating credits in preparation for a career in secondary education. He was an exacting technician and insisted on the minutiae-the right form, good footwork, posture and rhythm. He was also a hard driver and it was not long before a chance saying of his became a sort of byword: "You want to win! Well, that word *triumph* has two parts: *try* and *umph*."

Track training began in the fall with cross-country, the first official reference at St. John's to this sport as distinct from track. Spring training began early in March, a long-desired possibility that had become real with the rebuilding and enlargement of the gymnasium in the summer of 1937.

John Uldrich was a man to shoot high. As an incentive to hard work and a goal he called the trackmen's attention to the National Collegiate Track and Field Meet to be held at the University of Minnesota in June. Then, for 1939 there were to be the Drake Relays. The immediate goal, however, was for each man to improve his record of the year before.

In the first meet between St. Thomas, St. Cloud T.C. and St. John's, the Johnnies tied St. Cloud with identical scores of 67; 1' points, with St. Thomas scoring 24. Several St. John's records were broken by the SJU tracksters: Ed Schnettler in the mile (4 :57), Jean Ochert in the discus (128 feet), and the mile relay team made up of Al Fonder, Gary Roggenbuck, Robert Fitzgerald and Si Burke, in 3 :36.8.

In the second meet St. John's lost to Hamline by a score of 78-53, with St. John's taking seven first places, four second places and six third places. Captain Si Burke scored 11; 1' points himself in two first place wins.

The third meet, a dual meet with St. Cloud T.C., ended with a victory for St. John's with scores of 68-57. Francis "Fritz" Schneider was high point man with wins in the pole vault, the high jump and the running broad jump. Ed Schnettler broke the local 880 record with a run of 2 minutes, 8; 1' seconds.

In the MIAC meet held at Hamline, however, St. John's garnered a disappointing nineteen points for

fourth place. St. John's failed to take first place in any of the events. Captain Si Burke took second in the 100 and the 220 dashes, Schnettler third in the half-mile, and Jean Ochert and Nicholas Stoffel second and third places respectively in the shot put.

Strange to say, Coach Uldrich did not appear to be overly discouraged. He attributed the poor showing mainly to the lack of experience. Definite improvement had been made and he was satisfied that by 1939 St. John's was going to give the other colleges in the MIAC a close run for the championship, if not actually win it.

Roster: Pierre Backes, (?) Barrett, William Browne, Captain Si Burke, Fred Cary, Thomas Felion, Aelred "Al" Fonder, Peter Gadiant, Richard Hermann, Bernard LePage, Bernard Lorsung, Orvell Lundby, Linus Mercil, Charles Nielson, Ralph Oby, Jean Ockert, Donald Robideau, Gary Roggenbuck, Francis "Fritz" Schneider, Edward Schnettler, Nicholas Stoffel, Leander Van Hoof, Conrad Winter

- 1939 -

Coach John Uldrich's ambitions for a conference track championship at St. John's were crowned with success in 1939. The long haul from fourth place in 1934 and 1935, fifth in 1936 and 1937, fourth again in 1938 was finally climaxed by first place and the championship in 1939. The 1939 championship was not easily won by any means. The Johnnies won over second place St. Olaf by the tiny margin of one point, 56-1/5-55-1/5. They needed every second, third, fourth, and even Jerry German's fifth place win in the 440 to build up the 56-1/5 points that clinched the title.

Actually, the 1939 title was the logical conclusion of six years of building, beginning with Sparky Coyle in 1934, continued into the 1936-37 period of Fred Cary's coaching, and finally concluded in the canny handling of patient, methodical, tough John Uldrich in 1938 and 1939. It had been a matter of attracting the attention of talented athletes to track, back in 1934, first of all, and then building up a sound, well-balanced team according as each trackman for six years succeeded in contributing team pride and morale as well as his achievement in steady year-to-year progress. Not to be ignored was the stellar writing of Homer "Rod" Hurd, football, basketball and tennis player and St. John's U-time greatest sports reporter, whose fluent pen and engaging wit made the track season the most interesting spring activity on the St. John's campus. Likewise, the return of Fred Cary in 1939 to complete his college work was a strong morale boost because of his enthusiasm and proficiency in the hurdles.

The 1939 track program was made up of four meets, the first of which was a dual meet with Macalester College won by a score of 67- 61. Homer Hurd, the *Record* sports columnist, called it "the most thrilling dual meet ever staged on the St. John's track. The fans ate it up!" Jim Boyd, an ex-Prep School star, who was a member of the baseball team, took off his spikes after the end of a conference baseball game to take part in the meet and ran the high hurdles in his stocking feet; he won third place in the event. Jim Roche ran the 220-yard dash in baseball spikes and uniform to finish in third place.

Next, in a triangular meet with Hamline and St. Thomas, St. John's out-scored its opponents decisively: Hamline 70-64, St. Thomas 70-28. The last meet before the conference tournament was a dual meet with St. Cloud T.C., won by St. John's by a score of 71-53. In this meet St. John's was first place victor in ten events.

One of the most thrilling events of the meet was the mile relay. Earlier in the season St. John's had won over the strong Macalester relay team, but St. Olaf was strong too, and in the state meet dropped the Johnnie relay men (Cary, Roggenbuck, Burke and German) into a second place finish. The scores of St. Olaf and St. John's were so close, however, that St. John's, by taking second place in the relay, nevertheless squeezed out the one point advantage that won for them first place in the meet and the

championship..

Individual results: relay-St. John's 2nd (Cary, Roggenbuck, Schnettler, Burke); discus-Ockert 1st; pole vault-Schneider 3rd; 100 dash-Roche-Burke 1st (tied); 120 high hurdles-Cary 3rd; 880 run-Schnettler 3rd; shot put-Stoffel 2nd, Ockert 4th; mile run-Schnettler 3rd; 440 dash~German 5th; high jump-Schneider 3rd; 220 hurdles-Cary 1st, Roche 3rd; broad jump-Schneider 4th; 220 dash-Burke 1st, Roche 3rd

Roster: Pierre Backes, Andrew Boffenkamp, Captain Sylvester "Si" Burke, Fred Cary, Joseph Connelly, Peter Gadiant, Jerome German, Richard Hermann, Duane Jennings, Bernard Lorenz, Donald Robideau, James Roche, Gary Roggenbuck, Francis Schneider, Edward Schnettler, Robert Sibinski, Nicholas Stoffel, Leonard Van Hoof, Adrian Winkler

Conference standing: St. John's 56-1/5, St. Olaf 55-1/5, Hamline 39-1/5, Gustavus 19-1/5, St. Thomas 13-1/5

- 1940 -

All-state football star Vernon McGree, who had assisted John Uldrich in 1939, was appointed to coach the track team in 1940. Coach McGree was faced with one of those most frustrating tasks of a new coach who is taking over a team following a championship year, and especially when most of the stars were seniors and no longer with the club. Gone were six of the highest point-getters of 1939. There were no illusions! It was frankly understood that, with only four point-getters returning, the new coach would have to depend on a few talented freshmen who had matriculated in the fall of 1939. Prominent among these freshmen were William Fahnlander, Everett Kulas, Robert Stone, Herbert McKnight, and a promising weight man, Clarence Grell.

Contrary to what had been at first feared, the 1940 season results were better than had been expected. After winning the first two preliminary meets without much trouble, the team spirit climbed high. The team finished the season following the state meet in fourth place and a score of 26½. points.

In preparation for the MIAC meet Coach McGree scheduled three preliminary meets. In the first, a triangular held at St. John's early in May, the Johnnies captured first place with 66 points, followed by St. Thomas with 58 and St. Cloud T.C. 35. Captain Roche garnered 16 points individually. The Johnnies overall won eight first places, five seconds, five thirds and one fourth place.

The second meet (between St. Cloud and St. John's) was also an impressive victory of 80 points versus 46 by St. Cloud.

Unfortunately for St. John's, the third and most important meet scheduled to be held at St. Olaf with the Oles and Macalester was cancelled at an inopportune moment because of poor field conditions. The Johnnies had traveled to St. Olaf, were dressed and on the track when the cancellation was announced. The cancellation was more than a mere disappointment, for Coach McGree had planned to acquaint his freshmen with the strange field, one of the handicaps his freshmen had found most trying in previous contests. Moreover, it was a disadvantage for the coach himself, since he had never had the opportunity to see in action the two powers of the conference, St. Olaf and Macalester, and, therefore, was unable to pair his runners effectively.

Conference standing: St. Olaf 65, Macalester 49 1/2, St. Thomas 33, St. John's 26 ½, Hamline, 21, Concordia 5 ½, St. Mary's 2

Roster: Eldred Cleare, Donald Coome, Jos. Connelly, Stephen Delyea, Wm. Fahnländer, Aelred Fonder, Jerome German, Clarence Grell, Herbert McKnight, Benno Marx, John Ollman, Captain James Roche, Edward Schnettler, Nicholas Stoffel, Robert Stone, Norbert Vos, Alex Winkler, Edward Zins, Everett Kulas

Individual results: 220 yard dash-Roche 1st; 100 dash-Roche 3rd; 220 hurdles- Roche 5th; 440 dash-Stone 2nd; 440 dash-German 5th; mile run-Schnettler 4th; half-mile- Kulas 5th; mile relay- St. John's 4th; shot put- Stoffel 2nd; shot put- Grell 5th; broad jump- Connelly 3rd

- 1941 -

At the beginning of the track season in 1941 Coach Vernon McGree and Captain-elect Edward Schnettler were greeted by thirty-five aspirants for the team. Of these only seventeen survived the try-outs and the training period, leaving the coach with eight veterans from 1940 and nine freshmen, some of the latter with genuine athletic talent and ambition.

From the beginning there were no illusions regarding a championship. Of the eight holdovers from 1940, six were runners, one a broad jumper, and another a weight man. Almost completely lacking were the hurdlers, high jump and pole vault experts, javelin and discus throwers, so necessary to produce a well-balanced team. For these, the coach had to depend on what talent he could find among the freshmen. Among them, however, he found a wiry speedster named Wallace Wellenstein, from Albany, who turned out to be the fastest 100-yard dash man in the conference, the only competitor who consistently won the 100-yard dash in the meets, including the state meet at the close of the school year.

Two track meets, both triangular, preceded the conference classic held at Hamline. In the first, St. John's took second place behind Macalester (the favorite for the title) with a score of 49 points behind Macalester's 70. Hamline followed St. John's closely with a score of 46. In a second triangular meet with St. Thomas and Gustavus, St. John's again had to settle for second place behind St. Thomas with a score of 59 to the former's 65 ½ Gustavus finished at 38 ½.

The MIAC tournament held at Hamline on May 24 was not St. John's day by any means. Hamline came out on top with 58 points, Macalester 38 and St. John's in third place with 12y. points. Wally Wellenstein was the only St. John's participant who ran according to form. He took first place in the 100-yard dash at IOA with little difficulty. But Kenneth Gillette, who had jumped six feet in the preliminary meets, took fifth place. Joseph Connelly, who had broad jumped 21 feet and more consistently throughout the training period, won third place despite the fact that the MIAC winner jumped only 20'3". Clarence "Clancy" Grell did well in the shot put with a throw of 43'9". Final proof that the St. John's tracksters had a bad day at the meet was the failure of the relay team of Schnettler, Moore, Maher and Wellenstein to place.

Roster: Joseph Connelly, William Fahnländer, Kenneth Gillette, Clarence "Clancy" Grell, Everett Kulas, Jerome Landsberger, Donald Maher, Herbert McKnight, Benno Marx, Theodore Matuseski, John Moore, John "Doc" Ollman, Edward Schnettler, Robert Stone, Robert Sweeney, Wallace Wellenstein, Harvey Zahn, Edward Zins II

- 1942 -

When in December 1941 war broke out against Japan and shortly afterwards against Germany, the problem arose whether to continue or discontinue the athletic program. At first the athletic departments of all the MIAC colleges decided to "continue as usual." By this time, however, Vernon McGree had resigned his position at St. John's and the athletic director, George Durenberger, had to take over the track team.

George had an exceptionally successful year. In three meets preliminary to the MIAC tournament in late May his team first overwhelmed St. Cloud by a score of 93-31. In a triangular meet that followed, St. John's had to be satisfied with second place behind St. Olaf (72 ½ points) with its record of 63 ½ points. Ramline dropped far behind with 18 points. In the third meet with the conference powers of the time, Macalester and St. Olaf, St. John's finished in third place- Macalester 67 points, St. Olaf 58 and St. John's 38 ½.

The MIAC Meet

We will let the Record report the outcome of the 1942 tournament: "Big George's trackmen dug their spikes into the cinders for the last time this season at the annual track meet held at Macalester and came away with 43 ½ points and third place. Macalester took the crown with 70 ½ points; St. Olaf wound up second with 60 points; St. John's was third with 43y.. St. Thomas had 22, Hamline 19, and St. Mary's 2. "The St. John's squad rang up places in all but two of the events. Dash man Fonder gave the Johnnies their one and only first place when he copped the 220 lows in 26.3 seconds. Captain Clancy Grell threw in his share of points with a second in the shot and the discus, and a fourth in the javelin.

"Victories in the dashes rolled up considerable points for the Card 'n Blue with Wellenstein, Fonder, and McKnight taking second, fourth, and fifth places respectively in the 100-yard dash, in that order. Schulte took a fourth place in the 440, and Everett Kulas did the same in the half-mile. The 2 mile saw Doc Oilman in fourth with Trettel right behind him. McKnight came in third in the broad jump. John McKenzie tied for fifth in the pole vault. Schulte, Pozorski, Kulas and Wellenstein combined to give the Johnnies second place in the mile relay. "

By fall of 1942 the draft had so reduced the enrollment that before the academic year had been completed athletics for the duration had been discontinued. Track was not resumed again until 1946.

Roster: Jerome Anderson, David Andrews, John Busch, William Demarest, Aelred "Al" Fonder, Kenneth Gillette, Clarence "Clancy" Grell, Joseph Henry, Raymond Hengel, Douglas Kern, Everett Kulas, John Link, David McKenzie, John McKenzie, Thomas Madden, Elmer Monette, Duane Nathe, Francis Niess, John "Doc" Oilman, Eugene Pozorski, George Rath, William Riley, Thomas Schulte, William Smith, Robert Stevenson, Charles Travnicek, Donald Travnicek, Jerome Trettel, Maurice Vernig, Victor Waiste, Richard Weber, Wallace Wellenstein

- 1946 -

Forty candidates answered Athletic Director George Durenberger's call for track talent in late March, 1946. With only one letterman, Wallace Wellenstein, "Big George" set about training for the season.

The competitive season opened on April 30 in a dual meet with St. Olaf. By that time the squad had been trimmed to twenty-three. Most promising among the freshmen were Lawrence "Larry" Schwietz, a former Cretin High School speedster, and Myrle Welsh, a dash man from St. James Academy, Grand Forks. The other members of the squad, mostly without previous experience in track, gradually emerged as the season developed.

In a dual meet with St. Olaf Myrle Welsh distinguished himself with seven points, followed by Larry Schwietz and Fran Miller with five each. High point of the meet was the two-mile run of Victor Tessier who, after having placed fourth in the mile, sprinted the last hundred yards for first place. The team was well balanced and well coached with eight places in thirteen events. Final score: St. John's 62 ½, St. Olaf 59 ½.

St. John's hopes for a championship looked promising until the Johnnies met Macalester in their second meet.

In the triangular meet with Macalester and St. Thomas, St. John's took third place-Macalester first with 78,Yz'points, St. Thomas 37,Yz', St. John's 35. Stand-outs for St. John's were Myrle Welsh, high point man, and Larry Schwietz. The latter ran brilliantly in the tough 440 race, the best race of the meet.

In the MIAC tournament for the championship St. John's won second place. Point winners were Larry Schwietz, Myrle Welsh and Wallace Wellenstein in the dashes, Victor Tessier in the distance runs, John Abeln and Robert Fitzgerald in the jumps, Dave Rodgers in the hurdles and Fran Miller in the weights.

The finish of the season was very creditable for the Johnnies, even though Macalester's powerful team overwhelmed all the other MIAC colleges with the following scores: Macalester 86 points, St. John's 35,Yz', St. Thomas 32,Yz',Gustavus 25, St. Olaf 23, Augsburg 23.

Roster: John Abeln, William Cofell, Homer Danduran, Robert Fitzgerald, Donald Hackert, Harris Hanson, James McComes, Vincent Malizewski, Francis Miller. John Moore, Norbert Neussendorfer, Alfred Noterman, Aurel Parenteau, Robert Pieper, Theodore Przybilski, Richard Quinlivan, David Rodgers, (?) Schmitt, Lawrence Schwietz, James Stahler, Victor Tessier, Patrick Thomas, Wallace Wellenstein, Myrle Welsh

- 1947 -

Donald Norman, a 1942 graduate who was taking courses in education for a teaching career, took over the track team in 1947. Norman had to work under handicaps from the beginning. The year 1947 marked the big exodus from the armed services that was flooding the colleges. Many of the war veteranswere ambitious to take part in athletics without as yet being in shape, either mentally or physically, for the rigors of college training. The coaching problem was increased by the lack of experienced trackmen from the previous year. Wallace Wellenstein had graduated and Myrle Welsh had not returned to school. The coach was left with only four holdovers from 1946: Larry Schwietz, Fran Miller, Harris Hanson and Donald Hackert.

Among the freshmen were a few sterling competitors such as Murnane Maenhout, a shot put stand-out; George Richter, a former St. Cloud Technical High School hurdler; William Coy, a distance runner; and Charles Kranz, a speed merchant in the 100 and 220 dashes. Out of a crowd of sixty candidates Coach Norman selected fifteen.

The regular schedule of dual and triangular meets was successful. In the first dual meet (with Gustavus) St. John's nosed out the Gusties by a score of 61-55. Men who performed well were Coy in the 880 and the mile, Schwietz and Kranz in the dashes, Schmitz in the high jump and Richter in the hurdles. Murnane Maenhout with a shot throw of 44 feet, six inches gave promise of becoming the top shot putter of the conference.

The triangular meet with Macalester and Mankato was for St. John's a day of awakening. Macalester, always a powerhouse in the conference, was grinding out another championship, a follow-up of 1946. With a score of 88 points the Macs swamped Mankato with 35 and St. John's 29.

In the remaining two preliminary meets St. Thomas defeated the Johnnies 85,Yz'-36.St. John's defeated Hamline 68-54.

The Johnnies were not only out-classed in the MIAC meet and relegated to fifth place, but were severely

handicapped by injuries to Norman McDonnell and William Coy. Schwietz and Kranz, mainstays prior to the conference meet, were nosed out of first place by the barest of margins.

Murnane Maenhout was the only first place winner with a throw of 44 feet, 3, Yz' inches. In all, St. John's placed in only five of the fourteen events of the meet and ended the season with a final MIAC score of 15 points.

Roster: William Coy, Donald Hackert, Harris Hanson, Charles Kranz, Robert Lebens, Austin "Ozzie" Loeffler, Norman McDonnell, Murnane Maenhout, Francis Miller, George Richter, Richard Schmitz, Lawrence Schwietz, John Terhaar, Francis Welters, Alvin Wichterman

Conference standing: Macalester 88, St. Thomas 47 ½, Gustavus 22 ½, Hamline 18, St. John's 15, Augsburg 6, St. Mary's 4

- 1948 -

One of the most striking seasons in the history of track at St. John's was the comeback of Larry Schwietz's team from a fifth place standing in 1947 to third place in 1948. Prospects had looked promising at the beginning of training. There were such holdovers from 1947 as Coach Schwietz and Charles Kranz, two speedsters in the 100, 220 and 440 dashes, Dick Schmitz in the high jump, John Moore in the pole vault, and sure point-winner Murnane Maenhout in the shot put. Among the freshman newcomers were several war veterans known to be solid competitors. It was hoped that luck would turn up at least two or three more point winners.

The schedule was made up of two dual meets and two triangulars in which to gain experience and learn the strengths and weaknesses of the other MIAC colleges. Reports of these preliminary meets are missing from the Record, however, and hence the information available of activities before the MIAC meet are skimpy and unreliable.

From what can be gathered, the team was made up of twenty-two contestants: five veterans and seventeen newcomers. Among the broad jumpers was William "Bill" Osborne, a champion broad jumper on his high school team at Marshall, Minnesota. He was on the college baseball team and hence did not train for track. Nevertheless, he made one jump of 20 feet, 8 inches to take third place. Unfortunately for the outcome of the MIAC meet, Murnane "Red" Maenhout had an off day and had to take second place in the shot with a throw of 44 feet, 11 31 inches, whereas he had been doing 46 feet, 3 inches prior to the MIAC meet.

Roster: John Coyne, Donald Dahl, Robert Dahms, James Griffin, Charles Kranz, Austin Loeffler, Murnane Maenhout, Richard Miller, John Moore, Werner Oehrlein, William Osborne, Joseph Rinaldi, Francis Savell, Lawrence Schwietz, John Smith, Richard Schmitz, John Spalding, Donald Seifert, Everett Trebtoske, Gerard Ulmschmid, James Zylla, Joseph Zylla

- 1949 -

The 1949 track season started out favorably with a nucleus of seven lettermen from 1948 to support the freshmen on whom Coach Larry Schwietz had to depend. The loss of Murnane Maenhout, Werner Oehrlein and Dick Schmitz left too great a gap to be filled by inexperienced freshmen. In fact, the hard work and enthusiasm of Coach Schwietz and his helpers were insufficient to compete with the powerful middle distance runners of Macalester and St. Thomas.

The superiority of St. Thomas in an undated meet was clearly demonstrated when the Tommies

overwhelmed the Johnnies by a score of 78-3/8 points to 11 by St. John's.

Later, in a triangular meet with St. Olaf and Augsburg, St. John's nosed out the Oles by a score of 52-2/3 points to 50-1/3. Augsburg, in third place, had a score of 47. Jerry Tooley in his sports column, "The Tooley Angle," conceded that "Macalester and St. Thomas have the cream of the crop in most events, and that one or the other will take the state meet" (*Record*, May 12, 1949).

St. John's emerged from the state meet in fifth place in MIAC standings. No report was made of the points scored by the contestants, but the individual performance of point winners were reported in the *Record*. Jerry Donlin took third place in the high hurdles; Van Orsow, a crack freshman miler, finished fourth in the mile run; Jack Smith was third in the shot put. Larry Schwietz, who normally was unbeatable in the 440, finished the race in fifth place. The St. John's relay team also finished in fifth place.

The absence of Captain Chuck Kranz from among the runners was probably due to an injury. It deprived the team of a potential first place in the 100-yard dash.

Roster: Daniel Coborn, Donald Dahl, Robert Dahms, Larry Donlin, Francis Goodrich, Arthur Hessburg, Charles Kranz, Patrick McHale, Charles Miller, Ray Muskat, George Pribyl, Thomas Reichert, John Rubesch, John Simonitsch, Norbert Simons, Lawrence Schwietz (coach), John Smith, John Spalding, Patrick Stafford, Duane Van Orsow, James Zylla

-1950 -

Charles "Chuck" Kranz was appointed track coach for the 1950 season, with John Spalding from Menasha, Wisconsin, as captain. Prospects for a good team looked rosy with nine lettermen holdovers from the preceding year. Among the ten newcomers who survived the initial try-outs were four St. John's Prep School track champions who had been coached by Fr. Paul Marx, O.S.B. They were Connie Schmid, "Tex" Mulcare, Peter Rother and pole vaulter Francis Kaiser. Also among the freshmen were James Schirber and Donald Rubertus, both outstanding runners with strong backgrounds in track.

Four meets had been scheduled to precede the state tournament on May 20, but all, with the exception of a May 9 meet, had been cancelled because of bad weather. Even on the eve of the May 9 meet with St. Olaf Coach Kranz complained how sorely in need of experience was his team. The Johnnies lost the meet by a score of 44 points to the 77 of St. Olaf, though the team placed four first-place winners: veteran Jack Smith in the shot put, freshman Francis Kaiser in the pole vault, Don Rubertus in the high hurdles and James "Jim" Schirber in the half mile.

The 1950 MIAC meet was a disaster for St. John's. St. Thomas, which had replaced Macalester as perennial champion and was to remain undefeated for the next four years, won the MIAC title by a record-shattering 9437 points, with ten first places. St. John's found itself in sixth place with a total of 637 points. Captain John Spalding won fourth place in the 440 dash, Kenneth Wald (now a priest in the diocese of Bismarck) took fifth place in the mile and Jim Schirber third in the half-mile.

Roster: Lawrence Donlin, Francis Kaiser, Charles "Chuck" Miller, Emmett "Tex" Mulcare, Raymond Muskat, George "Judd" Pribyl, Peter Rother, Donald Rubertus, John Rubesch, Connie Schmid, James Schirber, John Simonitsch, Robert Simons, John Smith, John Spalding (captain), Joseph Stenzel, Kenneth Wald, James Zylla

- 1951 -

When John McNally, the erstwhile Johnny Blood of pro-football fame, succeeded Joe Benda as football coach, it was taken for granted that he would coach the 1951 track team. It was not exactly a desirable assignment, for track had declined in popularity over the past three or four years and was badly in need of new motivation and management not because of the student coaches, who were victims of the system, but because the colleges that dominated the sport were headed by regular staff coaches of the athletic departments. Coach McNally had the advantage of having an especially compatible and efficient team captain, John Spalding.

What contributed to the problem of coaching track was the lack of balance in the conference. St. Thomas, with its magnificent new athletic stadium, had engaged in a crash program of climbing to the top position in the conference. Even proud Macalester was eclipsed in the shadow of its close-by rival.

1951 was the second year of the St. Thomas Relays, a meet that attracted the attention of all track colleges in the Midwest: Drake of Iowa, Bradley of Illinois, Eau Claire and LaCrosse of Wisconsin, and all the Minnesota colleges, both public and private. Among those invited to the Relays was St. John's, one of the fifteen schools that took part in the meet. St. John's emerged in sixth place, the first indication that the school was making a comeback in track. Don Rubertus took fourth place in the high hurdles, James Haas third in the 100-yard dash, James Schirber fourth in the 880 and freshman Duane Hartung fifth in the two-mile race.

That the good showing in the St. Thomas Relays raised the spirits of the Johnny representatives there could be no doubt. In an opening meet with St. Cloud T.C., St. John's won by a score of 73-48 through placings in eight events, four of which were in first place—the 440 and 880 dashes, and the mile and two-mile runs.

In a triangular meet with Hamline and Duluth, St. John's emerged in first place with a score of 67y. points, followed by Hamline with 58 and Duluth 27. First place winners were the Hartung twins, Duane and Darrell, in the two-mile race, Tex Mulcare in the mile and Stanley Turchin in the 440. Other point winners were Reichert, Rubertus and Haas.

In a dual meet with St. Olaf, won by St. John's 67-55, the Johnnies took nine first places: Jim Haas in the 100 and 220, Spalding in the 440, Larry Donlin in the high hurdles and Tom Reichert in the dashes. A quadrangular meet with Carleton, Macalester and Hamline found the Jays in third place behind Carleton (first) and Macalester.

As was expected, the power of St. Thomas was sufficient to run over the rest of the MIAC competitors with a score of 64 ½ points. St. John's finished in third place with 27 points. Freshman James Haas placed first in the 100-yard dash in :10.2 time—the first St. John's runner to place in the 100 dash since Chuck Kranz's 10-second race in 1947. Sophomore Rubertus was the third high point man of the meet with a first place in the 120-yard high hurdles (:5.4), three-tenths short of the conference record, and second place in the low hurdles. Other winners in the MIAC meet were the following:

Individual results: Emmett Mulcare, 3rd in mile; James Zylla, 5th in mile; John Spalding, 5th in 440; James Schirber, 2nd in 880; Connie Schmid, 5th in broad jump; St. John's two mile relay-3rd

Conference standing: St. Thomas 1st, Macalester 2nd, St. John's 3rd, Hamline 4th, St. Olaf 5th, Duluth 6th, Gustavus 7th, Augsburg 8th

Roster: Roger Braun, Daniel Coborn, Donald Chisholm, Mike Donahue, Robert Evans, Daniel Grandpre, Duane Hartung, Darrell Hartung, James Haas, Larry Hayes, Jerry Hovey, Robert Hintzen, Richard Kelly, Joseph Kieselbach, John Litchy, James Murphy, James Oates, Thomas Reichert, Peter Rother, Donald

Rubertus, Connie Schmid, James Schirber, John Spalding, James Thompson, Joel Tierney, Stanley Turchin, Robert Werden, Kenneth Wald, James Zylla, Emmett Mulcare, Robert Simons

- 1952 -

Track has always suffered a low rating in popularity at St. John's in comparison with the contact sports football and basketball, as Coach John McNally soon learned. The *Record* sports columnist for 1952, in recognition of the current track problem, observed that track lacked a large turn-out for positions on the squad, whereas other major sports were highly favored: "Athletes turned out by the dozen for other sports, but the track mentor was not as successful; only 18 men greeted 'the coach' on the first day" (*Record*, May 23, 1952). McNally in his low keyed protest remarked: "If I could get everyone I want (to come) out, St. John's would be represented by a strong team."

Despite the smallness of the squad, the 1952 tracksters did remarkably well, and if there had been among them the jumpers and weight men McNally wanted, the high ranking teams of the MIAC would have been pressured closely for their top positions. The Jays defeated St. Cloud T.C. in the first meet by a score of 81-44; then Hamline went down 63-58. In a later meet they were tied with Hamline 58-58 with only one relay race remaining. The SJU relay men then out-ran the Hamline runners to win the meet by the score of 63-58.

In May the Jays took second place to St. Olaf in a meet in which St. John's won six first places to the alms' four, but lacked the depth in field events to win. In this meet Jim Schirber took first place in the mile and half-mile; Michael Donahue won first place in the high hurdles and second in the low hurdles. Merlin "Boots" Wald was first in the mile run.

The most interesting meet of the year, and the one in which the quality of the SJU runners was most evident, took place at Macalester. In this meet Macalester edged St. John's for first place by only 4 ½ points (64 ½ -60). St. John's won first place in all the running events except two, but Macalester had the balance, the power in the field events—exactly the weakness that Coach McNally had observed when the athletes signed up as candidates for the team. Dick Christopherson wrote in his *Record* column of May 23, 1952: "The material had everything but depth."

Outstanding trackmen for the year were James Haas, 100 and 200 dashes, Jim Schirber, mile and half-mile, Mike Donahue in the hurdles, Larry Donlin in the hurdles, Clint Wyant in the two-mile and Merlin Wald in the mile.

Unfortunately, no record was kept of the MIAC tournament. All the information available (taken from a 1953 preview) is that Macalester won the meet, and that Larry Donlin won first place in the high hurdles. Jim Schirber won first place in the 880, breaking the old MIAC record of 1:58.1 time. St. John's finished the season in fourth place.

Roster: Francis Danduran, Michael Donahue, Larry Donlin, Daniel Grandpre, James Haas, John Kaiser, John Litchy, James Oates, Peter Rother, James Schirber, Robert Simons, Merlin Wald, Clint Wyant

- 1953 -

The cramped quarters of the old gymnasium did not permit much indoor preparations for the track season. Hence it was that the 1953 track hopefuls had only a few days of preparation for the March 9 MIAC indoor meet on the University of Minnesota field house floor. In the contest between St. Thomas, Carleton, Macalester and St. John's, the Jays took fourth place with eleven points. Coach McNally

was satisfied, however, for he had been looking for field men to supplement his fine runners. He needed jumpers, pole vaulters, shot and discus throwers. John Kaiser had been his sole hope in field events the previous year, but now he could see potential in freshmen Bob King in the pole vault and Jerry Howard in the high jump. McNally's doubts about a successful season were tempered by a ray of hope.

In a quadrangular meet held at Hamline, St. John's lost to the first place Pipers 57-49. Ironically, St. John's won five first places to four by Hamline, but, as in 1952, the team lacked the depth to win the deciding points. Point winners were Mike Donahue, first in both the 120 and 220 hurdles; Jim Schirber, first in the half-mile and second in the 440; Merle Wald ran first in the mile and third in the 220 dash; Robert King, second in the 120 low hurdles, second in the pole vault, fourth in the 220-yard hurdles; Clint Wyant and Mike O'Fallon were first and second in the two-mile run. Meet standings were as follows: Hamline, first, with 57 points, St. John's second with 49, Gustavus third, 24, and Augsburg fourth with 11 points.

In a five-team meet held at St. Thomas involving several of the MIAC colleges, St. John's took second place with 55 points to the Tommies' first place with 106 points. Shortly thereafter the Jays engaged the Macs in a dual meet and lost 74-48. Jim Schirber won both the mile and the half-mile races, Mike Donahue the high hurdles, Clint Wyant the two-mile run, Paul Mohrbacher second, and John Fitzgerald third in the two-mile.

Considered objectively, the 1953 team was in some ways an enigma. From the beginning, the squad was too few in numbers to possess the balance between track and field events so needed to pick up the third, fourth, and even fifth place points that often decide championships in track. On the other hand, it had the top middle distance runner in the state in Jim Schirber and a top-flight hurdler in Mike Donahue, as well as Clint Wyant and Merlin Wald in the mile and two-mile. With a little luck, it could have done much better.

The MIAC Meet

St. John's finished fourth in the MIAC championship meet. Jim Schirber continued his accustomed mastery over the middle distance races with a record-breaking 4 :26 mile, and first place in the 880. Pole vaulter John Kaiser placed second in this event, Bob Hunt took fourth in the 440 and Mike Donahue had the bad luck to trip over a hurdle when about twenty yards from the finish line while leading the pack. Merlin Wald finished the 880 in second place, a half step behind Schirber.

It was in a way sheer coincidence that in 1953 John McNally was the coach and Jim Schirber the pupil. 1953 was the thirtieth anniversary of the year when Coach McNally established himself as the outstanding track star in St. John's early track history. Jim Schirber was likewise the greatest of his time. The July 24, 1953 issue of the *Record* commemorates the coincidence under the heading "Schirber and Mc- Nally Reign." The writer pays generous tribute to the two trackmen: "A familiar sight last spring was Coach John McNally on the edge of the cinder track timing Jim Schirber as the Johnnie star trained for the state meet. Schirber has established himself as the greatest track man in St. John's history, having broken four all-time St. John's records and holding the all-time Minnesota Conference marks in the half mile (1:56) and the mile (4:26).

"But it is possible that Coach McNally, as he watched his star pupil perform, recalled the same field of thirty years ago. For in terms of the number of records held simultaneously, the old master John McNally still reigns.

"St. John's has only captured one state conference track championship in its history (1939) but it has had its individual stars and among them for a long time to come will be John McNally and Jim Schirber."

Jim Schirber, now a Ph.D. in physics and manager of the Solid State Research Department Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico, in a 1977 letter wrote: "I was really more a half-miler and miler than anything else. I ran the two-mile only once. Johnny Blood told me if I could break the school record I wouldn't have to run it again, so I tried it a couple of times and ran it at St. Cloud Teachers sufficiently fast to get the record-and McNally was good as his word. I never tried it again. . . . I'm embarrassed to remember those times, as high school kids do so much better. . . . I still run four miles a day at a seven minute mile pace or better." .

Roster: Michael Donahue, John Fitzgerald, Jerald Howard, Robert Hunt, John Kaiser, Robert King, Paul Mohrbacher, Michael O'Fallon, James Schirber, Merlin "Boots" Wald, Clint Wyant

- 1954-

New track coach John Gagliardi had few hopes for a successful track season when he first faced his 1954 hopefuls. There was a double problem to be considered-the loss of Jim Schirber and the minute number of holdovers from 1953-only three. On the other hand, he had as captain and assistant the tried hurdler of the three preceding years, Mike Donahue, one of the finest hurdlers in St. John's history. Most noticeably lacking was the discus/shot-put section of the squad, a weakness that had been like a perennial disease during the preceding decade and a half. Coach Gagliardi was forced to look among the freshmen for the solutions of his problems-sometimes successfully, sometimes not.

Among the freshmen were track enthusiasts from the high school ranks such as Duane Rubertus, brother of Donald Rubertus of 1951 fame, and Robert Stock, who showed early signs of being a worthy successor of John Kaiser in the pole vault. Especially promising as a point-getter in the broad jump was Donald Catton, now Dr. Catton of Aberdeen, South Dakota. Catton, though not big, hurtled off the jumping block as if thrown from a catapult. Among the shot putters was Tony Deane, a giant from the Bahamas. There were also genial characters like John Schlumpberger and Robert Hunt who acted like catalysts inspiring the squad to hard work and a hopeful outlook.

In competition the 1954 Jays were consistent second placers, with no victories to register in the five dual meets in which they participated. They had one particular discouragement when in a triangular meet with Augsburg and Macalester they outpointed Augsburg 34 ½-16 but were fairly demolished by Macalester with 100 ½ points. After that cataclysmic defeat they realized the job cut out for them in case they wished to make a good showing in the MIAC.

The Jays were able to salvage only two of the five meets prior to the conference meet on the 22nd of May. They defeated St. Cloud T.C. 78-48 and Concordia 77-44, then lost to St. Thomas 88-42 and St. Olaf 79-44. High point men in these meets were Mike Donahue and Duane Rubertus in the hurdles and Donald Catton in the broad jump. The latter took first place in all the meets in which he competed.

In the MIAC St. John's placed fourth. Catton's 21'3" was the only St. John's first place. Mike Donahue finished third and fourth in the high and low hurdles respectively, Rubertus fourth and second in the same order. Other point getters were Mike O'Fallon in the two-mile, Bob Hunt fourth in the 880, Tony Deane in the shot put, Robert Stock in the pole vault and Charles Rush in the dashes.

Roster: Donald Catton, James Dalglish, Tony Deane, Michael Donahue, John Fitzgerald, Jerald Howard, Vincent Hunt, Donald Mahowald, Mike O'Fallon, Duane Rubertus, Charles Rush, John Schlumpberger, (?) Sheridan, Donald Stepiak, Dennis Studer, Michael Wachtler

Conference standing: St. Thomas 59, Macalester 34%, Gustavus 27 y., St. John's 24 ½, Hamline 23 ½, Duluth 17 ½.

- 1955 -

A new spirit of hopefulness pervaded the track announcements for the year 1955. Returning from the 1954 team were twelve lettermen who, though they had taken only one first place, were full of enthusiasm and vigor. An added incentive for the trackmen, old and new, was the presence on the squad of the 1954 cross-country champions who would practically guarantee improvement in the long distance events: John Schlumpberger, coach and captain of the cross-country team, Vincent Hunt, Mike O'Fallon, Donald Mahowald and George Geray.

It was not only in track, however, that this aggressive spirit manifested itself. Dave Durenberger in his May 20, 1955, *Record* column has described the character of the era as heralding the finest period of St. John's athletic history: championships in tennis, wrestling, football and baseball-in fact, a domination of wrestling for the years 1952-59. Now the same spirit was beginning to be displayed in track.

In the Carleton Relays-one of the toughest invitational meets- St. John's scored eleven points for seventh place in a field of fourteen colleges. Freshman James Burke in the hurdles and John Schlumpberger in the two-mile event showed up well. The team distinguished itself in the unusual medley race and the 360-yard shuttle relay race.

St. Thomas hosted a ten-school meet in which St. John's came out in second place, principally through first and second places in the low and high hurdles. Schlumpberger took second place in the two-mile, as did Mike O'Fallon and Bob Hunt in the mile and 880 respectively. The triangular meet' between St. John's, Macalester and Augsburg was a walk-away for St. John's by a score of 81 for the Jays, 45 for Macalester and 20 points for Augsburg.

The MIAC meet was full of surprises. Concordia, which had not taken part in the preliminary meets, swept down from the north like true Vikings and dethroned St. Thomas by a close score of 44-5/6 points to 40U by St. Thomas. St. John's, hungry for recognition as an upcoming team, finished in third place with 37 points.

The main point-getters for the 1955 race were Mike O'Fallon, who won the two-mile event in 10:37.6 time, and the Jays' crack relay team that walked off in first place in 3:35.5 time. Also, Mike Wachtler finished second in the 220-yard low hurdles, third in the high hurdles and the broad jump. Bob Hunt was third in the 880 but failed to place in his specialty, the 440, in which Keith Hughes was second. Don Catton placed in the broad jump and Donald Westbrook fourth in the high jump. Duane Rubertus and Chuck Thomey finished fifth in the low and high hurdles, while Don Mahowald tied for fourth in the 880.

Roster: James Burke, Donald Catton, James Dalglish, James Donohue, Vincent Eichten, George Geray, Jerald Howard, Keith Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Vincent Hunt, Joseph Lechowicz, Arthur Lowe, Donald Mahowald, Michael O'Fallon, Duane Rubertus, Charles Rush, John Scheuren, John Schlumpberger, Dennis Studer, Charles Thompson, Michael Wachtler, Joseph Weber, Donald Westbrook

Conference standing: Concordia 44-5/6, St. Thomas 40 U, St. John's 37, Macalester 34-1/6, Augsburg, Gustavus, Duluth, Hamline

- 1956 -

The 1956 track season opened in a spirit of optimism. From the 1955 squad eight veterans returned, all of them point winners and ambitious to make a name for themselves in track history. Among them were co-captains John Schlumpberger and Bob Hunt, Don Catton, James Burke, the crack hurdler, the Hughes twins, Kevin and Keith, Don Mahowald and Chuck Thomey. A new addition to the squad was freshman

Cyril Paul, a Bahamian, who gave new life and new ambition to an already highly charged group of veterans. Cyril Paul was an extraordinary person, older than his fellows but still able to run-as he said, "not as once I could." A fellow Bahamian said, "Cyril didn't run, he flew."

The new breed of tracksters, for the most part, had high school training in track before coming to St. John's and so were able to compete in two or more events with equal effectiveness, thus enabling Coach Gagliardi to shift his personnel here and there so as to fill in the weak spots, especially in the field events that had handicapped otherwise good squads. He set his eyes on 1957 as the key date when the Jays would be able to challenge the powers of the MIAC.

The 1956 team was probably as interesting a team to watch as any others in St. John's track history. Particularly thrilling were the victories of the SJU mile relay team made up of Donald Mahowald, Keith and Kevin Hughes, and Cyril Paul that went through the season without a defeat. The mile relay team against St. Thomas and Concordia broke the track and school records in 3:33.5 time, then two days later in a meet against St. Olaf broke that record in 3:31.5 time, bettering a two-day-old record by two seconds.

Of the three preliminary meets, the Jays won one and lost two. In the first, a triangular meet with Concordia and St. Thomas, they finished in second place with a score of 57-51. St. Thomas scored 43 points. Two days later they were defeated by St. Olaf 73-49.

The next meet, a single victory against Duluth, was a complete reversal in form. The Jays won eleven first places, led by the double victories of Cyril Paul in the 100 and 220 dashes, and the double victories of Vincent Eichten in the discus and shot put. The team made a sweep of the high hurdles and the broad jump.

The conference meet found the Jays in fourth place behind St. Thomas in third. Ironically, the difference between St. Thomas and St. John's was only one-fourth of a point-St. Thomas 35, St. John's 34%. In the conference meet St. John's took first place in two events: the mile relay (breaking the school record with a time of 3:28), and first place through Max Thompson's broad jump of 21 feet, 3U inches. Kevin Hughes took second place in the 440 at :51.8, Bill Moldaschel finished in second place in the 880 and second in the broad jump. Mike O'Fallon closed a brilliant career in distance events in 10:18 in the two-mile run.

Vincent Eichten was third in the shot put, Cyril Paul third in the 220. Keith Hughes won fourth place in the 440, Vincent Eichten took fifth in the shot put, John Quesnell fifth in the 880, Daniel Schmitz fifth in the broad jump, and Cyril Paul fifth in the 100-yard dash.

Roster: Ronald Anderson, Rodney Bailey, James Burke, Thomas Christian, Vincent Eichten, Nicholas Ellena, Peter Froehle, Sylvester Fumia, Keith Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Vincent Hunt, Marvin Kollodge, Joseph Lechowicz, Donald Mahowald, Roger Martin, William Moldaschel, John Muchlinski, John O'Fallon, Michael O'Fallon, Cyril Paul, John Quesnell, John Schlumberger, Frank Sherman, Charles Thomey, Max Thompson, Mark Twomey, James Veronick, William Winter

Conference standing: Concordia 58, Macalester 45 ¼, St. Thomas 34 ¼, St. John's 34

-1957 -

Coach John Gagliardi in 1957 proved that his powers of divination were genuine when his prediction, made at the end of 1956, turned out to be true-that the following year would be St. John's year to challenge and overcome the MIAC track powers. He doubtless was aware that a large number of his

1956 stars would be returning, though he could not have known that among the freshmen would be Jerome "Jerry" Schoenecker, a distance runner who would dominate the MIAC distance runners for the next three years, or that there would be a Buford "Buff" Johnson who would break the school record in the high jump.

Returning in 1957 were eleven point winners from 1956: Cyril Paul, the Bahamian phenomenon who was always good for two first places (the 100-yard and 220 dashes), Captain Donald Mahowald in the 440, Bill Moldaschel in the quarter-mile and the broad jump. And then there was also the crack mile relay team, Mahowald, Keith and Kevin Hughes, and Cyril Paul, that had gone undefeated in 1956. There were other individuals, too—Jim Burke in the high and low hurdles, Vincent Eichten in the shot and discus, and Jerry Kollodge in the pole vault.

In pre-MIAC encounters the Johnnies progressed steadily from meet to meet with only one setback, engineered by St. Olaf at Northfield to the tune of 59 ½,-62 ½. Not discouraged in the least after losing to the ales, the Jays returned to St. John's to cop a triangular meet from the two strongest teams in the conference, Concordia and Macalester. They next were victorious at St. Thomas by defeating Macalester by a score of 76 ;/, -63 ;/,. In this last meet Cyril Paul won his seventh consecutive first place in the 100-yard dash and tied the conference mark of 9:9 seconds. Schoenecker was regularly taking first place in the mile and the two-mile, and freshman Buff Johnson was breaking the school record in the high jump by leaps of over six feet. Eichten was winning the weight events and Jim Burke was taking first place in the low and high hurdles. Prospects for the championship, the first since 1939—seventeen years before—looked very promising.

For the Johnnies, the fortunes of the 1957 meet differed only slightly from those of the pre-season meets. They won an unprecedented six first places and all but one of the running events, to edge Macalester and Concordia for the title.

Cyril Paul led the dashmen in winning both the 100-yard and the 220-yard dashes. Freshman Jerry Schoenecker added nine points to the St. John's total by taking first place in the mile and second place in the two-mile. Other firsts were Bill Moldaschel in the quarter-mile, Captain Mahowald in the 440, and the superb team of Mahowald, Kevin and Keith Hughes, and Cyril Paul in the mile relay.

Crucial points needed in the tightly contested meet were added to by James Burke's second in the high hurdles and third place in the lows. Keith and Kevin Hughes finished fourth and fifth in the 440, Russ Banner placed third in the quarter-mile, and James Donohue was fifth in the 880. Kevin Hughes also placed fourth in the 220, and freshman Phil Ratte finished fifth in the 100 and 220 dashes, while Buff Johnson tied for second in the high jump. Leo Eisenzimmer, a baseball player who was participating in his first meet, took fifth place in the broad jump. The results of the field events were not recorded.

Despite the chilly, drizzly weather the 1957 conference meet was the most exciting event in a year when St. John's won conference championships in three sports, baseball, track and wrestling.

Roster: Ronald Anderson, Rodney Bailey, James Burke, Thomas Christian, Vincent Eichten, Nicholas Ellena, Peter Froehle, Sylvester Fumia, Keith Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Vincent Hunt, Marvin Kollodge, Joseph Lechowicz, William Moldaschel, Roger Martin, John Muchlinski, John O'Fallon, Michael O'Fallon, Cyril Paul, John Quesnell, John Schlumberger, Frank Sherman, Charles Thomey, Max Thompson, Mark Twomey, James Veronick, William Winter

Conference standing: St. John's 56, Macalester 53 ½; Concordia 50, Hamline 27 ½, St. Thomas 13, Duluth 5 ½, Gustavus 4, Augsburg 0

- 1958 -

When John Gagliardi was assembling his track men at the beginning of the 1958 season, he admittedly had his problems: "If we can work these boys in with their extra-curricular activities, we may do all right. Cyril Paul's 'Junkaroos' (his calypso music shows) are booked solid until December 1, 1958, and we'll have to get him sometime in between. Schoenecker is a dancing instructor at St. Cloud's Arthur Murray Studio, and the Hughes twins are on the debate team. Finally, Moldaschel divides his time between track and that of being a science instructor. There are just too many demands on these versatile boys" (*Record*, March 28, 1958). *Cyril Paul was working his way through college by evening performances of his "Junkaroos," set to Bahamian calypso music.

The 1958 championship was won the hard way, to be sure. The first meet was the Carleton Relays (a combination of the shuttle relay, the medley relay, and the traditional quarter-mile, half-mile, mile and two-mile relays) in which St. John's took seventh place with eighteen points.

The next contest was a triangular meeting between St. John's, Macalester and Concordia in which the Jays came out in second place with a score of 61 points versus winner Macalester's 73 points. In a third meet St. John's lost again, this time to powerful St. Olaf by a score of 68-54.

At this point Al Eisele, in his *Record* sports column "The Meat Grinder," gave St. John's only an outside chance of winning the title. "Unless developing stars appear on the horizon," he wrote, "John Gagliardi's squad will have to go some before they can seriously consider defending their conference laurels" (*Record*, May 2, 1958).

But contrary to Eisele's pessimistic appraisal of the Jays' chances, the team regained form. By the time the May 16 *Record* was issued, the Jays had won three meets. In the third of these Cyril Paul had regained his 1957 speed and won the 100-yard dash in 9.9 seconds. Kevin Hughes had broken Larry Schwietz's 1948 record in :15.8 time by running it in 15.5 seconds. The St. John's club had reason to be hopeful when it set out for the MIAC meet at Gustavus on May 18. Their hopes were justified. St. John's won the 1958 championship by a close margin. The MIAC standings and scores in the meet were as follows:

Roster: Russell Banner, Duane Deutz, Patrick Fleming, Peter Froehle, Gedeon Heinrich, Robert Henry, Keith Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Buford Johnson, John Kaiser, Robert Kelly, Jerome Kollodge, Marvin Kollodge, James Kuelbs, Ronald Labat, Thomas Lux, Gilbert Mages, Roger Martin, Bruce Mason, William Moldaschel, Leonard Mrachek, Joseph Nicholson, Raymond Olmscheid, Cyril Paul, John Quesnell, Philip Ratte, Jerome Schoenecker, James Singsank, David Sieben, Myron Wiest, Richard Wiest

Conference standing: St. John's 53 ½, Macalester 47 ½, Concordia 34½, Hamline 23½, Duluth 15½, Gustavus 15½, St. Thomas 12½, Augsburg 8

- 1959 -

Owing to the omission of dates of meets it is difficult to follow the sequence of happenings in the 1959 track season. It is clear that early in the season St. John's dropped a meet to Duluth by a score of 68-72, allegedly because Cyril Paul did not run in the early meets. In a dual meet with St. Cloud T.C. the Jays reversed the situation by a decisive win, 73-50, with freshmen Thomas Withrow first in the long jump and Fred Philipson first in the discus and shot put, both giving promise of being the finds of the year. Strong likewise was the mile relay team of Bob Randall, Withrow, Moldaschel and Schoenecker.

Schoenecker and Moldaschel were having their best season in the distance and middistance runs, the mile and two-mile and 880 races respectively. Bruce Mason, a sophomore dashman who had never run in a track meet before his freshman year at St. John's, was outstanding.

In a triangular meet with St. Olaf and Macalester, St. John's placed second. St. Olaf led with 67 points, St. John's had 49 and Macalester finished with 35. Bill Moldaschel, the reigning 880 runner of the conference, ran a brilliant race in the time of two minutes and seven hundredths (2:00.7), his top career record for this event.

A May 16 triangular meet at St. John's with Macalester and Concordia that ended with a victory by St. John's was one of the most thrilling meets of the year; Schoenecker and Moldaschel took first places in all the events they entered. "A second place behind Concordia in the mile relay gave St. John's its needed margin of victory in a meet that went down to the final event" (*Record*, May 22, 1959). St. John's won the meet by one point: St. John's 56, Macalester 55, Concordia 40.

The 1959 track season ended in somewhat of an anti-climax. The Jays finished in third place with 347 points to champion Macalester's 66. Macalester's superiority in weight men (discus and shot put) and its distance runners, who took second and third places in the mile and two-mile runs, were too much for the Jays. Jerry Schoenecker was the only St. John's man to take two first places in the meet: the mile and the two-mile. Cyril Paul, on whom the St. John's teams for the past three years had placed their hopes for first places in the 100 and 220 dashes and a share in the first place relay race, placed third.

In a tribute to all that St. John's owed to the most colorful sprinter in its history up to that time, the *Record* reporter wrote: "Paul, the Trinidad speedster who has thrilled fans with his running over a four-year period, bowed out with a pair of thirds in the dashes plus a heroic effort as anchor man on the second-place Jay mile relay team" (*Record*, June 19, 1959).

Roster: Jerry Schoenecker, William Moldaschel, Bruce Mason, Cyril Paul, Thomas Withrow, Gilbert Mages, Robert Pilney, Buford Johnson, Tom Withrow, Bill Moldaschel

Conference standing: Macalester 66, Hamline 38, St. John's 34 ¼, Duluth 23½, St. Thomas 20½, Concordia 15-9/10, Gustavus 5, Augsburg 4

- 1960 -

The 1960 Jays were eager to regain the championship they had lost to Macalester in 1959. Besides, it was Jerry Schoenecker's last year and they had to take advantage of the ten, fifteen or twenty points per meet that he had contributed over the last three years. Tom Withrow was with the team also with his ten, twelve or fifteen points in the dashes and the broad jump. Other veterans were Tom Deutz and Buff Johnson in the high jumps, Bruce Mason in the 440 and the mile relay, Gil Mages and Robert Pilney in the pole vault, Dave Sieben in the hurdles and Fred Philipson in the weights. In addition, John Gagliardi had a host of talented freshmen to work into the team. Among them was John Maciejny who threw the javelin 161 feet, two inches on his first-ever try.

The 1960 Jays had their ups and downs early. In an early meet with St. Cloud State the Jays came out the losers 72-49. Then they bounced back to crush Concordia 72-52. Jerry Schoenecker put on a spectacular show, winning the half-mile, the mile and the two-mile for 15 points. Fred Philipson won the discus and the shot, and Tom Withrow the 100 and 220 dashes. First places were also won by Bruce Mason in the 440, Bob Pilney in the pole vault, and Tom Deutz in the high jump. Hopes for the championship in the MIAC skyrocketed.

The somewhat erratic course of the Jays continued, however. In the May 20 issue of the *Record* a loss to St. Cloud State is reported. Although the Jays captured six first places, they fell victims to the Huskies' depth. In the final meet of the season preparatory to the MIAC meet, the Jays were nosed out by Macalester. Judging from the reports given above, it is highly probable that the Jays finished in second place.

Jerry Schoenecker

In 1960 Jerry Schoenecker, one of St. John's running greats, concluded his racing career at St. John's. In four years of track he was beaten only once as a freshman when he was out-run in the two-mile. After that he won brilliantly in the mile and two-mile, year in and out, meet after meet, running with style and without a loss.

In a recent letter, 1977, he writes that as an adult he has spent fifteen years in the care of emotionally disturbed children and presently is Foster Care Supervisor for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese

of Baltimore. Jerry runs when the weather is good and reports that he loves the feel of running. "I can break a five minute mile," he writes. "I enjoy dancing a great deal as a physical expression of grace and control." (When a student he taught dancing at the Arthur Murray studio in St. Cloud.)

Roster: Ronald Amel, Kenneth Boice, Thomas Deutz, Jerry Donlin, John Dullea, D. Edwards, John Fritz, John Hoffman, James Hrabe, Buford Johnson, David Kotewa, Adrian Ledermann, John Maciejny, Gilbert Mages, Bruce Mason, John Muller, Donald Noltimier, Robert O'Hara, Frederick Philipson, Robert Pilney, Donald Rasure, Charles Reichert, Thomas Rost, Martin Rosenhamer, David Sieben, James Singsank, Jerry Schoenecker, Thomas Withrow, Albert Woodward

- 1961 -

Coach John Gagliardi found himself faced with a rebuilding job when the 1961 track season opened. An assurance of ten to fifteen points per meet was lost with the graduation of Jerry Schoenecker. The loss was compensated for to some extent by the strongest shot discus department that St. John's ever had. The weight men were actually the major part of John Gagliardi's offensive line in football: John McDowell, Dave Honer, John Maciejny and Fred Philipson. The weakest spot in the team line-up was the place left vacant by the departure of high jumper Buford Johnson. On the other hand, the return of twelve veterans (not necessarily all point winners) that included speedy freshman Bob Spinner, Coach Gagliardi's star running back on his football team, was encouraging. With the tried Tom Withrow and hurdler Captain Bruce Mason to give poise to the team he was assured of an interesting season and a close race for the MIAC title.

In the first meet of the season held at Selke Field in St. Cloud, St. John's won eight first places out of fifteen events. Nevertheless, the Jays lost by a score of 65-66 as St. Cloud managed to pick up enough second and third places to win.

The record of the 1961 Jays, so far as meets are concerned, was one dual meet lost, two triangular meets won, one lost, one quadrangular meet won. It was, as John Gagliardi had predicted, an interesting season.

In the MIAC the Jays finished the 1961 season in second place as runner up to Macalester, a team that for sheer quality and depth was overwhelmingly superior to anything else in the conference. The MIAC standings were as follows: Macalester 79 points, St. John's 36, Gustavus 23, Hamline 22, Duluth 19Yz, Concordia 17, St. Thomas 10Yz, Augsburg 3.

According to the *Record* statistician, the performance of the point winners was as follows:

"John McDowell and Tom Withrow shared team honors, each collecting nine points. McDowell won the Jays' lone first place by sailing the discus 142 feet, 10Yz inches. He placed second in the shot put. Withrow scored in four events, finishing second in the broad jump and mile relay, and fourth in the 100 and 200-yard dashes.

"Other scoring was done by Dave Honer and John Maciejny, second and third in the discus throw; Bob Spinner, second in the 100-yard dash; Fred Philipson, fourth in the shot put; Bob O'Hara, fourth in the high hurdles; Bruce Mason, Rich Leister and Chuck Reichert sharing second in the mile relay" (*Record*, June 23, 1961).

Roster: Rick Ahles, Ronald Amel, Bernard Beckman, Kenneth Boice, James Conn, Roger Deutz, John Dullea, John Fritz, David Honer, James Hopkins, Timothy Keaveny, Benjie Kreweicki, Richard Leister, John Maciejny, Gilbert Mages, Jim Marrin, Bruce Mason (captain), John McDowell, Bob Monroe, Robert O'Hara, Frederick Philipson, Donald Rasure, Charles Reichert, Robert Spinner, Thomas Withrow, Ronald Youso, Theodore Vornbrock

- 1962 -

The 1962 track team was one of the strongest teams in St. John's history. That the Jays did not win the championship was not to the discredit of the team, for it ran the strong Macalester team a tight race for the title and was leading until the last three events of the MIAC meet that ended in Macalester's favor, 65-56. The two teams, Macalester and St. John's, clearly out-classed the other conference contestants, the closest of which was St. Thomas with 2875 points.

In a series of eight meets during the season St. John's won five. In the first, held at St. Cloud State's Selke Field, the Jays won eight first places out of a total of fifteen, but lost to St. Cloud 66-65. The Huskies picked up second and third places to compensate for the lack of first place finishes.

In the Carleton Relays, for which the Jays were unprepared, St. John's took sixth place in a field of thirteen. A triangular meet followed which St. John's won over St. Thomas and Augsburg by a score of 75 points to 52 by St. Thomas and 23 by Augsburg.

In the meets that remained, the Jays continued to win mainly through the efforts of Tom Withrow, John McDowell and Dave Honer in the weights, Bob Spinner in the 100 and 220 dashes, and Bruce Mason in the high and low hurdles and the 440 dash. The team did particularly well in a quadrangular meet won by St. John's with 63 points. Mankato had 54 points, Gustavus 26 and Northwestern 7. St. John's won second place in the MIAC tournament as runner up to Macalester, the MIAC champion. Individual performances by the Jays were as follows:

Individual results: 100 yard dash-Spinner 1st, Withrow 2nd, Fritz 3rd, Welder 5th; discus-McDowell 1st; shot put-McDowell 1st, Honer 2nd, Philipson 5th; high jump-Brown 2nd; mile run-Cruse 2nd; long jump-Withrow 1st; pole vault- Froehle 4th; mile relay-Welder, Fritz, Reichert, Withrow 3rd

Roster: Richard Ahles, Kenneth Boice, William Blake, William Brown, William Cruse, Tom Enestvedt, John Erickson, John Fritz, Richard Froehle, Leonard Gallagher, Matt Hagovsky, James Hunt, David Honer, George Korb, John McDowell, Robert O'Hara, Charles Reichert, John Richards, William Rooney, David Schaefer, Tom Schwinghammer, Robert Spinner, William Sullivan, Theodore Vornbrock, George Welder, Thomas Withrow

Conference standing: Macalester 67, St. John's 56, St. Thomas 2875, Concordia 21, Gustavus 17, Duluth 8, Augsburg 475

- 1963 -

Coach John Gagliardi at the opening of the 1963 season predicted an exceptionally fine spring and no team losses: "We will go undefeated this spring," promised John. "No, sir, we won't lose any games this spring." He may not have been completely serious, but his team captain, Chuck Reichert, echoed his coach: "We'll be good this year," as he and three teammates left the gym to do some road work. The season did not turn out as well as was expected by coach and captain, mainly because of a plague of injuries that hounded the athletes and kept them from performing up to their potential.

The first meet of the year was a trip to Northfield for the Carleton Relays at which the Jays finished in fourth place. Macalester, then at the peak of its dominance over the MIAC in track, scored 75 points, St. Olaf placed second with 46, Carleton with 40 and third place, St. John's 3575 and fourth place. St. John's lost one first place (McDowell in the discus), two second places, two third places, four fourths and one fifth place. It was not an especially good showing, but several men gave promise of figuring largely in the season's outcome-Rich Froehle in the pole vault, Bob Spinner in the 100 and 220 dash, Chet Blascziek in the hurdles, Tom Enestvedt in the high jump, and Chuck Reichert, the most consistent and fastest runner on the team in the mid-distances and even, if necessary, in the dashes.

A May 17 report in the *Record*, mainly a preview of the St. John's prospects in the conference meet, offered no hope of a happy ending for the team. According to the report, the squad had been afflicted with injuries and stood little chance of doing well. The list of injuries is impressive- shin splints, muscle pulls, muscle spasms, not to speak of slipped discs and other back injuries. Chuck Reichert had run in only one meet all spring, and he was not only the team captain but also the most reliable point winner among all the runners. It was feared that he would be unable to run at all.

Strong point of the team were the weight men: John McDowell, undefeated all season in the discus, Rich Froehle in the pole vault, Bob Spinner in the dashes and Chet Blascziek in the hurdles. Macalester repeated as MIAC track champions.

Roster: Ronald Amel, Chester Blascziek, Basil Christie, Nicholas Christianson, Thomas Enestvedt, John Erickson, David Hartle, David Honer, Patrick Jacobs, David Kelly, David Kuebelbeck, Leo Lundy, John McDonnell, Robert O'Hara, John Pierman, Charles Reichert, Lawrence Rooney, George Smith, Robert Spinner, Stanley Suchta, Kenneth Voss, George Welder

- 1964 -

The 1964 track season must have appeared uneventful to the *Record* sportswriters for they lavished headlines on baseball and tennis and neglected track and field. It was unfortunate for John McDowell who was the outstanding weight man in the discus and shot put throughout his four years at St. John's. He probably was the best weight man St. John's has ever had in these events, from the beginning of track and field up to the present time. In the 1964 MIAC meet he was the only St. John's double winner and literally carried St. John's to fourth place in the conference in an otherwise mediocre Jay season. With a little more depth in the running events, St. John's could have gone far.

In the first meet of the season, April 15, St. John's placed second behind MIAC champion, Macalester. What is remarkable about the meet is that St. John's took first place in all the field events except one, whereas Macalester took first place in all the running events. McDowell won firsts in the discus and shot put, Ken Voss third in both events and Dave Honer second in the discus. Pat Jacobs won first place in

the pole vault, William Blake second. Tom Enestvedt won first place in the high jump and second in the broad jump.

In a quadrangular meet between Hamline, Duluth and Augsburg, the Johnnies won first place through the work of McDowell, Voss and Enestvedt. In the track events Spinner was third in the 100-yard dash, Jon Theobald fourth; Paul Wieland took second in both the mile and half-mile. Enestvedt took third in the low hurdles; Richard Long came in third in the two-mile run.

In the conference championship meet St. John's won fourth place, mainly on the victories of John McDowell in both the discus and the shot put. Dave Honer took third in the discus and Ken Voss third in the shot put.

McDowell, a genial, fun-loving giant who starred also at tackle on John Gagliardi's NAIA champion football team of 1963, played professional football after graduation under Vince Lombardi of the Green Bay Packers for several years before retiring.

Roster: William Blake, Frederick Cremer, Thomas Enestvedt, John Erickson, John Fabri, LeRoy Hagen, David Honer, Patrick Jacobs, Douglas Johnson, Anthony Kluk, John London, Richard Long, Leo Lundy, John McDowell, George Smith, Robert Spinner, Jon Theobald, Lloyd Wieland, Paul Wieland, Kenneth Voss

- 1965 -

The decline of interest in track at St. John's that was noticeable in the 1963 and 1964 seasons became somewhat of a landslide in 1965. Track was completely ignored in the 1965 *Sagatagan*, the editors evidently rating it below wrestling and tennis—the minor sports, as they were then called. It was almost ignored in the *Record* also, except for a preview and two sketchy reports that offered little encouragement for the trackmen.

In the preview we read the following statement: "Until last year St. John's track team had finished consistently in the MIAC's upper division. This year, however, the track forecasters contemplate only gloom for the oncoming season. With the loss of lettermen Dave Honer, John McDowell, Bob Spinner and others, the prospects indeed have Stygian darkness" (*Record*, April 2, 1965).

The next report (April 30, 1965) repeats the gloomy prognosis for the season, following which it narrates the progress of the team to date:

"After a third place finish at Moorhead's Concordia Relays, the Jays traveled to Gustavus for a quadrangular meet with Concordia, Hamline and Gustavus. Again, taking third, freshman Doug Johnson captured a first in the half-mile, and senior pole vaulter Bill Blake and weight men Fred Cremer and Mike Paquette collected points in their respective events.

The next and last report is contained in a brief summary of all the spring sports in one article entitled "Year-End Summary":

"Two dual meet track victories against St. Thomas and Bethel managed to salvage an otherwise disappointing track season in 1965. SJU wound up next to last place Hamline in the MIAC meet at Macalester. The Johnnies' Fred Cremer captured third place in the shot put, and half-miler Doug Johnson took second in his specialty" (*Record*, May 26, 1965).

Roster: John Albers, William Blake, Fred Cremer, Thomas Enestvedt, John Garceau, Patrick Jacobs, Douglas Johnson, Richard Landwehr, Philip Ledermann, Leo Lundy, James Moore, Donald Nett, Michael

Paquette, George Smith, Lloyd Wieland, Paul Wieland

- 1966 -

When Jim Smith, the new basketball and track coach, took over the track reins in 1966 there was only one way track could move and that was up. His was a rebuilding job of the first magnitude—namely, to jump from the position of doormat of the conference to a respectable place among the leaders. However, despite the ten lettermen on which to build, there was lacking the necessary depth in the field events that is so necessary for a well-balanced team. He was aware of the dire need to recruit potential trackmen from among the student body in hopes of recruiting discus throwers, shot putters and jumpers to offset the weaknesses on the squad.

It was not long before Jim Smith's driving and the hard work of the budding trackmen began to payoff. Fortunately, among the new aspirants were two newcomers of exceptional ability, a freshman basketball player who was also a high jumper and soon was known to his teammates as "Jumping Jim Holmes." Another new star was sophomore David Lamm, a sprinter who in the very first meets attracted the attention not only of St. John's but also of the entire conference. There were other talented freshmen, but for Coach Smith's immediate needs Jim Holmes and Dave Lamm came onto the scene as gifts from the Olympic gods. In the MIAC meet held at the end of the season, Holmes took third place in the high jump and fourth in the broad jump with a leap of 21 feet and over. Lamm ran the 100-yard dash in 9.8 time, tying the conference record set in 1958 by Concordia's Gabrielson, and also tying the 53-year-old record of St. John's set in 1913 by Robert "Bob" Hackner. Lamm probably would have won the 220-yard dash also had he not slipped when making the turn at the end of the track and had to settle for second place.

In the MIAC meet the Jays rang up 2131'points to take fourth place in the conference. Coach Smith was justifiably jubilant and began looking forward to the next season when his young tracksters would be more mature.

Other finishers in the 1966 MIAC meet were freshman Donald Nett (fourth in the 100-yard dash) and Mike Paquette, who placed fourth in the shot put (45'5") and in the discus (134'). "Some of the 'unsung heroes' who contributed immensely to the track team's performance were senior pole vaulter Pat Jacobs, senior half-miler Bill Carney, co captain Douglas Johnson and weight man Fred Cremer, John Rieder, a promising freshman, John Garceau, a distance man, Bob Froehle, Dave Haycraft, "Tex" Martin, Steve Kanies, Phil Ledermann, Jon Samuelson, Bill Thibedeau, and Rick Wong" (*Record*, May 27, 1966).

Roster: James Bauer, Robert Froehle, John Garceau, David Haycraft, James Holmes, Patrick Jacobs, Douglas Johnson, Steve Kanies, John King, David Lamm, Phil Ledermann, Thomas Linhof!, Patrick Marx, Gregory Motl, Donald Nett, Michael Paquette, John Rieder, Jon Samuelson, Jack Stube, John Stile, Robert Sullivan, Peter Terres, David Thein, William Thibedeau, Richard Wong
Conference standing: Macalester 71, Gustavus 45, Concordia 33, St. John's 2031', St. Thomas 20, Augsburg 9, Hamline 6, Duluth 4

- 1967 -

On the opening of track competition in 1967 Jim Smith had reason to be enthusiastic about the future of track at St. John's. On his team were two first-year men who were the prizes of the conference in 1966: David Lamm, a sprinter, and James Holmes, a jumper of extraordinary talent. Both were sure point winners from their first appearance at St. John's. Supporting them as newcomers were Martin Lundy and Alpheus Finlayson, two triple jumpers from the Bahamas who, he thought, would be top performers in the long jump events. Besides, from 1966, he had co-captain Douglas Johnson in the quarter-mile and

the half-mile, and co-captain John Garceau, a cross-country stand-out on whom he could depend for the mile and two-mile events.

In a series of six preliminary quadrangular and triangular events, St. John's lost only one, and that one to talent-rich Macalester that was then in its ninth championship year, a stretch that began in 1959. The season was brightened by the feats of the "incomparable Dave Lamm" in the 100 and 220-yard dashes, setting a new record of nine and six-tenths in the 100-yard dash and on several other occasions equaling the :9.9 record of Cyril Paul. Not to be overshadowed by Lamm, Jim Holmes regularly jumped 6'1", 6'2", 6'4", and once in a meet against Macalester shattered all the MIAC records with a leap of 6'8", a feat that surprised even Holmes himself. He said, "The adrenal in must have been pretty high that day." Martin Lundy and Al Finlayson regularly swept the triple jump event, John Garceau the mile and Michael Paquette the discus.

In the state meet held at Macalester, however, the coach's fears that the lack of depth might be a handicap proved to be correct. St. John's took third place behind Macalester, the winner, and Gustavus. Of the thirty-nine points garnered by the Jays, thirty-one were earned by the above-mentioned stars: Dave Lamm, Jim Holmes, Martin Lundy and Al Finlayson. Lamm broke the conference record in the 220 by a run of 21.7 seconds. As was expected, Holmes won the high jump with a leap of six feet, four inches, and took third place in the hop-step jump. Martin Lundy won the triple jump and Finlayson the hop-step- Jump.

Jim Smith was pleased with the results, but at the same time acknowledged his early fears that lack of depth had been a problem. In the May 26 *Record* he made an appeal for more participants: "This year we lacked depth and spread ourselves out too thin, but I know there are guys who can help us out next spring. I don't know if they are shy or what." With more participants he promised a championship.

Roster: John Blin, John Cragg, Alpheus Finlayson, John Garceau, James Holmes, Douglas Johnson, Steve Kanies, Daniel Klenow, William Laliberte, David Lamm, Martin Lundy, John Martin, Dennis Merritt, Paul Muckerheide, Michael Paquette, John Rieder, Dennis Scherer, John Stube, William Thibedeau

- 1968 -

The year 1968 was crucial in St. John's track history. Macalester had been MIAC champion for nine consecutive years and the Jays were united in their resolve to unseat the Macs from the throne and occupy the lofty position themselves. It was by no means an idle dream. The Jays were loaded with talent as never before in St. John's track history. Jim Smith had revived interest in cross-country in the fall of 1965, and now in 1968 he had in the ranks of his trackmen the crack cross-country trio of John Cragg, Jeff Brain and Charles "Chuck" Ceronsky, each of whom was capable of taking first place in all the distance runs from the mile to the three-mile events-and the six-mile, if need be.

Dave Lamm in the dashes, Holmes in the high jump, the Bahamians Martin Lundy and Al Finlayson were as safe for winning points as money in the bank.

Filling out the list of promising contestants were several freshmen with fine high school records: Timothy Muller in the shot put and the discus, and Tom Schutta in the same events to support the work of veteran Mike Paquette. A weakness in the long jump and the hurdles still worried Jim Smith, but the lack of good hurdle material was taken care of by the addition to the team of flashy freshman Don Kluk, "Tex" Martin and Denny Merritt. It was no wonder that the Jays waded through the regular triangular and quadrangular meets without serious setbacks, thereby strengthening their resolve to win the conference meet, despite the known power of Macalester.

The MIAC meet bore out the soundness of the Jays' hopes as well as their respect for Macalester. The well-balanced Macs squeezed by the Jays in a close 93-78,U victory to retain their title. Unfortunately the skimpy, incomplete report on the meet in the May 17, 1968 *Record* conveys nothing of the drama of a thrilling contest between two talented teams. The speedy Dave Lamm set two conference records, "blitzing the 100 in 9.6 seconds and the 220 in 21.5 seconds." Jim Holmes took first place in the high jump at six feet, two inches and scored in second place in the triple jump. Al Finlayson took first place in the triple jump.

Another exciting event was the high hurdles in which freshman Donald Kluk broke the conference record in 14.5 seconds time. John Cragg provided the heroic act of the conference when he won the threemile event despite an only partially knitted broken bone in his left foot. In fact, he set a new record for the three-mile at 14 :33.

In a recent letter Dave Lamm, '68, holder of St. John's records in the 100 and 220-yard dashes (9.5 in the 100-yard dash, 9.4 wind-aided), writes that he still takes part in summer open meets. Last summer he ran a 10.7 in a 100-meter dash, which relates to 9.8 or 9.9 in the 100- yard dash. "At my age I am very pleased with that." His wife Pamela added a postscript that he holds the Governor's Physical Fitness State Meet records in the 100 and 220-yard dashes for the 25-30 and 31-39 age groups. He also holds the University of Minnesota intramural records for the same events from his law school days. Dave is practicing law in Mankato.

Roster: Jeff Brain, Charles Ceronsky, Gregory Cook, John Cragg, Alpheus Finlayson, Robert Fisher, Michael Halloran, Al Hechtman, James Holmes, Frank Hudoba, William Johnson, Jon Kallman, Daniel Klenow, Donald Kluk, David Lamm, John "Tex" Martin, Dennis Merritt, Kevin Moehn, Timothy Muller, Martin Lundy, Thomas Schutta, David Sier, John Stube, William Thibedeau, John Traynor, George Wilson, Peter Stickler

Conference standing: Macalester 93, St. John's 7S,U, Hamline 32, Gustavus 15, Concordia 15, St. Thomas 10, Augsburg 7, Duluth 5,U

-1969 -

When Coach Smith in his third year at the helm of St. John's track team looked over his 1969 prospects, it was with fervent longing for the championship. Macalester was still the top power in the conference, helped along by its excellent indoor facilities. But the Jays had been gradually creeping up on the Macs and the situation looked promising for an upset of the eleven-year champions. It did not turn out that way, but the story of the season is still a thrilling one.

St. John's had undoubtedly the advantage of having on the team the strongest distance runners of the 1968 cross-country champions- Chuck Ceronsky, John Cragg, Jeff Brain, and now freshman Joe Skaja. St. John's was weak in the sprints, however, having lost the "incomparable" Dave Lamm through graduation, but there were promising replacements in John Rieder, Henry Funk, Kevin Moehn and Donald Holtzman. In the 880 race Gregory Cook was holder of the school record in that event, and Don Kluk was the undefeated conference champion hurdler with an imposing record in the NAIA. Among the jumpers were Jim Holmes, Al Finlayson, Martin Lundy, Peter Stickler and several understudies in all the jumping events. In the weights were Tim Muller and John Stube. There was reason for optimism in the Johnnie camp, though the fact that St. Thomas and Gustavus were strong enough in 1969 to take away points from St. John's (and Macalester) rendered speculations concerning the MIAC standings for the year fruitless.

In a quadrangular meet involving Gustavus, St. Thomas, Augsburg and St. John's, Gustavus tied the

Johnnies 53-53, although the Jays took five first places, six second places, three third places and five fourth places.

In preparation for the 1969 meet Coach Smith split his team, sending seven men to the Drake Relays and entering the remainder of the team in the Bethel Relays. Joe Skaja, only a freshman, won second place in the Drake 26-mile marathon. In the Bethel Relays, St. John's, minus its top men, took second place to Hamline: Don Kluk won the high hurdles, Jon Kallman the two-mile, Martin Lundy and Frank Hudoba the triple jump, Jim Holmes and Tim Muller won the javelin relay.

In an elaborately detailed account of the St. John's prospects in its upcoming MIAC meet (*Record*, May 9, 1969), Jim Smith conceded that the outcome was a toss-up. He added the comment that he would welcome in the crowd of spectators some of the "Rats" who had helped his basketball team win the MIAC championship. John Cragg agreed:

"It will take a top-notch performance by every man on the team. Everybody wants a shot at Macalester, though, and I'm sure we'll be able to get up for the meet" (*ibid*).

By some editorial error the *Record* failed to report the outcome of the meet. Macalester defended its title successfully, however. It is probable that St. John's took second place, for in 1970 the Jays won the championship and retained it for the next four years consecutively.

Roster: Jeff Brain, John Cragg, Chuck Ceronsky, Henry Funk, Al Hechtman, James Holmes, Donald Holtzman, Jon Kallman, Martin Lundy, "Tex" Martin, Timothy Muller, Ron Nagurski, John Rieder, Thomas Schutta, Gary Stanoch, Peter Stickler, John Stube, Paul Weingert

- 1970 -

There was rejoicing in the ranks of the St. John's trackmen when the 1970MIAC meet was over and the Jays had out-scored Macalester 71U-64 for the championship. It had been a close contest between the three top teams in the conference-Macalester, St. John's and Hamline. Hamline took third place with 53 points.

Credit for the championship was due to Coach Jim Smith, who for four seasons had worked hard to catch up with powerful Macalester, training his men to pick up third, fourth and fifth place points as well as firsts and seconds, with the objective of coming up finally with a strong, well-balanced offense. According to Conrad Stroebe, the *Record* commentator assigned to cover the 1970 meet, the title was won pretty much as a strategic victory, with Smith deploying his men according to the strengths of Macalester, rather than to its weaknesses (of which there were very few). He pointed out in particular the strategy involved in winning the 880 run, an event that had been won three years consecutively by Macalester's great middle distance star, Dave Hodge. Hodge ran the mile race also, and when the event came up Coach Smith ordered Paul Muckerheide, his miler, to set a fast pace in hopes of tiring Hodge. Hodge won the event in the fast time of four minutes and ten seconds, but he was so exhausted that he failed even to place in his specialty, the 880. Hodge's failure to perform as usual opened the door to the Jays' Greg Cook, who ran the best race of his career and copped first place in one minute, 54 seconds. Mike Kremer took fifth place, with the result that St. John's gained seven points in an area where the year before Macalester had garnered thirteen.

Donald Kluk, one of the best hurdlers at St. John's from his freshman to his senior year, took two first places in the high and intermediate hurdles-an additional blow aimed at Macalester's strength.

Hard work and long-range planning had paid off. When he first assumed the duties of track coach, Coach

Smith had brought about the revival of cross-country and by 1970 had gathered together a four or-five-man team of the finest cross-country runners in MIAC history: John Cragg, Jeff Brain, Chuck Ceronsky, Joe Skaja, Paul Muckerheide, Jon Kallman and others. It was this team that provided the "unbeatable competition" that brought down the Macalester twelve-year reign over MIAC track. The cross-country runners filled the gap caused by the graduation of Dave Lamm, of whom Jim Holmes once remarked, "He was not only a runner, he was half a track team."

St. John's had an impressive record for success in other track contests outside the MIAC. Donald Kluk won the All-American title in the hurdles at the NAIA nationals. Chuck Ceronsky won the 27-mile marathon championship at the University of Kansas Relays. Joe Skaja won second place in the Drake Relays' 25-mile marathon.

Roster: Dave Arnold, James Boehlke, Jeff Brain, Charles Ceronsky, Gregory Cook, John Cragg, Henry Funk, Alpheus Finlayson, Frederick Halloran, Francis Hudoba, Terry Kapsen, Donald Kluk, Michael Kremer, Martin Lundy, Pat McCatherty, William McNamara, Kevin Moehn, Paul Muckerheide, Timothy Muller, Mark Lundy, Brian Racette, Stanley Reuther, James Ryczek, Joseph Skaja, Bernard Smith, Gary Stanoch, Paul Weingart

Conference standing: St. John's 71U, Macalester 64, Hamline 53, Concordia 18U, St. Thomas 18, Duluth 12, Gustavus 10, Augsburg 9

- 1971 -

Spirits were high in the St. John's camp for a repetition of the 1970 MIAC track championship. Spirits were so high, in fact, that some of the 1970 stars were looking forward to the All-American rankings in the NCAA-NAIA national meets that usually finished off the entire season. In his column "It Takes Leather," Marty Fenlon warned them: "We hear rumors that the track team will be the best ever. It seems that these boys are looking past the MIAC to bigger gatherings. We hope that in looking past the conference they don't forget about it" (*Record*, March 12, 1971).

The openly expressed self-confidence of the squad was excusable, for on the team were All-American hurdler Don Kluk, MIAC 880 champion Greg Cook, John Cragg, Jeff Brain and Joe Skaja, champion cross-country distance runners, Dave Arnold in the 440 and the long jump, not to speak of outstanding newcomers Chuck Way, Dave Lyndgaard, Rudy Sawyer, Bill McNamara, Dan Smith and Bill Joyce. Chuck Ceronsky, who graduated in 1970, was Smith's assistant coach.

In preparing for the MIAC meet, Jim Smith again showed his concern about providing stiff opposition for his tracksters by splitting up his squad and sending small groups to the Drake Relays or the Kansas University Relays, and keeping the major part of the squad for the Minnesota meets: e.g., the Bethel and the Carleton Relays. Highlight of the 1971 weekend at Kansas University was assistant coach Ceronsky's 27-mile marathon championship, which he won for the second year. "Chuck and Steve Young from New Mexico ran shoulder to shoulder for 25 miles," said Coach Smith, "but Chuck left him on a hill at the close."

St. John's two-mile team of Greg Cook, Mike Kremer, Bill Seidel and Chuck Way also did well, setting a school record of seven minutes and 54 seconds. The *Record* prognosticator predicted that Kluk would probably be the class winner of the conference in both the high and the intermediate hurdles. In 1970 he was champion in both and also champion for the third year in the high hurdles.

In spite of all the doubtings of Coach Smith and his precautions to avoid over-confidence in his track team, the 1971 squad turned out to be the strongest in St. John's history up to that time and won the

championship handily. As expressed by the St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, May 15, 1971, "A well-balanced St. John's University track team made a shambles of the 51st annual MIAC conference meet at Macalester's Shaw Stadium Saturday. The Jays, led by Chuck Way and scoring in 15 of the 17 events, finished with the greatest total in the conference history as they almost doubled the second-place team."

The conference teams' total points were as follows: St. John's 102, Hamline 58}/" St. Thomas 48, Macalester 24, Concordia 14}/" Duluth 12, Gustavus 24, Augsburg 9.

Chuck Way, St. John's star runner from LeSueur, a senior transfer from Northwestern, was the only triple winner of the meet, winning the half-mile, the mile and anchoring the second-place relay team. He was voted — the outstanding athlete of the meet and winner of the Carl Larson Memorial Trophy.

The most thrilling of the races, at least in the last twenty yards, was the three-mile contest between John Cragg and Joe Skaja, both St. John's contestants. Cragg, a star runner in his high school days at Cretin in St. Paul and throughout his college career at St. John's, was a dedicated track man and a determined competitor. Even as a freshman cross-country runner he had set the conference record in the three mile run at 14 minutes, 33 seconds. He was already a three-time champion in this event and in 1971 wanted to make it four in his last college race, despite having ruptured an Achilles tendon in January and not having run all spring in the preliminary meets.

In the race, Cragg stayed with the pack through the first mile, then moved up in front with his teammate Skaja for the second mile. With Cragg leading the way in the third mile, they pulled away from the other competitors and kept increasing their lead. Then in the last twenty yards Skaja sprinted out of the last turn, and Cragg, his injured leg and knees torturing him, was unable to meet the challenge. Skaja's time of 14:29.5 broke the 14:33 record set by Cragg as a freshman. The irony of it all is that Cragg broke his own record at the same time in spite of his bad leg, finishing for his defeat by Skaja in 14:29.8. Cragg, game to the end, offered no excuses: "I couldn't sprint. I just wasn't ready to run."

After following the athletic careers of those extraordinary distance runners Cragg-Ceronsky, Brain-Skaja, who along with Dave Lamm in the sprints put St. John's on the map in track, we wonder what happened to their running in this era of jogging and running for physical fitness and longevity. First comes John Cragg, '71, styled by Joe Skaja as the greatest runner in St. John's history. The leg that tormented him in his last year of college competition finally incapacitated him for running. After an M.S. in oceanography and work in that field, he finally settled on medicine for a lifetime career. He graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Medicine in 1978 and is planning to specialize in orthopedic surgery. For recreation he has substituted tennis and sailing for track.

Chuck Ceronsky, '70, is still running eight or nine miles a day, depending on the time he has available. After his graduation in 1970 he stayed on at St. John's and earned the master of arts degree in sacred studies, in the meantime assisting Jim Smith coach the track team. He was the first layman in the United States to be certified as a chaplain by the National Association of Catholic Chaplains. He served as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis, for several years and at present is director of the Respect for Life Program in the archdiocese.

Jeff Brain, '71, now a unit manager with the American Linen Supply Company in Minneapolis, continued his running career after graduation. He ran in the Boston Marathon in 1972 and '73. Also in 1972 he ran in the National ASU Marathon, finishing in sixteenth place. He has been president of the Minnesota Distance Running Association and editor of the association's newsletter. An attack of sciatica in 1973 ended his competitive running. But in 1976 he discovered bicycling and in the spring of 1978 was still looking forward to a big year.

Roster: David Arnold, James Boehlke, Jeff Brain, Gregory Cook, Kevin Carlson, John Cragg, Michael Fahey, Kevin Gallagher, Charles Harvey, David Holzemer, Donald Kluk, Michael Kremer, David Lyndgaard, William McNamara, Kevin Moehn, Timothy Muller, Jerry Neubauer, Nicholas Overby, Andrew Riehl, Chris Rose, Stanley Ruether, Rudy Savage, Rudy Sawyer, Norbert Schneider, William Seidel, Joseph Skaja, Daniel Smith, Peter Stickler, Charles "Chuck" Way

-1972 -

The only *Record* report on track for the year 1972 was an announcement in the April 28 issue of the coming MIAC championship tournament to be held at Macalester, together with a preview of the team St. John's could muster in defense of its title. The conclusion of the sportswriter was that, in spite of the loss of graduated John Cragg and Don Kluk, the Jays were well able to make a good account of themselves.

The distance runners, he reported, were practically unbeatable: namely, Joe Skaja, Dave Lyndgaard and Norbert Schneider, with the fine freshmen distance runners Michael Fahey, Daniel Smith and Kevin Carlson. Mike Kremer, 1971 champion in the steeplechase, was reasonably certain to take first place in his bid for a repeat in 1972. The middle distance runners, the hurdlers and 880 relay men, however, presented the strongest sector of the team: Jerry Neubauer, Dan Smith and Bill Joyce, all holdovers from 1971. Freshmen Barney Smith, Mike Heimann and Matthew Williams were competing with them for places on the team.

From casual observations found in the *Sagatagan* and particularly in the official records of the MIAC, St. John's defended its championship successfully and was awarded the 1972 title.

- 1973 -

Except for a blast leveled at the 1973 Jays for a miserable showing at an indoor track meet they had lost, the only track news for the year was a preview of the upcoming MIAC track tournament. It was a somewhat pessimistic review, predicting the loss of the MIAC championship if the Jays did not improve. The headline reads as follows: "Top Quality Missing. No Track Stars Among Tracksters." Pessimistic though it was, the evaluation on the whole was correct and opportune. It turned out that the 1973 Jays won the track championship again for the fourth time in as many years, but not because of "stars" on the team so much as the steady quality of several track members who were able to pick up second, third and fourth places, thereby amassing enough points to edge runner up Hamline by three points, 77-74. While Hamline was relegated to second place, it won eight first places to only three by St. John's. The St. John's victory was essentially a team effort.

The MIAC track tournament was a thriller. The outcome was not settled until the last event of the two-day tournament had been run off. The three-mile race was won by a stratagem that paid off. It is an interesting story: going into the three-mile race, St. John's and Hamline were locked in a 64-64 tie, with the championship hanging on the result of the three-mile race. Hamline's Dave Teague, a truly great distance runner, had already won the one-mile and the six-mile races and was on the verge of making a full sweep of the distance events. Coach Jim Smith, however, fully aware of the potential of the talented Teague, withdrew Kevin Carlson, the top St. John's distance man, from the one-mile and the six-mile races in order to keep him fresh for the three-mile, hoping to salvage the three-mile points instead of turning them over to Hamline. The plan worked. The rested Carlson defeated Teague for the first time in the season and also set a new conference record in the process.

Hamline coach Dave Stahly after the meet acknowledged the effectiveness of the strategy: "All season long Teague has had the best times in the state for his events, but this time, when the three-mile came

up, his energy was depleted" (St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, May 13, 1973).

As for the meet in general, both Smith and Stahly agreed that the meet was won by St. John's in the 440 hurdles: "The Johnnies picked up 13 points in that event while the Pipers were blanked" (*Pioneer Press*, May 13, 1973). Greg Traxler won the race in 56.6 seconds while teammates Matt Williams, Mike Heimann and Marty Smith finished second, fourth and fifth respectively.

This was Jim Smith's last year as track coach at St. John's. On the resignation of George Durenberger, Smith succeeded him as Director of Athletics. The 1973 championship came as a fitting swan song when his athletes carried him in a victory march that ended when they tossed him into the water hazard of the steeplechase—the traditional price a track coach pays for his championships.

Individual results: 3-mile, Kevin Carlson; 1st steeplechase, Timothy Heisel; 5th long jump, Dave Arnold; 4th 880 run, Jim Boehlke; 4th 440 hurdles, Michael Heimann; 3rd steeplechase, Dave Lyndgaard; 4th shot put, William McNamara; 5th 220 dash, Jerry Neubauer; 5th 880 run, Brian Racette; 2nd 1 mile, Sudsy Seidl; 2nd javelin, Richard Schletty; 3rd long jump, Al Van Landschoot; 4th shotput, Kurt Wachtler; 2nd 440 hurdles, Matthew Williams

Conference standing: St. John's 77, Hamline 74, St. Thomas 46, Gustavus 30, Concordia 21, Duluth 13, Augsburg 5

- 1974 -

On his appointment as Director of Athletics, Jim Smith relinquished his work as track coach and appointed David Arnold, a newly graduated trackman, to take his place. It was a happy choice. Arnold had a prestigious background in athletics, especially in football and track: the all-conference award at end in football for three consecutive years, the all-NAIA award twice, and was captain in his senior year. For a "At the close of the meet Coach Arnold expressed his appreciation of the team's performance: 'Hamline is just an awesome team and is building towards an empire with their fourth straight championship. I was pleased to place second. Our team was a close-knit unit and many personal bests were turned in—which is important to me as a coach.' "

Conference standing: Hamline 187, St. John's 104, St. Thomas 95, Concordia 67, Gustavus 50, St. Olaf 50, Augsburg 21, Macalester 15.

The NCAA Nationals

None of the seven qualified performers for the national championships fared well in the NCAA at Grand Rapids, Michigan, except Steve Gathje. Steve had qualified to run both the three-mile and the six-mile races—he chose the six-mile. In an outstanding field Steve came in around ninth place, but interestingly enough, his time as he passed the three-mile mark would have been good enough to gain for him All-American honors had he chosen the three-mile race.

Roster: Gary Albrecht, Dan Bane, Ben Belden, Fred Bock, Bernie Borschke, Pat Bussen, Jay Colleran, Andy Cragg, Pete Dilulio, Gary Donahue, Mike Doherty, Loren Ehrmantraut, Pete Gathje, Bill Greig, Norton Hatlie, Paul Hazuka, Steve Gathje, Tim Hendricks, Tom Herbst, Paul Johnston, Dave Kishel, Terry Kelly, Jeff Korsmo, Dale Kiedrowski, Ted Lexmond, Steve Marcella, Chris Lee, Rod LeVake, Gary Lust, Joe Metzger, Pat McCann, Dan McGuinn, Jim Moodie, Chris Napp, Mike O'Brien, Randy Odendahl, Mark Palmquist, Jeff Page, Dave Philp, Tom Scanlan, Kevin Riley, John Skrbec, Jim Saylor, John Smith, Tom Sexton, Joe Sokolowski, Bob Teigen, Tim Schmitz, Jim Simons, Mark Undeberg, Paul Theobald, Dean Wood, Rick Zieske

- 1978 -

By Mike Bauer

The opening of the 1978 track season found Mike Bauer, All-American hurdler, at the head of the track forces. On losing the consistent scoring power of distance star Steve Gathje, javelin thrower Rod LeVake, and jumper Dave Philp, the track team had some vitally important spots to fill. A true blessing was bestowed on the team, however- the fact that this year's freshman class included ten Minnesotastate meet participants, three of whom were state champions. The end of the season proved this year to be "The Year of the Freshmen." Although we got off to a slow start indoors, with many of our frosh sustaining minor injuries on the hard-surfaced indoor track, we still came through with some excellent individual performances. Distance ace Joe Perske and Pete Gathje shattered the previous two-mile indoor mark when they ran it in 9:13 and 9:16 respectively. Freshmen Chris Longbella and Mike Kennedy registered new indoor marks in the pole vault with leaps of 13 feet, 4 inches. Star freshman Tom Frericks was only three-tenths off the Warner Palaestra record in the 300-yard dash with a 32.9 finish. Junior Pete Gathje set an indoor record in the three mile run (14:35), and Norton Hatlie bettered his own record in the 1,000-yard run in 2:16.8 time.

As the season progressed, we saw improvement being made meet after meet, and two weeks before the MIAC meet we won the Bethel Relays against most of the conference powers. As the MIAC tournament drew closer, the freshman dominance over the team began to show. Both relay teams (the 440 and the mile) had three freshmen each. The 440 relay team of Pat Stone (freshman), James Simons(senior), Mike Frericks (freshman) and Thomas Frericks (freshman)took first place in the MIAC tournament in the excellent time of 42.9.

At this point in the meet the Durenberger All-Sports Trophy came into the picture. It found St. John's and St. Thomas tied in team standings. Thus, with the mile relay being the only event left to add points for the trophy, the burden of winning their relay race against St. Thomas and breaking the tie lay on the shoulders of the freshmen and Gary Donahue, the only upperclassman on the relay team. Gary informed his relay teammates, freshman John Gagliardi, Jr., frosh Tom Frericks and anchorman Chuck Moose that they had to better St. Thomas by two places in the mile relay to win the All-Sports Trophy contest.

Running against a thirty miles-an-hour wind, all four relay men ran superbly in competition against experienced teams. Donahue and Gagliardi ran the opening legs, while frosh Frericks ran a 49.6 third leg (an amazing time considering the wind velocity), and anchorman Chuck Moose nosed out St. Olaf for fourth place in the event, just enough to out-score the Tommies and win the All-Sports Trophy by two points and also take third place in the MIAC.

Other outstanding performances at the conference meet were Norton Hatlie's first-place finish in the steeplechase and also the tie of Ted Lexmond and Paul Theobald for second place in the high jump.

1978 Nationals

St. John's had four qualifiers for the 1978 nationals: Joe Perske, Loren Ehrmantraut, Norton Hatlie and Gary Albrecht. Ehrmantraut did not compete in the nationals, however, because of an injury sustained in the MIAC meet.

Joe Perske qualified in three events in the NCAA, the six-mile, the three-mile and the steeplechase, whereas in the NAIA he had the choice of the marathon. Perske chose the NAIA marathon down in Abilene, Texas. He had been training for the twenty-six mile race all year, logging as many as 560 miles in one month and averaging 450 miles per month. Joe felt stronger in the longer runs and proved this by

placing fourth in a field of top-flight marathoners. His time of 2:26, 11.0 was a whole minute faster than the previous marathon time of Chuck Ceronsky in 1970.

Norton Hatlie qualified for the steeplechase, held at the NCAA meet in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He ran well in the qualifying rounds and made the finals. He missed the finisher's place (the top six), but came in at eleventh in the nation. He felt he could have done better, but he had a hard time in the 92-degree heat and the 85 percent humidity. Gary Albrecht threw the javelin well and ended in twelfth place. What he appreciated especially was that he beat all the other "spear chuckers" from the MIAC conference.

Roster: Gary Albrecht, Mark Bechtold, Pat Bussen, Michael Doherty, Gary Donahue, Mark Doyle, Loren Ehrmantraut, Tom Eickhoff, David Evans, Michael Frericks, Tom Frericks, John Gagliardi, Tom Gasperlin, Peter Gathje, Norton Hatlie, Paul Hazuka, Tim Hendricks, Tom Herbst, Terry Kelly, Michael Kennedy, Steve Kennedy, Dale Kiedrowski, Ted Lexmond, Chris Longbella, Dennis Lothenbach, Gary Lust, Pat McCann, Dan McGuinn, Tim McKenna, Joe Metzger, James Moodie, Charles Moore, Tom Novak, Mike O'Brien, Jeff Page (captain), Joe Perske, Jeff Pribyl, Tom Scanlan, Tom Sexton, Mark Shimota, James Simons, Joe Sokolowski, Steve Sornsins, Pat Stone, Paul Theobald (captain), Tim Thornton, Mark Undeberg, Reggie Wilson, Joseph Zabinski

Chapter VI: Cross Country

- 1947-48 -

Cross-country, like soccer, is one of the sports that made a late appearance on the St. John's campus. The fact is, however, that St. John's was no slower than the other colleges in the conference, for the first cross-country championship ever awarded in the MIAC was in 1949, two years after the first public announcement appeared in the school paper, the *Record*.

Interest in cross-country as a fall intercollegiate sport involving distance running up and down hills and crossing meadows and streams of water, had been building up for some time on the campus. Basketball coaches favored it as a means of conditioning players for the winter season. Track coaches also encouraged it for the development of their distance runners, in preparation for spring training. A certain amount of propaganda had also taken place among distance runners in all the MIAC colleges, who were looking forward to the time when the conference would field competing teams in cross-country for its own sake. The student enthusiasts finally attained their objective officially in 1949 with the awarding of the first MIAC championship to the College of St. Thomas.

The first published announcement of St. John's entry into cross country competition in the MIAC appeared in the October 23, 1947, issue of the *Record* with an article under the heading "Harriers prepare for Fall Meet at St. Paul." The article goes on to say that Coach Donald Sheehan, "looking towards the State Cross Country meet at the State Fair Grounds in St. Paul, is running his cross-country squad through its daily paces. . . . The meet is a revived feature in the conference this year, having been voted in at the fall meeting of the conference coaches." The fact that the sport received a somewhat cool welcome onto the campus was later evidenced by the first granting of monogram letters to the cross-country men (the harriers) in 1969, over twelve years later. There were doubtless well-founded reasons for the delay, for cross-country was not as yet a popular spectator sport and only the strongly dedicated were willing to undertake the grueling training regimen required for serious distance running. The first two coaches, Don Sheehan and Larry Schwietz, were volunteers who were motivated entirely by a whole-hearted enjoyment of running.

Because of the scanty information furnished by the *Record* concerning cross-country in its early years, there is little more to report for 1947, 1948 and 1949 than the name of the coach and his five or six team members. For example, Coach Donald Sheehan led a team of six members: Henry Ayd, Clement Beaulieu, Matthias Green, Arthur Hessburg, Werner Oehrlein, and Robert Seifert. In 1948, Coach Larry Schwietz of the track team fielded a team made up of Ray Muskat, Eugene Rausch, Robert Simons, Donald Wild and James Zylla. For this year the college MIAC standings in cross-country competition were published for the first time. The order is as follows: St. Thomas, Augsburg, St. Olaf, Hamline, St. John's, and Gustavus. St. John's finished the season in fifth place.

The 1949 team, coached by John Spalding, an energetic, active athlete, was stronger in that it had on its roster a genuine long distance runner of talent, Emmett "Tex" Mulcare, followed by Peter Rother, Robert Simons, and James Zylla. No report of the conference doings was made in the *Record*.

- 1950 -

With the fall issues of the *Record*, October 26, 1950, cross-country now began to come into its own under the coaching and direction of John Spalding, who extended the cross-country program by scheduling two meets to precede the MIAC tournament. In a dual meet with Macalester the Johnnies defeated the Macs by a score of 19-36-19 for St. John's, 36 for Macalester. (It must be understood that in crosscountry, as in golf, the lowest number of points scored indicates the winner.)

In a second meet held at St. John's during the halves of a homecoming game with Duluth, the Jays defeated the visiting Bulldogs by a score of 17-38. Actually, it was a publicity stunt thought up as a means of introducing cross-country to a school that knew little about the sport and was apathetic enough not to care. But John Spalding had no intention of allowing the St. John's faculty and student body to undervalue cross-country. His 1950 season was successful. The principal factor that contributed most to the success of the 1950 season was the presence on the team of Emmett "Tex" Mulcare, an all-time holder of St. John's Prep School records in track, and the fastest, most durable cross-country runner in the college up to this time. He easily measures up to the exploits of other St. John's greats in their freshman years. Unfortunately, he did not return to complete his college work at St. John's.

The MIAC 1950 tournament provided the St. John's harriers the opportunity to demonstrate their rapid development under the driving of student-coach John Spalding. According to a November 9, 1950 resume of the tournament in the *Record*, the St. John's distance runners finished in second place behind the crack St. Thomas team that had dominated the conference since 1949. St. Thomas took five of the first places. St. John's ace, Tex Mulcare, took fifth place, followed by Jim Zylla, Ralph Brown, Kenneth Wald and Donald Rubertus. The vast superiority of St. Thomas over all the other MIAC colleges is seen in the scores: St. Thomas 16, St. John's 65, St. Olaf 71, Hamline 102, Macalester 102, Duluth 109.

- 1951-53 -

There is no record of the 1951 cross-country team in the *Record*. Some meager information is supplied in the 1952 *Record*, however, that merely names the coach and a few of the 1951 team members. In a preview of the 1952 season, the *Record* commentator, in a flashback, cites the qualifications of the 1951 veteran runners:

"This year's squad will be bolstered by two outstanding veterans from Chuck Randall's 1951 team, 'Boots' Wald and Peter Rother. Wald (now Fr. Kenneth Wald in the diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota), one of the best distance runners St. John's has had for some time, proved his ability in the Marathon race last fall when he copped first place at Macalester, the Johnnies' only meet of the season. Wald was also a consistent point winner in track last spring in the distances. The other veteran, Peter Rother, will

add considerable power. to this team, as he has in the past three years of competition" (*Record*, October 3, 1952).

No record was kept of the 1952 cross-country season. The 1953 report was very meager, but it was enough to indicate that the club was still alive and active. In a tiny, twelve-line news item on the sports page (*Record*, October 23, 1953), the opening of the cross-country sea son was announced: "The Jay thin clads continue daily workouts in preparation for the annual cross-country meet at Minneapolis, Oct. 29. With a decisive victory over State Track Champions Macalester (*sic*), the cross-country cindermen show the spirit and potential for a successful season." No report was made of the 1953 conference tournament, but in a preview of the 1954 season it is stated that the 1953 Jays were runners up to St. Thomas, the conference champions.

- 1954 -

In 1954 hopes ran high for a conference championship following a victory over St. Thomas in a dual meet by a score of 24-31. In this dual meet St. Thomas took first and third places. John Schlumpberger, the St. John's ace, finished in second place behind the Tommie star Jim Deane. Don Mahowald, Mike O'Fallon, Bob Hunt and George Geray (in that order) took fourth. fifth and seventh places.

In a second dual meet with St. Olaf the Johnnies defeated the ales 22-33. Schlumpberger missed taking first place by a tenth of a second. Bob Hunt, Don Mahowald and George Geray won places four, five and six. Freshman Joseph Lechowicz took number nine.

The MIAC Tournament

Typical of the scant interest, or failure to understand the scoring system of cross-country at this time, the *Record* sportswriter gave only a short, unappreciative account of the meet and St. John's victory over perennial champion St. Thomas, thereby annexing to SJU the title for 1954. Jim Deane of St. Thomas took first and Toby Mattern of Macalester second, but the combined efforts of the Johnnies' John Schlumpberger, third, Don Mahowald, fifth, Bob Hunt, sixth, Mike O'Fallon, ninth and George Geray, twelfth, gave the Jays their winning margin and the championship.

- 1955 -

When the 1955 season rolled around, the situation called for a rapid reorganization of the team to defend the 1954 cross-country championship. Prospects were particularly good, for of the four returning lettermen from 1954 three were seniors and one a junior. The strategy was to use the three seniors- John Schlumpberger, Mike O'Fallon and Vincent Hunt-while they were still with the team. The difficulty was to choose the fifth team member from among five highly competent candidates-Joseph Lechowicz, Cyril Paul, Gary Sauer and Jerry Wolf. They settled by using the candidate who on different occasions proved suitable for the situation.

But bad luck hit the team early in the season before the Johnnies met St. Thomas and Macalester in a triangular meet, September 31, at Nokomis Park. Schlumpberger, the ace and highest point winner of the group, suffered a foot injury and was unable to run. The result was that St. John's, with 40 points, took second place behind St. Thomas with its 37 points. Macalester was third with 43.

The results of the MIAC tournament held later were never published. The official MIAC list of championships credits Duluth with the title.

-1956 -

As was anticipated in 1955, graduation left the cross-country team with only one experienced runner in Captain Donald Mahowald, who also served as the coach. Coach Mahowald worked hard with the squad, but the lack of experience took its toll in the season outcome. The season record was the loss of two dual meets and third place in the conference standings.

In the first loss-to St. Olaf-Don Mahowald, Russ Banner and James Eddy finished in third, fourth and fifth places respectively. In the second, against Macalester, the Jays ran into a Tartar, definitely a contender for the championship, who defeated them by the score of 17-38. James Eddy, a returnee to St. John's after completing his military obligation, was greatly improved over his dual meet performances and took fourth place. Donald Mahowald, John Mullally and James Donohue took the seventh, eighth and ninth places respectively. Macalester demonstrated its full power in the MIAC tournament by easily winning the championship with five of the first six places for 19 points. Duluth finished in second with 49 points, St. John's (third place) with 55 and St. Thomas 83.

Individual Johnnie performers in the MIAC tournament were James Eddy, fourth place, Russ Banner, eleventh, Donald Mahowald, twelfth; James Donohue, John Mullally and Jack McHale also were point winners, though their records were not posted.

- 1957 -

In the September 27, 1957 issue of the *Record* there appears a heavy black headline: "CROSS COUNTRY GO-GO BOYS SEE GOOD YEAR!" The article goes on to say that cross-country is the newest and least known sport on campus and that "there has been no interest in the sport because none of the meets has been held at Colledgeville."

It was a situation that Coach Jim Smith in the late 1960's and early 1970's tried to remedy by exposing the St. John's public to demonstrations of a cross-country race during the halves of football games.

The writer of the article attempted something of this kind by acquainting *Record* readers with the scoring system of cross-country: "In cross country the course is usually laid out over open ground in the shape of a figure eight. The members of the five-man teams run the 2.1-3 miles and are awarded according to the place in which they finish (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.). The points of the five runners of each team are then added up and the team with the lowest number of points is the winner." The writer spent no more time on cross-country after writing the first announcement of the season opening. We learn through the MIAC championship records that Macalester won the 1957 cross-country title. Members of the St. John's team were James Eddy, Russ Banner, James Donohue, Jerome "Jerry" Schoenecker (one of St. John's most famous trackmen in his freshman year), John Mullally and freshmen Michael Cain and William Berg.

1957 marks the end of the first period in the history of cross-country at St. John's. The college ceased to put out a team for the next nine seasons, only to have the sport revived under Coach James Smith in 1966.

- 1965-66 -

After an interval of nine years, 1957-66, cross-country again came into its own. When Jim Smith, the new basketball coach, was assigned track as his springtime duty, he immediately decided to revive cross country for the development of endurance in his basketball players, and also as an early training period for distance runners on his track team.

Success did not come immediately to Jim Smith and the six distance runners who survived the early autumn training exercises. Jim handled the men with a sort of low-g geared drive, however, that was

productive of progress and enthusiasm in athletes who were not yet accustomed to the demands of a sport that in many aspects was a grueling test of courage and perseverance. To add to the problem of establishing a new sport was the domination of Macalester and St. Thomas over MIAC track meets that gave each of them a mathematical monopoly over championships. On the other hand, seven teams would be represented in the MIAC championship meet, and the six St. John's runners were eager to match their endurance in competition with the lower category teams, if not with the two front runners.

The first competition of the 1965 season was a dual meet with the strong St. Cloud State team on the Albany golf course (three miles) from which the Jays emerged defeated by a score of 17-43 points. Team members were Donald Garceau, Gregory Motl, David Thein, Hubert Dufner and James Flick.

The second meet was a quadrangular affair on the Como Park grounds (3.8 miles). St. John's took third place behind Winona State and Bethel, 63-13. St. John's garnered 64 points. Augsburg did not finish the race and was disqualified.

In the MIAC championship meet held at the University of Minnesota golf course (three miles) St. John's took third place with 53 points, behind Macalester with its score of 27 points and Augsburg with 47. St. Thomas was fourth with an unusual 89 points.

Roster: Hubert Dufner, Leo Fourre, Donald Garceau, Douglas Johnson, David Thein, William Thibedeau
Conference standing: (1) Macalester, 27; (2) Augsburg, 47; (3) St. John's, 53; (4) St. Thomas, 89

- 1966-67 -

In the second year of its revival, cross-country was still far from being one of the strong sports of the St. John's athletic department. An encouraging addition to the squad was freshman Paul Muckerheide from Seattle, Washington, who demonstrated his interest and staying qualities by traveling the entire distance from Seattle to St. John's by bicycle. The team finished the season in fourth place behind front running Macalester, Concordia, and St. Thomas in that order.

Interest in the sport had begun to pick up, however, partly through the novel experiment of holding a dual meet between the halves of football games. During half-time of the 1966 homecoming game with St. Thomas, St. John's lost to the Tommies by one point, 28-29. A week later the Jays defeated Hamline in the half-time of a football game by a score of 20-40 on the Hamline campus. The season results are as follows: at Concordia, 2.2 miles, lost 39-19; St. Thomas at St. John's, 2.9 miles, lost 28-29; at Augsburg, second place-Augsburg 35, SJU 37, Hamline 56.

Conference standing: (1) Macalester, 17; (2) Concordia, 92; (3) St. Thomas, 92; (4) St. John's 102; (5) Augsburg, 109; (6) Hamline, 140; (7) Gustavus, 170

Roster: Patrick Billion, William Byrne, Donald Garceau, David Glesener, John Garceau, Daniel Klenow, Paul Muckerheide, David Thein, James Urick, Warren Vollmar

- 1967-68-

1967 can rightfully be called Coach Jim Smith's first bonanza year. His squads heretofore had among their members several dedicated runners whom he welcomed and considered the finest and most deserving athletes on campus. But never before had any new additions caused the same instant uplift of spirits and hopes as the enrollment of freshmen John Cragg and Jeffrey Brain, two top stars from the Catholic prep school ranks. Pat Sweeney's article in the September 29, 1967 issue of the *Record* gives some idea of the elation that swept over the cross-country runners when they saw the newcomers in

action:

"Cross-country at SJU has passed its infancy and is ready to take its place as a major sport. Previously, cross-country runners were not awarded letters and the main purpose of their travels was to get in shape for track. But now, with such outstanding runners as John Cragg and Jeff Brain, the Johnny runners are ready to go all out in MIAC competition. . . . Looking into the future is pleasant for Coach Smith. His squad, top heavy with sophomores and freshmen, provides a strong nucleus to build around" (*Record*, September 29, 1967).

The regular season was star-studded with four victories and one loss. Victories were over Bethel (18-42), St. Thomas (18-45), Augsburg (17-44) and Hamline (19-41). A dual meet was lost to Macalester, 35-20, on "a dark, wet day and a confusing course." The greatness of John Cragg even as a freshman was made manifest this year by his first place victories in each of these five meets. Jeff Brain was not far behind, with three second places, one tie with Cragg for first place, and an eighth against Macalester, his one bad day of the season.

On being invited to the St. Cloud Invitational at the country club, in which the Jays met the top cross-country teams in the state, SJU finished in third place. Again Cragg took first place honors. Already warned by their dual meet loss to Macalester, the Jays nevertheless made a gallant try to win the MIAC title. Once more the Macs out-ran St. John's despite the first and second place finishes of Cragg and Brain. Both broke the Lake Nokomis record by times of 20:40 and 21:30, a record set by Macalester only the year before. Three other Jays who finished high were George Diehl, Thomas Goebel and Roy Glover. The Jays finished in second place.

The outcome of the NAIA District 13 meet, for which the Jays were eligible, was a satisfying surprise for Coach Smith, who saw his harriers finish ahead of the highly touted St. Cloud State team and take second place behind the winner, Macalester. Besides Cragg, who again took first place, were runners Brain (eighth), Timothy Kehoe (15th), Dan Klenow (20th) and Jon Kallman (25th).

Said Jim Smith with a broad smile, "Yes, we might just be tougher next year. Tough enough to take over the top spot among the harriers."

Roster: Patrick Billion, Jeffrey Brain, Gregory Cook, John Cragg, George Diehl, Roy Glover, Thomas Goebel, Jon Kallman, Timothy Kehoe, David Lukenow, Brian Martin, Patrick McKee, Paul Muckerheide, John Rieder Conference standing: (1) Macalester, 29; (2) St. John's, 56; (3) Augsburg, 83; (4) Hamline, 88; (5) Gustavus, 142; (6) St. Thomas, 145; (7) Concordia, 199

- 1968-69 -

When school opened in the fall of 1968, Coach Jim Smith was confident that St. John's finally had the power in cross-country to dethrone Macalester from its lofty position as champions of the MIAC. The year before, freshmen John Cragg and Jeff Brain were able to lift St. John's to second place behind the Scots, but the team as yet was unable to match Macalester's power and experience.

The 1968 season opened with the Cragg-Brain duo intact, together with the improving Daniel Klenow, Jon Kallman and others. The great difference on which Jim Smith relied was the presence of two new crosscountry stars, Chuck Ceronky, a 1967 sophomore transfer from Nazareth Hall minor seminary in St. Paul, and Joseph Skaja (pronounced Sky-ya), an intense, dedicated freshman cross-country star from Technical High School in St. Cloud—"Tiger" Skaja, as he was soon nicknamed. The foursome-Cragg-

Brain-Ceronsky-Skaja-could match Macalester's best.

In the first cross-country encounter of the season, a triangular meet with Gustavus and St. Cloud State, St. John's almost literally ran away with the field, winning the match with a score of 22, Mankato 44 and Gustavus 66. Ceronsky and Cragg tied for first place in the three-mile race, "holding hands as they broke the finishing tape together." Jeff Brain was third, Skaja seventh and Jon Kallman ninth.

Shortly thereafter the Jays entered the Bemidji Invitational, in which the Jays were pitted against the top teams of the state. St. John's finished in second place behind St. Cloud State with a score of 62 points versus the 32 of St. Cloud (this was one of the best years of the great St. Cloud distance runners). In the three-mile race the Jays had three runners who finished among the first ten: Cragg, Ceronsky and Brain.

In the St. Cloud Invitational, in which eight teams competed, St. John's again took second place behind NIT champion St. Cloud State. Following this, St. John's took fifth place in the Notre Dame Invitational.

The high point of the entire season was, for St. John's, the MIAC championship meet held on the St. John's campus. It was a big day for the St. John's harriers. Chuck Ceronsky took first place in the five-mile run in a time of 25 minutes, 42.4 seconds (25:42.4). Jeff Brain was third, Cragg fourth, Skaja tenth and Michael Feneis thirteenth. It was a happy day for relieved Jim Smith. He was worried throughout the race about the condition of the team, for there had been many injuries shortly before the meet, especially a knee injury to John Cragg. It was the only MIAC race in his four years of competition that Cragg came in other than in first place. As Jim Smith said, "He was happy even to finish."

The 1968-69 conference tournament was a happy and memorable occasion for Coach Smith. It was not merely that his team won the championship title, though that was the crowning point of the day, but also that it was the first time the faculty and student body were able to witness a full-fledged cross-country meet, and they were won over. He was especially well pleased with the support of the students and faculty: "Having so many supporters out there really encourages the runners, especially during the last mile" (*Record*, November 8, 1968). The coaches of the other MIAC teams agreed that the field at St. John's was much more diversified than that of Lake Nokomis, the traditional site of the cross-country meets.

Winners of all-conference honors were Chuck Ceronsky, John Cragg and Jeff Brain. Smith took his top seven runners to the NAIA national meet held in Oklahoma City, where the Johnnies placed eighth.

Roster: Jeff Brain, Chuck Ceronsky, John Cragg, George Diehl, Michael Feneis, Jon Kallman, Joseph Skaja

Conference standing: (1) St. John's, 31; (2) Macalester, 43; (3) Augsburg, 83; (4) Gustavus, 103; (5) Duluth, 112; (6) St. Thomas, 151; (7) Hamline, 155

- 1969-70 -

The 1969 cross-country team was basically the same as that of 1968, a well-balanced group that won the MIAC championship for the following two years. There was a solid reason for their success, namely, the running of the most powerful foursome the MIAC had ever seen before: John Cragg, Chuck Ceronsky, Jeff Brain and Joe Skaja. The group was so closely knit together that their only danger in the MIAC was the possibility of injuries that could disrupt their racing strategy. Coach Smith said that Cragg in particular was a very smart runner, though Cragg himself insisted that his only strategy was to get ahead and stay there.

The 1969 Jays won the MIAC championship easily by taking the first four places. Cragg was the individual champion of the meet, coming in ahead of Ceronsky who had taken first place the year before. The team, in fact, so dominated the meet that it placed four runners on the all-conference team—Cragg, Ceronsky, Brain and Skaja. Following the MIAC meet, Coach Smith took the team to Wheaton, Illinois, to compete in the NCAA Division III national championships.

The team did not fare well, however, though Cragg continued to run well and placed second in the 350-man field. The rest of the team failed to run according to their potential, and St. John's as a team took ninth place.

Cragg was awarded the title All-American and eligibility to participate in the next meet in a higher division. His private triumph was coming in ahead of Dirkes, his special nemesis from St. Cloud State, who finished the race in fourth place.

Roster: Jeff Brain, Chuck Ceronsky (co-captain), John Cragg, Jon Kallman, Edward Kosiba, Michael Kremer, Paul Muckerheide (co-captain), Norbert Schneider, Joseph Skaja

Conference standing: (1) St. John's, 31; (2) Macalester, 47; (3) Augsburg, 64; (4) St. Thomas, 132; (5) Hamline, 132; (6) Duluth, 147; (7) Gustavus, 170

- 1970-71 -

Chuck Ceronsky graduated in the spring of 1970 but remained at St. John's to work for the master's degree in theology. As an additional activity to keep in shape and help St. John's retain the conference title he assisted Jim Smith in both cross-country and track. Ceronsky was the only member of the famous St. John's foursome in cross-country who was missing for the 1970 campaign, but the vacated place was quickly filled by a new cross-country star in the person of Dave Lyndgaard, and prospects immediately brightened. To the top performers of the last few years were also added Norbert Schneider and Mike Kremer, both promising competitors for entrance into the charmed circle. In the offing were James Boehlke, Kurt Wegleitner and David Arch, also good prospects.

Coach Smith scheduled three of the big invitationals that had become popular in the hope that the team might jell early for the MIAC conference meet to be held at the St. Cloud Country Club, with St. John's as the host school. An effort was made to schedule some dual meets also. Information about the outcome of the meets is scanty, however. About all the information available is that St. John's took first place in the St. Cloud Invitational, with John Cragg winning first place, followed by Joe Skaja (third), Jeff Brain (fourth), Dave Lyndgaard (twelfth) and Jon Kallman (nineteenth).

In 1970, for the second year in a row, St. John's won the MIAC championship, with Macalester taking second place. John Cragg and Jeff Brain finished their races in first and second places, respectively. Winners of all-conference honors were five of the St. John's runners: John Cragg, Jeff Brain, Joe Skaja, Dave Lyndgaard and, Norbert Schneider.

Coach Jim Smith entered the St. John's harriers in both the NAIA and NCAA national championships. In the NCAA Division II group St. John's took eighth place: Cragg won second place and was awarded the All-American title for the second time

Roster: David Arch, James Boehlke, Jeff Brain, John Cragg, Jon Kallman, Michael Kremer, David Lyndgaard, Norbert Schneider, Joseph Skaja, Kurt Wegleitner
Conference standing: (1) St. John's, 26; (2) Macalester, 56; (3) St. Thomas, 93; (4) Augsburg, 113; (5) Duluth, 118; (6) Hamline, 131; (7) Gustavus, 181

- 1971-72 -

In a long article that appeared in the *Record* (November 2, 1971), sportswriter Jim Boehlke, who was also a cross-country runner, wrote a preview of the 1971 cross-country season. Apparently exhausted by the effort, he left to some future writer the task of reporting on the meet. Fortunately, a one-page summary of cross-country history was located, entitled "St. John's Cross-Country Highlights 1967-75," which reveals that the 1971 meet really was held, that St. John's won the championship, that Joe Skaja was the individual champion and that three St. John's runners were awarded all-conference honors: Joe Skaja, Mike Kremer and Dave Lyndgaard. In other words, the 1971 cross-country team was a memorable success.

But Jim Boehlke's article was enlightening. Starting with the theory that distance runners are not born but made, and "that any group of harriers is only as good as the runners themselves make it," he analyzes the qualities of mind and body that are needed: "The physical attributes, the competitive spirit, and the love of sport are all requirements for distance running, but the name of the game is discipline. . . . The quest of this discipline makes cross-country the most mentally stringent sport of all" (*Record*, November 2, 1971).

Boehlke pointed out that, although John Cragg and Jeff Brain had graduated and the quality of the team was less than it was in 1970-71, the basic quality of the team suffered little loss because of compensation made by the fabulous increase in the dedication of the entire squad. If it is true that dedication and hard work make the distance runner, then the 1971 team was sure to be a success.

Joe Skaja set the pace by his rigorous training program. Six days of the week he ran a distance of twelve miles a day, running seven miles every morning and five, six or seven in the afternoon. His example was contagious. "Two years ago only the top five ran regularly each morning," wrote Boehlke. "Now, however, no less than twelve run twice a day. Competition is stiffer and no one can let himself slip, or even let anyone catch up." He warned them, "You are your own coach, and you'd better not ease up on your one-man team" (*Record*, November 2, 1971, p. 3).

The analysis and advice must have been observed, for the 1971 Jays again were the MIAC champions. But it was not an easy title to win. Dave Lyndgaard, who along with Joe Skaja was a leading figure in the development of the team, wrote of the problems that arose during the MIAC meet and how the hard work and self-discipline had paid off:

"The team suffered a considerable blow when Norb Schneider (allconference '70) fell during the MIAC meet and sustained a leg injury that prevented him from completing the race. The meet was held in a driving rain storm; Dave Lyndgaard fell twice during the race but avoided injury and finished eighth.

"Mike Kremer's fifth place finish, coupled with Mike Fahey's twelfth place, helped considerably to offset Schneider's loss. The real hero of the meet was Kevin Gallagher, who rose to the occasion and came up with a very creditable race to assure SJU's continued domination over the MIAC. Joe Skaja established himself as the MIAC's premier distance runner that year when he arrived all alone at the finish line, well ahead of second place finisher Urho Rahkola of the University of Minnesota-Duluth."

Roster: James Boehlke, Kevin Carlson, Michael Fahey, Kevin Gallagher, David Kayser, Michael Kremer, Nicholas Overby, Andrew Riehl, Chris Rose, Norbert Schneider, Joseph Skaja, Kurt Wegleitner

Joe Skaja

The year 1971-72 marks the end of Joe Skaja's career as a cross country and track man at St. John's.

He was a fierce competitor, colorful and ambitious to reach the top as a runner. In an interview at the close of his college years he named two highlights of his running career: first, his winning of second place in the 26-mile marathon held at Drake University in 1968, when he was only in his freshman year in college; second, his defeat in 1970 of John Cragg in the three-mile MIAC race when he came in ahead of John Cragg, whom he considered the best runner in St. John's history. Skaja's exit from running was spectacular. In the MIAC track meet of 1972 he won all the distance races, the one-mile, the three-mile and six-mile. He was a three-time all-conference winner in cross-country and track-1969, '70, '71. He won the All-American award in track in 1972.

Joe's choice of a profession was to teach in high school and coach. He is now living in Exeter, New Hampshire, however, and, of all things, is the designer for NIKE, the world's number one manufacturer of running shoes.

- 1972-73 -

Jim Boehlke in his preview of the 1972 cross-country season (*Record*, September 15, 1972) predicted good things for the Johnnies. It was almost an unqualified prediction, for though the team would miss the "indestructible Joe Skaja," the core of the team was made up of well established runners such as the talented Dave Lyndgaard, Kevin Carlson, Mike Fahey and Nicholas Overby. There was also an impressive array of freshman runners coming up that included some of the ten best runners in the public and Catholic schools of the state, among them Pat Feehan, Timothy Heisel, Timothy Miles and Al Van Landschoot from Catholic high schools, and Bill Martell from Wisconsin. Coaches Smith and Ceronsky were assured of the depth that sometimes wins track and cross-country meets despite the lack of star performers. As for the other schools in the conference, this was, they felt, the year for beating the Johnnies, now four-time champions of the MIAC.

The schedule for 1972 was heavy with invitationals: Iowa State, Luther, Bemidji, Manitoba, St. Cloud, Notre Dame and St. Olaf. After the meet at Bemidji, from which St. John's emerged in fifth place, it became evident that the Tommies were beginning to overshadow the Jays and ante element of disquiet began to make itself felt on the squad. Chuck Ceronsky, however, after watching the team practice, observed signs that encouraged him. He remarked, "Don't tell the boys I said it, but Lyndgaard is going to take the conference" (*Record*, November 3, 1972, p. 4). He was correct; St. John's again won the MIAC championship. Lyndgaard blazed his way to the front for first place and the individual championship of the conference. He showed himself to be a complete leader, one who thrived under competition, as was demonstrated again in 1973 when he won the NCAA All-American award in cross-country.

In a subsequent report Dave Lyndgaard gave his own account of what took place in the 1972-73 conference meet: "In one of my fondest memories of sports, St. John's responded to the challenge with an outstanding team effort. My knee by this time had grown strong enough for me to win the race and to continue the string of SJU runners who won the individual title. Then a flu-ridden Tim Heisel managed to finish sixth. Almost unbelievably, Kevin Carlson completed the race in fifth place, a totally unexpected surprise. Nick Overby, running the race of the season, slipped to twelfth place. The real surprise was Pat Feehan. A spring knee injury had kept Pat from training all summer and limited his training that fall. Spurred on by the knowledge that his teammate and friend Mike Fahey was still too weak from the flu to help the Jays, Pat clinched the title for SJU with a thirteenth place finish. Bothered afterwards by the knee injury, this was to be the last race in which Feehan was able to compete at, or even near to, full strength."

In the NAIA district play-offs at Como Park, St. John's came out in first place with a score of 45 points, St. Thomas had 53 and Hamline 89. Dave Lyndgaard led the Johnnies with a first place finish in the

meet and taking the 1972 individual title.

- 1973 -

The 1973 cross-country season lacked much of the drama of 1972, probably by the fact that this year St. John's relinquished its five-year reign over the MIAC. The Jays finished the season in second place behind Hamline, which had been coming up fast with a strong team. As the season developed it gradually became evident that, however strong St. John's might be, Hamline was just a shade stronger. The final MIAC meet score of the two contending colleges was 38-50, a matter of only twelve points difference. In the MIAC meet Dave Lyndgaard ended in fourth place, Jerry Faletti fifth, Tim Heisel eighth, Kevin Carlson ninth and Nick Overby eleventh.

In the absence of cross-country information in the *Record*, Captain Lyndgaard wrote a summary of the season, as follows:

"Prospects for the 1973 season appeared bright as the St. John's harriers began preparing for the defense of the MIAC cross-country title. After all, last year's entire varsity had returned and included as special features Captain Dave Lyndgaard, the holder of the MIAC 1972 cross-country title. There were also on the team two champions from the track team: namely, Tim Heisel in the steeplechase and Kevin Carlson in the three-mile run. Early successes were even more encouraging. The 1972 conference runnerup, St. Thomas, was an even stronger team than in 1972, and yet St. John's handled the Tommies easily in early meets. The only worry and obstacle to a repetition of the championship was the young and rapidly developing Hamline team.

"Hamline avoided St. John's during the regular season by not scheduling the invitationals traditionally attended by both schools and set the showdown for the MIAC meet in St. Paul. A veteran but apprehensive St. John's squad confronted the Pipers at the MIAC meet. Their fears were realized when Hamline defeated the Johnnies, despite a strong effort by the Jays. The following week, on the same field, the two teams took aim at each other again. St. John's improved on its efforts at the MIAC, but so likewise did Hamline, with the results being the same—Hamline first and St. John's second.

"The loss was a bitter disappointment to St. John's, but the team resolved to run well at the NCAA national tournament—and well they did. A difference of a few seconds in the races separated Hamline and St. John's, but the Pipers once again came out ahead."

-1976 -

St. John's harriers, beginning with 1973, never lost sight of their glory days in cross-country history, 1968-72, when for five straight years the C-C teams won the MIAC championship. Each fall the distance runners set their sights on being the team to begin another championship tradition, only to be disappointed again. In 1975 injuries were their stumbling block; in 1976 it was injuries and study abroad. Coach Lyndgaard was dismayed when he learned that two of his stars, Dale Gross and Joe Perske, were spending the year in a study abroad program. It was not because there was a great lack of talent on his squad that the coach was disappointed. He considered his freshman crop perhaps the best group of beginners ever assembled at St. John's. There were among them Joseph Sokolowski, the two-mile Minnesota high school champion; Loren Ehrmantraut; Joe Metzger, an excellent prospect; Michael O'Brien; Timothy Hendricks and Chris Napp. But again the old injury nemesis cropped up: Joe Sokolowski missed most of the season because of the recurrence of a summer leg injury and Joe Metzger suffered an ankle injury that reduced his effectiveness.

The 1976 cross-country team qualified for the NAIA District 13 play-offs in St. Paul, and from there

drove to Cleveland "to leg out 8,000 meters in the NCAA Division III meet." Steve Gathje again led the way, finishing number 101 in a field of 400 runners. Freshman Tim McKenna was number 108 and Andy Cragg 133 (*Record*, November 19, 1976).

- 1977 -

The 1977 cross-country team, again coached by Dave Lyndgaard, was led by co-captains Andy Cragg and Dan McGuinn. The team was made up largely of juniors and sophomores that included some of the best distance runners that had come to St. John's over the previous three years: juniors Pete Gathje, Joe Perske and Dean Ward, sophomores Loren Ehrmantraut, Joe Metzger and Joe Sokolowski. Andy Cragg was generally considered the number one man, at least the most experienced, and Pete Gathje, who was a qualified national meet runner in the NAIA track meet in 1977, was number two; sophomore Joe Sokolowski was particularly well talented.

Nevertheless, it was a strong team that lined up at the starting posts and posed an attainable challenge to St. Thomas for the 1976 title: Captain Steve Gathje was a talented, experienced runner, one of the outstanding MIAC harriers of the 1970's. Others were seniors Kevin Riley, Chris Lee and Dan Carroll; juniors Andy Cragg and Dan McGuinn; sophomores Peter Gathje, Norton Hatlie, Tim McKenna and Dean Ward; freshmen Loren Ehrmantraut, Joe Metzger, Joe Sokolowski, Tim Hendricks and Chris Napp.

The St. John's harriers ended their regular season with a fourth place finish in the MIAC meet. Captain Steve Gathje led the Johnnies with an eleventh place finish. Coach Lyndgaard wrote about the meet: "Excellent performances from Andy Cragg and freshman Loren Ehrmantraut allowed the Johnnies to finish a respectable fourth in the MIAC."

As the *Record* commentator reported: "The effort was the culmination of an autumn full of eleven-mile runs and long hours of roadwork under the clickety stopwatch of Dave Lyndgaard, sometimes aided by his wife Barb." Steve Gathje, in assessing the somewhat disappointing finish, said: "Inconsistency and inexperience were the two main reasons why we weren't able to put it all together this year" (*Record*, November 5, 1976).

The team had one failing: the tendency to show up brilliantly as individuals sporadically but failing to put all their talents together in a concerted effort from meet to meet, thereby working more as individuals than as a team intent on winning despite the opposition. In spite of the shaky early season, Coach Lyndgaard remained optimistic. His patience paid off for, finally, at Carleton, the last invitational before the MIAC meet, the St. John's harriers put all their talents together and demonstrated that they could run with the best colleges in the country.

St. John's took third place in the Carleton Invitationals, a step ahead of St. Thomas. Coach Lyndgaard was confident that his team had the stuff to out-run even the Hamline Pipers, whose power, it was reported, was awesome. "If we run the race we're capable of," he said, "we should be able to run with anyone in the conference. Barring injuries and sickness, by conference meet time we should be able to field a very tough twelve-man squad" (*Record*, October 7, 1977).

Coach Lyndgaard summed up the results of the MIAC meet succinctly: "St. John's finished fourth, despite a very strong race from Sokolowski. The Johnnies by a narrow margin missed qualifying for the NAIA national meet, but managed to finish in the middle of the field at the NCAA national meet in Cleveland" (summary notes by Dave Lyndgaard).

All the MIAC teams were beaten to the finish line by the Pipers of Hamline. St. Olaf and St. Thomas were next in line, with the Johnnies coming in fourth. Joe Sokolowski placed sixth, Andy Cragg 21st, Pete

Gathje 24th, Joe Perske 25th, Joe Metzger 28th and Loren Ehrmantraut 33rd.

Roster: Andrew Cragg, Loren Ehrmantraut, Tom Gasperlin, Peter Gathje, Norton Hatlie, Tim Hendricks, Dan McGuinn, Joseph Metzger, Jim Moodie, Tom Novak, Mike O'Brien, Joseph Perske, Joseph Sokolowski, Tim Thornton, Dean Wood

CHAPTER VII: Tennis

There are no records extant to tell us when lawn tennis made its first appearance on the St. John's campus. The first specific reference to it is found in the 1892 *St. John's University Catalog*, copies of which were sent annually to prospective students interested in St. John's. In the section labeled ATHLETICS, four lawn tennis clubs are listed: the Columbian, the Stars, the Crescents and the Cleveland. For each "club" two members are named. It is possible that a club was actually a team, with two doubles partners-possibly also the only players who owned *racquets*, as "rackets" was then spelled. In the 1894 catalog, however, the club names are omitted and in their place is a simple statement to the effect that the school affords the opportunity to play tennis on campus: "Lawn tennis courts-Two. Clubs unorganized." Even that statement was dropped in 1896 when references to all sports were dropped, only to reappear in 1900 with the formation of the St. John's Athletic Association.

Why the term "unorganized" was used in the catalog for a few years is not clear. It is possible that there were only a few tennis players on campus and hence there was no need for an organization; or, possibly, they wished to avoid misleading a prospective student into the expectation of lawn courts with neatly trimmed grass and lines marked off with snow white lime. However that may be, it is still surprising to know that tennis actually was being played at St. John's in 1892. Tennis made its first appearance in the United States in 1874 in New York, and though it soon became a popular sport nationwide, St. John's was hardly the place in 1892 for the neatly rolled grass courts on which "lawn" tennis was played. From what we read about the rough, stony playing fields of early St. John's it is hard to imagine lawns on which the student body could romp and play.

There is no doubt that tennis was a popular sport at St. John's ten years or so later when the 1908 edition of the "Athletic Annual of the St. John's Athletic Association" was published. Under the title of "Tennis," pages 32-33, is the following appraisal of the game at St. John's at that time: "Tennis has always been a secondary sport at St. John's. During the past two years, however, prospects have brightened considerably, and at present it proves to be one of the favorite pastimes on the campus. Early this spring the courts have been overhauled, new implements acquired, and everything made ready for an enjoyable season. The outlook for a good representative team is most promising, there being a good number of A.A. members aspiring for the honor at present. Last year was the first in which our players had the pleasure of meeting an outside team; and although the Lake Shore Team of St. Cloud defeated the defenders of the Cardinal and Blue, the showing made by the latter was very creditable. Accordingly, several series with the same team have been arranged for this season, and it is hoped that the present tournament at home will develop some real fast material."

The account ends with the names of fifty-six members of the A.A. who signed up for the tournament. Tennis with outside teams never flourished at St. John's, though the two old courts of the 1900's remained in use until 1924-much used by the students in spring and fall. They were located in the area that now fronts Alcuin Library, were badly kept up generally, with two bedraggled looking backstops made of chicken wire to keep the service balls in play.

When the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference was formed in 1920, St. John's enthusiastically entered teams in baseball, football and basketball, but for some reason, whether it was budgetary problems or the feeling that St. John's was as yet unable to compete effectively in track and tennis, or the miserable tennis courts, the administration did not enter teams in the two last-named sports. The students, however, had their own ideas about the matter. Unaware probably of the problems, or indifferent to them, they

pressured hard for the organization of track and tennis teams on the intercollegiate level. St. John's sent four men to the MIAC track meet in 1921 and 1922, but tennis had to wait. Only in 1924 was approval granted for the organization of a varsity tennis team with Fr. Hyacinth Cismowski, O.S.B., as coach. Fr. Hyacinth was an all-around athlete in his student days and an enthusiastic supporter of sports in later years. The first announcement of a tennis team, probably written by Fr. Hyacinth himself, is interesting: "For the first time in its history, St. John's will be represented by a varsity tennis team. The material is somewhat limited and inexperienced, and while no glorious records will crown the deeds of the 1924 varsity team, we may look with an optimistic eye on the tennis teams of the future years. The squad, coached by Father Hyacinth Cismowski, consists of the following: Donald Blake, August Carroll, Robert Murphy, Edward Powers, Nick Schmitt, Leo Terrahe, Notker Thelen and Charles Topping" (*Record*, May 1924, p. 260).

In the June-July issue of the *Record*, 1924, p. 331, it was admitted that the varsity team had failed to play any outside teams: "Although the tennis squad did not play any outside teams, it showed the school that the athletic curriculum at St. John's is not complete without a varsity team. We hope that the tennis players will be given a chance to show their mettle even to better advantage next year."

It was at this time that Fr. Arnold Mondloch, O.S.B., stepped into the tennis picture. One of the most energetic and farseeing benefactors of the early MIAC athletic program at St. John's, he was acutely aware of the folly of attempting to enter a tennis team with no more than the old tennis courts on which to play. During the summer of 1924, almost single-handed, and with the aid of a small motorized tractor-grader, he constructed seven new tennis courts and enclosed them within a heavy chain-wire enclosure. It was truly a magnificent tennis court, certainly the best in the conference for the time it was built—the era preceding the concrete court period. When in September of 1924 the students returned to St. John's, the tennis advocates realized the superior workmanship in the construction of the courts and the effect they would have on the quality of tennis at St. John's. The *Record* wrote of it as "an acquisition of which we can all be proud. No institution in the state can boast of better ones. Fr. Arnold Mondloch, under whose supervision they have been perfected, is to be congratulated. Plans for a grand opening for Sunday morning, October 26, 1924, are nearing completion" (*Record*, October 6, 1924, p. 4).

For some reason the enthusiasm of 1924 did not carryover into 1925. A team was organized by Fr. Hyacinth, but no outside games were played, at least not on the intercollegiate level. They did devise a method for the selection of the team, however: namely, a series of elimination matches in the intramural system, after which the survivors would be evaluated and the team members announced. It is possible that the process of elimination was never completed, for Fr Hyacinth, whose health had been failing, was sent to the Bahama Islands for recuperation and work in the missions.

On May 6, 1926, the *Record* carried the announcement that "this year, finally, St. John's will enter a track and tennis team in the conference meet, which will be held at Hamline, May 22. This is the first time for a number of years that St. John's will have representative track and tennis teams, and tight here is the chance for our 'Spike and Cleat' athletes to show their ambition."

When the team representatives had been chosen, St. John's sent them to the Hamline meet. In tennis doubles, Donald Blake and Walter Miller were defeated by the veteran St. Olaf champions. George Clifford, a freshman, won his way to the semi-finals, however, which was, the *Record* reported, "quite an achievement, considering that it was his first appearance in intercollegiate competition" (*Record*, May 27, 1926).

- 1927 -

"St. John's Will Stage College Tennis Meet," so reads the headlines of the sports page of the March 31, 1927 *Record*. It was the St. John's announcement that the conference delegates at their spring meeting

had accepted the invitation of St. John's to hold the 1927 annual MIAC tennis tourney at St. John's, May 20. There followed a flurry of intramural contests between likely candidates for the selection of the St. John's team members: Donald Blake, Joe Ryan, Claude Maertz, James Deagan, Norvell Callaghan, Willard Johnson, Edmund Schaefer, Walter Moynihan, George Clifford, Dick Hornig, and others. George Clifford was selected to represent St. John's in the singles.

The final results of the conference meet found George Clifford the singles champion of the MIAC, but Macalester the doubles champion. Clifford was master of the situation, though pitted against Tendall, the St. Olaf champion, a thrilling match between a sophomore and an experienced veteran. The match began with Clifford losing the first set 6-0. After that Clifford settled down and ran out the match in straight sets: 0-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-5. In the last set he had trouble with Tendall, who ran up the count to 5-2. But at that point Clifford rallied by breaking through Tendall's service, then won his own service to tie the match at 5-5. He then ran out the match by winning consecutive sets and clinching the championship at 7-5.

As the *Record* emphasized, George Clifford deserved the title. In fact, even as a sophomore he was one of the natural athletes of his time, a star in football, basketball and baseball as well as in tennis.

He was amazingly fast and quick, almost instinctive in his reaction to playing situations. He had a strong backhand and was endowed with an uncanny sense of anticipation in knowing when to rush to the net for the kill or when to lie back on the baselines. As described by a ' knowledgeable observer, he played a conservative game, keeping the ball in play and forcing his opponent to err.

George entered medical school at the end of his sophomore year and did not return to St. John's. He spent the major part of his life as a competent, highly respected physician in his home town, Alexandria.

- 1928 -

The 1928 tennis team was chosen in the usual way by an all-college Spike and Cleat tournament. From a long list of contending candidates, the most promising were Norvell Callaghan, Raymond Hite, John "Red" Dore, Walter Moynihan, and the Pettit brothers, James and Bert. Freshman Ray Hite, Walter Moynihan, Bert Pettit and John Dore were the survivors. In this particular year the number of team members was limited to four players.

In a series of preliminary meets scheduled for the purpose of obtaining experience with the kind of opposition they would meet in the MIAC tournament, the St. John's tennis players lost to St. Olaf, Hamline, and Gustavus. It was not an encouraging record when viewed as preparation for the conference meet, but Ray Hite regularly emerged from each of the meets as the outstanding individual player and a favorite to take first place in the conference singles.

The state meet was held at St. John's on June 1-2, too late, unfortunately, for the results to be published in the school paper, since the meet took place after the appearance of the last *Record*. To the surprise of the conference, freshman Hite won the singles championship, the second consecutive singles crown awarded to St. John's. The story of Hite's victory was featured in the 1929 *Sagatan*: "Hite defeated in turn Nelson of Gustavus, Reims of St. Thomas, Hall and Bowes of Hamline. These last two matches were tough, and in winning them Hite showed plenty to crown him for the year. From Hall, who had previously defeated a fine player in Doyle of St. Thomas, Hite won 7-5, 5-7, 8-6, and then defeated Hamline's Bowes 7-5, 8-6, 4-6, and 6-0" (*Sagatan*, 1929).

Hite's style was much like Clifford's in 1927. He out-steadied and out-shot his opponents "by his clever serves to hard corners and following up with volleys down the side lines and lobs down the baseline, seldom committing an error in court work and seldom double faulting" (*ibid*).

Hite's victory was as noteworthy an event on the St. John's campus as that of George Clifford in 1927. Hamline, however, won the doubles championship.

- 1929 -

One feature of tennis that distinguished it from the other sports such as baseball and football, etc., was that the seasonal games and meets had no importance for the championship other than as a period of training for the MIAC tournament that concluded the season. But the 1929 tennis elimination tournament was even more interesting than the upcoming MIAC meet-the see-saw struggle between the contestants in order to determine who would represent St. John's. The struggle ended with Raymond Hite, Kenneth Raymond, Benjamin Stein (now Fr. Benjamin, O.S.B.), Tom Burke and Ira Bradford finishing as the team members, with William Carr, Edward Flynn and Adolph Spiering falling by the wayside.

In the preliminary meets between the MIAC colleges and St. John's, there were the usual ups and downs of fortune that characterize trial events. Generally St. John's was always a threat, though not a favorite for the tennis title. Ray Hite, however, was always the outstanding individual competitor, whether playing singles or when paired with partners Stein or Burke in the doubles.

Highlight of the 1929 MIAC meet was Ray Hite's match with Macalester's Laatsch for the singles championship. In a series of matches Hite had won over Anderson of Concordia, Broeker of Hamline, and Doyle of St. Thomas. In the finals, pitted against Laatsch of Macalester, he lost the first set, then won the second. In the third and deciding set he was leading Laatsch by 5-2 and advantage-love, needing only one more point for the championship, when suddenly he lost control of his game and was defeated. For Hite, one of the top performers in St. John's tennis history, the loss was a heart-breaker.

- 1930 -

Since Raymond Hite did not return to St. John's for the year 1929- 30 and Ben Stein was already in the novitiate, the 1930 team was open for an entirely new generation of tennis players. Kenneth Raymond, senior, was the only veteran who survived the spring try-outs, together with freshmen Harold Soukup from New DIm, Lance McEown from Minot, North Dakota, and William "Bill" Harrer, ex-St. John's Prep School star, from Minneapolis.

Preliminary meets were arranged with St. Thomas (two), Macalester and St. Olaf. The outcome of the St. Thomas meets was not reported, though the meets could have been cancelled because of bad weather. Macalester, however, swept the meet, and St. Olaf defeated the Johnnies 4-2. It was not a propitious beginning for the MIAC tournament.

The St. John's tennis ace for the year was Bill Harrer (now Fr. Philibert, O.S.B. [presently pastor in Frazee, Minnesota].) Lance McEown was a close second to Harrer, but especially effective in the doubles. Harold Soukup, "a flashy freshman" according to the *Record*, was among the most promising of the new group of freshmen about whom the *Record* reported after the MIAC tournament: "All the above were freshmen and much is to be hoped for in 1931-they will put the Johnnies out in front again in state college circles" (*Record*, May 29, 1930).

The account of Bill Harrer's match in the conference meet is interesting: "Bill Harrer, St. John's tennis ace, came through for the only tennis victory of the meet, with scores of 6-1, 6-1. His victory was so impressive that sports writers regarded him as the dark horse of the meet. His next match was with Dick Hall of Hamline, who had four years of college tennis experience. Bill Harrer lost the match, though the score 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 indicates how close the struggle was" (*Record*, May 29, 1930).

- 1931 -

A brightener for the tennis prospects in 1931 was the return of Ray Hite to St. John's in order to complete his course work for graduation Ray had won the MIAC singles championship in his freshman year, 1928, and missed repeating his singles title in 1929 by a narrow margin. It was immediately obvious when the season began that he and Bill Harrer would likely pair up for an attack on the doubles title, a feat not yet achieved by St. John's players.

The first agendum in the season's work was the selection of the team to represent the college. Veterans Hite, Harrer, and Lance Mc- Eown were the almost automatic winners of the first three spots on the team. The problem was to select the fourth man from a number of candidates: Ralph Koenig, Frank Plakut, Jay Cross, William Freeman, Tom Ryan, Walter Weisgram, and Ralph Williams. In the series of matches designed for the situation Jay Cross emerged as the fourth man.

In the preliminary meets arranged for the development of the team St. John's was more than usually successful. In two meets with St. Cloud Teachers' College, the Johnnies won both by scores of 4-1 and 7-5. Shortly after the St. Cloud victories, they defeated Macalester in a single meet by the score of 6-0.

The two meetings with St. Thomas were a different story. St. Thomas had in Wachtler one of the St. Thomas greats for its singles star, and Delaney and Heimbach, in the doubles, two understudies who were the match of anything else in the conference. The Tommies swept the two meets by scores of 4-3 and 5-1, momentarily dimming St. John's hopes.

In the state meet, held at St. John's, Wachtler defeated Hite in the singles 9-7, 6-2, and 6-3. It was Wachtler's second consecutive championship in the MIAC.

The conjecture of May 14 made by the Johnnies turned out to be correct, however. Hite and Harrer defeated the crack St. Thomas doubles team of Wachtler and Delaney. It was the first doubles championship won by St. John's in its short tennis history.

- 1932 -

With Ray Hite and Bill Harrer no longer on the scene, a new generation of netters took over in the 1932 season. Ralph Koenig and William Freeman had been on the roster the previous year and consequently were leading candidates for top positions. The number of contesting candidates was larger than usual: Koenig and Freeman (already mentioned), Jerome Fortier, Louis Niemeyer, Leo Brown, Eugene Dupuch, Alois Himsl, Edmund Piotrowski, Raymond Knaeble and George Klasen. Winners of places on the tennis team were Ralph Koenig (captain), William Freeman, Karl Kolling, and Eugene Dupuch.

Both the *Record* and the *Sagatan* failed to report on the outcome of the conference meet, held at St. Olaf, May 28-too late in the season to be included in the *Record* sports section for the year. According to the official list of championships, St. Thomas won the 1932 title outright, both in singles and doubles.

- 1933 -

The 1933 Johnnies started late in the season. It was only on May 3, primarily because of bad weather and muddy courts, that the team was able to put in any regular time for practice and to commence the annual school tournament for the selection of the team personnel. A change of policy now required that six men should comprise the team, with the number-one and number-two men representing the school in outside meets. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth men would be selected by the usual process of elimination. The result of the tournament was that Ralph Koenig and Karl Kolling won the numbers one and two spots

respectively; James Coyne and Thomas Rowan, third and fourth; Clinton Lundgren and Hogan, fifth and sixth.

In the first meet with St. Cloud T.C. the Johnnies lost by a score of 7-2. In the second, of which better statistics are available, St. John's lost again 5-2, Koenig defeating Colletti in the singles, but Koenig and Kolling losing the doubles match to Colletti and Arnold. In a later meet, St. John's lost by a score of 6-1, Tom Rowan being the only St. John's player ringing up a victory.

Although St. John's did fairly well in the MIAC conference meet by reaching the semi-finals in two categories, the singles and the doubles, the Jays failed to reach the finals. In the first round of the meet Koenig defeated White of Hamline 5-2, 6-4; Benson of Gustavus won over Kolling of St. John's 6-2. Eventually, in the semi-finals, Koenig was defeated by Harry Hite, the cannon-ball server of St. Thomas. In the doubles, Judd and White of Hamline eliminated Koenig and Kolling 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Winners of the conference meet were the following: Engstrom of St. Olaf over Harold Hite of St. Thomas in the singles; Hite and Heimbach of St. Thomas defeating Judd and White of Hamline in the doubles.

It was around this time that more tennis meets were being held at St. John's than elsewhere because of the finely groomed courts and the accommodations afforded the visiting teams.

- 1934 -

In 1934 Fr. Damian Baker, O.S.B., took over the coaching job in tennis at the request of the players. There was drastic need of some sort of change, for the students themselves were disappointed in their performances, and even intercollegiate tennis itself had lost most of its glamor. One pressing problem was the lack of early practice time before the MIAC tournament, the result of late springs and inclement weather that left the clay courts unplayable, sometimes as late as the first few days of May. The fall before (1933), however, Fr. Damian had organized a tournament for candidates in tennis that had the double advantage of evaluating the freshman material on campus early in the year and of correcting the most obvious faults of those who appeared to have the ability to develop into first-class players.

The decision turned out to be of profit for the team. Though the same traditional policy of a school tournament was followed to determine who would make the team, the fall practice had already narrowed down the number of eligible candidates and therefore speeded up the selection of the required six-man team: Captain Thomas Rowan, number one man, Fred Thielman, number two, and Donald Schmid, Othmar Fuchs, Roger Vossberg and Dick Schulte, numbers three, four, five and six, in that order. Richard Schulte, a De La Salle graduate from Minneapolis, appeared to be the most talented of the freshmen.

In the pre-tournament meets St. John's defeated Macalester 4-2, but was defeated in turn by St. Thomas 2-4. St. Thomas turned out to be still a power in the conference, though not as formidable a foe as it had been the year before.

St. John's was represented in the MIAC tournament by only three players: Rowan and Schmid in the singles and Rowan and Thielman in the doubles. Schmid won over Ray Schaak of St. Thomas in the first round, survived the second round, and then lost to Venzke, Macalester's singles star, in the semi-finals, 0-6 and 3-6. The Thielman-Rowan doubles team defeated Sauers and Britton of Hamline in the second round but dropped their doubles match in the semi-finals to Schaak and Heisbach of St. Thomas. No championship in tennis was awarded for 1934 by the MIAC.

- 1935-

The *Record* reports on the 1935 tennis season are so scanty that there is practically no comment possible. The team was enthusiastic and hard working—at least that is the observation made in the one article devoted to the sport for 1935. St. John's scheduled two meets with St. Thomas, two with St. Cloud Teachers' College, and one with Macalester. The *Record* reported the results of one meet with St. Thomas, namely, that the Tommies had eked out a 4-3 victory over the battling Johnnies.

The conference tournament was held at St. John's, a popular site for the tennis finals because of the seven courts available and the excellent condition of the surface in the warm days of May. Athletic Director George Durenberger and his specially trained crew of groundskeepers spent hours of work on the courts, raking, rolling, and marking with lime for every meet that brought a conference opponent onto the St. John's campus. The favor was appreciated by the conference tennis coaches.

In the first round of the conference meet Captain Tom Rowan defeated Murphy of St. Thomas 6-2 and 7-5. Ralph Koenig lost to Holt of Hamline. In the second round Engstrom of St. Olaf defeated Rowan 6-2, 6-0. The only St. John's entry that reached the semi-finals was the doubles team, Koenig and Schwab, and they were defeated by Judd and Holt of Hamline.

Winners of the championship were Gustavus and Macalester—the Gusties in the singles, the Macs in the doubles.

-1936 -

In the fall of 1935 Fr. Damian and Thomas Rowan (captain of the team) expressed their satisfaction with the results of their autumn tennis tournament. They had found it a success, with a great show of enthusiasm on the part of the freshmen who were seeking places on the tennis varsity in the following spring. William Goblirsch, a fireball from St. Cloud Cathedral, and Harry Majerus (now Rev. Majerus), an alumnus of Cretin High School in St. Paul, were the number-one and number-two candidates for the spring try-outs. Other freshmen who showed up well were Joseph McDonnell from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Robert Dailey of Alexandria. Both Dailey and McDonnell made the varsity, as well as Harry Majerus.

Other candidates who survived the spring try-outs were veterans Fred Thielman, Dick Schulte, Jerry Schwab and John Corrigan. The meets took place immediately following the choice of the team. Joe Duffy, columnist writer of "Sports Shorts," commented briefly on one of the meets: "Our tennis team did not fare well against the St. Cloud Teachers' College. Bad weather kept them off the courts" (May 7, 1936).

The only complete available report of a 1936 meet was the contest with St. Cloud T.C., in which the Huskies practically shut out the Johnnies, except for a winning match by Jerry Schwab, 5-7, 6-2, 7-5 in the singles, and a victory in the doubles by John Corrigan and Joe Kelso, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

There was no report regarding the outcome of the MIAC state meet. Always dependable in saying something quotable, columnist Joe Duffy observed dryly: "The tennis team surprised its followers by stubborn opposition to Gustavus. The match was not decided until the final set of doubles had been run off" (May 28, 1936).

- 1937 -

Freak weather conditions and a late spring forced Fr. Damian to pass up the annual school tennis tournament for the selection of the 1937 team members. The best he could do under the circumstances was to name members chosen from the 1936 tennis squad, with Richard Schulte, the only returning letterman, appointed captain. Team members were Joseph Kirchner, Homer Hurd, Joseph Daly, and, in the background, the untried candidates Timothy Donahue, Edward Fleming, Harry Majerus, Frank Ellenbecker,

and Theodore Feyder (*Record*, April 29, 1937).

Two tennis meets were arranged with St. Cloud T.C., with, however, only a few practice periods on the St. John's courts. No report was made of the meet beyond a vague reference to it in the May 20 issue of the *Record*, according to which the Jays had been decisively defeated. Captain Dick Schulte made the best showing by forcing his match to go to three sets.

The Jays did much better in their second match with St. Cloud, though they lost by a score of 6-2. In the singles Joe Kirchner and Homer Hurd were the only winners of their matches. Captain Schulte again forced Gerzin, the top St. Cloud singles man, to three stubbornly fought sets. In the doubles, Kirchner and Schulte lost to Gerzin and LeDoux of St. Cloud. The second doubles team tied with the oppositio in a 5-5 match before the game was called because of the late hour. The best report on the meet available was published in the August 19, 1937, issue of the *Record*, written by Timothy Donohue, a candid, objective writer: "The tennis team was weak again this year and at no time was a serious threat in the tennis tournament for the conference title, which was held at St. John's. Captain Schulte was bowled over in the first round. Kirchner advanced to the second round of the tournament, but Struble of St. Thomas conquered him in straight sets. Hurd and Fleming in the doubles lost their first match to Hamline; Lavic and Bjergen of St. Olaf successfully defended their doubles crown."

- 1938-

The 1938 tennis team differed radically from its predecessor of 1937. In 1937 Fr. Damian had only Dick Schulte as a veteran on whom to build his team; in 1938, however, he had four veterans: Homer Hurd, Joseph Kirchner, Dick Schulte, and Edward Fleming. Among the twelve of thirteen freshman candidates were George LePage, Arthur Thompson, John Ebnet, Thomas Eiden, Herman Wind, and John Ellenbecker—none of whom could offer a serious challenge to the reigning veterans. Moreover, the weather was too bad to offer the opportunity for an all-school tournament. The major part of April was spent indoors, practicing strokes, footwork, serves, and listening to lectures on game strategy by Fr. Damian.

The first meet—with Macalester—was interrupted by a violent rain storm that called the meet to an abrupt halt. There were some disappointments, however. Joe Kirchner, the number one man of the team, was dropped easily by Feinberg of Macalester by scores of 6-2 and 6-2. Hurd and Louie Stovik, the latter a freshman, each won his first round match 6-1, 6-2, and 6-4, 6-2 respectively. When the rain set in, Ellenbecker was behind 5-1 and Edward Fleming ahead 6-2 and 3-1. In a meet with St. Thomas held a little later, the Johnnies were defeated by a score of 7-1. They were only saved from a shut-out by Dick Schulte's convincing victory over Janni of St. Thomas, 6-1 and 6-2. The St. Thomas meet spelled disaster to the St. John's hopes for a winning season.

The story of the conference meet is quickly told. St. John's was admittedly mediocre, but it was a gallant team with breaks coming its way. Homer Hurd was pitted in his first match against Feinberg of Macalester, the reigning singles champion. Hurd won the first set 6-4, though he was eliminated in the two following sets 6-3 and 6-4. In the doubles, Hurd and Kirchner again met the toughest team in the conference. The first set of the doubles was drawn out to the count of 13-11, a veritable marathon, until finally the two Johnnies were defeated. They lost the second set 6-4, and the third 6-4, fighting to the end. St. Thomas was the 1938 tennis champion.

- 1939 -

The year 1939 was not a glory year for St. John's in tennis, though not because of any lack of enthusiasm or solid team effort. It was not a great year for the simple reason that during this whole period several of the schools were fortunate to come up annually with individual stars who managed to knock off one another

alternately, meanwhile out-shining schools less blessed with stars of equal brightness.

The new coach, Fr. Emeric Lawrence, O.S.B., was greeted by some twenty candidates for the team, but since only three men were sent to the MIAC annual meet, a large proportion of them either quit of their own accord or were eliminated by the competition. Only one candidate, Glynn Riley, is named as a member of the threesome: Homer Hurd (captain), Mike Albury, a Bahamian, and Joe Kirchner (later Fr. Joseph Kirchner of the Diocese of St. Cloud). Riley made a good showing in a non-conference match with the Waseca Tennis Club, winning 6-0 and 6-2.

Mike Albury proved to be the mainstay of the team. In meets that were reported, St. John's lost two matches to St. Cloud T.C., 5-1 and 5-4. In a meet with Macalester he did very well, losing 6-2 in hardfought sets to Mac's Feinberg, one of the power players of the conference. The May 25, 1939, issue of the *Record* announced the contestants for the MIAC tournament to be played at Hamline. St. John's was sending only three men: Captain Homer Hurd, Mike Albury and Joe Kirchner. In the meet itself, Hurd and Albury were eliminated in the first round. Homer had punched out an easy first set over Bob Holm of St. Olaf by 6-1. During the match the wind rose and with it went Homer's game. He lost the two remaining sets 6-2 and 6-3. Mike Albury had the misfortune to be matched against the Gusties' "Rube"

Waltman in the first round. As it turned out, Waltman conquered Feinberg and was the MIAC singles champion for 1939. The match was the best show of the entire meet. He won the title in a marathon match 1-6, 6-3, 15-13.

The doubles team of Kirchner and Albury had much better luck. They won both the first and second rounds and "carried the Colledgeville colors into the semi-finals," only to be stopped by Holm and Peterson of St. Olaf by a score of 2-6, 6-1, and 6-3.

Gustavus was awarded the 1939 championship in singles. The doubles championship was left vacant.

- 1940 -

Tennis coach Fr. Emeric Lawrence was fully aware that his team had no one to match the stars of Macalester and Gustavus. For that reason he worked to develop his two top performers, Mike Albury and Homer Hurd, to perform to the peak of their potentiality. Nine hopeful candidates applied for positions on the team, among them Bill Goblirsch, Glynn Riley, Daniel O'Brien, Konnie Prem-and others not mentioned by name.

The first match of the 1940 season was against the University of North Dakota. The Johnnies had a bad day, the *Record* reported, but it enabled Fr. Emeric to evaluate his team more closely and select the ones who appeared to be his number one and two men. Mike Albury was easily the top singles man on the squad, closely followed by Homer Hurd, team captain. O'Brien was third man, Goblirsch or Halvorson fourth, and Shanahan number six. The doubles team was to be a pairing of Hurd and Albury.

Against St. Thomas, the Johnnies lost two meets, 4-3 and 6-1. Important in these meets was the victory of Hurd and Albury in the doubles over Gilden and Struble of St. Thomas, 5-4 and 6-3. In singles, however, Albury lost to Gilden 6-3 and Hurd to Struble, the Tommie ace, 0-6 and 1-3.

The one meet victory of the season was a 7-2 drubbing of Hamline on the St. John's courts. The only losers were the St. John's numbers two and three men, Hurd and O'Brien. Mike Albury played his usual smashing game and defeated Kelly of Hamline in two straight sets, 6-3 and 6-1. Halvorson and Shanahan, four and five on the team, had little trouble in winning their matches. Glynn Riley, making his first start of the year, did particularly well.

In the annual MIAC tournament the Jays did even better than expected. Both Albury and Hurd won their first round matches, Albury over Rod Hanson of Hamline and Hurd over Wrockage of St. Mary's.

In the second round Struble, the ace player of St. Thomas, dropped Albury in two sets, 6-3, 6-1. Hurd was unfortunate to be matched against the 1939 singles champion Waltman of Gustavus and lost by a very creditable score of 6-4 and 6-2.

In the doubles the Johnnies came into their own. They won their matches in the first and second rounds, but lost to St. Olaf in the semifinals. In the May 23, 1940, issue of the *Record* there appeared an appreciative encomium of Fr. Wendelin Luetmer, O.S.B., professor of biology who for a pastime made it a hobby to mend students' rackets free. They had their choice of strings: Australian gut, whale gut, or silk, and he applied a preservative to prolong their usefulness. Over the years, former tennis players stopped in to visit with their old friend, life-long lover of tennis and horseshoe matches. Shortly after he passed away in 1977 one of his beneficiaries, Tom Haeg, asked to see him. He died in his eighty-ninth year, calm and sharp to the end.

- 1941 -

The 1941 season calls for a descriptive rather than a statistical report, since most of the *Record* accounts of the season are more generalized reports with an almost complete lack of individual data on the performance of each St. John's contestant. Tennis in 1941 began with a meeting in late March between the three returning lettermen-Albury, Halvorson, and Shanahan-with twenty new candidates to plot out the training schedule for the coming season.

An improved policy change in the selection of contestants for the doubles is distinctly observable. In a meet with St. Cloud T.C., for example, St. Cloud started out strong and defeated the three leading St. John's singles players, Albury, Hub Miller and Ray Halvorson. But Austin Shanahan and Freeman, the number four and five men, respectively, swept the remaining singles and tightened up the score, following which the doubles teams won all the matches. The Johnnies won the meet by one single point.

With Gustavus, a meet reported along with the match with St. Cloud, the Jays had an easy time of it. Albury, Shanahan, Freeman and Thuringer won all their singles matches. Halvorson lost his match, but the doubles teams, Albury and Miller, Halvorson and Freeman, Shanahan and Thuringer, swept the doubles.

Highlight of the MIAC meet was a finals battle between Albury of St. John's and St. Olaf's brilliant Weeg, the 1940 champion. Albury had been looking forward to meeting Weeg, confident of his ability to unseat him. He survived the first two rounds and the semi-finals and finally found himself meeting head-on with Weeg. It was a spirited battle, but the crafty Weeg was able to fight off Mike's smashing game and defeated him 6-3 and 7-5. St. John's likewise reached the finals in the doubles, only to lose to the brilliant Weeg and Peterson once more. The final *Record* report, May 29, 1941, is a tribute to the comeback of the Johnnies in the tennis picture of the MIAC: "The tennis squad, with Mike Albury at the helm, has closed out the book on one of the most successful seasons to hit the SJU courts in a long time. Mike was up to his usual good form this year, and took on some of the best in the state. Hub Miller and Joe Freeman, both first-year men, also did very well.

"Mike, who all this year had been waiting for a chance to meet Weeg, dropped a heart-breaker to him in the singles finals 6-3 and 7-5. This makes the second year that Weeg has walked off with this title. "Earlier in the day, Mike Albury and Hub Miller combined to defeat the St. Thomas doubles team in the semi-finals 6-1 and 6-4, only to fall to St. Olaf in the finals."

-1942 -

In a euphoric article that opened the 1942 tennis season, the *Record* sportswriter of the year predicted great things for the Johnnies, basing his predictions mainly on the brilliant work of Mike Albury, the Bahamian star who for six years had demonstrated his ability on the St. John's tennis courts. Albury came to St. John's as a Prep School freshman. He dominated Prep School tennis, was elected captain, and in his final high school year was the Minnesota state high school tennis champion. It was a surprise to no one when he joined the college team and immediately became the star player on the varsity. He had a brilliant career in college and except for the presence on the St. Olaf tennis team of another brilliant star named Weeg, he would have dominated the MIAC for the next two years.

In the first pre-tournament meet of the season the Johnnies drubbed Macalester unmercifully 8-1, with St. John's losing only one match of the meet. Albury, Freeman and Drahmann won all their singles encounters, John Hughes being the only loser by scores of 6-1, 6-1. The Johnnies swept the doubles without a loss. The second meet of the year was equally successful, the Johnnies sweeping to an easy victory over Augsburg, 5-2.

The good luck of the Jays ended in their next meeting with champion St. Olaf. St. John's bowed 5-1 to the accomplished ones, led by their practically unbeatable star Weeg, both in the singles and doubles. In the St. Olaf meet only St. John's Freeman managed to win over Larson in a hard-fought match 9-7, 3-6, and 6-4. Mike lost to his two-year nemesis Weeg 0-6 and 2-6. In the doubles Albury and Freeman lost to Weeg and Larson 6-4 and 6-1.

In the conference tournament St. Olaf won the championship outright, both singles and doubles. In the final doubles Albury and Freeman lost to Weeg and Larson 6-4 and 6-1. Mike Albury lost to Coughlin of St. Thomas in the singles.

Thus ended the career of Mike Albury at St. John's. It was also the temporary end of tennis itself, for with the draft and World War II to compete with, tennis was suspended until 1946.

-1946 -

In the spring of 1946, a few months after the end of World War II, Fr. Bernardo Martinez, O.S.B., was appointed coach of the tennis team. It was already late, but the new coach hastily gathered together all the known tennis players on campus for practice indoors until the weather permitted their going out on the tennis courts. He picked the best among all the candidates who took part in the indoor practice: Kenneth Schoener, Bill Henry and Robert Fleming, all from St. Cloud, Richard Endres from Faribault, Joseph McCarthy from Detroit Lakes, Charles Kohnke, Wahpeton, North Dakota, and James Griffin, Iowa. In two early spring matches with St. Cloud T.C. the Jays easily won both meets, 5-1 and 6-0. The good luck of the team did not last, however. In the conference matches the Jays suffered three severe setbacks: straight losses to Augsburg, 5-1, to Gustavus, 6-1, and to St. Thomas, 5-2.

In the annual MIAC tournament held at Augsburg May 23-24, St. John's failed to place, as would be expected under the circumstances. Gustavus was awarded the conference championship by sweeping both the singles and doubles.

Fr. Bernardo was not discouraged, however. He was determined, as he said, "to put St. John's on the tennis map." He arranged both summer and fall elimination tournaments, the latter to run through September and October, and to end in a final tournament from which would emerge "the finest of the St. John's tennis players."

His next move was to organize a St. John's Tennis Club for winter practice. He secured the use of the lower gymnasium for stated periods each week and delivered talks on tennis techniques and strategy. The Tennis

Club was affiliated with "The United States Lawn Tennis Association" to develop a lively zeal for the game and a life-long interest in tennis. Fr. Bernardo was what is called a big operator and quickly became one of the most picturesque figures on campus.

-1947 -

The fiery Spaniard, Fr. Bernardo Martinez, who launched forth on the troubled sea of tennis coaching in 1946, began his preparations for the 1947 season shortly after the first snowfall in December. A natural, born athlete himself, he had picked up the game of tennis after his arrival at St. John's and within a year had become one of the top players of the faculty-student community. Throughout the winter 1946-47 he worked with a small group of tennis enthusiasts, both in the upper and in the lower gymnasiums, firmly convinced that any well coordinated athlete, like himself, could become a star within a short period of regulated practices. With profound conviction in his theory, he said that to win the MIAC championship he needed only one or two super-stars backed up by four or five good average players who would provide the opposition for their training.

But Fr. Bernardo learned that a star tennis player is not easily created. However, an optimist of his happy disposition was not easily discouraged. He scheduled twelve tennis meets with St. Cloud T.C. and all the member conference colleges who would accept an invitation. Some of the meets had to be cancelled or postponed for various reasons, mainly bad weather. By April 30 the team had defeated St. Cloud 6-2, only to be white-washed by Augsburg 7-0 a few days later.

When May 15 came around and the conference meet was only eight days distant, St. John's had posted four wins and three losses and still had four meets to be played, one with Augsburg, one with Gustavus, and two with St. Thomas. As the *Record* expressed it, the last week before the MIAC tournament was filled with troubles for the Jays: "St. Thomas clipped the Johnnies twice, 7-0 and 6-1; they lost to Augsburg, and were edged by Gustavus 4-3" (*Record*, May 29, 1947).

In the conference, Captain Marcus Sirrs and Howie Kullen were eliminated in the first round of the singles. In the doubles, Norman McDonnell and Howie Kullen were also eliminated in the first round. Bill Henry, on whom Fr. Bernardo had relied for points, was sidelined because of an ankle injury sustained in the Gustavus meet and hence was unable to compete.

The reason for St. John's poor showing in tennis in 1947 was not Fr. Bernardo's coaching or his theory. It was the first year after the end of World War II and most of the tennis "super-stars" had enrolled in Twin Cities' schools. In addition, the MIAC colleges had already installed concrete tennis courts which gave their players the opportunity to practice regularly, despite adverse weather conditions that kept the Jays idle.

Had their tennis coach remained at St. John's, there is little doubt that he would indeed have put the college "on the tennis map," as he had promised. His request for the concrete tennis courts that he felt were necessary for any good showing in the sport was ignored, and every coach who succeeded him was handicapped in the same way as he was for several years. Fr. Bernardo remains to this day one of the most enthusiastic and colorful coaches in St. John's athletic history.

Members of the team were Marcus Sirrs, Howie Kullen, Bill Henry, Norman McDonnell, Jerry Weier, Dick Endres, Chuck Kohnke, and Joe McCarthy.

-1948 -

Fr. Arno Gustin, a.S.B., then college registrar, replaced Fr. Bernardo as tennis coach in 1948. The new style of coaching differed little from that of the exuberant Spaniard, but there was a different situation facing Fr.

Arno, especially when he found himself confronted by a schedule of ten conference meets to be played between April 24 and May 23, the date of the conference tournament.

A new regulation had radically changed the tennis championship picture in 1948. The 1948 *Sagatagan* states the new ruling as follows: "Beginning with the '48 season, conference tennis is played on the same basis as other sports; championships are now awarded as a result of seasonal matches rather than of the State Conference Tournament." In other words, the season record had suddenly become more important than the tournament itself. The 1964 constitution gives a more concrete example of the change, as follows: "Winners of the singles and doubles in the State Meet are declared the individual champions of the Conference. The team title is determined by the season matches and State Meet" (*idem*).

The new regulation worked to the disadvantage of the St. John's team because of its clay courts that could hold up practices for days at a time in rainy weather and make St. John's vulnerable, whereas schools with concrete courts on which to play would rarely miss a practice for more than a day or a few hours. The need of concrete courts, as requested by Fr. Bernardo, became more pressing than ever.

As for Fr. Arno's team, the historian has nothing to write. The closest to any definite report regarding the outcome of meets was an article written in the *Record*, May 20, 1948, to the effect that St. John's had won its first meet against Gustavus by a score of 5-2. In fact, the *Record* practically ignored the tennis team of 1948.

Members of the team were Ray Raetz, Bob Lillstrand, John Broeren, Howie Kullen, Charles Kohnke, John Wagner, Captain Norman McDonnell and Dick Endres.

- 1949, '50, '51 -

The years 1949, '50, '51 can be passed over with the minimum of comment for the reason that records of tennis events are too scanty to furnish material for a history of the sport in a period of decline. The *Sagatagan* for the year '49 furnishes the following information: "In the first match of the year the Johnnies tied St. Cloud T.C. and then went on to drop matches to Macalester, Augsburg and St. Olaf." The *Record* preserved almost complete silence from that moment onwards. In a note included in a review of the year's doings in athletics, the writer hints that the season was particularly disappointing: "Tennis teams here in the future won't experience the setbacks this year's outfit had to endure. Ours was a good team, but the loop was much stronger than usual" ("Tooley's Angle," *Record*, May 26, 1949, p. 7). Members of the 1949 squad were: Thomas Brouillard, P. Pease, D. Knevel, John Broeren, P. Matthews, Raymond Raetz, Jose Irango, Richard Endres.

Fr. Arno was overburdened with work in the registrar's office and in 1950 yielded the coaching position to student-coach Jack Broeren. It was a dismal year in every respect. Before the season was well under way the eight-meet schedule was cancelled because of poor court conditions and constant interruptions of practice by rain. When, after five meets had been cancelled and hopes for better weather still out of sight, the team decided to cancel the remaining four meets and wait for next spring.

The squad was made up of the following: Jack Broeren, coach, Edward Rieder, captain, Oscar Smith, Paul Pease, Ray Stovik, Tom Sinner, Maurice Northrup, and James Leinen. In the May 11, 1950 issue of the *Record*, Jack Smith wrote an article pleading for concrete tennis courts. The wheels of propaganda were churning!

The 1951 season was little better than that of 1950. The courts were muddy as usual, and the six meets scheduled were all played off campus. And again the sports columnist questioned why St. John's failed to put in courts of concrete that would be playable. "It is unlikely that St. John's will make a good showing in

tennis until weatherproof concrete courts are laid. Likewise, it is difficult to understand the lack of tennis facilities, considering the general soundness of the St. John's athletic system and the terrific demand for tennis courts during the warm months by students and faculty alike" (*Record* April 12,

1951, "Snap Throws" by Wally Zallek).

On April 26, discouraged by the situation, the athletic department decided not to send a team to the MIAC tourney.

Members of the 1951 squad were Coach Broeren, James Leinen, Hal Duffy, Vernon Fahrenkrug, and Matthew Crawford.

- 1952 -

John Broeren graduated in 1951 and was succeeded by James "Jim" Peyton, son of Dr. William Peyton of the University of Minnesota and a 1914 graduate of St. John's. Jim was an ardent tennis enthusiast, but he also had the qualities required for a successful student-coach. He was a first-year transfer from the University of Minnesota, however, and therefore was ineligible to play with the team.

In the fall of 1951, his first year at St. John's, he had the opportunity to witness the intramural tennis eliminations designed to pick out the best of the freshman tennis crop. He therefore had his plans already made long before the opening of spring practice in 1952 and lost no time in getting the courts cleaned up and in playing shape before the spring eliminations started.

Out of a twenty-four turnout of tennis candidates he selected the following as members of his squad: Louis Adderley from the Bahamas, Joseph Collignon, an ex-Prep School star, Harold Duffy, Victor Lab, and Timothy Hogan. Top man of the group was Lou Adderley, a quiet, medium-sized competitor of tremendous potential and desire to win. Joe Collignon was the coach's number-two man, an experienced player because of his years both on the high school and the college teams.

Of the seven matches scheduled, the Jays captured only one, an early meet won by a score of 6-1 over Hamline. There was plenty of background to explain the poor showing. In 1950 and '51 tennis at St. John's had reached its all-time low and the team had not yet advanced to a respectable level. The Jays dropped six games straight: St. Olaf, 6-1; St. Thomas, 7-0; Macalester, 7-0; Gustavus, 6-1; Augsburg, 5-2; and St. Cloud T.C., 5-2.

As could be expected from its pre-tournament record, St. John's could hardly be expected to do well in the MIAC. But Lou Adderley surprised everyone. Playing tremendous tennis, he battled his way to the finals and lost only to the singles champion of the year, Bud Rae of Macalester. Macalester won the 1952 tennis title outright.

- 1953-

When the season opened in 1953, Coach Jim Peyton had no doubt that he had on his squad the two best tennis players in the conference, Lou Adderley and a newcomer named Leo Barbel. He was undoubtedly correct, for Adderley, who was to be the MIAC singles champion for the next three years, had been nosed out several times in singles by the phenomenal Barbel. Unfortunately, Barbel ran into academic difficulties and it was left to little Lou Adderley (five feet, six inches) to carry the burden alone. But he carried it well, and won the singles championship that had evaded St. John's ever since the days of Clifford, Hite and Harrer over twenty years before.

The story of St. John's 1953 season is short enough. Spring was relatively dry and the team managed to get along fairly well except on one or two occasions when the weather got unruly. On such occasions the Jays played either in St. Cloud or on the College of St. Benedict's courts in St. Joseph.

Incidentally, Dick Christopherson, *Record* sportswriter for the year, had information proving that St. Thomas really had concrete tennis courts. His reference to the fact in the *Record* was a thinly disguised news item meant for the administration and designed to let the authorities know that St. John's clay courts were badly out of date.

The MIAC championship was shared between St. John's and Macalester. Members of the squad were Lou Adderley, Gene Deterling, Hal Duffy, Joseph Shorba, and Leo Barbel.

- 1954 -

Coach Jim Peyton was a man of action rather than of words. Instead of complaining about wet and muddy tennis courts, he took his team either to St. Cloud or St. Benedict's for practice. Then, in order to compensate for the lack of concrete courts at St. John's, he planned to take his team to the Twin Cities a day ahead of the conference meet in order to give the players at least some experience on concrete before the tournament opened.

Only two pre-tournament meets were reported in the *Record*, a loss to Gustavus 6-0 and another to Bemidji 4-2. Arrangements had been made to schedule meets with St. Thomas and Macalester, but again no reports were published. The sportswriters for the year wrote: "Actually, the tournament standings are the only ones that count in ranking the teams" -an incorrect statement, but at least an excuse for not reporting the individual meets.

In a preview to the conference tourney, Peyton was quoted to the effect that prospects for making a good showing were scant, but that he placed a lot of hope in Louis Adderley, "who took the tournament singles championship last year" (*Record*, May 21, 1954). The coach's hopes were well-founded. Adderley won the singles title for the second time-and, believe it or not!-for the first time in the history of the *Record*, tennis received its first heavy black-inked headline. It read: "ADDERLEY REPEATS: Lou captures singles trophy!" In the accompanying story we read: "A rare feat in the annals of St. John's tennis history was accomplished this spring by a boy who had never played a game of tennis before entering St. John's. Lou Adderley, a 5' 6" junior from Nassau, Bahama Islands, captured the MIAC singles championship for the second consecutive year. . . . Adderley swept through the semi-finals with great ease, then defeated Gustavus ace George Heiber, 6-3, 6-2, for the crown. . . . This is Adderley's second championship in the conference this year. In March he won the 130 lb. wrestling title, as the Jays swept to their third straight MIAC crown in the mat sport" (*Record*, June 25, 1954).

The 1954 championship was shared between St. Thomas and St. John's.

- 1955-

With the graduation of Jim Peyton, Lou Adderley, now a senior and defending champion in tennis seeking his third consecutive championship, was appointed coach of the team. He had fourteen aspiring candidates for positions on the team and two veterans, senior Jerry Altman and James Ramsay. After the elimination try-outs, the team was comprised of Jerry Altman, Lou Adderley, James Ramsay, Ambrose Marier, Michael Sivinski, Pat Wangen, and Mark Dundon. Adderley himself was not only the coach; he was the top player, half a team by himself.

Lou Adderley's term as coach was marked by the comparatively limited number of meets, not the long

string of contests that some thought might have hindered the progress of the teams rather than improved them. In the first of these meets St. John's lost to Gustavus 4-3 and tied Macalester 3-3, a splendid record when compared with what the Jays had been doing in the previous few years. In them Lou was the star supreme. Against Gustavus he won two singles without a hitch, then won a doubles match with Jim Ramsay as his partner. In the match with Macalester he won the singles and doubles with Michael Sivinski and chalked up his second doubles match.

The MIAC tourney was held May 20-21 at Macalester. Once more Adderley was the sole St. John's star. He won the singles championship for the third time, defeating Young of Hamline 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, and then overwhelmed Jack Roach of Macalester by scores of 6-0 and 6-4. It was through the single-handed work of Adderley as coach and player that St. John's ended the season in third place. Individual championships were awarded to St. John's in singles and to St. Thomas in doubles. St. Thomas took first place in the team championship, with Macalester second and St. John's third.

And so ended the athletic career of Lou Adderley at St. John's. He was a "born" athlete, always in shape for every sport he attempted. During the winters he played handball and became one of the sharpest players on campus. In the winter of 1954-55 he took part in the Northwest Tennis Association matches in Minneapolis and advanced to the quarter-finals despite the fact that he had not practiced for months. He did not compete in the wrestling tournament in 1955 because of a back injury incurred early in the season.

But St. John's recognized the little Bahamian for more things than his achievements in athletics. At the athletic banquet that concluded the athletic season 1954-55, the athletic director stood up to announce the recipient of the plaque inscribed to the senior who had contributed the most to athletics at St. John's during the past year. Who was he? It was Lou Adderley, who had won the respect and admiration of every athlete at St. John's. The burst of applause at the announcement was the final proof of their admiration and affection. In the classroom he had carried a B-plus average for four years, in athletics an average of A-plus. Above all his assets, however, was his personableness and modesty, his gratitude to Fr. Bernardo, Fr. Arno and Jim Peyton who had provided the tough competition that he needed in order to develop in tennis (see *Record*, June 24, 1955).

But Lou Adderley's career did not end at St. John's. As soon as he graduated he returned to his home city and began teaching and coaching at St. Augustine's College and has been there ever since. He is now headmaster of St. Augustine's, a school of 890 coed students, one of the most prestigious schools in the city, both academically and athletically.

He was ordained a permanent deacon three years ago. He and his wife, a teacher in the government schools, are outstanding lay leaders in the Diocese of Nassau.

- 1956 -

During the summer of 1955 St. John's finally constructed the long awaited, much-needed concrete tennis courts that were necessary before a consistent program of tennis could be carried out. By April 13, 1956, the date of the spring issue of the *Record*, the squad had already spent a week on the new courts and Dr. Maras, the new coach, was in the process of picking the personnel of the team. The greatest problem facing him was to fill the place left vacant by the graduation of Lou Adderley—and it was truly a big one, even though Lou was only five feet, six inches tall and weighed only 130 pounds.

Coach Maras, probably with the prospect of few bad weather cancellations now that St. John's had concrete surfaced courts, scheduled twelve meets, only seven of which were played. The first meet was with St. Olaf at Northfield, lost by the Jays 6-1, the one point resulting from a singles won by Bob Claesgens. In a meet with Carleton the Jays again emerged as losers with an identical score of 6-1, based on a doubles victory by

Raoul Kunert and Mike Sivinski, over against six match losses to the Carletonians.

All in all, 1956 was not an exciting tennis year. The one and only meet victory of the year was a 4-3 win over Gustavus. Captain Pat Wangen won a singles match 6-4 and 6-0, and a doubles, paired with Kunert, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3. Bob Claesgens won a singles. The worst loss of the year was a 7-0 loss to Macalester. Wangen and Kunert were leading in a doubles match 3-0, when unexplainably they "blew" it to lose 6-4. The last match reported was a 6-1 loss to Hamline, the only victory being a doubles victory by Pat Wangen and Raoul Kunert.

Strange to relate, despite the mediocre record of the team in seasonal play, the Jays finished third in the conference race, tied with Hamline. Wangen and Kunert were runners up in doubles to St. Thomas, the school that swept the conference play in both singles and doubles. Dr. Maras left St. John's at the end of the academic year with a very creditable tennis record.

Personnel of the 1956 Jays were the following: Mike Sivinski, Bob Claesgens, James Ramsay, Raoul Kunert, Pat Wangen, Ralph Kilzer, John Barbour, Ronald Johnson, James Carroll and Bob Kampmann.

- 1957 -

Dr. Maras was succeeded by Pat Wangen, junior veteran who, with Raoul Kunert, was runnerup in the doubles match against St. Thomas, winner of the conference meet. Coach Wangen was looking forward to a good season since he had lost only Mike Sivinski from the 1956 squad. Wangen and Kunert would remain numbers one and two men on the team, with Bob Claesgens moving up to third place. John Muenzhuber looked like a competent tennis man to fill the fourth spot of the team. Number five for the time being was left up for grabs among the remaining candidates.

At the beginning of the season it had been planned to schedule nine matches, but, whether cancelled because of bad weather or some other reason, only five were reported in the *Record*.

In the first match against Carleton, lost by St. John's 5-2, the Jays won their two points in doubles matches: Kunert and Wangen and Claesgens and Muenzhuber. In the Hamline meet, St. John's lost again, 8-1, with Muenzhuber winning the only Jay point through a singles victory. The Jays did no better against Gustavus in a match that ended with an 8-1 defeat for the Jays. Muenzhuber and Claesgens won the only match, a doubles, for St. John's. In a fourth match against St. Thomas, the Jays improved their schedule record somewhat when Bob Claesgens won his first MIAC singles match. He also paired with Pat Wangen for a victory in the doubles.

The MIAC meet, scheduled to be run May 17-18, was looked forward to with anticipation by the squad for it was to be played on the St. John's courts, and the Jays, especially Wangen and Kunert, had begun to play brilliant tennis. It was hoped that the team itself had caught fire and would perform up to its potentialities.

The outcome of the meet was not published in the *Record*, but according to the 1958 *Sagatagan* St. John's finished in second place in the conference, though without winning any individual championships. Members of the squad were the following: Darrell Bohlsen, Robert Claesgens, John Michael Brecount, Ronald Olson, Pat Wangen, Thomas Hobday, John Muenzhuber, Gerald Halsey, Raoul Kunert, Mark Dundon and Charles Staley.

- 1958 -

An optimistic mood prevailed in the tennis world of St. John's when Fr. Alfred Deutsch, O.S.B., "dean of the tennis courts," accepted the appointment as the 1958 tennis coach. Pat Wangen, coach and captain of the

1957 season, gladly returned to the ranks in order to concentrate on the fine art of winning, a specialty that the players had been neglecting for a few years. The change worked. Between Fr. Alfred's coaching and Pat's concentration on winning, the Jays made definite progress. After losing four straight meets of the scheduled nine, the team defeated Hamline by a score of 5-2 and made the always strong Macalester netmen hustle before winning over St. John's 5-4. This was the last meet of which we have a record.

Although prospects had looked bright from the beginning of the season, the new coach had his personnel problems. The team had lost Bob Claesgens and John Muenzhuber who had played major roles in the 1957 season. He still had veterans Tom Hobday, Ron Olson and Darrell Bohlsen, but all three lacked experience because of the monopoly of Claesgens and Muenzhuber. On the other hand, among the freshmen were two especially capable players, Michael Murphy, a high school star from Cretin High School in St. Paul, and Serve Wilson from Stillwater.

Alongside them were Jerry Pierre, Freeman Wong and Charles Steiner, all young players with definite signs of being future varsity stars. The Jays appeared to have one of their strongest but untried entries in recent years. The coach's problem was how to take advantage of their multiple talents.

A detailed report on the fortune of the young Jays follows. In the May 2, 1958, *Record* it was reported that the youthful Jays' "raquette" squad had dropped matches to Macalester 6-3, and to Gustavus 8-1, their first outings of the season. In the weeks that followed, in one match with St. Cloud T.C. the Jays were defeated again 6-3, although Pat Wangen won his singles match and, paired with Serve Wilson, had also won the doubles. Things began to look better.

Following is the list of remaining meets that were played and their outcome: 1) a loss to Gustavus by a score of 8-0; 2) a victory over Hamline, 5-2, with Wangen and Wilson winning their singles. The two doubles combinations, Murphy and Kunert, Pierre and Hobday, won their doubles matches; 3) in the last meet Macalester defeated St. John's 5-4, Wilson and Pierre taking singles, Kunert and Steiner, Hobday and Pierre winning their doubles matches.

St. Thomas won the championship, both in singles and doubles.

- 1959 -

By the time the tennis team began work in preparation for the scheduled meets, Fr. Alfred had already selected his squad for the 1959 season. It was an eight-man group made up of five lettermen: seniors Tom Hobday, Jerry Pierre and Charles Steiner (captain); two sophomores, Serve Wilson and Michael Murphy; and three freshmen: James

Plotnik, Peter Herzog and Wayne Belisle. They were a talented group, - all of them of almost equal ability. But there was no Lou Adderley among them and the coach was presented with the problem of determining who was the number one man, who the second, third, etc., in gradation. The problem was urgent, since it was a matter of selecting the team that would represent St. John's best in the meets.

To solve the problem, Fr. Alfred devised a system of play-offs, similar to Fr. Bernardo's "ladder" of a few years before. In the playoffs the best players would gradually occupy the top rungs. As the season progressed, the six topmost men on the ladder on the date of a tennis meet would then represent the team at the current meet. Besides solving a problem, the competition provided stimulation for making progress.

The pre-tournament matches began with an easy victory over St. Cloud State, 8-1, in which the Jays won five of the six singles and all the doubles. The second outing ended with a narrow loss to Macalester, 5-4. Though the team lost the match, individual players played good tennis, winning three singles and one

doubles match (*Record*, April 24, 1959).

The May 8 *Record* reports a 6-0 victory over Augsburg. But at this point the wheel of fortune began turning in favor of the Jays' opponents. The Jays dropped a match 6-0 to St. Thomas, 6-1 to Hamline, 8-1 to Gustavus and 5-3 to Macalester.

The ladder system began to payoff eventually, however, for the May 22 *Record* reports a string of four victories without a loss: over St. Mary's 5-0 (May 9); over Hamline 7-2 (May 13); over Concordia 7-0 (May 16); and over St. Cloud State 7-2 (May 19).

By the time the MIAC tournament rolled around, the top occupants of the ladder were James Plotnik, Mike Murphy and Charles Steiner in the singles, Thomas Hobday and Jerry Pierre in the doubles. In the conference meet St. John's came out in fourth place, a disappointment for Fr. Alfred, since he did not think that the Jays had played up to their potential. The results of the meet, from the St. John's standpoint, were as follows: Mike Murphy drew a bye in his first round, then lost to Gustavus in his second round, 8-6 and 6-1. James Plotnik defeated Frazer of St. Thomas 6-2, 3-6, 3-1, 6-3 in his first round, then won in the second round by default. But in the semi-finals he lost to Gary Lawson of Gustavus 6-0, 6-2. In the doubles Thomas Hobday and Jerry Pierre defeated Hamline in their first round, then unexpectedly lost the second to the University of Minnesota-Duluth, 6-2, 6-1.

- 1960 -

In the fall of 1959 a tennis tournament organized by Fr. Alfred monopolized the tennis courts for the months of September and October. The tournament was essentially a freshman try-out designed to reveal who among the freshmen would be available for the 1960 varsity. The tournament was immensely successful, both as recreation and as a modified try-out for future varsity players. Emerging from the flock of contestants were some excellent prospects: Paul Lorenz from Austin, a fine singles player; Tom Kramer from Fairmont, who battled Lorenz for the number one position; Ben Pulkrabek, who became a famous member of the wrestling team. Also very promising were Bob Krause and Paul Bridgeford.

When in early April it came time for the tennis team to train for the season play, it was evident how well the tournament had really paid off. Only three lettermen had returned from the strong 1959 team, Serve Wilson and Mike Murphy, the latter being the number one man, and into this nucleus were fitted Paul Lorenz, Tom Kramer, and Ben Pulkrabek, all three freshman prospects of the 1959 fall tourney.

There was little time to train the tennis team for the MIAC tournament that was to take place May 20-21, for the early period had been devoted almost entirely to the ten meets that had been scheduled. Unfortunately, the outcome of the early meets had not been recorded, and hence little is known of the SJU successes and failures except that they had started out fast and then had slumped. Of the last four meets just preceding the conference, three were lost to MIAC schools: to St. Thomas 5-4, to Hamline 5-2, to Macalester (who overwhelmed the Jays) 8-1. The second meet with St. Cloud State was a loss, 7-3. St. John's ended in fourth place in the conference.

- 1961 -

The 1961 *Sagatagan* expressed Fr. Alfred's confidence that this team was going to have a winning season. The only team member who had not returned was Peter Herzog. The real power was still intact in the persons of Captain Serve Wilson and Mike Murphy, supplemented by the talented sophomores Paul Lorenz and Tom Kramer.

Wayne Belisle, though not one of the above group, was a burly, tough competitor who fitted perfectly into

either the fourth or fifth place. Four freshmen were also available, all of whom had distinguished themselves in the fall tournament: Paul Bridgeford, John Dale, Terry Mc- Dermott and John Goulet.

Although the team was potentially strong, the players had difficulty in winning as regularly as had been expected. Fr. Alfred attributed the early losses to the irregularity of practices or to the failure to play up to par-of which two possibilities he preferred the latter. Add to this was the well-known fact that the MIAC was a healthy organization whose members fought fiercely for conference titles. Later he concluded that the Jays had been matched against the strongest teams in the early part of the season and that in the later part of the schedule they should be playing the rest of the teams on even terms. As he had predicted, the Jays did begin to hold their own and won two matches and lost two. They vented their wrath by blanking Concordia 9-0 and defeating Augsburg 5-2. The winning streak ended with a loss to St. Thomas 3-6 and to Gustavus 4-5.

The stand-out player throughout the season was Paul Lorenz who had an individual record of seven matches won to only one lost. There is no record of the final MIAC meet and the championships awarded.

-1962 -

The story of Tennis 1962 is brief; in other words, it was not one of St. John's great seasons. Coach Fr. Alfred Deutsch, after working hard over a two-year period to produce a strong 1962 entry, had the misfortune to lose all but two of his stars at one fell swoop of fate. Remaining from the previous year were two lettermen, Captain Tom Kramer and Paul Bridgeford, the latter still somewhat inexperienced in MIAC competition. Nothing daunted, the coach made an effort to build up his new charges through practices held every Wednesday evening in the gymnasium for the improvement of footwork and strategy at the net.

By the time of the first meet, April 4, the team had been selected: . Tom Kramer, Paul Bridgeford, John Dale, John Goulet, and four freshmen: Ronald Wrucke, champion of the fall tournament in 1961, Dick Evans, Tom O'Brien and James Mullin. The first meet was a smashing victory over Concordia 8-0, followed by a loss to North Dakota State, 5-4. Powerful Hamline clobbered the Jays in the next meet 9-0; St. Cloud State overran them 6-0. The Jays then made a comeback by defeating Duluth 5-1, only to lose to Macalester 9-0. The schedule ended with a victory over Augsburg 4-3 and a defeat by St. Thomas 6-3, a record of three wins and five losses.

Highlight of the season was Paul Bridgeford's performance in a North Dakota invitational tournament in which he won the singles championship and St. John's took second place. Following that feat, Bridgeford was named number one man for the last two matches of the season.

The MIAC tournament was held May 17-18 at Macalester. The Jays tied with St. Mary's for fifth place in the conference. MIAC standings for 1966 in terms of points won were as follows: Hamline 15, Macalester 12, St. Thomas 9, Gustavus 5, St. John's 3, St. Mary's 3, Concordia 1, Duluth 1.

- 1963 -

Coach Fr. Alfred had a problem on his hands in 1963. Three of his five top players had not returned and left him without equal quality replacements. John Dale had scholastic difficulties and Tom Kramer had suffered a finger injury that would not permit him to play. But the situation turned out to be far from hopeless for he had among his freshmen Tom Arth, a St. Paul Cretin star who was a two-time Catholic high school champion. In addition to Arth were three other fine freshman performers, Art Grady from Saskatoon, Canada, Paul Stolpman, a former St. John's Prep School player, and John Neill. Others from the 1962 squad, though not lettermen, were Tom O'Brien and Dick Evans.

Records of the season performances were not published regularly in the school paper and only through sporadic remarks in the sports column was it possible to follow the team's progress. From a preview of the 1963 tennis season we learn that the team had begun the year of competition with a 9-0 win over Concordia and had then fallen to St. Thomas 6-3 and to Gustavus 5-4.

Great things had been expected of Arth and Grady, and indeed they played well, but especially in the early part of the season Paul Stolpman was a sensation. In the St. John's loss to St. Thomas, Stolpman won the singles match over the Tommie ace, then teamed with Mullin to win the doubles. Likewise in the Gustavus meet, he defeated the Gusties' number one man in singles and again won the doubles when paired with Arth.

The results of the conference meet were not published in the *Record*. Gary Hackenmueller in his "Sports Shorts" column for June 21, 1963, reported casually that the Jays had finished in third place in the conference: "Fr. Alfred's Johnnie tennis team fared well against MIAC competition. Peak performances by a couple of prize frosh prospects, Tom Arth and Art Grady, spurred the local netmen to a third place finish in the MIAC tournament.

- 1964 -

Fr. Alfred's search for the ideal team, a squad of championship caliber tennis players, arrived finally-but he was now the faculty adviser and his star protégé Tom Arth was the coach. And it was a good team! It ended the season in second place behind 1964 champion, Hamline.

Prior to 1964, a tennis championship was determined entirely on the outcome of the conference tournament in singles and doubles. According to the new ruling, however, the winners of singles and doubles were simply declared the individual champions of the conference, whereas the team championship was to be determined by the number of season victories and the state meet. There was no chance for quibbling in 1964, however, for Hamline won both the team title by an 8-0 record in the seasonal meets, and won both the singles and doubles championships in the tournament. St. John's was runnerup with a record of seven wins and only one loss (*to* Hamline). As was expected, Hamline and St. John's dominated the MIAC tournament. St. John's Art Grady won two matches before losing in the semi-finals to Hamline's Gustafson, the eventual winner in the singles finals. The doubles team of Tom Arth and James DeChaine, who had been undefeated during the entire season, lost to Hamline in the semi-finals.

The overall record of St. John's in pre-MIAC meets was 12-2.

- 1965 -

The two strongest teams in the MIAC in 1965 were Hamline and Macalester. Tom Arth, the student-player coach, considered St. John's the third team but also a well authenticated contender for the championship crown. He pointed to the seven returning lettermen from a 1964 team that had run up a record of twelve victories with only two losses. The team had experience also: three of the returnees were seniors, Jim Mullin, Dick Endres, and James DeChaine. Tom Arth, himself, the number one man and coach, was a seasoned junior veteran. Jack VandeNorth, sophomore, had advanced into the semi-finals in the 1964 conference meet against stout opposition before he was eliminated and was already playing a better game in 1965. Roger Nass was also an experienced veteran. .

The team started out well with a series of four consecutive victories, then had a few disappointing triangulars, but in the last part of the season was strong enough to compete for the conference crown at Macalester. Nevertheless, Hamline won the MIAC title. In a spirited review of the season, Arth, who wrote as well as he played tennis, commented: "Even as I look back on our past season, I still cannot possibly see

how Hamline won the thing. And now that the season is over, I still feel that man for man we were the best team in the conference" (*Record*, May 26, 1965).

The conference record for the season was 6-2, with a third place ranking in the MIAC.

There was little reported about the MIAC tournament, won by Hamline. Rain interrupted the finals, which had to be completed in the Macalester field house. Tom Arth, top-seeded St. John's player, lost in the finals to Shipman of Macalester. John VandeNorth won two rounds before being defeated in the semi-finals. Michael Musty, a tenacious competitor, won first place in the consolation match.

- 1966 -

Tom Arth proved to be a fiery, courageous leader. The loss of six lettermen from the 1965 squad left him undisturbed. He took hold of the coaching duties with vigor and functioned much like a catalytic agent in getting the most out of his players. He selected six men from among the freshman candidates-Joseph Nitzke, James Blanchford, Pat Murphy, Philip Richter and George Bachman-to back up veterans John VandeNorth, James Mullin, and Mike Musty.

The team was a good combination of young and older players that came out fighting and won the first four meets easily over Bemidji State, Duluth, Augsburg and Hamline, the 1965 champion. They then dropped a meet to Macalester, the favorite for the crown, but came back with another string of victories: St. Mary's 9-0, St. Thomas 7-2, and Concordia 6-0. Following these last three victories, the Jays unexpectedly lost to Gustavus 3-6, supposedly because of the absence of John VandeNorth. The final meet held immediately before the MIAC tournament was a loss to St. Cloud State.

Despite the team's fine showing all spring long, the players played below par in the conference and finished the season in fourth place. After a fine record, the results of the tournament were naturally a disappointment. A sportswriter in the *Record* for May 27, 1966, calmly accepted the verdict of fate: "A fine 8-3 season succumbed to 'one of those days,' and a disappointed crew had to be content with a fourth place showing."

- 1967 -

The 1967 tennis team practiced indoors the whole month of March in preparation for the upcoming season. With five returnees from the 1966 team, prospects were fair for a winning season, although the loss of Tom Arth weakened the possibility of making a great improvement over 1966.

Arth's successor as coach was by common consent John Vande- North, an experienced tennis player who had four years of high school and three years of college tennis to recommend him. Already as a freshman in high school at Fenwick High School, Chicago, he was the Catholic League tennis singles champion and in his junior and senior years was captain of the team. He frankly admitted that he had no experience as a coach, though he could correct obvious faults and hoped to have the ability to keep up the spirit of the team. When asked for a prediction for the coming tennis season, he replied with a positive assurance that St. John's would challenge the league, might possibly come close behind Macalester, or even end in third or fourth place should Hamline prove stronger than they estimated.

As a nucleus for the rebuilding of the team he had senior Roger Nass, juniors Mike Musty and James Blanchford, sophomores Joe Nitzke and George Bachman. After the early try-outs three freshmen had been added to the team: Michael Daly, Ray Rossini and Bob Louisell.

The 1967 schedule comprised three meets with non-conference colleges (Mankato State, St. Cloud State,

and North Dakota State), in addition to the other eight MIAC opponents. The *Record* reports on the season were extremely generalized, so much so that it is impossible to give a statistical account of the season. It was apparently an interesting season, however, although not in any way highlighted by dramatic situations or sensational play on the part of the Jays. About all that can be said definitely is that the Jays played winning tennis and ended the scheduled meets with an overall record of 8-3; in conference play the record was 5-2.

The final results of the May 12-13 MIAC tournament found St. John's in fourth place, with undefeated Macalester finishing first, followed by Ramline and Gustavus in second and third respectively, and St. John's in fourth. St. John's failed to capture an individual state crown. Mike Musty, playing in the number one position, first defeated St. Mary's number one but lost to Macalester in the semi-finals. Playercoach Jack VandeNorth, number two, won his first round but dropped the second to Macalester. Roger Nass, number three man, lost in the first round and was eliminated.

Players numbers three and four (Jim Blanchard and freshman Rossini) advanced to the semi-finals, with Rossini losing only in the finals to Macalester. Rossini gave a good account of himself as a tennis star in the making, possibly the match of Tom Arth in 1966. No reports were made regarding the Jays' fortunes in the doubles.

- 1968 -

The new tennis coach James DeChaine, who was also Fr. Donald LeMay's assistant in the Admissions Office, showed himself to be a skilled performer in the use of the crying towel prior to the beginning of the tennis season. The loss of three lettermen from the 1967 team did not bother him. It was the lack of indoor facilities for early practice before the tennis meets were started—the frustration of a tennis coach in central Minnesota without a field house! Re complained that "Macalester has two indoor courts and has been able to practice off and on all winter" (*Record*, April 23, 1968). For this reason he scheduled matches with North Dakota State and Bethel as early in the season as possible before meeting the conference foes. The team returned two days early from Easter vacation to practice. "We have more enthusiasm than ever before," he said. Ropes for the future he based on seniors Mike Musty and Joe Nitzke, sophomore Ray Rossini, and three freshmen he had spotted as first-class material: Steve Pavela, John Rickner and Greg Schepers.

Coach DeChaine was far from wrong. In an eleven-meet schedule his team ran up a record of seven victories overall and a conference record of five victories and two losses for third place in the MIAC. Conference victories were as follows: over Duluth 9-0, Augsburg 5-4, Concordia 5-4, St. Thomas 5-4, St. Mary's 5-0. Conference losses were to Macalester 8-1, and to Ramline 8-1. Against non-conference teams St. John's had won two, lost two: losing to Carleton and Mankato by identical scores of 8-1 and winning over North Dakota State 9-0 and over University of Minnesota-Morris 7-2.

The MIAC Tournament

The two stars in the state meet held at Macalester were sophomore Ray Rossini and freshman John Rickner. Encouraged by the performances of these two players, the Jays scored nine points for a fourth place tie with Concordia. Rossini captured the singles championship and Rickner placed second in the number three singles.

At the end of the tennis season Coach DeChaine expressed his satisfaction with the team, but also his disappointment with the doubles players who, just as in 1966 and 1967, had played poorly in the MIAC meet. The failure to score higher than nine points in the meet was due in large part to the doubles players' failure to win, scores being figured on the basis of one point for a victory in singles and two points for each victory in doubles.

Though DeChaine lost Mike Musty and Joe Nitzke for 1969, he remained optimistic for 1969, with Ray Rossini, John Rickner and James Volin around whom to assemble a new team. Volin had not played in the state meet for some reason, though his talents were recognized by the coach.

- 1969 -

Second-year coach Jim DeChaine carried out his promise to come up with an interesting, winning team in 1969. It was a light-hearted group, amused by the tricks of fun-loving, guitar-playing Ray Rossini and the tennis histrionics of Captain Volin and John Rickner. When Volin defeated the NIC singles champion, Rossini said he "was capable of anything." John Rickner also beat the NIC champion and ran up a stretch of eleven matches without a loss. Mark Stolpman had a record of fifteen wins with only two losses.

With a group of twenty candidates to choose from, the coach dispensed with the elimination tournament and chose the seven best men, as they appeared to be in practice. He then took off for a training trip into Nebraska and South Dakota as soon as Easter vacation began. First they defeated Creighton University 5-4, then moved on to Lincoln, Nebraska, for a meeting with the state university, "where," the reporter said, "they didn't fare so well." In other words, they were clobbered. On the way back they stopped at the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State, "soundly dumping both teams by identical scores of 7-2" (*Record*, April 18, 1969).

The regularly scheduled season was a heart-warming success. By May 9 (the last report for the season) St. John's, Macalester and Gustavus were running a close race for the championship. Macalester was in the lead with a 9-0 conference record, the two St. John's defeats. having come at the hands of Macalester and Gustavus, 5-4 in both meets.

The Jays defeated St. Thomas 8-1, St. Mary's 7-0, Augustburg 7-2, Duluth 7-0, Concordia 9-0 and Hamline 5-4. Again the weakness of St. John's was in the doubles division of the team.

The *Record* does not report on the outcome of the MIAC meet, though from the official MIAC list of championships Gustavus is credited with having won the title outright.

- 1970 -

There was reason enough to justify the high hopes of the 1970 tennis team for a good season. The top six players on the St. John's 1969 team had returned to the school and were confident of their ability to equal their record of the past year, or even to surpass it. They realized that an element of luck would be necessary. Player-coach Ray Rossini and Captain "Jamie" Volin had no illusions regarding the strength of their opponents. Gustavus had been coming up fast and was rumored to have its strongest team in years. Macalester was traditionally a powerhouse in tennis, and Hamline was not far behind.

Backing up the two officers, Ray Rossini and James Volin, were the four other 1969 lettermen: John Hickner, Tom Farnham, Steve Pavela, and Mark Stolpman. Also in the offing were Pat Kernan, John Grobe, Mike Cahill, Greg Schepers, Larry Goede, Mike DeBevec and Dave Ebnet, all of whom could develop and displace any of the better known players who might falter.

St. John's was still afflicted with its biggest problem, the lack of early spring practice. For a change the coach scheduled Easter vacation meets with Notre Dame, Purdue, Evansville University and West Kentucky. Unfortunately, it was a wet spring and the Jays met only West Kentucky (a strong tennis school that defeated them 9-0). Evansville University was beaten by the Jays, 5-3.

On their return the Jays won their first two meets, Augustburg 9-0 and Hamline 5-4. Records of the remaining

six meets were not kept, but the Jays did well. St. John's finished the season with a record of six conference wins and three losses, but an overall record of ten wins and three losses. It was a good year.

- 1971 -

Attitudes towards the 1971 season ranged between deep pessimism and moderate optimism. The pessimists called attention to the loss of tried veteran Jamie Volin who had graduated, Mark Stolpman who had not returned, and John Grobe who was not attending school the second semester. The optimists in a lighter vein considered the four veterans, John Rickner, Tom Farnham, Steve Pavel a and Pat Kernan, all of whom were eager to occupy the slots that had been vacated. Rickner especially called attention to the need of new strategy, more placement drills and game strategy-somewhat contrary to freewheeling Rossini's theory of "hit the dang ball over the net and beat that brother."

But the basic problem was still there: the need of early practice. This year the team was taking an Easter trip down South and East to Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and North Carolina "where there was less snow and they played tennis the year round. It would be tough opposition, but you never learn by beating weak teams."

The Easter trip had not worked out as well as had been expected. The May 7 issue of the *Record* lamented the "ill-fated Easter trip" after which St. John's had not been able to field its top team. Games had to be postponed-for example, attendance at the funeral of their teammate Kernan's father, weather-outs, injuries, and more time spent on studies. Team morale may have been low, for they could not hope to win over powerful Gustavus, and their only chance for a good season was success in the MIAC tournament. According to the *Record* of May 14, however, the Jays were still optimistic, with a record of 2-1 in the meets and sparked by undefeated Larry Goede. There the *Record* stopped reporting.

- 1972 -

The only descriptive information available on the 1972 season is the following article, "Fuzzball": "The SJU tennis team spent five days of Easter vacation in the Twin Cities practicing indoors at the Minnetonka Racquet Club. Seven players made the trip: player-coach Tom Farnham, returning lettermen Mike DeBevec, Pat Kernan, Al Gauper, John Grobe, and freshmen Mike Perrizo and John Shannon. Freshman Mike Bromelkamp later joined the team. Returning from the Easter trip in good shape and high spirits, the team easily won the season opener against St. Thomas 7-2, but subsequent losses to St. Cloud State 2-7, Gustavus 0-9 and Concordia 4-5 produced frustration and disappointment. A 5-4 victory over Morris provided some encouragement, but matches with Duluth, Macalester and St. Olaf again brought defeat. The team recently split a triangular match with Hamline and Augsburg, beating the latter 7-2" (*Record*, April 14, 1972, p. 2).

The season record overall was four wins and eight losses. In the conference meets the Johnnies won two and lost seven. A highlight of these meets is the fact that the number three doubles team of John Grobe and Pat Kernan went undefeated.

In the MIAC tournament Kernan, Farnham and Perrizo advanced to the finals only to lose their matches. A detailed report on the conference tournament was not published in the *Record*. The team ended the season in fourth place.

- 1973 -

For the 1973 tennis season the coaching position was given to Captain Jerry Fitzgerald of the Military Science Department. Captain Fitzgerald, though not a professional coach, was considerably above average.

He had a sound knowledge of basic tennis and, above all, the ability to handle men and work for a definite objective. He frankly stated that his objective was the MIAC tournament, not the small dual and triangular meets that had become traditional within the conference. His reason: "This season the MIAC title will be determined at a conference meet May 11-12. Previously the season won-loss record had counted half towards determining a champion, but this year only the two-day final results will count" (*Record*, April 13, 1973).

The new coach had a good team to work with. His star player was Carl Moschkau, a junior transfer from Loras College and the best thing that had happened to St. John's tennis since the days of Lou Adderley, 1952-55. Flanking him were some fine netmen such as Mike Perrizo, Richard "Spanky" Sullivan (Moschkau's partner in doubles), Tom Palmer, Paul Cashman, Thomas Wallraff and Mike Bromelkamp. At the end of Easter vacation St. John's had a 3-1 record. Carl Moschkau and Paul Cashman were undefeated in singles, and Mike Wallraff had a 3-1 mark. In doubles competition Moschkau and Sullivan were 2-0, Mike Perrizo and Mike Bromelkamp 2-1, and Tom Palmer and Tom Wallraff 2-1. The *Record* reported: "Coach Jerry Fitzgerald thinks he has a young but solid team. He believes St. John's could threaten defending champion Gustavus for the title" (*Record*, May 3, 1973).

By May 11, the day of the MIAC tournament opening, Coach Fitzgerald had changed his mind regarding the vulnerability of Gustavus. In the meantime, he had scouted Gustavus and was amazed at their power. Sportswriter Ernie Bedor wrote that "Second place will be the objective for St. John's today and tomorrow in the tennis championships." Coach Fitzgerald and the rest of the league had all but conceded the title to Gustavus. "Fitzgerald," wrote Bedor, "says they have a 'super coach' who has recruited in Florida and taken his team on successful trips around the nation. Gustavus has beaten such schools as Oklahoma and Texas" (May 11, 1973). Despite his respect for Gustavus, Fitzgerald, nevertheless, thought that Moschkau, in singles, and Sullivan had good chances to make the finals.

The *Record* did not publish the results of the conference meet in 1973. Ernie Bedor, however, in a preview of the 1974 tennis season reported the meet results from St. John's standpoint. "St. John's finished second in the MIAC last year, but was far behind first place Gustavus. . . . St. John's top player again this year is Carl Moschkau. As a junior transfer from Loras College last season, he racked up a 13-2 individual record, took second in the MIAC singles championships, and teamed with Sullivan to win the doubles crown" (*Record*, April 5, 1974, p. 8).

By virtue of their second place finish in the MIAC, the 1973 tennis team took part in the NAIA national tournament and St. John's placed 28th. Members taking part in the contests were the seven contestants in the MIAC meet: Carl Moschkau, Mike Perrizo, Richard Sullivan, Tom Palmer, Mike Wallraff, Michael Bromelkamp and Paul Cashman.

- 1974 -

Coach Jerry Fitzgerald, following his successful season of 1973 and his second place finish in the conference race, planned an eight-day trip through Iowa in preparation for the MIAC tournament. In the space of eight days they were scheduled to play matches with Loras College, Augustana College, St. Ambrose, the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and Drake University, in the expectation that by playing stiffer competition than that of the MIAC the team would be better prepared to challenge Gustavus, since 1969 the perennial champion of the conference.

Making the trip for certain were top seeded Carl Moschkau and Rick "Spanky" Sullivan, the latter the number two singles man and Moschkau's partner in the doubles. Other players hopeful of making the trip were Tom Palmer, Mike Perrizo, Thomas Wallraff, Michael Bromelkamp, and Paul Cashman, with John "Jocko" Vertin and Kevin McNew ready to step into the charmed circle if given the opportunity to

demonstrate their qualifications. In fact, later in the season, after the try-outs had been completed, John Vertin and Kevin McNew were among the first six men on the squad.

Of all the members on the team, Carl Moschkau was Coach Fitzgerald's best bet for a winning season. Carl's individual record in 1973 was 13-2. In the 1973 MIAC tournament that concluded the season, he took second place in the singles championship and teamed with Sullivan to win the doubles crown. He was actually the one man responsible for the second place finish in the conference. Coach Fitzgerald generously acknowledged his admiration for his heady, driving play and considered him one of the best players in the state, second only to Peterson of Gustavus. Only Peterson could beat him, but mainly because Peterson regularly played against stiffer competition than St. John's could offer. Strange to say, Carl preferred doubles to singles, primarily because doubles was a faster game with more volleys. 1974 was his last year of play on the college team.

In the conference the St. John's record was five meets won to two lost; the overall record was twelve meets won and seven lost (*Record*, May 10, 1974, in "Sports Shorts," p. 8).

The finals of the MIAC tournament found St. John's in second place, as Coach Fitzgerald had predicted, and also second in the NAIA District 13 play-offs-in both cases behind winner Gustavus.

- 1975-

With the dropping of military science from the St. John's curriculum in 1975, Captain Jerry Fitzgerald moved on to another military assignment, leaving behind him the memory of a fine gentleman and coach who had-to use Fr. Bernardo's expression-"put St. John's back on the map." He was the one man who with the assistance of two star tennis players, Carl Moschkau and Rick Sullivan, revived interest in tennis, a sport that within a year or so became as popular a television spectacle as golf. But the *Record* staff failed to read the writing on the television screen and neglected tennis as furnishing newsworthy items for the sports pages. During the whole of spring only one article on tennis appeared in the school paper.

Captain Fitzgerald was succeeded by John Grobe, a former tennis stand-out from 1969-72. Team morale was good, and the players played with an enthusiasm that surprised even the coach. Rick Sullivan took over the number one position vacated by Carl Moschkau. Coach Grobe was confident that the 1975 Jays were capable of winning second place in the conference-though he was even more certain that it was futile to consider first place in view of the very evident superiority of the Gustavus power on the tennis courts.

Members of the 1975 varsity were John "Jocko" Vertin, Richard "Spanky" Sullivan, Mark Peschel, Tom Palmer, Kevin McNew and Michael Lilly. Outstanding on the junior varsity were Michael Bosanko, Robert Fischer, and Michael Dzuik.

The Johnnies completed the season in second place in the conference and second place in the District 13 NAIA play-offs, but did not attend the national in Kansas City because of budgetary problems.

- 1976 -

The opening of the 1976 tennis season found the Jays looking forward to a possible championship. Things were looking better than they had for several seasons. All the top six players of the previous season had returned and rumor had it that the Gusties had lost five of their best players. Coach John Grobe was confident that with hard work and a little luck this could be St. John's year.

Led by Captain Rick Sullivan were the veterans Tom Palmer, John Vertin, Mike Lilly, Kevin McNew, Mark Peschel and Mike Bosanko. These were all seasoned, competent players, especially in the singles. They

were out-distanced in the doubles, however, by the crack freshman duo John Hendrickson and Michael LaDouceur. The team was inspired by Coach Grobe and took advantage of every opportunity to practice in the new Warner Palaestra, a facility that revolutionized spring sports at St. John's in every category. Several indoor tennis meets were held. The team first downed Bemidji and Stout by scores of 8-1 and 5-4, respectively, with Sullivan, Vertin, Palmer and Lilly doing well in the singles. Freshmen Hendrickson and LaDouceur were undefeated in the doubles.

At this point a defeat administered by their old nemesis Gustavus Adolphus shocked the Jays into the realization that the Gusties, though weakened, were by no means defunct. Canny Rick Sullivan sensed that they had lost much of their old power, however, and were vulnerable. He predicted the downfall of Gustavus from the conference throne. As for the squad, the team remained confident that after their trip into Upper Iowa they would be ready for any competition.

On their return from Iowa, where they had played fine tennis and racked up four victories, losing only to Iowa tennis powers, St. Ambrose, Drake University and Iowa State, they next defeated three conference opponents, Macalester, Hamline, and Duluth. In non-conference play they defeated the University of North Dakota and St. Olaf, only to fall to Concordia 5-4. Participation in the annual Blue Devils Invitational Tournament hosted by Stout State completed their preparations for the MIAC.

The 1976 MIAC tournament was held on the St. John's campus, May 7-8. Tom Kozlak, the *Record* columnist, reported: "Good news and bad news resulted from the tennis meet. The good news is that for the first time in seven years Gustavus did not win the conference crown. The bad news is that it was Concordia rather than St. John's that had the pleasure of dethroning the conference champs (*Record*, May 14, 1976, p. 15).

The Jays were proud to have assisted the Concordia Cobbers win the conference title, however. It was the Vertin-Lilly doubles combination that upset the seeded Gustavus doubles in the first round, enroute to their own number one finish as doubles champion in the meet. It was this doubles team that also defeated the contending Concordia doubles, thereby giving St. John's the point that was needed to finish one-half point ahead of the University of Minnesota-Duluth for third place in the conference. The sensational freshman doubles pair of Hendrickson and LaDouceur that had gone through the season undefeated fell to Gustavus in the semi-finals. St. John's finished in third place in the conference and fourth place in the NAIA District 13 play-offs.

- 1977 -

Tennis coach John Grobe was expecting his 1977 season to be the best in three years and the team to finish in second place in the MIAC. Initial success in the preliminary meets justified his optimism. The team was strong in depth with tried netters at every level: senior John "Jocko" Vertin, juniors Robert Fischer and Michael Lilly, sophomores John Hendrickson and Michael LaDouceur, and freshman sensation Michael "Chilippe" Philippe.

Success in the preliminary meets justified Grobe's daring prediction. St. John's won victories over four of the strong teams in the conference early in the season: Concordia 7-2, Macalester 8-1, St. Thomas 8-1, St. Mary's 9-0, St. Olaf 7-2. The one great obstacle to a higher than second place was the redoubtable Gustavus team which fairly swamped the Johnnies in a devastating sweep of all the meet matches, 9-0.

The Gustavus defeat did not discourage the Johnnies' hopes for second place in the MIAC, but, as often happened, the teams they had defeated comparatively easily in the opening weeks of the season had improved. Three of St. John's top singles players were injured and unable to play. The end result was that St. John's ended the season in fifth place, much to their disappointment. Gustavus won the tournament

with a whopping 27 points; St. Thomas, St. Olaf and Concordia tied with 8h points each, leaving St. John's in their wake with 7 points. It was not all defeat, however. A redeeming feature was the stout play of John Vertin who went down to defeat only in the finals to the Gustavus "superstar." The doubles combination of Bob Fischer and Mike Philippe also fell to the powerful Gusties in the finals. In the NAIA District 13 play-offs St. John's finished in second place, tied with Concordia with five points each. Gustavus again overwhelmed the other contestants and dominated all the scoring with 27 points.

Team members were Michael Bosanko, Minneapolis; Bob Fischer, St. Paul; John Hendrickson, St. Paul; Mike LaDouceur, St. Cloud; Mike Lilly, New Hope; John "Jocko" Vertin, Breckenridge; Mike Philippe, Chicago; James Prittinen, Virginia; and Paul Wotta, Milwaukee.

- 1978 -

Coach John Grobe was disappointed with the fifth place finish of his 1977 tennis team but was finally rewarded for his hard work by winning a well-earned second place in 1978, behind the almost invincible Gusties who again walked off with the championship. Second place was not an easily earned objective, however. St. John's was plagued by injuries part of the season. In a triangular meet with Eau Claire and Stout, St. John's had to default seven matches—a tennis elbow sustained by number one singles star Bob Fischer, a turned ankle by Mike Philippe, and strained stomach muscles by John Hendrickson.

In the regular pre-MIAC meets the team maintained only a .500 average, three wins and three losses: wins over Concordia (6-2), St. Mary's (7-2) and Hamline (7-2), but losses to St. Olaf (2-7), St. Thomas (1-2) and Gustavus (0-9). Nevertheless, Coach Grobe was convinced that when the MIAC tournament came around his Johnnies of 1978 would fare better than they did in 1977. He predicted that they would take second place.

Grobe's confidence was well-founded. Gustavus, as usual, came out ahead of the pack by garnering 25 points for first place by a huge margin. But St. John's took second with a score of 12 ½, points, one ahead of St. Thomas 11 ½, St. Olaf 6, Augsburg 3 ½, Concordia 3, St. Mary's 2, Bethel, and Macalester 0.

In spite of the overwhelming superiority of Gustavus, the MIAC tournament nevertheless had its thrilling moments. At the end of the first day of the meet (Friday) St. John's and St. Thomas were tied at 11 ½ points for second place. On Saturday, however, Mike Philippe battered Hamline's Klingenberg to defeat by scores of 6-1 and 6-4, thereby clinching second place for St. John's, one point ahead of the Tommies, 12½ - 11½. Another thriller was the battle of Bob Fischer with the Gusties' Dick Schneider for first place in the number one category. Fischer lost, but the match was uncertain until the end. After winning the first set 6-2, Fischer was leading Schneider 5-2 in the second when suddenly Schneider rallied and won the match 1-2, 5-7, 1-6. Also in the finals, in a hard-fought doubles battle, Gustavus overcame St. John's Mike Lilly-Bruce Ervin doubles combination 7-5 and 6-3.

John Grobe was especially elated by his team's performance since he ended his coaching career at St. John's on a winning note. He left St. John's at the end of the academic year to take the position of admissions director at Carroll College, Helena, Montana. Of his 1978 team he said, "This is the best team effort we've had since I became coach. It was satisfying to finish ahead of St. Thomas and St. Olaf, since both teams had defeated us once each this season." Members of the 1978 team were the following: Bob Fischer, St. Paul; John Hendrickson, St. Paul; Michael Lilly, Minneapolis; Michael LaDouceur, St. Cloud; Mike Philippe, Chicago; Paul Wotta, Milwaukee.

Surprise of the year was freshman Bruce Ervin, Edina, who was one of the stoutest competitors on the team. Two other freshmen, Michael Toninato, Grace Heights, and Timothy Claar, Bloomington, gave promise of being among the outstanding players of the future.

CHAPTER VIII: Wrestling

Adapted in part from a study by David Grovum, '77, "The

Wrestling Program and Terry Haws at St. John's," 1977.

There is something about their sport that wrestlers are proud of. There are rules and regulations that are strictly observed. Holds that might injure an opponent are barred. The wrestler is always competing with an opponent of his own weight, and for this reason wrestlers are classified into ten different weight categories or divisions: 118 pounds, 126, 139, 142, 150, 158, 167, 177, 190, and heavyweight. And, since each wrestler has a weight within his class that is natural or best suited to him, he must be truly dedicated in order to maintain it. He may starve himself for days trying to reach that all-important weight limitation.

In the twenty-eight seasons that St. John's has had intercollegiate wrestling teams, St. John's has won fourteen Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships and placed second twice. It has produced 72 individual MIAC champions. After each MIAC tournament the wrestler considered to be the most valuable is selected by a vote of all the coaches. St. John's has a record of three such awards. In short, after examining the record of St. John's in wrestling, one can recognize that the wrestling program has been one of the school's most honorable sporting activities.

It all started in the fall of 1941 when a freshman by the name of Daniel Rooney from Robbinsdale came to St. John's. He was a two-time Minnesota high school wrestling champion. Shortly after his arrival he learned for the first time that St. John's had no wrestling program.

His reaction was an astounded "What, no wrestling at St. John's!" After making this astonishing discovery he began to think things over and finally decided to establish a full-fledged wrestling program, with himself as the wrestling coach. With a small crowd of approximately thirty enthusiasts, including several students from the St. John's Prep School, he succeeded in obtaining the approval of the athletic director and commenced the task of molding a team.

The first wrestling match was held on February 16, 1942, following a St. John's basketball game. The event was received with enthusiasm by the faculty and student body. Although St. John's lost 19-8 to a veteran Macalester team, the expectations for further developments soared high. A second encounter with Macalester was set for later in February that St. John's lost after a toughly contested battle, 19-16. The Jays had improved and exhibited their progress with considerably more activity and a variety of holds. As for Rooney, he won his first match at 128 pounds in the first meeting. In the second, he was awarded a victory in his first match by a forfeiture, but earned a decision in the second. Two other St. John's men won matches that evening: Daniel "Bunny" Radakovich at 165 pounds and Richard Weber at heavyweight. The St. John's wrestling team engaged in two more dual meets that winter. They lost to the University of Minnesota Farm School 18-14, and to Carleton College 23-11. Although the 1942 Jays lost four meets that inception year, Dan Rooney himself went undefeated. In March of 1942 he bettered his undefeated record by capturing the 115 pound championship in the Northwest Amateur Athletic Union Tournament. The St. John's team took fourth place. Daniel Rooney was pleased with the team's progress.

Then the war intervened. Coach Rooney re-assembled a team of some twenty men in 1943 but was unable to schedule matches at St. John's with other schools. Then gas rationing made squad travel to other schools impossible. College enrollments dwindled, and finally in 1943 Rooney himself was drafted. College sports folded for the duration.

- 1946-47-

After the end of the war, in the 1946-47 winter sport season, wrestling was resumed at St. John's. Under student coach John Condon the first intercollegiate wrestling meet was held at Macalester in a five team conference get-together. John Condon was the only SJU wrestler to take first-place honors. It was an event that aroused little interest at St. John's, and indeed must have been a drab affair, to say the least.

-1947-48-

The first official mat season at St. John's for which a championship was ever awarded took place in the 1947-48 season, namely, to Macalester. The irony of the situation was rather evident, for Macalester and St. John's were the only schools to enter teams. The enthusiasts, nevertheless, did not lose hope but went ahead campaigning among other conference schools for the development of wrestling as an MIAC monogram winning sport. The St. John's record for the year was three wins, one loss, and two ties: two wins over the University of Minnesota Farm School, and a victory over Gustavus, 19-6. At the MIAC tournament that year St. John's had one individual champion, John Weimerskirch from Litchfield, who was an outstanding star in the St. John's annals for all his four years at St. John's. Because of him St. John's took second place in the meet. The coach of the year, Norman McDonnell, admitted that the team was lacking in experience in tournament competition.

- 1948-49 -

The coaching duties were again taken over by Norman McDonnell (brother of Fr. Kilian McDonnell, O.S.B.). The team improved greatly over the mediocre showing of the past year, with a record of five victories and one defeat. In the MIAC tournament SJU again placed second to Macalester by a score of 40-45. The championship was in doubt, however, until the finals in the heavyweight division when George "Judd" Pribyl of St. John's was decided by a score of 1-0. St. John's won three individual championships: John Weimerskirch won at 145 pounds, Coach Norman McDonnell at 157 pounds, and Ted Burgraff at 175 pounds.

The Status of Wrestling in 1949

At this point, as we look in retrospect over the past few years, wrestling had finally taken hold on the St. John's campus. The period from 1942 until 1949 had been difficult years for the program. First, the war years when it had to be dropped completely, then the years of adjustment when veterans returning to college were unsettled about their futures, and anything new like a wrestling program was looked at askance as something new-fangled that would gradually die out when the few enthusiasts had either left St. John's, graduated, or had turned to the established major sports program. The student-coaches were persistent, however, and interest began to grow. The very popularity of successful wrestlers as campus citizens, men such as John Weimerskirch and George Pribyl, gave the sport a prestige value that soon became contagious. And not to be underestimated in this process of building up interest in wrestling was the role of the student-coach.

The student-coach was usually considered the best wrestler on the team. He was almost always a senior appointed by the athletic director and given some financial allowance for his work. The use of student coaches was very economical for the school, though this was not the basic reason for choosing students to serve as coaches. The basic reason was that there were very few wrestling coaches around, and students with some skill in the sport and leadership talents were the most convenient coaches available. Athletic Director George Durenberger said of them: "They had great enthusiasm for the sport and they were much closer to the students. They were natural and very successful.. There was no reason to make a switch in policy."

This policy of appointing student-coaches continued through the 1950's and into the 1960's. However, as the sport continued to grow and the necessity of doing some recruiting became more urgent, there was need of a permanent faculty coach. Besides, student-coaches had begun to complain that their coaching duties were interfering with their academic programs. A new system had to come eventually.

- 1949-50-

In the 1949-50 season, Jack Hyneman, a Litchfield product, was appointed student-coach, and Judd Pribyl was elected team captain. It was a year in which the general feeling among the wrestlers was that now was the time to move up. The most important move in this direction was a victory over Macalester. Macalester had been conference champion for the past three years and again was coming up with a strong team. By this time, however, the Jays were also beginning to feel their strength and accepted the challenge. They proved to be as good as their self-evaluation and defeated Macalester for the first time, 18-12. The *Record* for the year reported, "St. John's won four out of the eight matches, with three pins by the Johnnies deciding the match." The St. John's team went 3-3 on the season, which included victories over Macalester, 18-12, and two victories over the St. Cloud Teachers by scores of 18-12 and 19-13 respectively.

Although the state meet was scheduled to be held at St. John's, problems arose which forced the meet to be held at Gustavus-and again Macalester came up with a tremendous performance to take first-place honors. St. John's placed fourth in the tournament behind Macalester, St. Thomas and Gustavus. "The outstanding star of the day was John Weimerskirch," who successfully defended his 1947 title at 145 pounds. Captain Judd Pribyl and Fred Grant won the remaining St. John's points.

- 1950-51 -

Jack Hyneman again accepted the coaching duties of the St. John's team for the year 1950-51. As could be expected, the nucleus of the team centered around John Weimerskirch, who was undefeated in two years and had won two MIAC wrestling championships. Near the end of the season, however, John had his undefeated streak broken at fortyfour. He was beaten on a pin by a former Northwest A.A.U. champion who had enrolled at St. Cloud Teachers College.

Going into the 1950-51 tournament, St. John's had another fantastic wrestler besides John on its squad-Jim McKeown, who carried an unbeaten record into the conference. Both men lived up to expectations by winning the individual titles in their respective weights. There was also a third Johnnie that year to win an individual title, senior Judd Pribyl, who outpointed the defending champion Don Messegna of St. Thomas in the 177 pound class, 5-4. It was an exciting match, and when it was over a happy mob of Johnnie students carried the winner off the mat. It was a sure sign that finally wrestling had found a way into the Johnnie hearts. It was the happiest day of Judd Pribyl's life.

Although the Jays won four individual championships, they could muster only enough points for fourth place in the conference. St. Olaf won the MIAC championship. As for John Weimerskirch, after winning his third straight consecutive title and amassing a record of 59 wins and two losses, he was awarded the Carl Larson Memorial Trophy, an award given to the outstanding wrestler in an MIAC tournament.

- 1951-52 -

Entering the 1951-52 wrestling season Athletic Director George Durenberger appointed John Weimerskirch wrestling coach, with captain-elect Jim McKeown as his principal pal and adviser. Both men were previous MIAC champions and most certainly the best informed and most capable wrestlers on campus. There was a large turnout of candidates for the squad, among them only five veterans. To counteract the small number of veterans was the leadership ability of the two expert wrestlers. With luck they were bound to go far.

Under careful guidance and coaching the team managed to carry a 6-2 record for the season. Highlight of the season was the Jays' defeat of St. Cloud Teachers College by a score of 20-13 in their first match. It was a remarkable achievement, because St. Cloud had been the previous year's Northwest A.A.U. champion. Pins by John Weimerskirch and Leo Kemper led the way.

The 1952 wrestling team made history in March of that year by bringing home its first MIAC wrestling championship. It was the first outright St. John's championship in any sport in ten years. Four of the eight individual championships were won by St. John's: John Weimerskirch (145), Jim McKeown (157), Fred Grant (130) and Clem Schoenbauer at heavyweight. Beginning with this championship, St. John's was not to give up the title for the next seven years. 1952 marks the end of John Weimerskirch's wrestling career at St. John's, one of the most remarkable in MIAC wrestling history. John was a brilliant wrestler. He began his wrestling career in Litchfield, Minnesota, where he won the state high school championship, first at 98 pounds in his junior year and at 133 pounds in his senior year. As a freshman at St. John's he won his first MIAC championship at 147 pounds, then repeated as champion in his sophomore, junior and senior years at the same weight. The team recognized his unusual ability and elected him to the captaincy in both his sophomore and junior years. He had qualities of leadership also, for when the athletic director appointed him as wrestling coach for the 1951-52 season, he coached the Johnnies to the first championship in St. John's wrestling history.

John Weimerskirch's record is best seen in his won-loss record: 82 victories versus only two losses, and the all-conference award in each of his four years of competition. To top off all the long lists of first, he was the first MIAC wrestler to receive the Carl Larson Memorial Trophy, awarded annually to the outstanding MIAC wrestler for the year.

After graduation, John Weimerskirch entered the Navy and retired in 1971 with the rank of commander. He continued his education since his retirement, and though presently engaged as an engineering technician, he has an advanced degree in education. He writes, "If ever you need a wrestling coach with an advanced degree in higher education administration, let me know."

- 1952-53 -

Jim McKeown took over the coaching duties of wrestling in the fall of 1952. It was reported: "The team has its largest turn-out in St. John's history with only one veteran missing from the last year's squad-John Weimerskirch." Fred Grant, a 1950 individual MIAC champion, was elected captain.

Early in the season the Johnnie matmen, including Captain Fred Grant, were plagued with various injuries, but Coach Jim McKeown was unworried, feeling that somehow he would field a full squad.

The coach's optimism was rewarded for, after overcoming the injuries, the team produced a 9-2 winning record which included a streak of six straight dual meets-the best performance of any wrestling team prior to this date.

Entering the MIAC wrestling tournament March 5, 1953, the Jays were the overwhelming favorite for the crown and, in fact, proved it conclusively by out-wrestling St. Thomas by twelve points. The Jays won five individual titles and three second-place finishes. Jim McKeown won his third straight title and was awarded the Carl Johnson Memorial Trophy as the tournament's outstanding wrestler. Fred Grant won his second straight title at 130 pounds. Other winners were Jerre Miller at 123 pounds, Leo Kemper at 177 pounds, and Robert Forster at heavyweight.

- 1953-54 -

In the fall of 1953 George Durenberger appointed Jerre Miller as wrestling coach for the year. With only five lettermen on which to build his first team, he had his work cut out for him. He had a successful season, however, with an 8-2-1 record, the team's one loss being to strong South Dakota State, 22-8. The team entered the MIAC meet a heavy favorite to capture the conference championship.

On March 6, 1953, St. John's won its third consecutive MIAC title with 50 points based on six first-place individual championships and two second-place wins. The 50 points garnered by St. John's doubled runner-up Gustavus's 24 points. Winning individual championships were Lou Adderley (130 pounds), Sy Weber (147)-now Fr. Otto, O.S.B., presently director and facilities manager at the Warner Palaestra- DeVaughn Nelson at 177 pounds, Tom Kempley at 157, Jim Tacheny at 177 pounds, and Leo Kemper, heavyweight.

- 1954-55 -

The job of defending the St. John's title for the 1954-55 season was given to Jim Tacheny, the new player-coach. With him were two veteran champions to assist him in winning the fourth championship.

The season again turned out to be a success, with the team winning six straight dual meets in an overall record of eight wins against three losses. The Jays defeated every MIAC opponent handily but lost to non-conference foes, St. Cloud twice and South Dakota State once. In a dual meet with St. Thomas, the two teams set the largest number of points registered in any previous meet in a score of 30-10. St. John's won 20 points by pins and 10 by forfeit; St. Thomas won 10 points by two falls.

In the MIAC meet held that year at St. John's, the Jays successfully defended their title for the fourth time. They squeezed by Macalester by a close score, 43-41. Player-coach Jim Tacheny at 167 pounds, DeVaughn Nelson at 157, and Donald Flynn at 137 pounds won divisional titles. Unlucky Lou Adderley suffered a back injury in his final match and had to forfeit his 123 pound title to Kerr of St. Thomas.

- 1955-56 -

Going into the 1955-56 season, player-coach DeVaughn Nelson had the problem of working an inexperienced team daily in order to get his new men prepared for the defense of the wrestling title. It was especially difficult this year because one champion of the previous year, one runner up, and four other first-string men had either graduated or transferred to the University of Minnesota. The determination and rigorous training of the Jay matmen paid off, however, in a very satisfactory 8-4 season. Coach Nelson personally racked up seven straight wins in his 167 division.

In the March 3 MIAC meet, St. John's retained its conference championship for an unprecedented fifth straight time. Four Johnnies acquired individual titles: Coach Nelson his third title at 167 pounds, Donald Flynn his second at 137, Mike Gibbs at 147, and Larry Betzler at 157. Al Eisele, a later *Record* sportswriter, in a study of the five years 1952-56, found that the Jays by now had totaled twenty-three individual championships in all, with championships in each weight classification.

- 1956-57 -

Sophomore Larry Betzler was appointed coach for the 1956-57 season, the only returning wrestler with an MIAC title. As was expected, the shortage of experienced wrestlers made the work of coaching doubly difficult, but Betzler was a hustler and an enthusiast who insisted on hard work and dedication. The record of the Jays prior to the conference meet was mediocre, five wins in the conference meets and two losses, but a good record overall that made the possibility of retaining the championship at least worth anticipating.

Despite misgivings, some of them justifiable, St. John's won its sixth straight championship by the slender margin of 59-58, a one-point advantage over powerful Concordia. Concordia won three individual championships against two for St. John's (Betzler in the 147 class and John O'Fallon in the 167). The St. John's depth proved just a point too much for the Cobbers. Gary Sauer and Pat Walrath were runners up in the tournament.

It was what were called "the shock troops" that pulled out the victory: namely, Jerry Dalseth, Arnie Mages, Roger Ludwig, and Dean Hall. Of these men, Dean Hall was the only one who would be missing in the following year. Once more things were looking good for the future!

- 1957-58-

On the opening day of wrestling practice in November, 1957, the squad was greeted by the new coach Mike O'Fallon, a member of the faculty and a former MIAC champion, the first non-student coach in St. John's wrestling history. The new coach had reason to be optimistic since on the team were two MIAC champions, Larry Betzler and John O'Fallon, and two runners up, Gary Sauer and Pat Walrath.

It was an eminently successful season. The Johnnies piled up a record number of nine meet victories versus only one defeat at the hands of St. Thomas by a score of 18-14. It was an off-day meet in which unusual things happened, for Larry Betzler, the three-year standby of the Johnnies, suffered his first defeat in fourteen encounters.

The string of St. John's victories and their scores was impressive. The Johnnies defeated Macalester 30-5, St. Thomas, in a return match, 25-8, and Gustavus 35-5. In non-conference meets St. John's also defeated Marquette 19-9 and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee 23-9.

The St. John's grapplers again showed their power in the MIAC tournament by taking the conference title by a margin of 16 points over its nearest competitor, Macalester, 72-56. Individual titlists were Gary Sauer, 123 pounds; Larry Betzler, 147 pounds; and James Kuelbs, who wrestled at 157. MIAC team standings for the season were St. John's first, 72 points; Macalester second, 56; Gustavus third, 42; St. Thomas fourth, 35 points; Concordia fifth, 29 points; Augsburg sixth, 27 points.

The 1958 champions took part in the first NAIA wrestling tournament at Mankato the week following the MIAC meet. The Johnnies tied for seventh place in the tournament, Gary Sauer taking third place in the 123 pound classification. Larry Betzler advanced to the consolation finals but was decided by Tom Tessler of Northern Illinois University, the eventual winner of the national championship.

- 1958-59 -

In 1958-59 the athletic department reverted to the former policy of using student-coaches in the training of its wrestling team. The new student-coach, Jim Kuelbs, a talented athlete and wrestler, found himself in charge of one of the top teams in the MIAC of his time. Prospects of a winning season were excellent and the successful defense of the 1958 championship seemed assured.

The season opened with a 29-3 defeat of North Dakota State, followed by a third-place finish in the Carleton Invitational. St. John's pace-setters in the field of fourteen teams were Bob Dumonceaux, heavyweight, Gary Sauer at 123 pounds, John O'Fallon, 177 pounds, and Jim Kuelbs at 157. In an early-season match with Marquette University, St. John's came up with a 29-9 victory, followed closely by a defeat of St. Thomas 21-4. Coach Jim Kuelbs pinned his man in one minute, thirty-six seconds.

In a quadrangular meet hosted by Carleton, young Tom Brudos, Gary Sauer, freshmen Jerry O'Rourke and

Bob Dumonceaux led the way to a first-place finish. But it was not easy sailing in every encounter. In a meet held at South Dakota State, the Johnnies dropped again to third place behind powerful University of Minnesota with its 96 points and South Dakota's 55 points. St. John's garnered 48 points. In dual meets the Johnnies continued to have their ups and downs, defeating Macalester 20-9 but losing to Bemidji 24-8 (they had red faces over this one).

Meanwhile the youthful freshmen were making their way upward, winning matches and displacing their less talented elders. They were Bob Randall, John Fritz, Jerry O'Rourke, Fred Philipson, and Bob Mariana, all talented wrestlers following the examples of the standbys Gary Sauer, Tom Brudos, Larry Betzler, John O'Fallon, Jim Kuelbs and Bob Dumonceaux. Except for possible accidents and unforeseen circumstances, the way looked clear for a repetition of the MIAC crown.

St. John's entered the 1958-59 MIAC tourney with a very respectable 8-3-1 won-loss-tie record for the season. The Johnnies did very well in the meet. Individual champions were Gary Sauer at 123 pounds, Tom Brudos at 130, freshman Jerry Dalseth at 137, Larry Betzler at 147 (his fourth in succession), and Jim Kuelbs at 157 (his second consecutive title). Bob Dumonceaux took third place in the 191 category and Bob Mariana third place in the heavyweight division. But Macalester tied the Johnnies with 76 points.

This tie score with Macalester furnishes one of those ironies that takes place when a strong wrestling team with an abundance of firstplace winners can be defeated or tied by a weaker one which, though unable to win first places, manages to win enough second, third, even fourth and fifth places to defeat the stronger team. This happened in the 1959 MIAC meet. St. John's won five first places in individual championships, three more than Macalester. The Macs, however, placed seven men in the final rounds, five of them finishing second and two of them fourth-enough in points to tie the stronger St. John's. Leading the St. John's pack were Larry Betzler who won his fourth straight 147-pound title and Jim Kuelbs at 157 pounds. The three remaining 1959 champions were Gary Sauer, Tom Brudos and Jerry Dalseth at 123, 130 and 137 pounds respectively.

- 1959-60 -

The young St. John's wrestling team failed by a single point in their quest for a ninth straight MIAC championship in the meet held on the Colledgeville campus, March 5, 1960. The Macalester "Scotsmen," who had tied the Jays in 1959, won the 1960 title with a total of 64 points to the 63 of St. John's.

There was considerable chagrin in the Johnnie camp when the realization sank in that, after a period of eight years of victories, St. John's found itself in second place by the hairline margin of one measly point. On the other hand, the teams had tied the year before, and by the law of averages (if there is such a thing) some one of the Minnesota colleges was bound to catch up sometime. The bad luck simply took place in 1960, a year the Jays expected to win the title for the ninth time.

Student-coach Jim Kuelbs had a good day of it, however. He not only won the championship in the 167 class for the third time, but he was also awarded the Carl Larson Trophy, granted annually to the outstanding wrestler of the conference meet. But the real surprise of the meet was that St. John's second personal championship was won by Pat Murtaugh, a freshman, in the 157 class.

While enumerating the strokes of good fortune, it may be well to mention the hard luck of freshman Thomas Frank, who, after winning his first two matches, in the third suffered the excruciating pain of a dislocated elbow and hence was forced to forfeit his match. An enterprising calculator might assume that if Frank had not suffered his accident the one-point advantage of Macalester would have vanished into thin air and St. John's would then have won its ninth successive championship.

Quality performers on the St. John's squad mentioned in the final report are the following: Douglas Svihel, third, 123 pound class; Ben Pulkrabek, second, 177 class; Bob Dumonceaux, second, heavyweight; Jerry O'Rourke, third, heavyweight; Steve Dalseth, third, 137 class; John Fritz, third, 147 class.

The MIAC standings for 1960 are the following: Macalester (1), 64 points; St. John's (2), 63; St. Thomas (3), 53; Augsburg (4), 42; Gustavus (5), 26; Concordia (6), 22.

- 1960-61 -

Following the graduation of Jim Kuelbs, senior Robert Dumonceaux was appointed wrestling coach for the year 1960-61. During his first season the Jays posted an overall record of six wins and three losses. In competition with the MIAC colleges, the record was five meet wins and one loss.

In the MIAC meet held in March, 1961, St. John's dropped to third place, despite four St. John's wrestlers reaching the finals. Sophomore Ben Pulkrabek in the 191 class was the only St. John's division champion of the meet; in fact, he was beginning to show signs of becoming the outstanding wrestler of the entire period. To date he had won 17 individual matches with only one defeat. Bob Dumonceaux's record was 15 wins and three losses.

But Augsburg, gradually improving its MIAC status over a period of years, finally came to the front by winning the 1961 title, 58 points to Macalester's 51 and St. John's 49.

- 1961-62 -

From a large squad there were twelve to carry on St. John's wrestling fortunes into 1962: five freshmen—James Aust, Gerry Faust, Mike Lane, Tony Leifeld; three sophomores—Steve Dalseth, Ben Pulkrabek and Douglas Svihel; three juniors—John Fritz, Donald Noltmier and Jerry O'Rourke.

1962 was a championship year. Former student-coach Robert Dumonceaux, who entered the mathematics department as an instructor, was re-appointed by Athletic Director George Durenberger to take over the wrestling team. Bob Dumonceaux was the second non-student coach to undertake the leadership in wrestling. He was capable, for the team enjoyed a 10-3 record through the regular season and at the MIAC annual tournament brought to St. John's its ninth conference championship in a period of eleven years. With a total score of 70 points, St. John's defeated runner-up Concordia 70-57 and dropped Augsburg to third place 70-52.

In the MIAC meet St. John's wrestlers won four first place individual championships: Tony Leifeld in the 123 pound classification, John Fruth (a freshman) at 130 pounds, John Fritz, 147 pounds, and Ben Pulkrabek, heavyweight. Other point winners were John Kuelbs third in the 157 division, Dick Steidler, Glenn Rother, Don Schreifels,

Gerry Faust and Dave Schaefer winning points in different classifications.

- 1962-63 -

In 1962-63 St. John's reverted to its traditional policy of appointing a student-coach to handle the wrestling team, the honor in this case being bestowed on Ben Pulkrabek, the outstanding wrestler of the past two years. Spirits were again high, and the Johnnies were confident of their ability to defend their 1962 conference title.

With a successful early season behind them (five wins, two losses and one tie), they entered the meet,

poised and certain that they would emerge as victors. Their self-confidence was justified, for they won their tenth championship in a period of twelve years, though in a way they had not anticipated. The Johnnies won no first places. Five of their top wrestlers entered the finals, but had to settle for five corresponding second places. It was balance and depth, those precious qualities that all teams desire, which won for them. From the beginning of the season they had worked under a handicap by not having a sure-fire first-place member on their team when Ben Pulkrabek, their standby for the two preceding years, had to withdraw from competition because of academic problems.

St. John's won five second places in the following classifications: freshman Rick Spano, 130 pounds, John Faust 137, James Brum 157, Don Schreifels 165, Gerry Faust 191 pounds. Jim Keul (165) and Don Hinz (177) each won third places. Douglas Svihel took fourth place.

Ironically, it was through St. Thomas that St. John's won the championship. While the Jays were having their troubles winning their five second places, strong Concordia was gradually creeping up on them. But, luckily, St. Thomas defeated the upcoming Cobbers, thereby depriving them of the chance to close in on the 57-54 advantage of St. John's.

The outstanding wrestler for the Johnnies was Jim Brum, but he was upset in the finals and, like the rest of the top performers, had to settle for second place. The MIAC meet scores for the 1963 season were the following: St. John's 57, Concordia 54, Gustavus 50, Augsburg 43, St. Thomas 32, Macalester 28.

- 1963-64-

John Kuelbs succeeded Bob Dumonceaux as wrestling coach for 1963-64. Lack of perfect balance was apparent from the beginning of the conference meets when the Johnnies suffered a 23-11 trouncing by Concordia on the St. John's floor. It was the first St. John's loss of the season, since the team had defeated the University of North Dakota State earlier. St. John's lost the first three matches to the Cobbers' lightweight performers. In the fourth match John Faust was decisioned 4-0. Jim Keul, Jim Brum and Don Schreifels then picked up three wins that were followed by a tie. Stan Suchta, heavyweight, won his match.

The next reported dual meet ended in a decisive victory over St. Thomas, 28-8, with a revamped line-up that gave promise of better things to come. But that was not to be. The MIAC colleges had all tightened up their wrestling teams and the Johnnies left the conference tournament at Gustavus Adolphus in third place, overcome by what the reporter called the "tremendous balance" of Concordia that had made the Cobbers the pre-season favorites for the conference crown.

The wrestling standings of the conference at the end of the tournament were as follows: Concordia, first place and champions, 69 points, Gustavus 58 points, St. John's 56, Macalester 49, Augsburg 35, St. Thomas 23, Hamline 3. As for individual scoring by the Johnnies, Don Schreifels (177 pounds) was the lone St. John's champion. John Faust was runnerup in his weight (137). Jim Keul, also in the 137 pound class, almost came up with the surprise of the meet but was decisioned 1-0. Jim Brum was third in the 157 pound class. Stan Suchta and Mike Arens took fourth place in the heavyweight and 177 pound divisions respectively.

- 1964-65 -

When the 1965 wrestling season rolled around, a change in the coaching policy was immediately apparent. Wrestling had begun to decline in quality, though not because of lack of student interest. Interest was as lively as before-so much so that the student-coaches were being overburdened by the large number of candidates aspiring for fame on the wrestling mat. The student-coaches were paying the price of sports popularity by losing valuable time for their studies. Hence it was that in the fall of 1964 Robert

Dumonceaux, a member of the faculty, was appointed wrestling coach.

The season opened with a resounding defeat by powerful St. Cloud State to the tune of 35-6. A defeat by Gustavus followed. In the Carleton Invitational, however, St. John's placed third in a large field, but behind Concordia and Gustavus. Emerging from these early contests were a few dependable point winners such as the senior star wrestler Donald Schreifels, and a powerful freshman from Iowa named Maury Neifeld, and Dave Carroll, heavyweight.

By the time the MIAC tournament came up, St. John's had a somewhat mediocre record of four wins, six losses, and one tie. Complete statistics of the meet were not published, though the final result squeaked through the silence that St. John's had placed third behind Concordia and Gustavus, as had been predicted. The one star of the meet was senior Donald Schreifels who, besides his two consecutive MIAC individual championships, ended his wrestling career with an overall record of 36 victories, 12 losses, and one tie. Freshman Maury Neifeld won his first championship at 191 pounds.

The lack of a complete listing of all the St. John's contestants who took part in the meet makes it impossible to mention who the other performers were. Among them were certain to have been Jim Brum, Dave Carroll, James Keul, Rick Spano, Roger Trobec, John Schaubach and Larry Anthony.

- 1965-66 -

Bob Dumonceaux coached his 1965-66 wrestling team to a very respectable 6-3 season with six dual meet victories and three losses. In the MIAC tournament the Jays took third place in a tough field of seasoned athletes. He started the season with eleven lettermen from 1965, but only one individual champion, Maury Neifeld, the powerful Iowan who was the lone winner of first place in the heavyweight division. Neifeld returned to Iowa to enter the state university at the beginning of the second semester, however, leaving the coach without a single champion for the remainder of the 1965-66 season. His absence was particularly felt because Gustavus and Concordia so dominated the field that the other colleges were completely out-classed-St. John's included.

Nevertheless, the pre-MIAC tournament record was impressive. The Jays took third place in the tough Carleton Invitational, and in dual meets won five straight victories over the following schools: Minnesota-Morris 25-10, St. Thomas 25-6, Carleton 36-10, Bethel 21-5, and the University of North Dakota 26-16. Impressive as were the scores of these meets, the losses were horrendous: 11-27 to Gustavus, 8-25 to Augsburg, 11-30 to Concordia. Outstanding performers for the year were Brad Haycraft, Tom Beyers, Phil Hartle, John Schaubach, Mike Oehler and Jim Keul.

The statistics of the 1966 MIAC tournament were not published. As a result, the following list of returning lettermen with their weights from the preview for the 1966-67 season is all the information available for the 1966 team: Tom Scanlan (123), Tom Beyers (137), Larry Anthony (161), Frank Schwab (152), Tom Edmond (160), Brad Haycraft (130), Phil Hartle (177), James Bisek (177), Bill Formen (177), Don Generous (177), Mike Haider (191), Michael Oehler (191), James Keul (177).

- 1966-67 -

It was an optimistic Coach Dumonceaux who opened up the 1966-67 wrestling season. He realized that his squad was inexperienced for the most part, but he was also convinced that the individual wrestlers had the most potential of any squad he had coached prior to this time. Injuries set the team back early, however. His team captain, Mike Oehler, suffered a torn knee cartilage and was supposedly out for the season. Thomas Wollmering, an ex-Prep wrestler of great promise, also damaged a knee and had to undergo surgery that definitely sidelined him for the remainder of the season. These major injuries, plus the current

slight injuries that always hold up a team's progress, were discouraging without, however, changing the coach's feeling that better things were ahead.

The result of the injuries and delays, so the *Record* reported, was a dreary seasonal start, highlighted by three straight losses to St. Cloud State, the University of North Dakota, and Gustavus. Nevertheless, progress was made, for Captain Mike Oehler's knee mended without surgery and he was able to return to the squad after the Christmas holidays.

It was a happy event; the *Record* reported a resurgence in power despite the lackluster start. St. John's hopes climbed upward as the squad took first honors in two dual victories in Northfield, the defeat of St. Olaf 32-3, and of Carleton 25-15, thereby raising the season's record to three wins and three losses. Moreover, the weight department was improved by the addition of three big men: Dave Tripp, Tom Schutta and Phil Ledermann.

The outcome of the MIAC meet justified Coach Dumonceaux's optimism. The March 6, 1967, issue of the *Record* carried the headline: "Westby and Beyer Grasp Trophies as St. John's U. Matmen Regain Old Prowess." In holding third place, Dumonceaux felt that the team looked like the Johnnies of old. Haycraft at 130, Denny Scherer at 160, Phil Hartle at 177 and Captain Mike Oehler at 191, all took third places. Brad Haycraft defeated the 130 pound defending champion. Bob Dumonceaux deserved the coach of the year award for a magnificent job in bringing up youngsters-freshmen and sophomores-to a challenging position against experience-hardened MIAC wrestlers. The third place finish in this particular year, as reporter Woodie Woodward observed, "resulted from the efforts of three freshmen, five sophomores, one junior and one senior." It was a young team and, given the continued influx of talented freshmen, St. John's was set for a great future in wrestling, a new beginning for the sport at St. John's.

- 1967-68-

Terry Haws took over as wrestling coach in the fall of 1967 at a time when the fortunes of the St. John's wrestling program had been on a decline for several years. An experienced coach, first at St. James, Minnesota, and then at St. Cloud Cathedral, he had enjoyed a fantastically successful coaching career in football and wrestling. He was fully aware of the weaknesses of the team he was taking over, but was resolved to make the most of what he had as the nucleus for a new start. He set as goal for his first year a second place, if not first place, finish in the MIAC.

Captain Philip Hartle was unable to compete with the team before Christmas because of an injury, but Terry had, among others, heavyweights Dave Tripp and Dave Carroll, Bob Sullivan (135), and Tom Goebel (123) to take up the slack.

After a good record in the regular schedule of dual meets, the team was still no better than a darkhorse for the title and lacked depth. But the wrestlers were well trained and prepared. In the MIAC meet, held on February 24, the Jays took fourth place behind strong Augsburg, Concordia and Gustavus. Coach Haws was disappointed but was satisfied that the team would be a contender for the championship in 1969.

- 1968-69 -

Following the end of the 1968 season Terry had been busy recruiting, though it could hardly have been called that, it was so casual. He was well-known as a wrestling coach of superior ability, especially in Catholic high school circles, and after his first season succeeded in attracting five Catholic high school champions to St. John's. He had his own system. It was simply a matter of writing a note to wrestlers here and there, a note of congratulations for a victory, or good wishes for an upcoming meet, and the promise of a cheery welcome if and when they came to St. John's. His policy was not to contact the first-place winners

in the state; the ones he preferred above all were the second and third place winners, the ones whose abilities he knew to be excellent but who would be passed over in silence by the big schools. Terry's system was recruiting on a high level!

Among his first five recruits from Catholic high schools were Tom O'Neil, James Kavanaugh, David Johnson and Leo Dehler, all of whom played prominent roles in the success of S.t. John's wrestling program. Most prominent among a few others was Gary Svendsen, a freshman from Coon Rapids who had taken second place in the state high school wrestling meet in his senior year.

The new freshmen quickly gave proof of their superior training in high school. St. John's finished as a strong second-place contender in the 1969 wrestling meet-the runner-up to Augsburg. Terry was disappointed but not discouraged and predicted good things to come if the team would improve as rapidly as it had in the past season. Captain Dave Tripp would be the only loss to the team, and the talented freshmen would then be stronger, experienced sophomores. A sign of things to come was Gary Svendsen's capture of first place in the 118 weight classification, the beginning of an illustrious career. Eight of the eleven men competing were freshmen.

- 1969-70 -

The 1969 wrestlers had one of the best starts in St. John's athletic history. After the team had streaked through dual meet after dual meet with twelve victories, they accepted a bid to the Pillsbury Invitational. St. John's won first place in the eight-team tournament and followed up the victory with two more dual meet wins, bringing their number of undefeated meets to fourteen for the year.

Balance was the key to the victories, with Terry Elfering, Gary Svendsen, Bob Sullivan, Dave Johnson, Captain Henry Wollmering, Denny Legatt, Tom Miller, Larry Ackerman and Gary Eustice shouldering most of the load. The resurgence of wrestling on the St. John's campus was obviously due to the competence of the coach and his recruits.

In the February 21, 1970 MIAC meet, the Johnnies were competing successfully for the championship when two bad breaks spoiled their chances and they had to be satisfied with second place in the conference. First, Dave Johnson (130) suffered a neck injury and had to forfeit his match. Then followed a questionable call in overtime that cost freshman Gary Eustice his heavyweight crown. Outstanding performers were Gary Svendsen (134), Gordon Molitor (150), Dennis Legatt (158), Larry Ackerman (167), Henry Wollmering (177) and Tom Miller (heavyweight).

The National Catholic Invitational Tournament

Terry Haws, for all his quiet ways, was not content with merely local fame. He was certain that his wrestlers stood a good chance of performing well against any college in the country, and hence he accepted with alacrity an invitation to the National Catholic Invitational Tournament to be hosted by John Carroll College in Cleveland, Ohio. It offered a new opportunity to compete in a national tournament that was better known than the Minnesota MIAC, and Terry was elated to receive the invitation.

The competition, he afterwards reported, was the strongest St. John's had ever confronted-Notre Dame, Marquette, John Carroll, Dayton University, St. Vincent, Duquesne and other Eastern colleges. But the Johnnies responded to the challenge with their best performance of the season, capturing three individual titles and ending in second place behind John Carroll. Finalist winners of championships were Gary Svendsen, Tom Miller and Henry "Hank" Wollmering, the last named being chosen as the outstanding wrestler of the tournament.

- 1970-71 -

To tell the whole story of wrestling 1970-71 as reported by wrestler Tom Miller in the pages of the *Record*, would require more space than this history affords. It is the story of a team of fiery, championship hungry young wrestlers directed by a calm middle-aged coach who possessed interiorly all the fire of his protégés, plus the ambition to make St. John's known nationally in wrestling as well as in football.

The St. John's "grapplers," as they were popularly called in the school paper, had a great year. In the preliminary part of the season the Jays won the Augsburg Invitational by a score of 27-11 (*Record*, January 22, 1971, p. 4). Prior to this, however, on November 21, St. John's had twelve place-winners in the Bemidji Invitational, in competition with twelve other Minnesota colleges (*Record*, January 22, 1971): Tom and Gary Svendsen (126 and 134 pounds), heavyweight Gary Eustice, Terry Elfering, Jim Cudi, Tony Schoenecker, Joel Hagen, Dennis Leggatt, Kurt Wachtler, Tony Fike and Jerry Workman.

Then followed a setback in the Carleton Invitational in which Augsburg edged St. John's for first place—a setback St. John's redeemed by a first place victory in the Pillsbury Invitational.

The MIAC conference championship meet was one of those close contests that are won only in the last match, a masterpiece by Jerry Workman. With the score 93-90 in favor of St. John's, Workman pinned his two-time Augsburg champion opponent in a match that put St. John's ahead 96-93. Then, with the outcome still in doubt, Tom Miller pinned his Gustavus opponent and the meet ended with St. John's the winner 100-97, the 1970-71 champions.

The Jays were jubilant. But there was little time for mere rejoicing. The following week came the National Catholic Invitational Tournament at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.

With a ten-man team Coach Haws engineered the Jays into an early lead in the NCIT that they never relinquished. All ten men survived into the semi-finals. In the finals St. John's won six first place individual championships and two third places for the Catholic title—the second championship for St. John's in eight days.

- 1971-72-

John Elwell, a *Record* reporter, wrote that "The St. John's University wrestling squad is the best Catholic university squad in the nation. Only a few years ago, when football stole the limelight, wrestling was just one of the 'off season' sports here at St. John's. . . . The man responsible for the recent success is Head Wrestling Coach, Terry Haws" (*Record*, October 14, 1971).

Actually, Terry Haws was only in the middle point of an illustrious career that would have established a dynasty of wrestlers, such as the state of Minnesota had never seen before, had he maintained his good health. He was the master recruiter and the master coach, the man who with only a note of congratulations or a word of encouragement to a high school wrestler attracted him to St. John's.

But Terry had a heart problem, and on February 2, 1972, following a dual meet with Augsburg that ended in a 15-15 tie, he suffered a massive heart attack that left him bedridden for two months. He was unable to take care of his team on the following February 19 for the MIAC championship title, but under the supervision of Fr. Otto Weber, O.S.B., and Larry Haws, the coach's brother, the team came through with a victory, the second MIAC championship in Terry's four years at St. John's.

It was a tough meet. Augsburg was strong with several top drawer individual performers, but balance prevailed and the Jays won by a score of 95.5 by St. John's, 89.5 by Augsburg, and 61 by Concordia. Terry

Elfering and freshman Joe Hayes were the only St. John's wrestlers who won championship titles. Depth counted, however, and the needed points were scored by the tried and experienced Tom and Gary Svendsen (126 and 134 pounds), Tony Fike (150), Dennis Legatt (158), Larry Osterhaus (167), Jerry Workman (177), and Gary Eustice (heavyweight).

Since Coach Terry Haws was unable to accompany the team to Cleveland for the National Catholic Invitational Tournament, the team was under the direction of Larry Haws. The team did well and won the Catholic tournament handily. Terry Haws, though absent, received the honor of being named "Catholic Coach of the Year." As had become the usual thing, St. John's sent representatives to take part in the NAIA national tournament held that year at Klamath Falls, Oregon. The Jays placed seventh in a field of 98 colleges. Gary Svendsen won first place in the 134pound division and was named All-American, the first St. John's wrestler up to this time to win that title in the NAIA.

- 1972-73 -

Terry Haws, though still unwell after his heart attack, again took over his wrestling duties for the academic year 1972-73. Despite the illness of the coach, the team showed all its former power, and new additions to the squad were manifesting his uncanny ability to recognize wrestling talent and then mold it into his teams.

The 1973 season opened auspiciously. The Johnnies streaked through a series of four dual meets with victories over St. Thomas 35-6, St. Mary's 38-6, Augsburg 20-17, University of Minnesota- Morris 20-8. There was no doubt in the conference that St. John's was the favorite for the 1973 title.

Early in February Terry accompanied his team to Cleveland for the National Catholic Invitational Tournament, although he had been urged not to go because of his health. Arriving in Cleveland, he had another massive heart attack while dining with the team and died before they could get him to a hospital.

There was consternation in the St. John's camp, but since the team was already in Cleveland it was decided to go ahead with the tournament. Under the care of Fr. Otto Weber, a former SJU wrestler, and Larry Haws, the team did well but had to settle for a third place finish. Host John Carroll University took first place, Marquette second, only one point ahead of the storming Johnnies. While the older members of the team performed up to their abilities, the younger element, possibly disturbed by the death of their coach, did not do as well as was expected.

The St. John's wrestling team pulled itself together shortly after the tragic death of their coach. As the *Record* put it, "It took the trio of Fr. Otto Weber, Tony Fike and Gary Svendsen to compensate for the loss of Terry Haws" (*Record*, March 2, 1973). Augsburg was still the arch-rival of St. John's, but the Johnnies met them head-on and won the MIAC championship by a score of 93-90, the third championship in four years. The power of SJU was manifested by their taking half of the individual titles. Primarily responsible for winning the title The Jays were jubilant. But there was little time for mere rejoicing. The following week came the National Catholic Invitational Tournament at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.

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It would be a gross oversight to omit a word in praise of Terry Haws. We cannot tell the whole story, for his success in coaching was only one aspect of a full Christian life, both as a teacher and a public citizen. But the thousand people who packed the St. Cloud Cathedral at his funeral tell that story—men from all walks of life, students, twenty-six priest concelebrants (sixteen from St. John's, ten from St. Cloud parishes)—testify to the universal esteem he was held at St. John's and the Diocese of St. Cloud. What attracted people to him was his capacity to understand—he was a good listener and for those in trouble he found an answer, and if he did not have it at first, he would work at it until he found it.

In many ways his teams were an outward expression of himself. The key to his success as a coach, said one of his protégés, was his "contagious confidence." The week before a crucial meet he devoted to the development of self-confidence in his wrestlers. He called attention to their good points, their strengths and chances to win. He told them that any capable wrestler, given good luck, could defeat a national champion. They all knew of his confidence in them, and by listening to him it became theirs. Tom Svendsen said of him: "He instilled confidence. He made you think the opponent's first mistake was stepping on the mat with you. And when you believed, it became true" (*Record*, March 2, 1973). His wrestlers were grateful to him for more things than wrestling. He taught them to stand on their own feet, whether on the mat or in life, and to fear no duty.

In the funeral sermon Fr. Ray Schultzenberg read a paraphrase of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter nine, vv. 24-27, that Terry had made a guide for his life work: "In a race everyone runs but only one gets the prize. So, run your race to win. To win the contest you must deny yourself many things that would keep you from doing your best. An athlete goes through all this trouble just to win a blue ribbon or a gold medal or silver cup. But we also do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I am not shadow boxing or playing around. Like an athlete I punish my body, treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to. Otherwise I fear that, after enlisting others for the race, I myself might be declared unfit, or ineligible, and ordered to stand aside." Terry's teaching covered the whole of life, student life and life after college, and he exemplified it in everything he said or did.

- 1973-74 -

For the 1973-74 season new Athletic Director Jim Smith secured the services of Roger Ludwig to take the place of Terry Haws. Roger, an outstanding St. John's football player and wrestler who graduated in 1959, was an inspiring and vigorous leader. When he took over the head coaching position, the Johnnies were riding high on a string of 58 undefeated dual meets. But always strong Augsburg during these years was determined to break it. All-American Tom Svendsen (brother of Gary), who had not returned for the first semester, was out of shape and fell victim to a 6-1 decision. Dave Kalkman also lost his match, Dave Riley tied his, and Brad Eustice lost his heavyweight match. It was enough to break the four-year string of MIAC championships.

The loss to Augsburg awakened the Jays. In the MIAC meet, held at Hamline in late February, the Jays

made a decisive comeback and won their fourth straight title, out-wrestling Augsburg by a total of 104 points to 75.5. Conference championships were won by Jay Huffman at 118 pounds, Tom Svendsen (134), Larry Osterhaus (150), Jerry Workman (177) and Greg Miller (heavyweight).

There are no reports to indicate that St. John's took part in the National Catholic Invitational for this year, but they did attend the NAIA national meet held at River Falls, Wisconsin. Co-captain Tom Svendsen captured All-American honors for the third time in two years when he placed third in the NAIA national championship meet. He lost only one match, that to the eventual 134 pound champion of the University of Wisconsin, but clinched third place by a 3-0 victory in the consolation finals.

The 1974 wrestling tourney marks the last season, from 1969-74, that the name of a Svendsen brother ever failed to find a prominent place in the St. John's wrestling annals. Gary, the older brother, left behind him a record of 105 victories versus only nine losses. Except for his freshman year when he wrestled at 118 pounds, he competed for the following three years at 134 pounds. In his career he was awarded three all-conference titles (1969-72), losing out only in his senior year when, just at the end of a heart-breaker match, he was decisioned by an Augsburg College friend. For once the "Haws' luck" failed him.

In his four years, Gary won the All-American award twice—in fact, he was the first St. John's wrestler to win this award for his coach, Terry Haws. He was also a National Catholic champion twice.

Tom Svendsen was not less famous than his older brother Gary. He graduated in 1974 with an almost identical record of 96 victories versus twelve losses. Like his brother, he was a three-time recipient of all-conference honors, beginning with his sophomore year. He was awarded All-American honors three times, twice in one year, and was a champion place-winner in the National Catholic Invitational Tourney in 1971, '73 and '74. He once placed second in the NCAA national tournament and contemplated competing for a place on the Olympics team.

The *Record* thus describes him: "When one thinks about a wrestler, a stocky, brawny type comes to mind. Tom Svendsen, at 6 feet, 140 pounds, hardly fits this mold. His leanness is an asset. On the mat his arms and legs drape like vines. His opponent might have bigger biceps, but he is helpless in a tangle of limbs. . . . One teammate remarked, 'in practice Svendsen makes me feel like a pretzel' " (*Record*, April 13, 1973).

- 1974-75 -

The 1975 National Catholic Invitational Tournament was held early in January at St. John's and found the Jays unprepared for the powerful matmen of Notre Dame, Marquette and the Eastern schools. The Johnnies performed well under the circumstances, but were dropped to third place for the year 1975. David Kalkman (150 pounds) was the only St. John's wrestler to win first place honors. Joseph Wentzell and Tom Skudlarek made it to the finals but were defeated in their attempt to win championship titles. The team was disappointed by its showing.

But Coach Ludwig was an able, optimistic coach; instead of permitting the Jays to bemoan their fate, he made use of the weeks following the NCIT tourney to bolster them up for the conference meet to be held in mid-February at St. Olaf. But the opening day of the MIAC meet was a sorry one for St. John's. Carl Neuburger and Jay Huffman, both normally high-point winners, suffered knee injuries in the finals and had to forfeit their matches to their Augsburg opponents. On the other hand, forfeitures were not the only reason for disappointments. Augsburg was at the peak of its power and was truly a formidable opponent. Dave Kalkman (150 pounds), a St. John's All-American, was decisioned by Augsburg's Bill Schmidt, also an All-American.

St. John's heavyweight Greg Miller easily defended his second championship title and was the only St.

John's MIAC titlist for 1975. Other St. John's place winners were Tom Skudlarek (third place at 158), Tom Matlon (fourth at 177), and Joe Wentzell (third at 190).

Final standings of the conference teams and their points scored are the following: Augsburg first (156.5), St. John's second (128), Concordia third (86), Duluth fourth (59), St. Thomas fifth (48), Hamline sixth (30), St. Olaf seventh (19), St. Mary's eighth (11), and Gustavus ninth (2.5). The Augsburg victory ended a five-year championship streak for St. John's.

- 1975-76 -

Roger Ludwig resigned his coaching position at the end of the 1975 school year and was succeeded by Greg Miller, heavyweight wrestler and football star who had just graduated. As a first-time coach, Greg had his problems, one of which was overwhelming-what to do about Augsburg that blocked the way to any possibility of taking the championship in the MIAC-Augsburg with six All-Americans on its team, a national second-place NAIA rating, and the 1975 coach-of-the-year mentor. Faced by the impossible, Coach Miller decided to do all he could with what he had and then see what would happen.

The early season dual meet record was not particularly auspicious with a middling 5-5 record, five wins and five losses. To complicate matters, the Johnnies were committed shortly after the Christmas holidays to the National Catholic Invitational Tournament in Cleveland, Ohio, a meeting that would require a long exhausting trip by car without much chance for a rest before the opening of the tournament. The results were disappointing, for the team took fifth place behind Seton Hall University, Marquette, Notre Dame, and the defending champion John Carroll University. Point' winners were John Shimshock, third place at 167 pounds, Tom Matlon fourth at 177, and Don Butzen at 142 pounds. Tom Skudlarek (167) and Jay Huffman (118), on whom Coach Miller was depending for points, both lost their matches in the semi-finals through injuries. It was a severe setback for the team, but Coach Miller still looked forward for improvement and a better showing in the MIAC tourney to be held at the College of St. Thomas in mid -February.

Greg Miller worked hard with his young wrestlers in the time remaining before the MIAC meet, and it paid off. The team ended the season with a highly commendable third place finish behind Augsburg (99 points) and Concordia (80.5), with St. John's at 43.5. Freshman Lon Feia (118) and Mike Bobick (134), sophomore Tom Matlon (177) and junior Tom Skudlarek (167) took home third place honors. Junior Steve Bechtold took fourth place to be St. John's sixth winner, but he was forced to forfeit his match in the semi-finals because of a rib injury.

St. John's took part in the national NAIA tournament held at Edinborough, Pennsylvania, but made a disappointing showing. John Shims hock and Tom Skudlarek were the only two St. John's participants to get by the first round.

Members of the 1976 squad and their weights are the following: Peter Baumann, James Bard (150); Steve Bechtold, Mike Bobick (134); Don Butzen (142); Terry Clark (150); Jim Countryman (heavyweight); Mike Davis (150); Lon Feia (118); Lee Fitzke (190); Gregory Hiemenz (134); Jay Huffman (118, co-captain); Kurt Kalland (177); Allan Keller (142); Eric Koslowski (heavyweight); Paul Loaney (158); Thomas Matlon (177); Carl Neuburger (118, co-captain); John Shimshock (142); Rick Saindon (134); Tom Skudlarek (177); Robin Tacheny (134); John Wachtler (177); Joe Wentzell (190); and Jim Zrust (heavyweight).

- 1976-77 -

The 1976-77 wrestling season opened in a cheerful mood. Coach Miller proclaimed that this year's freshman crop represented "the best recruiting job ever done for the wrestling program." Ten of the freshmen had wrestled in the state high school tournaments the year before. The addition of Pat Sherry, a well-rounded-

out, 190-pound transfer, was by no means a handicap.

The results of the improved material with which to mold a new wrestling team were not immediately apparent. Competition in the MIAC was strong as usual and the new men had to struggle in collaboration with the efforts of their coach before they were ready to meet their opponents in dual meets. The Johnnies did well in the invitational tournaments, however. St. John's won first place in the St. John's Takedown Tournament and the St. Thomas Invitational, with the five returnees from 1976, co-captains John Shimshock and Tom Skudlarek, Mike Bobick, Tom Matlon and Lon Feia showing up well. The Johnnies did not do so well in the St. Cloud Invitational, however, coming up with a fourth place finish in a field of 16 contesting colleges.

The Johnnies failed to improve on their conference standing. Again they placed third with no individual championships to embellish their record. Lon Feia at 118 pounds and Tom Matlon at 177 were runners up in each of their weight divisions. Co-captains John Shimshock and Tom Skudlarek, at 142 and 167 pounds respectively, Paul Looney at 158 pounds and Pat Sherry at 190, all placed third. Champion of the year was Augsburg, with St. Thomas in second place much to the chagrin of the Johnnies who had been looking forward to a second place finish themselves.

Since funds were not available to send the entire ten-man squad to the NAIA nationals in Spokane, Washington, only four men took part in the NAIA tourney-co-captains Skudlarek and Shimshock, Paul Looney and Tom Matlon. The Johnnies were assigned as opening opponents several of the top-seeded contestants and hence were eliminated early in the tournament.

The 1977 team roster included co-captains Tom Skudlarek and John Shimshock, Mike Bobick, Dennis Clark, John Elton, Lon Feia, Paul Hyland, Melvin Koenig, Peter Kranz, Paul Looney, Tom Matlon, Pat Sherry, William Wall, Donald Burns, Greg Feldmeier, William Harrison and Donald Quinn.

- 1977-78-

Coach Greg Miller started the 1977-78 wrestling season under the burden of an almost unsupportable handicap, a team made up of sophomores and freshmen with only one senior, Captain Tom Matlon. In the first meet of the season, January 17, St. Cloud State enjoyed a romp over the young Johnnies by a score of 42-0. Coach John Oxtan of St. Cloud acknowledged that St. John's had "a very young team" and added an explanation of his lopsided victory: "We put three experienced seniors against three of their freshmen at the start of the match, and any time you're able to do that you can expect to come out pretty well" (St. Cloud *Times*, January 18, 1978).

In the invitationals that preceded the MIAC tournament, St. John's regularly took fourth place with the exception of the St. Cloud Invitational, when the Johnnies took fifth: fourth place in the National Catholic Tournament, the St. John's Takedown, the Pillsbury, and the North Country Invitational. On the other hand, they did better than fair in the dual meets: six wins versus four losses overall, and six wins versus two losses in the conference.

In the early part of the season the team was plagued with injuries, but when the MIAC meet came around Captain Matlon expressed his conviction that the wrestlers were at full strength, with the toughest competition to be furnished by St. Thomas and Augsburg, both of whom had defeated the Johnnies earlier. Unfortunately, the Johnnies made their poorest showing of the season with a sixth place finish. Captain Matlon lamented the finale: "It was a dismal finish for our team and an equally dismal day for many of our fine athletes" (*Record*, March 3, 1978).

One bright stand-out of the season was sophomore Greg Feldmeier, who was elected winner of the Most

Improved Wrestler Award. He was second place finisher in the National Catholic Invitational, and first in the North Country Invitational. An entrant in the NAIA national tournament, he lost his final match by only one point, the point that would have made him an All-American. Another award winner was Tom Matlon (Most Valuable, third in the National Catholic, first in the St. John's Takedown). Freshman Joe Cavanaugh was champion in his weight in the North Country Invitational, fourth in the MIAC and was given the Outstanding Freshman Award. Freshman Shawn McDonald took first place in the St. John's Takedown.

CHAPTER IX: Hockey

How did hockey get its great start in the state of Minnesota? Some say that it came as a result of the Prohibition Amendment and the contraband trade with Canada where the best of liquors were procurable. Well, so the legend goes, hockey is the national sport in Canada, and when the old-timers crossed the border for refreshments they caught onto the game of hockey and brought it back with them-together with the contraband.

But that is not all. Due to the wisdom and foresight of Northern Range mining towns, taxes collected on iron ore were spent on the improvement of schools and recreational facilities, among them indoor hockey rinks. That is why the kids on the Iron Range have been the best skaters in Minnesota.

Hockey did not get its start at St. John's by way of contraband, however. It came by the slow and hard way. There had always been skating on Lake Sagatagan and the ponds surrounding the college, whether they were artificial or natural, but it was Fr. Polycarp Hansen, O.S.B., who in 1910 made the first serious effort to organize a skating game to take advantage of the surrounding environment. Why the attempt to establish hockey was a failure no one seems to know, but it very likely was the lack of a device to clear the ice of snow and keep it in playing condition throughout the winter.

The next serious attempt to establish a hockey program was made in 1925 by Fr. Damian Baker, O.S.B., who never could understand why a young man would choose to spend his leisure time within doors instead of going out of doors and become engaged in a sport proper to the season of the year. There were plenty of skiers on campus but very few skaters. And that bothered him. Perhaps he was coming down with a mild case of cabin fever himself. At any rate, he was an organizer, and it was not long before he was able to see the first intramural program of hockey instituted on the St. John's campus.

The first games were played on Lake Sagatagan. The monastic bathing house was on the lake shore and could be used as a warming house. Scrapers were assembled in the carpenter shop. to clear away the snow, and goals were constructed of two-by-fours-only ankle high. Somebody once said that if there was no puck available, a weighted can of Copenhagen wrapped with friction tape was a likely substitute - another legend!

The hockey sticks were of two kinds: those bought from a sporting goods house, and those found in the woods. Both were as heavy as baseball bats. One hockey stick usually lasted two years. The hockey program enjoyed a precarious existence for the next few years, and colorful winter carnivals were held at the end of each season. Skating contests were arranged and the winners received awards.

A change in the program developed during the first four years. Groups of students gathered into independent teams, and around 1929 one of the groups played annual matches with the St. Cloud Lions. In 1932 another change took place, mainly through the enthusiasm and energy of Simon "Si" Ryan, a football player of astounding vitality who had played on the hockey team of West Minneapolis High School. He proposed that St. John's should put out a representative hockey team and play the other college teams of

the state. His enthusiasm and drive were contagious and swept even Fr. Damian off his feet. Once more he was called upon to play a role in the establishment of hockey at St. John's.

At first Fr. Damian was asked to serve as referee of the scrimmages of the two or three teams on campus; then he was asked to assist in choosing the teams, and finally, at their request, he consented to be their coach.

The first hockey team was made up of Si Ryan as captain, William Freeman, Eugene McCarthy, Louis Lundemo, George Esterly, Jerome Cramer, Donald McHale, Jude Paquin (a Canadian), Allen Ross and Louis Niemeyer.

In the first game they defeated St. Cloud Normal School 4-1, then were defeated by St. Cloud Cathedral High School 0-3, and in a third game overcame St. Cloud Normal again by a score of 3-2.

It is evident that the administration was prepared to approve of a college hockey team because in December, 1932, it was announced that beginning with 1933 St. John's would enter a hockey team in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Fr. Damian assumed a sort of sponsorship of the hockey team, for, following the announcement that St. John's was entering a hockey team in the conference, he requested a budget for funds to purchase uniforms, gloves, shin guards and other accouterments proper to the playing of the game. The athletic department balked at his request for custom made sticks, however, as a bit too much since, so they said, the carpenter could make them just as good and as substantial.

- 1933 -

By the opening of the 1933 season the stage was set for the first conference competition. It was a good team made up of several veterans: Si Ryan (captain), Eugene McCarthy, Frank Hendrickson, John O'Malley, George Esterly, John Devney, Robert Kyle, Elmer Madsen, Carl Priley, and Milton Lydell. The team showed its inexperience in the execution of team tactics and lost all the six games scheduled: to St. Cloud Teachers 1-10, to Macalester 2-7, to St. Thomas 0-3, to Macalester 0-3, to St. Cloud 2-4, and St. Thomas 0-1.

- 1934 -

The 1934 edition of the hockey team proved to be superior to the version of 1933, mainly through the addition to the squad of the Maus brothers from St. Cloud, Eddie and Dick. Eddie went on to become one of the most prolific scorers in St. John's hockey history. The team assembled early and was blessed with ideal weather in which to practice a week and a half earlier than in the past year. For moral support the team had its first cheerleader in the person of Ferdinand "Chickie" Lehn. Midway in the season, after more experience in teamwork, the Johnnies proved themselves to be contenders for the title by an upset victory over previously unbeaten Macalester. But the loss by injury of star goalie Bill Dreher, plus a two-weeks' thaw, put a damper on all St. John's hopes on that score. The Johnnies slid to an overall record of 3-5 and a 2-2 conference standing before falling victim to St. Thomas in the last game of the season.

Members of the 1934 team were William Dreher, Si Ryan, Eugene McCarthy, John Devney, Frank Hendrickson, Milton Lydell, Leonard Werner, George Toman, Robert Kyle and Fred Thielman.

- 1935 -

Within three years of its inception, the St. John's puck chasers copped the MIAC hockey championship. The team, led by dynamic, hard-driving Eddie Maus, was well balanced and excelled in defense, thanks to Bill

Dreher, by allowing opponents only three goals the entire season. Perhaps the proudest man associated with the team was Fr. Damian himself who had brought to the top of the conference Eugene McCarthy, Bill Dreher, Eddie Maus and others in a stretch of three consecutive years.

As a post-season treat the team was permitted to invade the Iron Range to play the Chisholm Maroons and the Duluth Red and White, both semi-pro teams. The Johnnies lost by scores of 1-9 and 3-7 respectively, a setback sharp enough to suppress any tendencies to superiority.

Dreher was the outstanding goalie of the conference and Eugene McCarthy the highest individual scorer on the St. John's team. The team record overall was six wins and four losses; the conference record four wins and no losses.

Members of the championship team were William Dreher, Eugene McCarthy, Leonard Werner, Duncan Campbell, Eddie Maus and Robert Kyle. Spares: Jerome Mulvehill, Francis Weber, Austin McCarthy, Gaylord Stenglein, Richard Maus, Elmer Madsen and Joseph Kelso.

- 1936 -

An important discovery of the 1936 season was the realization that not all the good hockey players had to come from the Twin Cities or the Iron Range. Four of the top-flight 1936 hockey players were from St. Cloud: Leonard Werner, Eddie Maus, Dick Maus, Willard Nierengarten and Robert Kyle.

The team naturally was looking forward to another championship season, despite the loss by graduation of Bill Dreher, but visions of continued glory were dashed away by a tie game with St. Thomas and a loss to Macalester respectively, 3-3 and 1-4. Following losses to St. Cloud and Alexandria, the Jays defeated Macalester 4-1 and St. Thomas 4-1. Much to their own surprise, they improved over the season by ending in second place in the conference with two wins, one tie, and one loss. The overall record was three wins, one tie, and three losses. Squad members were the following: Wally Johnson, Chuck Hinz, Lee Wagner, Eddie Maus, Leonard Werner (captain), James Alexander, Austin McCarthy, Willard Nierengarten, Loren May, Duncan Campbell, Ralph Miller, Robert Wolf, Bob Kyle, Sylvester Burke, Frank Richie, Robert Carney, DeWayne Wohlleb, Raphael Armstrong, Kenneth Cater.

- 1937 -

One thing was definitely missing when the Jays assembled for the 1936-37 hockey season, the presence of Fr. Damian, who resigned this year and was succeeded by a student-coach, James Alexander. Thus was inaugurated a new policy in the selection of coaches that was to persist for the next few decades.

1937 was a losing season, occasioned partly by the loss of team captain Austin McCarthy, Eugene's younger brother, who suffered the fracture of a collarbone in the first game of the season. 1937 was a six game season that ended with an overall record of only one victory and five losses. The conference record was one victory and three losses. The squad: Wallace Johnson, Chuck Hinz, Ralph Miller, Eddie Maus, Austin McCarthy, Willard Nierengarten, Loren May-the last a freshman who already showed promise of future stardom. Among the spares were Robert Kyle, Charles Pillsbury, Val Fandel and Donald Hollenhorst.

- 1938 -

Chuck Hinz was appointed student-coach of the hockey team for the 1938 season. Prospects looked bright to the new coach since several of the outstanding players of the previous year had returned. Among them, particularly, were Loren May, Ralph Miller and Austin McCarthy. Miller scored seven goals for the season. The team played well and appeared to be certain of the championship until the last two games when the

ceiling fell in on them and they lost to St. Thomas by scores of 1-4 and 1-3.

The team roster: Wallace Johnson, Austin McCarthy, Willard Nierengarten, Loren May, Chuck Hinz, Ralph Miller, Albert Welte, Nick Stoffel, Al Sauerer, Val Fandel, John Kelly, Don Hollenhorst, Edward Oettiker, (now Rev.) Robert Knaeble.

- 1939 -

A new breath of enthusiasm broke out in 1939 when thirty-three candidates signed up for admission to the hockey team. Chuck Hinz was in his second year of coaching, with Ralph Miller of St. Cloud his captain. For a change there was a higher concentration of players from the northern parts of the state and the Iron Range. New men were Albert Welte and Don Norman from Crookston, Stanley Tregillis from the Iron Range and Bob Murphy from Duluth, a goalie of considerable merit. It was a borderline team that ended in third place in the conference with a record of one win, two ties, and two losses, and an overall record of one win, six losses, and two ties. High scorer for the season was Loren May with six goals, followed by Lloyd Perron with four, Stanley Tregillis four, and Al Welte five.

Team roster: Robert Murphy, Loren May, Ralph Miller, Chuck Hinz, Stanley Tregillis, Al Welte, Lloyd Perron, Nick Stoffel, Wallace Johnson, James Courtney, Fran Gerlach, Donald Norman, Al Sauerer, Donald Hollenhorst, Konald Premo

- 1940 -

For a change, a member of the coaching staff, Vernon McGree, was appointed coach for the 1940 season. In a ten-game schedule the Johnnies won three games, tied one and lost six. In the conference they won three games and lost four for a third place standing. Stanley Tregillis and Bob Murphy, both from the Iron Range, won all-conference honors. Top scorer for the season was James Courtney.

Roster: Nick Stoffel (captain), Stanley Tregillis, Robert Murphy, Lloyd Perron, James Courtney, Don Norman, Richard Hope, Edward Zins, Lawrence Hickner, Arthur Durch, Howard Isaac, Jerome Conkins.

- 1941 -

Coach Vernon McGree had a nucleus of eight lettermen on which to build his 1941 team: Captain Lloyd Perron, Richard Hope, James Courtney, Eddie Zins, LawrenceHickner, Jerome Conkins, Don Norman, Art Durch and Frank Gerlach. It was a season that abounded in mishaps, injuries, the loss of Captain Perron to the military service in the Air Corps. Don Norman, on whom he depended for a team leader, suffered an injury that incapacitated him for the main part of the season. The team broke even in wins and losses-3-3 in the conference, 4-4 overall. Henry "Hank" Strobel was the find of the season and responsible for some of the best skating.

New men on the roster were Al Sauerer, Eugene Sebesta, Charles Tambornino, Konald Prem, Robert Murphy, Robert Piotrowski, Henry Strobel, William Freeman and Don Schnobrich.

- 1942 -

Coach Vernon McGree enlisted in the army in 1942 and was succeeded by Eugene McCarthy, now a teacher in the college. For a new coach, the hockey situation was not promising. The draft had decimated the college enrollment and Eugene had virtually a new team except for Henry Strobel and Don Norman-George Schmit, Albert Rowe, Vincent Plumbo (a freshman baseball player from Cretin), Robert Stevenson, Herbert Anderson and Robert Piotrowski. The hockey program underwent a period of crisis this year. In a game

played on St. John's ice with St. Thomas a free-for-all brawl broke out over unnecessarily rough body checking-fisticuffs, skirmishes, and various other torts that were stopped only by the grace of cool heads, coaches and referees so that they could end normally. A public relations squabble ensued, however. Fr. Walter Reger, O.S.B., faculty representative in athletics, threatened to drop hockey as a varsity sport. Athletic Director George Durenberger, realizing that the game should not be relegated to a club activity, managed to patch things up.

All intercollegiate competition was suspended in the MIAC during the war years, 1943-46. Fr. Adelard Thuente, O.S.B., possibly the most popular faculty member during these years, got the hockey rink set up and scheduled a few games to show the few students still in college that SJU had at least some sort of athletic program. In the winter of 1945 they played two games with St. Cloud teams, and in 1946 made a sporadic attempt to keep hockey moving. On the schedule was a game with St. Thomas, lost 3-10. It was an unequal game, however, as St. Thomas still had a military contingent on campus and was permitted to field the cadets in conference play. In a game with Gustavus at St. John's, the Johnnies defeated the Gusties 4-2, but in the return game at Gustavus they lost by a score of 3-5. No championships were awarded in hockey in 1945 and 1946.

- 1947 -

Once the war was ended and the truce signed, demobilization took place rapidly. Returning veterans flooded the colleges and overburdened the teaching staffs in most colleges and universities of the country. Fr. Adelard gladly relinquished the hockey coaching reins to Don Norman, a competent coach who had graduated from St. John's in 1942 with three letters in hockey. Norman took over where Fr. Adelard had left off and developed an excellent team of some thirteen members that included Billy Sullivan, David Roske, James Medved, Vincent Plumbo, Lawrence McNeely, Fred Schultz, Captain Edward Zins, Le- Roy Steichen, Raymond Grundtner (now Fr. Grundtner), Bill Sumpmann, and Richard Loudon. The team put together a seven-game winning streak, then won the St. Paul Winter Carnival championship by defeating Eveleth and St. Cloud in that order. In a trip to Crookston, Norman's home town, the Jays defeated a local semi-pro outfit, and from there moved up to Grand Forks, North Dakota, to engage a Grand Forks team of the States Dominican League. This trip was strongly objected to by Fr. Walter Reger, who had made an agreement with Abbot Alcuin Deutsch not to permit any St. John's teams to play outside the territorial limits of Minnesota. However, with gas at the astonishing cost of nineteen cents a gallon, and Hitler and the Emperor of Japan out of the way, Old George decided to splurge, even if it put his tenure at St. John's in jeopardy.

- 1948 -

It was around the year 1948 that Athletic Director George Durenberger was working within the conference for uniform rules governing the conduct of a standard hockey program—the selection of competent officials, the sweeping of the ice between periods, the standard length of rinks, the ratification of schedules before play commenced, the changing of goals, etc. Some of the officials were incompetent, only two colleges scraped the ice between periods, St. John's and St. Cloud. None of the rinks were alike in their dimensions. The St. John's rink was like Lake Superior, Macalester's like Lake George in St. Cloud. The Gustavus interior rink was egg-shaped, consequently any puck caroming off the side boards ended behind the goal net. In other words, George was determined to make hockey a major sport in every sense of the word, and on the whole he was successful.

Mickey (Lawrence) McNeely took over the hockey team replacing Don Norman, who had accepted the hockey coaching position at the University of North Dakota, incidentally taking with him the two Crookston stars, William (Billy) Sullivan and James Medved. The first handicap McNeely had to face was the loss of two stars. Consequently, the Jays lost the first five games they played by close scores. They bounced back,

however, at this point and swamped Augsburg 9-1 for their first victory of the season. They dropped another game to Macalester 3-4, and went on to win the three remaining games on the schedule. In the St. Paul Winter Carnival St. John's topped Hamline in the opening round, only to lose to St. Cloud in the semi-finals by a score of 2-3.

The overall record of the 1948 season was five wins versus seven defeats, and in the conference four victories and four losses. High scorer of the season was Frank Macioch, who edged out Dave Roske by the narrowest of margin.

Members of the team were the following: Mickey McNeely, Arthur Arnold, Maurice Schille, Charles "Chuck" Forbes, William Sumpmann, Robert Ligday, Patrick Bresnahan, Fred Schultz, LeRoy Steichen, Patrick McHale, Merrill McKibben, David Roske, Roland Theis, and James Gleason.

- 1949 -

The 1949 hockey sextet was led by Coach McNeely, aided by team captain David Roske. Hopes were high for a good season as the Jays' young team blasted St. Cloud Teachers 4-0 and St. Thomas 6-3. The team passed the puck well and stars Lou Cotroneo, Don Sagissor and Dave Roske drove in the goals. But the early good fortune did not last. The tables were turned and the Jays lost their next five games. The team was thoroughly discouraged until Coach McNeely put Cotroneo in the net and a complete reversal of form took place. St. John's made a recovery in the St. Paul Winter Carnival, then defeated Carleton 2-0 and nosed out Augsburg 3-2. The rejuvenated St. Thomas entry defeated St. John's in the finals 1-3.

The overall season record was three wins versus six losses. In the conference the record was two wins versus seven losses. Squad members were Arthur Severson, Fred Schultz, LeRoy Steichen, Frank Macioch, Patrick Bresnahan, Jerome Schultz, Donald Sagissor, Lou Cotroneo, Joseph Cascalenda, Thomas Klein, Robert Ligday, George Moudry, Arthur King, George Schroeder and Patrick McHale.

- 1950 -

On the graduation of Coach McNeely, George Hickner, '41, who attended the University of Minnesota for graduate school work, returned to St. John's in 1960 for special courses in education and the coaching of the hockey team. Captain-elect of the hockey team was Frank Macioch, the fiery, rough-and-ready puck maneuverer of the time. Frank Macioch and Coach Hickner complemented each other admirably.

The first game of the season was a 4-4 tie with Macalester. The new goalie, Ted Joyce, was credited with 40 saves. The St. John's rinkmen continued to play well and by January 13 had defeated Hamline 3-1 and Gustavus 4-2 at Gustavus. Joyce continued to play a stellar game in the net. The Jays then defeated St. Thomas 5-4 and powerful Duluth 2 1.

The 1950 Johnnies finished their best season in years with an 8-2-1 record to win the championship, though they were forced to share the top spot in the conference with Macalester.

To add to the conference championship, the team won the St. Paul Winter Carnival title, the second time in four years. Highlights of the season were the phenomenal goal tending of Ted Joyce and the fine skating and shooting of Lou Cotroneo, Fred Schultz and Frank Macioch.

Credit for the good season was accorded to George Hickner for a superb job of coaching.

Team personnel: Pat Bresnahan, Dave Roske, Fred Schultz, Robert Ligday, John Martin, Donald Sagissor, Augie Donovan, Joseph Cascalenda, Lou Cotroneo, Theodore Joyce, Theodore Meysembourg, and Joseph

Jwanouskos.

- 1951 -

Lloyd "Bud" Perron, on the completion of his nine-year term in the Air Force, returned to St. John's to complete his college studies. A former hockey, baseball and football player, he took over the coaching position in hockey, his favorite sport. Perron was confident of a good showing in the MIAC, for he had nine returning lettermen and a former Olympic star named Bob Boeser on his squad. Among his players he also had fireball Cotroneo as team captain, Frank Macioch, a hard driving skater and Ted Joyce, the most outstanding goalie since the days of Vincent Plumbo in 1942.

But the Jays had hard luck from the beginning of the season. "Jumping" Joe Cascalenda broke a leg, and Lou Cotroneo was out for several games with a severe ankle injury. Nevertheless they managed to finish third in the conference behind co-champions Macalester and St. Thomas. Highlight of the season was a thrilling 5-4 overtime victory over St. Thomas. Bob Boeser was the high scorer with a total of 27 points for the season.

Team personnel: Lou Cotroneo (captain), Frank Macioch, Richard Donovan, Donald Sagissor, Theodore Joyce, Joe Cascalenda, Robert Boeser, Jerome Kline, Patrick Thompson, Charles Cammack, Glenn Kirsch, Charles Dowdle, Richard Hickner, James Lilly.

- 1952 -

Bob Boeser returned to St. John's in 1952 as coach of the hockey team. He was an exceptional figure in the St. John's hockey scene. A graduate of De La Salle High School in Minneapolis, he became an outstanding amateur skater and was selected by the Olympic Committee to represent the United States as a member of the 1948 Olympic team. After the Games, he traveled with amateur teams in England, France and Eastern European countries before settling down at the University of Minnesota, from which he transferred to St. John's in

-1951-

Boeser's 1952 team was a hot and cold combination that failed to live up to its original promise, partly because of the graduation of Ted Joyce, goalie, and Richard Donovan, center, at the end of the first semester. The inconsistent Jays defeated strong Duluth twice by the large margins of 9-0 and 6-2, then lost to Macalester 4-6 and 4-7. Boeser was high scorer of the team with 20 goals and 13 assists for 32 points. The season record was six wins and three losses overall; three wins and three losses in the conference.

Team personnel: Playing-coach Robert Boeser, Captain Donald Sagissor, Joseph Cascalenda, Ted Meysembourg, Philip Hartman, William Halmbeck, Roger Vanelli, Lou Cotroneo, Glenn Kirsch, Richard Donovan, Don Sagissor, Frank Albers, Ted Joyce, Paul Sokup, Richard Gravelle, James Lilly.

- 1953 -

With only four lettermen to work with, including himself, Ted Meysembourg, Boeser's successor, found the hockey outlook very bleak, so bleak that rumors were floating about that St. John's was dropping hockey as a varsity sport. When it was finally settled that a conference team would be fielded as usual, Coach Meysembourg took firm hold of the situation. The four veterans were enthusiastic and between them got together a relatively talented squad that went through the season with a record of two wins and nine losses. John Beaudry, a freshman from Duluth, proved to be the find of the year as he went through the season with 20 goals and 13 assists for a total of 33 points.

In midseason the team lost Co-captain Glenn Kirsch to the draft for the Korean War. It was the final step that broke down the already precarious defense. But the 1953 team still remained a better team than Gustavus that lost two games to the Jays by scores of 12-0 and 7-2. Team personnel: Player-coach Ted Meysembourg, co-captains Charles Cammack and Glenn Kirsch, John Beaudry, James Pascoe (total points 15), Richard Marchek, Frank Albers, Mike Ruddy, Robert Larson, Kenneth Galatowitsch, Paul Sokup, and Phil Wartman.

- 1954 -

In his second year as coach, Ted Meysembourg and his captain, Charles Cammack, got together a team that finished the season with an overall record of four wins and seven losses. The conference record was two wins and seven losses for a fourth place finish.

The 1954 team was far from being a representative team, winning wise, but it was a plucky outfit that played up to its full capacity.

Coach Meysembourg developed two top-flight performers, Robert Larson and Mike Ruddy, whose playing gave a touch of distinction to a team that was otherwise unspectacular. Dennis Stedman, ClemCommers, John "Jake" Rydell and goalie Chuck Cullen were to star in the following years.

Members of the 1954 squad: Playing-coach Ted Meysembourg, Captain Charles Cammack, Dennis Stedman, Paul Kunert, Clem Commers, Edward Regan, John "Jake" Rydel, Dick Marchek, Wayne Kotaska, Patrick Mingo, Kenneth Christian, Robert Larson, Michael Ruddy, Frank Albers, Paul Sokup, Charles Cullen.

- 1955 -

The athletic director was aware that the solution to the hockey problem was the appointment of a member of the coaching staff who could give continuity. It was in his second year at St. John's that the brilliant football coach John Gagliardi was appointed coach of the hockey team. By his own admission he was aware that his qualifications for the post were limited. When asked why he had been chosen to coach hockey, he replied, "I had an uncle in Chicago who once went to a Black Hawks' game."

Yet what "Gag" lacked in knowledge of hockey fundamentals he more than made up for in a determination "to put the darn thing together." He was a good observer and quickly noted the need of a leader. "The team had the horses but not the leader," so he promptly nominated himself for that role. One other blessing he had, namely, the presence on the squad of only one senior. "The majority of the squad being sophomores and freshmen, they did not notice my ignorance of the game when by a slip of the tongue I called the rink a 'court' and a penalty a 'foul,' " he explained.

The 1955 Jays were able to win fourth place in the conference, and also a victory over the powerful Duluth Branch Bulldogs. The story is worth the telling, as recorded in the *Record* February 4, 1955, p. 3: "Up until the end of the first semester the Jay pucksters had been able to win but one game, and that one over Carleton, 8-1. The other games are but bitter memories: losses to UMD 2-9 and St. Thomas 1-6. That made the record 0-3 on the league and 1-5 for the season. "But then, John Gagliardi's fighting sextet moved into the Duluth Curling Club with only the idea of keeping the score respectable. When the score read 2-0 in the Johnnies' favor at the end of the first period, the Duluth fans chuckled mildly to themselves. In the second session the Jays kept dogging the Bulldogs' forwards, back checking relentlessly and moved to an unbelievable lead of 5-1.

"We escaped with a 5-4 win, but that one win gave the Jays a real morale boost. The players became more confident in themselves, but still lost none of their fighting play and went on to beat Macalester 2-1 and

Hamline 4-3."

-1956-

The 1956 season –tarted where the 1955 ended. The Jays had one of their finest finishes with an overall record of twelve wins, four losses and one tie. The conference record was eight wins versus four losses, second only to Duluth, the conference champion. John Gagliardi continued to give evidence of his ability to master the fundamentals of a sport hitherto unknown to him, and then spark his team to the peak of their abilities. Undoubted star of the year was Byron Johnson from St. Cloud Cathedral who had 14 goals and 11 assists. He was closely followed by Leonard Kohler with 12 goals, 11 assists and a total of 23 points. To single out these two stars is to do an injustice to a team made up of a supporting cast of Jack Quesnell, John Rydel, Chuck Cullen and Mark Lohmann. Chuck Froehle, football star, won first place in penalties with eight and sixteen minutes in the penalty box.

Team roster: Byron Johnson, Charles Cullen, Leonard Kohler, John Rydel, Jack Quesnell, Edward Regan, Charles Froehle, Clem Commers, Cornelius Loiselle, Charles Dubore, Patrick Mingo, Patrick Moran, James Higgens, Paul Kinnert, Mark Lohmann.

- 1957-

In 1957 the hockey rink was moved to a spot parallel to the north side of the gymnasium in order to have the shadow of the gymnasium shield the ice from the rays of the sun. The team had better luck with ice, therefore, in 1957, and used the hard surface in negotiating several good games that would have been failures in times past. It was an "unusual year," however, as the *Sagatagan* expressed it, a so-so year, and somewhat of a let-down from the high spirited 1956. Duluth, with its Canadian recruits, could not be denied for two games. The Tommies also dropped the Jays by two games, 6-2 and 3-2. The season record was eight wins versus seven losses, and a conference record of six games won and six lost. The team finished in fourth place.

The find of 1957 was Al Goulet, a freshman star from St. Thomas Military Academy in St. Paul, who overshadowed the 1956 high-point man Byron Johnson with a total number of points (34): fourteen goals and twenty assists. Goulet broke the total number of points rolled up by Bob Boeser in 1952, though Boeser's record of twenty goals remained intact. Other top-flight performers were John "Jack" Quesnell with 27 points, Chick Cullen, the goalie, Phabe (Philibert) Wartman, Leonard Kohler, Clem Commers, Chuck Froehle, and Captain "Jake" Rydel.

Other team members not mentioned above were Bernie McInerny, John Fournelle, Fran Rapley, Gary Pendency, Frank Moran, John Kelly, Leonard Kohler, Tom Campbell.

- 1958 -

In a December 1957-58 preview of the coming hockey season, Coach Gagliardi admitted in his kidding manner that he would have a good team: "I've got a group of fellows back this season. Boom Kohler promised me no more fights. Quesnell hasn't got Froehle around to help him when he gets into trouble, so he'll calm down. And By Johnson says he's coming to practice this year. What more could a coach ask? (*Record*, December 6, 1957). .

Actually, John had the one-two scoring combination of Al Goulet and Jack Quesnell of 1957. All in all, he had a strong, hustling gang that could body check with anything in the conference. The Catholic high schools in the state in recent years had been sending star hockey players to St. John's-Bob Boeser of De La Salle, Al Goulet of St. Thomas Academy, Mike Murphy, Patrick Moran and others from Cretin.

Yet there were problems: George Durenberger, athletic director, protested against schedules that were too long, both from the financial angle and the academic. Duluth had built up a juggernaut that dominated the conference and was injuring it by the importation of hockey players from Canada who filled in weak spots in their line-ups. John Gagliardi was happy, nevertheless, with his third place in the conference with six wins and four losses, and an overall record of nine wins and four losses.

1958 roster: Leonard Kohler, John Kelly, Patrick Moran, Jack Quesnell, Mike Murphy, Francis Rapley, Bernie McNerny, Gary Pandy, Al Goulet, Don Charpentier, Thomas Campbell, Joseph Reid, William Cassette, Charles Schwartz, John Fournelle, Phil "Phabe" Wartman.

- 1959 -

The 1959 hockey season opened with Jack Quesnell the only senior holdover from the 1958 team. But Jack was a great competitor. Though he weighed only 140 pounds, he played with an abandon and know-how that netted him 21 goals for the season, the record at that time. It was Jack's last year and he left with the respect of the entire student body as one of the outstanding personalities in St. John's athletic history.

It was also John Gagliardi's last year as coach of hockey. They had been five good years. When he first took over coaching the game, it was mainly as a stay-busy chore over the winter. But it had become a major occupation. Collegiate football had become more and more complex, however. The city schools were extending their counseling programs, which meant that for the coaching tribe the work of counseling prospective students, talking to parents, and conducting athletes over the campus had been building up until he could no longer carry the two jobs without neglecting one or the other. Fr. Fintan Bromenshenkel, O.S.B., now entered to take over the hockey coaching position.

Team roster: Jack Quesnell, John Fournelle, Peter Gareri, Joseph Reid, Anthony Nagurski, Thomas Campbell, Stephen Tell, Michael Murphy, Gary Pandy, Charles Schwartz, Robert Pilney, Bernard Mc- Inerny, Frank Rapley, Robert Christensen.

- 1960 -

Fr. Fintan Bromenshenkel made an auspicious start in his coaching career by winning the first six games on the schedule. The team looked very promising with fourteen lettermen and several promising freshmen to support the veterans. Especially well qualified were freshmen from the northern part of the state, the good hockey country: James Humeniuk and Terry Noble from Baudette, Harold Froehle from Thief River Falls. Leading scorers for the season were Peter Gareri from the Iron Range with 20 points, Thomas Campbell and Gary Pandy with 19. Star at the net was goalie John Brandt.

The overall record for the season was eleven victories and five losses. In the conference the Jays won five games with three losses, all three to the top conference teams.

The team roster: Peter Gareri, Thomas Campbell, John Fournelle, Francis Rapley, Gary Pandy, Richard Hanson, Michael Murphy, Charles Schwartz, James Humeniuk, Harold Froehle, Robert Christensen, Terry Noble, Anthony Nagurski, Gary Noble, James McCoy, and John Brandt.

- 1961 -

Although Fr. Fintan Bromenshenkel lost five veteran mainstays from the 1960 team, the Jays posted a season record of nine victories and six losses. In the conference they took fourth place with five wins and three losses, the three losses being to league-leading Duluth, Macalester and St. Thomas. The team was tied with St. Thomas for third place prior to the final game of the season. They lost to St. Thomas,

however, 2-11, and ended in fourth place behind Duluth, Macalester and St. Thomas, in that order. One of the highlights of the season was Terry Noble's record winning score of 24 goals, Peter Gareri with fifteen. 1961 was the last year of Mike Murphy, a star athlete who had played on the Cretin High School team that defeated state champion International Falls, Mike Childs, and Steve Tell, a hardy body checker who had played in high school under Kenneth Yackel, coach of the Edina hockey team.

Team roster: John Gramer, Jim Kearney, George Floria, Thomas Flaig, James Fellman, Steve Tell, Mike Childs, Peter Gareri, Bob Christensen, Michael Murphy, Tony Nagurski, Harold Froehle, Terry Noble, Bob Hollenhorst, Larry Blaylock, Timothy Sullivan, John Boyd.

- 1962 -

The hockey season of 1962 might be called "Fr. Fintan's Disaster Year." The 1962 team was plagued throughout the season with injuries that left the team never at full strength in any game. Peter Gareri, team captain and high scorer, was out of play for eight games, and Bob Christensen broke an ankle early in the fall and was never able to play up to his full capacity. The season started with only seven lettermen, a situation that demanded the use of freshmen in order to keep the team on the ice. Inexperience and injuries were the main reason why the Jays posted a year's overall record of three wins and fifteen losses in an 18-game schedule. The conference record was two wins and four losses.

Team members: Thomas Flaig, Anthony Nagurski, Peter Gareri, John Kearney, Daniel Haider, James Kileen, Patrick Roche, Jerry Welter, Robert Hollenhorst, James Glowack, Robert Christensen, John Goulet, Richard Stuart, Dan Commers, Harry Froehle, John Moore, Timothy Sullivan, Larry Blaylock.

- 1963 -

In 1962 the hockey rink was moved to a site north of St. Thomas Hall and south of the old barn. There was little protection from the north wind there, and the athletic department found itself in an embarrassing situation as the December north winds blew over the chill surface of the frozen Watab. It was a time when, following Fr. Fintan's resignation, there was no goalie, no coach, and only seven returning lettermen. It was at this point that Captain Snead of the military science department took over the hockey coaching position.

Captain Snead had all the requirements for the position—four years of hockey at Delafield Military Academy, Wisconsin, one year of intramural hockey at the University of Wisconsin, and four years of hockey at West Point, from which he graduated in 1953.

The pre-hockey training was basic military stuff, two miles of running without a stop, isometric exercises, etc. They also played a little field hockey before the lake and the ponds froze over.

The squad was still young, with only one senior, three juniors, and the remainder mainly freshmen. Captain Snead worried lest the freshmen be declared ineligible for varsity sports, but they were declared ineligible only for the major sports, football, basketball and baseball; so, with the freshmen to depend upon, the coach estimated that they would win half their games. Actually they won six games and lost ten for their overall performance. In the conference they won four games and lost ten. They found an excellent goalie toward the end of the season in James Belisle, a freshman. Rich Froehle won the all-conference award and Marty Igo honorable mention.

Squad members were: Rich Froehle, Wally Blaylock, John Kearney, James Belisle, Patrick Roche, Mike Hollenhorst, Marty Igo, Patrick Cruikshank, James Kileen, Thomas Diffley, John Sipe, William Sullivan, Arthur Grady, Thomas Hayes, Robert Hollenhorst, James Kearney, John Moore, Joseph Palen.

- 1964 -

The 1964 hockey season was one of those abbreviated periods when unseasonably warm weather makes an outdoor hockey rink unplayable. Under these adverse conditions St. John's played only ten games, with a season record of three wins and six losses, one tie. In conference play they posted a record of one tied game and four losses. It was a dismal year for the ambitious, enterprising Captain Snead, only lately promoted to major.

Lettermen for the season were Thomas Bauer, James Belisle, Walter Blaylock, Patrick Cruikshank, Richard Froehle, John Goulet, Arthur Grady, Patrick Hare, Thomas Hayes, Michael Hollenhorst, Martin Igo, Patrick Jacobs, James Kearney, John Moore, Joseph Palen, Patrick Roche, Thomas Younghans.

- 1965-

The year 1965 was one of those numbered as memorable when the Jays made themselves famous-or was it notorious?-not by winning the championship, but by their heroics, according to the viewpoint of the spectator. The league leading Winona Canadiens (alias of St. Mary's) had already cinched the championship.

The Jays were struggling along as usual but full of life and vigor when the rumor began floating around that this was St. John's last year in hockey-for two reasons: first because college hockey was impossible without an indoor rink, second because the game was too expensive.

Within a few hours after hearing about the rumor, Eddie Maus, '37, an all-time hockey star of the past, stirred into existence a Twin Cities Hockey Alumni Club whose only end and purpose for existence was to stage a whopping demonstration of Johnny loyalty in the Augsburg game to be played February 19 in the Aldrich Arena, Minneapolis. Two thousand tickets were sold at fifty cents a ticket, and two thousand fans were at the arena to cheer on the Fighting Jays.

The Johnnies won the game 6-5 in an overtime, but not before the fans witnessed an amazing plethora of penalties-two holding penalties, three elbowings, three interferences, one high sticking, one pushing, two miscellaneous, and one cross check. The whole thing was capped by a full arched blood-letting stick swipe by goalie Tom Bauer. But more important than beating Augsburg and surviving the all-outbruhaha- winner-take-all brawl, was the fact that the Jays continued the season by clobbering Concordia 7-1, Gustavus 11-1, and Hamline 4-0. They won seven of the last nine games on the schedule for second place in the conference. In the meantime, the St. John's *Record* received for printing four letters from Eddie Maus, George Toman, Chuck Hinz, and Lorry May lauding the merits of hockey and the virtues of its participants. 1965 was Coach Snead's last year at the helm of hockey at St. John's-his last and most dramatic exposure to St. John's loyalty.

Team members were Wally Blaylock, Rich Froehle, Tommy Bauer, Tom Younghans, Mike Musty, James Trachsel, Terry Hartman, Thomas Hayes, Mike Pomroy, Paul Jung, Steve Hartman, James Borgestad, Gerald Grochowski.

- 1966 -

The 1966 hockey situation called for a new coach to succeed Major Snead who was transferred to another post. By chance, a big, easygoing French Canadian from near Quebec was on hand who was more than willing to take over the hockey program. Weighing slightly less than a football tackle and a bit more than a fullback, he was a goalie and just the thing that the athletic director was looking for. But not necessarily the registrar and Fr. Donald LeMay, O.S.B., the director of admissions! Fr. Donald asked himself, "Can I admit

him? Can I make an exception in his case?"

Fr. Donald became a pawn in the admissions game, and a deluge of letters flowed in from the four corners of hockeydom to help him make up his mind. One was from Fred Shero, later coach of the Philadelphia Flyers, another from Walter Busch, president of the Minnesota North Stars. So Gaston Rheaume was accepted and signed up for hockey, French Grammar and Physical Education.

Gaston made himself the goalie of the team. When he stood in front of the net he looked like an armored medieval knight guarding the castle gate. He said of himself, "Wherever hockey is, I am. My ambition is to get an excellent hockey program going at St. John's." And, in truth, he did.

The team had a slow start, but once on the winning trail St. John's managed to work out an overall record of nine victories and eight losses, a conference record of six wins and seven losses. The Jays dropped two games to St. Thomas and St. Mary's, alias the Winona Canucks. Highlight of the season was the splitting of a double-header with the University of Wisconsin whose coach hoped to brighten his season record by two slop victories over a small college or university. He was stunned to speechlessness when he dropped a game to St. John's.

Perhaps the best group of senior hockey players left St. John's following their graduation in June, 1966: Jim Trachsel (all-conference and most valuable player), Wally Blaylock (captain), Tom Younghans, Thomas Hayes, Terry Hartman, Joe Palen, Martin Igo, James Belisle, Mike Pomroy. Other members of the team were Jim Borgestad, Steve Hartman, Paul Jung, John McCarthy, Mike Musty, Bob Froehle, Matt Lynch, Gerry Grochowski, James Michaud.

- 1967 -

The 1967 hockey season commenced with grave misgivings that the team would not do better than seventh place in the conference. The loss of the nine seniors from the previous year left only juniors as ranking leaders of the squad. Besides, with Gaston Rheaume running out of French classes and physical education courses, the prospects for his academic future looked dim. But by January 23, 1967, eight games later, St. John's was leading the league. Six of the first seven games were won by scores of 3-2.

In the first game of the season St. John's won over the Tommies in their own back yard, the Aldrich Arena, and repeated the victory the next night at St. John's, also under the lights. The remainder of the season was a replica of the first game-St. John's completed the season with a record of twelve wins, five losses and one tie for second place in the conference.

Highlight of the 1967 season was the much appreciated invitation to take part in the First Minnesota Small College Hockey Tournament, together with Gustavus, Bemidji and St. Mary's. To their own astonishment the Jays won all their games except the last one, namely, the finals against Bemidji. The Jays held Bemidji scoreless until the third period when the smooth skating Canadian-loaded Bemidji team pushed over the winning scores. Mike Musty, "the Human Bowling Ball on Skates," won the all-tournament award for his aggressive game, and Gaston Rheaume the Most Valuable Player of the tournament award, as well as the all-conference honors.

Credit for the good season was unanimously given to Gaston, both for his sterling play as goalie and his coaching. "Confidence," said Cocaptain Gerald Grochowski, "is the only word to describe him. Confidence in us and our confidence in his coaching are what kept us going through the whole season."

- 1968 -

Gaston Rheaume's 1968 team entered the conference race bolstered by the prediction of the sportswriters that they would win the MIAC championship. The Jays started out well with a 4-1 win over Wisconsin State, then lost seven of the next eight games with a regularity that was morale breaking. At this point the steady encouragement of Cocaptain Gerry Grochowski and the confidence of the older members of the team began to payoff. The Jays won six of the following eleven games, plus one tie, to end the season with a conference record of three wins, nine losses, and two ties. The overall record was seven wins, eleven losses, and two ties.

The reason why the team fell so completely apart was partly an unusual number of injuries that kept the trainer Phil Kostelnik busy taping Gaston's ankle, Mike Musty's knee, massaging Tom Haeg's back, and bandaging Jim Borgestad's lacerations. But relief and happiness came with two wins in the last games of the season over Ohio State 6-4 and Ohio University 6-3. They were prestige victories, for both of the Ohio universities were on their way upward in "big-time" hockey. SJU lost to Notre Dame 3-6 in a game played at Duluth.

The 1968 team was one of the most traveled during Rheaume's career at St. John's-more or less Gaston's benchmark of what was about right in the scheduling of a St. John's hockey team.

Members of the squad were the following: Freshmen: Lyman Brink, Tom Carlsen, Tom Colaizy, Dennis Maruska, Nicholas Miller, Patrick Reak. Sophomores: Thomas Haeg, Myron Henrickson, Bill Laliberte, James McDonnell, Bill Trachsel. Juniors: Gerald Grochowski, Mike Laliberte, James Michaud, Gaston Rheaume. Seniors: James Borgestad, Steve Hartman, Paul Jung, Jack McCarthy, Mike Musty, Dave Thein.

- 1969 -

Coach Gaston Rheaume started the 1969 hockey season with Gerald Grochowski as his assistant coach, and three players-Grochowski, Bill Laliberte, and Myron Henrickson-as co-captains. Prospects for a good season looked fair with eight lettermen back. But the fortunes of battle turned against the Jays with postponements due to bad weather, streaks of bad luck in the games and injuries. The season ended with a record of six wins and ten losses in a sixteen-game schedule.

The 1969 team was not a high scoring aggregation. Scoring leader was Tom Colaizy with 24 points, Myron Henrickson with 22, Ronald Nagurski 18, Thomas Carlsen 18, Bill Laliberte 16, Mike Rizzi 12, John Baratto and Tom Haeg 10, Gerry Grochowski 7, James McDonnell 7, Patrick Mahoney 6, Tom Cook 4, Ken Charpentier 4, Phil Wetzel 2, Patrick Reak 1. The remaining members of the team were the star goalies Patrick Kernan and James Michaud.

Highlights of the season were two out-of-state trips: to Indiana to play Notre Dame at South Bend, and to sunny Colorado Springs to play the Air Force team. St. John's lost to Notre Dame 4-5 and 1-6. The two games with the Air Force were also losses, 1-6 and 6-8.

- 1970 -

An air of enthusiasm marked the beginning of the 1970 hockey season. The three co-captains, William Laliberte, Tom Colaizy, and Myron Henrickson, in a condition training program, led the young aspirants up-hill-down-dale and through weight-lifting exercises, getting the team ready for the freeze-up. They even prayed for cold weather, but in vain. The weather insisted on being good.

Coach Rheaume was left practically entirely with underclassmen for scoring since graduation had cleared out the four scoring seniors of 1969. But, as it turned out, what the team needed most was a solid defense. The overall record was six wins and thirteen losses; the conference record was two wins and thirteen

losses.

Team roster: David Blaylock, Timothy Broback, Ronald Brown, Don Carlini, Tom Colaizy, Tom Cook, Paul Fontaine, John Gilmore, David and Tom Haeg, Myron Henrickson, Charles Hippe, Bill Laliberte, James McDonnell, Jeffrey Milbert, Michael Rizzi, Phil Wetzel, William Russ.

- 1971 -

The 1971 Johnnies improved slightly over their poor showing in 1970 by winning nine games versus thirteen losses overall, and four conference victories versus eight losses. But again, as in 1970, the late approach of winter and the occasional thaws during the winter deprived the team of practice time, either for defense or a strong, aggressive offensive type of play. The fact that the Jays suffered four shutouts over the season proves conclusively that the 1971 Johnnies were not a high scoring team. What is surprising, however, is that Timothy Broback received all-conference honors despite the weak St. John's attack.

It must be added that the student attitude during the season was indifferent, an attitude shared by the editors of the *Record*, who failed to report the final outcome of the season in terms of conference standings. It was a low finish, for Gustavus was champion, followed by St. Mary's, Concordia, Augsburg, and Hamline in that order. .

The team: Timothy Broback, Charles Belland, David Blaylock, Ronald Brown, Don Carlini, Thomas Carlsen, Todd Clark, Tom Colaizy, Barry Dixon, Paul Fontaine, Charles Hippe, David Igo, Patrick Kernan, Jeffrey Milbert, Daniel Moudry, James Petry, Mark Polles, Leonard Przybylski, Michael Rizzi, William Russ, David Van De Velde, Michael Roche.

- 1972 -

In the preview for the 1972 hockey season the *Record* writer reported that the prospects for the future were bleak, black and ominous for the future. No other report was published. The team, it reported, was lacking in quality hockey players from among the upperclassmen and was made up mainly of sophomores and freshmen. Coach Gaston Rheaume announced, however, that he was scheduling a large number of games in order to provide the opportunity for the younger players to gain experience. He also appointed Patrick Kernan, his goalie, to be his assistant, and Leonard Przybylski and Jeffrey Milbert co-captains. As an added attraction he promised six cheerleaders to liven up the spectators.

The attempt to improve the situation failed to improve the team, for the *Sagatagan* reports the season results as follows: overall, two wins and sixteen losses; conference, two wins and eleven losses. The only cheerful report to make of the 1972 season was that Patrick Kernan, goalie, was awarded all-conference honors for his work.

- 1973 -

Rarely has a hockey season begun with higher hopes than did the 1972-73 entry. "Come one, come all and see the all-new St. John's hockey team-new players, new plays, new equipment, and a new coach." And tri-captain Mark Polles crowed, "Last year we were a pushover, but this season. . . we're going to surprise a lot of people!" (*Record*, November 17, 1962).

John Ludwig, a teacher at Apollo High School in St. Cloud, replaced Gaston Rheaume, who had little or no success in his last two years at St. John's. But it was not long before the good spirits of the new Johnnies took a nose dive and the season ended with an overall record of five wins and seventeen defeats and a conference record of two wins and eleven losses.

Reasons for the poor showing of the team were never defined, but, regardless of what the real reasons for the decline may have been, the most obvious was the limitation of practice to one hour a day, from six until seven o'clock in the morning at the new St. Cloud indoor ice arena. It was an unwise arrangement at best. Then began the mutual recriminations. The players complained of the coach, the coach complained of the players. The only commendable records of the season were sixteen goals and four assists by Dave Van De Velde and the five goals and ten assists of freshman Stacy Christensen. Highlight of the season was the 22-14 defeat of Gustavus Adolphus in the last game of the season.

The team roster: Charles Belland, Douglas Beutel, P. Matthew Brenk, James Carlson, James Carr, Stacy Christensen, Antonio Deguisippi, Jerry and Rich Fredella, David Haeg, Richard Harren, Peter Hill, David Van De Velde, John Laudon, John Lucachick, Daniel Moudry, Mark Polles, Leonard Przybylski, Michael Roche, James Rothstein, Richard Sitt, Daniel Sherlock, Timothy Schoenberg.

- 1974-

The wounds of the past year had not been healed over when 1973- 74 rolled around. Nevertheless, the preview for 1974 was forward looking and filled with hopes for a new dawn. "Any team that will practice when it is still dark outside has to have something going for it," wrote a sportswriter (*Record*, November 16, 1973). Coach Ludwig was greeted by a thin group of twenty-eight hockey players that included three very promising freshmen from Minnetonka: Allen "Buzz" Albee, Tom Stovern and Timothy McHale, all three of whom he placed immediately on the varsity team.

But 1973-74 turned out to be another disaster year with a record of six wins, thirteen losses, and a tie. The record approximates that of the previous year, but it also included two losses of 21-0 to Gustavus and 16-1 to Concordia. It was, in fact, a season of dissension that is best passed over with a minimum of comment. The players were rebellious and some refused to follow orders given during the games.

Coach Ludwig resigned, thoroughly disillusioned by the experience, saying that he had met the players half way but that they on their part had refused to reciprocate. "Ultimately," the *Record* commentator wrote, "the success or failure of the hockey program will depend, not on a part-time versus a full-time coach or the presence or absence of artificial ice, but on the players themselves" (*Record*, March 22, 1974).

Team roster: Charles Belland, Stacy Christensen, James Carr, James Anderson, David Igo, Timothy Krueger, Allen Albee, Thomas Stovern, Timothy McHale, Thomas Kozlak, George Noesen, Michael McCarthy, Gordon and Leonard Przybylski, Dave Van De Velde, James Rothstein, Timothy Schoenberg.

- 1975 -

The appointment of David Igo, a 1974 graduate, as head coach of hockey on a full-time basis, brought about a sudden shift in St. John's fortunes. Probably at the insistence of Dave Igo himself, a new arrangement was made with the St. Cloud Municipal Ice Arena for a three o'clock afternoon practice hour to supplant the utterly ridiculous six-to-seven a.m. hour of the past two years.

David Igo was a hard working coach with definite leadership qualities that enabled him to gain the confidence of the young St. John's skaters. The team had the good fortune to have four young freshmen, Rick Larson, Andy Overman, Kenneth Potts and Joseph McGough to supplement the three 1973-74 prizes, Buzz Albee, Tom Stovern and Timothy McHale.

After a first game loss to River Falls State 3-5, the new Johnnies won the next five games that included double-header wins against Hamline and St. Mary's. The season overall record was ten wins versus fourteen losses, and a conference record of eight wins and eight losses for a fifth place finish in the MIAC,

the best record in five dreary years. According to the *Sagatagan*, the success of the 1975 hockey team was due primarily to Dave Igo's leadership and solid coaching, plus the brilliant skating of Stacy Christensen and Rick Larson. Stacy garnered 46 points for first place among the skaters; Rick Larson took second place with 42 points. Other scorers were Andy Overman, Ken Potts, Joseph McGough, Allen "Buzz" Albee, and James Rothstein.

- 1976 -

There is little to write about the 1976 hockey season for the reason that the *Record* failed to give the team names and scores of half the games scheduled. In addition, the *Sagatagan*, that generally supplied information not found in the *Record*, was not published in 1976. But Stacy Christensen was still on the hockey team and supplied whatever the season lacked in interest.

Stacy Christensen had an interesting career at St. John's. When John Ludwig complained to the team that they were not playing good hockey, Stacy, a product of West High in Minneapolis, explained that they could not get much done in an hour of practice—that in his high school they practiced as much as three hours at a time. In 1976, as captain of the team, he accumulated a season total of 48 points, garnered from 29 goals and 19 assists. He also established the school record of 142 points for four years of college competition, thereby supplanting Mike Musty's 111 points registered in 1968. He won the All-American hockey award and the all-conference award for the second straight year in 1976.

Coach Igo was pleased with his first line of Christensen, Rick Larson, and Andrew Overman as possibly the best in the conference, as also was Bob Hanson the best goalie (*Record*, February 11, 1976).

- 1977 -

Dave Igo's 1977 team was still striving to overcome its reputation as a loser that had been hanging over it from the early 1970's. But they were a daring outfit and scheduled the best teams of the area that were available—Superior-Wisconsin (national NAIA champions for 1976), the Air Force, and Bemidji with its array of Canadian recruits.

The season opened with a loss to the Air Force by a score of 3-6, followed by a 9-7 victory over Superior. Then followed four straight losses to the Air Force and Bemidji until finally they succeeded in defeating St. Mary's 14-7. Once settled down, the Jays managed to roll up a series of victories and ended in the conference with six games won, seven lost, and one tied. The St. John's team finished in fourth place in the MIAC.

Highlights of the season were such games as the rousing comeback from a possible humiliating defeat by Superior from;) score of 5-0. Coach Igo was happy with the courage and persistence of his team and looked forward to a better record in 1978.

Squad roster: Anthony Bauer, Dana Carlson, Daniel Dryer, Frank Fairbanks, Richard Gunderson, Robert Hanson, Robert Johnson, Stuart Lindberg, Rick Larson, Timothy McHale, John Mitchell, Mark Nordberg, Andrew Overman, Kenneth Potts, Thomas Stovern, James Vucinovich, Mark Zallek.

-1978 -

Jerome "Jerry" Haugen, '78, baseball and football star, succeeded Dave Igo as coach of the 1978 hockey team. His appointment was first received with dismay on the part of some of the players but quickly changed when it became apparent that the new coach knew the fundamentals of the game and, in addition, possessed the ability to get the most out of his men. "There is no fooling around now" was the word that

quickly passed around.

Coach Haugen had a superlatively good season, due partly to personal drive and a good coaching job, partly also to the fine quality of the team handed down to him from the Igo regime. The season record was ten wins versus four losses, for third place in the conference. Highlights of the season were the defeats administered to Gustavus and Mankato, both powerhouses in the state and picked to annihilate the daring Johnnies. Another crowd-pleasing victory was the defeat of St. Thomas by a score of 5-3, despite a 3-0 lead hammered out by the Tommies in the first period.

Coach Haugen was proud especially of the All-American award to goalie Bob Hanson and the all-conference awards to Hanson, Andy Overman and Rick Larson. James Vucinovich received honorable mention. 1978 was one of the really good hockey seasons in St. John's athletic history!

Team roster: Anthony Bauer, Todd Brandstetter, John Dalton, Tony Delisi, Rick Deslauriers, Daniel Dryer, Frank Fairbanks, Dick Gunderson, Bob Hanson, Thomas Kedrowski, Rick Larson, Mark Mc- Cullen, John Mitchell, Mark Nordberg, Thomas O'Keefe, Kenneth Potts, Andrew Overman, Greg Rancone, Peter Weum, James Vucinovich, Mark Zallek.

Chapter X: Golf

The history of golf at St. John's should rightfully have a preliminary section entitled "The Birth and Death of a Golf Course"-a strange title to be sure, for after all a golf course is simply a piece of landscape adjusted to provide pleasure for human beings who tramp across meadows, ford water hazards, get into traps and out of them, all in pursuit of a white pellet that finally drops with a plunk into a hole in a bit of turf called a green. But the St. John's golf course! That's a different story-the only school-owned golf course in the state.

The coming birth of the St. John's golf course was announced more or less as a rumor in the April 2, 1925 issue of the *Record* to the effect that St. John's might be planning to build a golf course: "The little white pellets may often be seen flying around the lower campus pursued by enthusiasts of the great old game. Who knows but that St. John's may put in a golf course in the near future!"

A year later, April 29, 1926, the sportswriter noted that some progress had already been made for a golf course. The site of the new course was the area north of the lower campus. "Every afternoon a cavalcade of students with caddies, bags and camp followers wend their way to the hills. The present course is in an ideal location and with some improvements can easily be the best desired."

A year later, 1927, a writer reports hearing loud detonations of dynamite explosions on the course, blasting out stones and stumps that obstructed the fairways. "The work on the greens will be finished after this dangerous work has been accomplished, and then St. John's will be one of the very, very few but proud possessors of a school golf course" (*Record*, April 28, 1927).

Progress on the newly created course was leisurely. In the fall of 1927 the tees and greens were plotted out, as suggested by golf pro Archie Houle, brother of Coach Bill Houle, and early in the spring of 1928 the Golf Club began making preparations to schedule matches with the other MIAC colleges. They were certain to make a good showing, they said, because they had in their midst two top-flight golfers: "Prospects were never brighter for a formidable golf team. St. John's is fortunate in having two men who probably have no peer in the conference: Walter Moynihan and Joe Ryan." Moynihan, it continues, was the city champion of Sauk Centre, and for the past two years, champion of the Central Minnesota Golf Association. Joe Ryan,

Brainerd's contribution to golf at St. John's, was city champion of his home town. Besides these two, there was Fred Warner of Minneapolis (*Record*, May 26, 1928).

It is apparent from the above that the golf enthusiasts were planning to field a team for conference competition as soon as the greens were completed. On May 19, 1928, the *Record* reported that "the fairways are clear of stumps and stones and all that remains to be done is the completion of the greens. When they are finished St. John's will have the most picturesque course in this part of the state" (*Record*, May 19, 1928).

Considering the positive statements of 1928, it seems strange that for the next two years there were no references in the *Record* or the *Sagatagan* to conference competition. There was no lack of activity on the campus, however. In 1931 the Golf Club inserted in the *Record* a list of some forty members on whom was placed the responsibility of keeping the greens in good order and the sand surfaces smooth and firm for putting. The impression is that the Golf Club was a smooth working organization, with golfers competing against one another rather than seeking opponents outside the St. John's circle. We read in the *Record* for May 8, 1930, page 7: "The golf course is constantly being attended by the students. This year, more than ever, it is well patronized—a real jaunt for golfers, up and down hills."

Among the members of the Golf Club mentioned in the *Record* during the years 1925-1931 were the following: George Clifford '28, Walter Moynihan '28, Joe Ryan '29, Ray Hite '31, Myron Wiest '31, Roman Niedzielski '31, Rader Hilbe '33, Othmar Janski '31, Fred Hughes '31, Ira Bradford '31, Edward Hennessy '32, Loren Wolter '34, Urban Frey (later Fr. Frederic, O.S.B.) '33, John Devney '33, Bob Burkhard '34, Wilson Wright '34, Jerome Kramer '33 and Walter Weisgram '33.

In 1931 the club sponsored an 18-hole intramural tournament in which Lorry Wolter (star center on St. John's first football championship team) won a cup as prize for first place. Other prizes were awarded, among them a golf sweater with matching socks donated by the Town Toggery clothing store of St. Cloud. The prevailing note of the few golf articles in the *Record* of the time is that the students were delighted with the course and intent on making St. John's a sort of golfer's paradise.

But in all this enthusiasm the faculty was left out of the picture entirely. It was known that the college president, Abbot Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B., who had no objection to golf for the students, was opposed to the sport for members of the community. He considered golf a game played almost exclusively by the wealthy, leisured classes of people and opposed to the vow of poverty. Besides, he thought it a waste of time that could be more profitably spent at almost anything else proper in a monastic environment.

It happened, however, that three of the school administrators of the St. John's educational enterprise, like the students, had caught the golf fever, and during the summer months indulged in their new diversion. It might be added that it was necessary to keep their golf activities safe from the abbot's attention, or from the attention of anyone else, for that matter. However, the young director of athletics, George Durenberger, was a companion with them in some of their golf adventures and still loves to tell about the golfing escapades of the three Benedictine administrators, Frs. Mark Braun (later Abbot Mark), Walter Reger and Theodore Krebsbach, all three deans of the various departments of the college and prep school. He writes:

"The clubhouse for the three monks during these years consisted of a long pile of cordwood stacked close to the first tee. The Reverend Fathers tucked their clubs in the woodpile between the cordwood sticks where they usually escaped the rain. One of Fr. Mark's more serious problems was interference from the porter's office. On many occasions he would have to replace his few clubs in the wood pile and return to his office to convince some parents that they should enroll their boy at St. John's.

"Fr. Mark was also a serious reader of the magazines on golf techniques and would often regale his confreres with 'suggestions' for improving their game. But to no avail! Nor did Fr. Mark improve his own game to any appreciable extent.

"The highlight of the monks' adventures took place one balmy summer evening when they were all gathered on the summer porch with the community and the abbot. That evening, out of the generosity of his heart, Bro. Ambrose, a famous community gagster, approached Fr. Mark and gave him a handful of golf balls he had found on the golf course. I never did find out what happened after that because a few of the monks continued to play."

Fr. Mark later said, "It was an acutely embarrassing moment!" He also had a faint suspicion that the episode was one of Bro. Ambrose's practical jokes, for which he had a unique propensity. Rumor has it that the carefree hours spent on the golf course by Fr. Pat O'Neill, O.S.B., a blithe spirit from St. Bernard's Abbey in Alabama! was the reason for the eventual (and inevitable) ban on faculty golf.

- 1931-1933 -

Around 1931 the Great Depression began to make its effects felt in all colleges in some way or another. At St. John's its effects were especially experienced in a decline of interest in golf. Moreover, drawbacks to the St. John's golf course became more apparent as the golfers became better acquainted with the new courses that were springing up in the smaller towns throughout the state.

George Durenberger has vividly described the drawbacks: the first was the fact that the course had been superimposed on the St. John's cow pasture. When the herd began to be increased in size in the early '30s, a handicap that at first was little more than a bothersome hazard suddenly became a major problem. Big George describes the situation:

"One of our first major problems was that the cows somehow developed a liking for standing on the greens; cow droppings, plus hoof marks, made putting somewhat difficult. Someone came up with the idea of installing fence posts around the greens with a single strand of barbed wire. This kept the cows off the greens, but it still posed a new problem for the golfers approaching the green. Special ground rules had to be worked out.

"Another problem was the vast accumulation of leaves from the nearby hardwood trees, especially in spring and fall. As someone said at the time, 'A golfer spent one hour golfing and two hours looking for the ball among the leaves.' "

A third problem, a serious one, was the close proximity of the fairways to one another. On several of them a slice or hook could easily cross an adjoining fairway, thus providing a dangerous physical hazard. Not a few players had been struck with golf balls over a season. Finally, when the Depression had touched bottom in 1933 and student interest in golf had reached a deep low, the administration decided to abandon the course as a safety measure.

- 1934 -

The loss of the golf course was felt eventually by the St. John's student body, some of whom gave up the sport. There still remained a few enthusiasts in 1934, however, who banded into a team of four to represent St. John's in the conference. St. John's finished in last place, with John Bateman, '34, leading the team as captain. Bateman finished in sixth place. Other members of the team were John Dale ('34), Lane Scofield ('36) and Wilson Wright ('34).

- 1935 -

Things picked up in 1935 under the leadership of George Kuklinski, '38, who was a better than average college golfer. In the conference tournament of 1935 he finished in fifth place with a score of 156 for the eighteen holes. Other point makers were Lane Scofield (173), Joseph Kelso (174) and Robert Phillips (187).

Incidentally, George Kuklinski, an ardent golfer, suffered the loss of an eye in 1934 when hit by a golf ball on the St. Cloud Country Club links—an accident that reconciled the St. John's students for the loss of their much appreciated but hazardous golf course.

Little or no notice was taken of the golf teams of 1936 and 1937 in either the *Record* or the *Sagatagan*, though the *Sagatagan* ran a feature picture of Kuklinski in the 1936 issue. Teams might have been organized in a loose way, though there is no evidence of their having competed in the MIAC in 1937.

- 1938 -

But golf took a turn for the better in 1938 when William "Bill" Browne made a spirited effort to put St. John's back on "golfdom's map." He organized a ten-man team made up of Robert Burns ('38), Don Hollenhorst ('39), Randall Murphy ('41), Thomas Rabideau ('43), George Wegener ('41), Dwayne Wohlleb ('39) and Charles Maher. No reports of the season were made beyond the statement that the team had practiced hard on the abandoned golf course.

- 1939 -

In his second year Coach Browne had several new names to add to his team roster: Richard Maertz ('42), a well-qualified golfer, Edwin Lamb ('39), Dennis Booker ('40), Dan Hoolihan ('42). The 1940 team apparently made only a mediocre showing, for the *Sagatagan*, referring back to 1939, reported: "The Johnnie diggers didn't do much in the Minnesota conference but dig a lot of divots."

Bill Browne's 1940 golfers did not make a much better showing. Just before the conference meet, sports editor Homer "Rod" Hurd wrote a forecast of Bill's linksters: "Forecast? Johnnies to finish outa the chips. Prospects?-About like the weather, which ain't been so good."

Key members of the 1940 golf squad were Bill Browne '40, George Wegener '41, Dennis Booker '40, Rick Maertz '42, James Lamm '41, Eugene Bolger '41, William Hart '43, Henry "Hank" Strobel '43 and Robert Hughes '43.

- 1941 -

Highlight of the 1941 season was the first victory in golf over St. Cloud T.C. by a score of *7U-4U*. But it was followed immediately by a 10-2 drubbing at the hands of Gustavus Adolphus. In this meet with Gustavus, held on the St. Cloud Country Club course, Henry "Hank" Strobel scored a hole-in-one on the ninth hole. The feat stirred up memories in the mind of George Wegener of the hole-in-one shot he made on the country club course of his native home town, Portal, North Dakota. "At the tender age of fourteen," he recalled, he made a hole-in-one on the tenth green. It was the first international hole-in-one in history. He explained that Portal is located along the line that separates Canada from the United States. The tenth tee-off of the golf course happens to be on the Canada side of the line and the green on the United States side. Therefore, his hole-in-one was the first international hole-in-one and made on the only international golf course in the world.

Actually, the feat was published in Ripley's "Believe It or Not" column, and Wegener was the recipient of

several trophies and citations. Incidentally, George was one of the top golfers in St. John's early golf history.

- 1942-'43-'47-'51 -

There are no records of golfing activities at St. John's for the years 1942-43, just after the opening of World War II. Following the war, in 1947, a feeble attempt was made to revive the sport at St. John's with the announcement of a projected match with St. Cloud T.C. that apparently was never played; however, in 1951, five years later, the *Record* announced the resumption of golf in a way that would seem to indicate a real attempt had been made in 1947: "It has been five years since a golf team has teed off in collegiate circles, and although there are no satisfactory local facilities, the students have expressed a desire to take to the links again" (*Record*, April 12, 1951). The '51 team was granted a \$100 allowance by the athletic department. Team members were Larry Chouinard '51, Jerry Engleson '52, James Van Hercke '51, John "Jack" Litchy '52, James Lilly '53 and Paul Vogel '51.

The luck of the 1951 team varied. St. John's took first place in a triangular meet with St. Cloud and Mankato, but shortly afterwards they were swamped by Gustavus. In the conference the team finished in seventh place, with Paul Vogel St. John's highest scorer.

- 1952-1953 -

No scores were reported for the 1952 and 1953 seasons. A team made up of James Lilly, Bob Hintgen, Jerry Engleson and Joseph Welle was organized in 1952 but none for 1953. Though there is no record of a team in 1954, columnist Dom St. Peter in his "Heavenly Daze" column gave expression to a rumor that plans were brewing to build a links on the picnic grounds across the Watab. "Well, it looks like a golf course may be on the way to becoming a reality here at St. John's. . . . We've heard a great deal of talk about a Johnny golf course in the past two years and are happy to see it on the way to become a reality" (*Record*, May 7, 1954).

- 1955 -

On April 1, 1955, a long article appeared in the *Record* proclaiming the near advent of a golf course in the picnic area across the Watab. "St. John's will have its first golf course since 1933 within the next year or two, if the present project proves to be popular enough to be carried to completion. . . . For the past three months small crews of frustrated lumberjacks, faculty, collegians and a smattering of preps have been seen carrying axes, saws and other paraphernalia to the pasture area west of the Watab."

Among them were Frs. Conrad Diekmann and Dunstan Tucker, George Durenberger and one student in particular, Dean Hall. Prior to the preparations recounted above, consultations had been held with Joe Ryan '31, Dr. George Clifford '28, and the golf pro of the Alexandria golf course for advice in establishing the locations of tees and greens, and all seemed to be progressing regularly. But then suddenly all work stopped. Athletic director George Durenberger has told the story many times in the past:

"Work progressed slowly but surely. The workmen brought along their chain saws and opened up a fairway through the woods, though much of the area was clear. My son David remembers the Durenberger family out on the course evenings picking up stones, brush, etc.

"Then came the letters. One said that God had been good to St. John's for ninety-nine years and we must not do anything to offend him. Another wrote that golf was a game only for the wealthy people, so we would be doing our students an injustice, since most of them are poor, by creating an interest and skills for a game economically beyond their means. Another objected to the picnic area: 'If we permit this to happen,

the grounds will be surrounded by women in short skirts.'

"Some of this rubbed off on Abbot Baldwin, as I was instructed to stop the work on the course for the sake of peace, and we did."

The athletic director's disappointment was softened by the construction of a second course in St. Cloud and new courses in Albany and Cold Spring, so the demand for golf courses was lessened.

It is well to add that times and attitudes inevitably change. Abbot John Eidenschink, Fr. Alfred Deutsch, and Fr. Leroy Kremer of the St. John's Seminary manage a game or so once a week in the summer with Bill Blattner and Al Siebenand on the Albany course.

- 1956-1957-

The student golfers of 1956-57 seem to have accepted the cancellation of the golf course plans on the principle that the ways of monks are often strange and inscrutable. But finally Jim Cesnik, sports editor of the *Record* for 1956, queried: "While on the subject of spring sports, one might do well to ask whatever became of the nine-hole golf course hailed in the April 1 *Record* last year, heralding a golf comeback after 20 years of decline" (*Record*, April 13, 1956). He received no reply. An ambitious golfer by the name of William "Bill" Weber in 1957 assembled a team made up of "Mick" Mullen, Thomas Clifford, Paul Brown and freshmen George Peterson, Timothy Ondahl, Donald Carpenter and Stanley Kucera. It was a reasonably good team, for the Jays took sixth place in the conference in a field of fourteen. Freshman George Peterson won sixth place in individual competition.

- 1958 -

Colonel William Lorimer III of the local ROTC military department was appointed golf coach with George Peterson as his team captain for the 1958 season. It was a solid, substantial team made up of Captain Peterson, Bill Weber, Tim Ondahl, Gary Pendy and freshmen Mike Skwira, Richard Wadden and Ben Ori. The team met opponents on a fairly even basis, breaking the season at about a .500 average.

- 1959 -

It was around this time that it became more and more evident that the reason for the lack of student support for the golf team, and especially the mediocre showings of the Jays in conference meets, was due to insufficient training on the golf courses. It was during the coaching years of Colonel Lorimer that the athletic director, George Durenberger, made arrangements for the free admission of the golf team to the St. Cloud Country Club links. Whether this arrangement was directly responsible for the improvement of the Jays is impossible to say, but the fact is that the golfers for the years 1957-60 were considerably improved in their match play. Of the fifteen candidates from whom to make selections for the conference, Colonel Lorimer selected Captain George Peterson '60, Cedric Waggoner '62, Mike Skwira '61, Lyle Banta '62 and Bill Black '61.

- 1960 -

Coach Lorimer's 1960 golf team was one of the strongest in St. John's golf history up to that time. Team captain George Peterson was the top golfer in the conference and the medalist in the 1960 MIAC tourney (see *Sagatagan*, 1961). During the regular season the team came up with a perfect record and defeated every team in the conference at least once. Unfortunately, the conference meet was held too late for the results to be published in the *Record*. It is known from the official list of championships, however, that Duluth won the 1960 golf title.

Members of the team were the following: George Peterson (captain), Michael Skwira, Eugene Schuster, Cedric Waggoner, Donald Charpentier and David Matuska.

- 1961 -

Colonel Lorimer retired from the army in 1960 and was succeeded by Major John. Leonard, also a member of the St. John's ROTC staff were two strong lettermen, Captain Michael Skwira and Eugene Schuster, the latter a star performer on the 1960 team. Also on the list of candidates were Frank and Thomas Jelinek, John Borgmann and Kenneth Preimesberger. Among an array of freshmen were Denis Duffy and Jay Dunham.

The first meeting of the year was lost to Hamline 12-3, with freshman Duffy starring. In a quadrangular meet held at St. Mary's, St. John's defeated Gustavus 9-6, but lost to the Maryans 6-9. The Johnnies continued to do well in MIAC competition and out-shot Concordia at Alexandria, then defeated Augsburg at Keller, St. Paul, with Skwira and Schuster tied at 77 for the medalist position. On May 9 the Johnnies clobbered St. Thomas on the St. Cloud course by a score of 13 ½-4. Schuster was low man with a 76, followed by Skwira with 77.

The 1962 *Sagatagan*, reviewing the prospects for the 1962 golf team reported, "The 1961 team finished high in the conference last year."

-1962 -

In his second year as head of the golfing fraternity, Coach John Leonard maintained a cheerful outlook on the prospects for his team. Captain Skwira was lost to the squad by graduation, but the combination of golf star Eugene Schuster, Ken Preimesberger, Denis Duffy, Jay Dunham and Tom Fritz formed a solid nucleus on which to build.

Despite the good prognostications, the Johnnies finished in sixth place. The five-man squad fired a high 625 strokes, each member playing 27 holes. The title was won by Duluth with 576 strokes.

The members of the team that played in the conference tournament were Denis Duffy '64, Tom Fritz '64, Eugene Schuster '63, John Reichert '65 and G. Joseph Liemandt '65.

- 1963 -

The golf seasons 1963 and 1964 do not rate high in the history of St. John's sports, at least according to the amount of information that is available for record keeping. The new coach, Captain David Bear of the military ROTC staff, was confident that his 1963 golf team, though young, had the potential to eventually win the conference title. The basis for his conviction was, first of all, the ability of his team captain Eugene Schuster, both as player and fiery leader, to stir up the confidence of his teammates. The problem that afflicted St. John's teams, he wrote, was the lack of consistency, a tendency to be easily discouraged when making a faulty shot and failing to shake it off. He lamented also the lack of a campus following for golf, the one sports activity that is more a lifetime game than any other sport at St. John's.

It is probable that his message found a hearing, for after two early setbacks through losses to St. Thomas and Concordia, the next two matches were a complete reversal in form, a convincing romp over Gustavus by a score of 14-1. This was followed by a defeat of Macalester in an unexpected 8-7 victory over the favorite for the championship. With the record of two wins and two losses, the team was determined to out-score Hamline and be set for a determined try for the champion ship. Unfortunately, the above was the last report on the 1963 season. Duluth, however, was the 1963 title holder.

- 1964 -

The 1964 golf season commenced with an Easter Week jaunt down south to Excelsior Springs of Missouri. The team expected ideal golfing weather, but the temperature dropped to 28 degrees Fahrenheit. It rained, and the ice caked three-fourths of an inch on umbrellas (*sic*). By the end of the trip the team had participated in six tournaments but invariably ran into rainy and cold weather that limited or nullified practice periods (*Record*, April 17, 1964).

The first meet at home was a triangular affair at the St. Cloud links with St. Thomas and St. Mary's. The Johnnies tied St. Thomas 7)4-7)4 but were bombed by St. Mary's 11-4.

The 1964 Johnnies participated in two large tournaments, the first at Bemidji, from which St. John's emerged in eleventh place in a field of sixteen schools. Later, in another invitational between Minnesota and North and South Dakota colleges, St. John's placed seventh in a fourteen-college tourney. Makeup of the 1964 squad was as follows: John Schneeweis ('66), Thomas Lynn ('67), John Ponterio ('66), Mike Williams ('67), Jon Schilling ('66) and team captain Robert Neis ('65). In addition to those mentioned were Joe Liemandt and Ken Utecht.

-1965 -

The only record of the 1965 season available is the following excerpt from the *Record*, May 26, 1965: "St. John's golf team completed a moderately successful season this spring despite frequent rains. Seniors Robert Neis ('65) and Joe Liemandt ('65), juniors John Ponterio ('66), Jon Schilling and John Schneeweis, sophomores Mike Williams and freshman Pat Antrim were the main contributors as the Johnnies finished high in the MIAC open held at Minneapolis' expansive Hazeltine course on May 15-16." The 1965 conference champion was Macalester.

- 1966 -

The golf team of 1966 was similar to that of 1965—a group of linksters who both practiced and played off-campus to the utter indifference of the rest of the St. John's student body. Again, as in the previous Year, the only information about the team is contained in a single article of the *Record*, May 13, 1966:

"The rather inconspicuous sport of golf at St. John's finds this year's team enjoying an exceptional year on the MIAC tour. Coached by Jon Schilling, the team is looking forward to its first conference championship. "Finding adequate facilities in the early part of the season proved to be difficult, and it took a couple of early defeats by Macalester and Hamline to get the rust out. The Jays then tied an exceptionally strong St. Cloud team and followed that with crushing defeats of Concordia and Augsburg at St. Cloud on May 4.

"Playing on this year's team are seniors John Ponterio, Roger Hipwell and Jon Schilling, junior Michael Williams, sophomores Pat Antrim, Dennis Bianconi and Joseph Lamothe, and freshmen John Bonifaci, Thomas Malerich and Tom Kozney.

"The Johnnies will play in the Honeywell Invitational and the Cougar Invitational at Alexandria, as well as the remaining conference matches before heading down to Hazeltine for the MIAC championship tournament tomorrow."

Macalester took the title, the third in a series of conference championships that started in 1964 and ended in 1968.

-1967 -

In 1967 St. John's continued for another year the policy of having a student-coach take charge of the team. The new coach, senior Michael Williams, took a firm hold of the assignment, fully convinced that the chief fault during the past few years had been inconsistency. He immediately made a move to get in a period of daily practice to remedy the team's situation.

In the early part of the season St. John's defeated Gustavus and St. Mary's but lost to St. Thomas and Augsburg. At this particular point Coach Williams blamed the weather for the inconsistency, although, when asked for an opinion, he replied, "We may have been bothered at times by lack of practice, but overall our only drawback was our instability, our inability to come in with consistent showings. There's no doubt about it, we can beat anybody. Whether we do or not is another matter" (*Record*, May 9, 1967).

St. John's finished the season in eighth place, one point ahead of Gustavus, the cellar holder. Macalester again won first place. The St. John's team was made up of the following members: Michael Williams ('67), Patrick Antrim ('68), Dennis Bianconi ('68), Timothy Baumgartner ('70), John Bonifaci ('69), Mark Harrigan ('70).

- 1968 -

Terry Haws, the new wrestling coach and football assistant, took over the golf team in 1968, the year following the eighth place finish of the St. John's Jays. Terry adhered closely to the analysis of former coach Williams and his effort to overcome the team's failings—that the trouble was not entirely the lack of talent but of consistency from meet to meet. It had become almost a trademark of the golfing Jays that individual players did well in one meet and failed miserably in the next.

Terry's system was to observe carefully the performance of each member of the squad, gradually advancing the best scorers from meet to meet as on an ascending ladder. The result was that talented freshmen Joe Nett, Craig Schneider and Anthony "Tony" Strupeck, as they climbed the ladder, gradually began to replace the letter winners of the previous year. Moreover, the freshmen made excellent replacements. Antrim, a holdover from 1967, said, "Weather permitting and if we jell together, nobody could touch us."

The Jays toppled Hamline 11-4 and Augsburg 12-2, led by two freshmen: Joe Nett with a 77 score and Craig Schneider with a 78. The Jays traveled the next day to St. Mary's and stopped them 12-3, as also title contender Macalester 11-4.

Hard luck halted the brilliant early spurt of the youthful Jays, however, in the form of injuries to John Bonifaci and Mark Harrigan, and the Jays dropped the next four meets, with a resulting conference meet record of four wins and four losses.

In the MIAC tournament the St. John's golfers jumped from eighth place to fourth, with John Bonifaci and freshman Tony Strupeck leading the team, followed closely by Joe Nett, Craig Schneider and Dennis Bianconi.

Terry Haws, despite his disappointment with the team for not doing better, was satisfied that his system had worked. The future looked bright.

- 1969 -

The high hopes of Terry Haws at the end of his first season as golf coach were amply justified. The 1969 team won the MIAC championship, the first and only golf championship in St. John's history. With Pat Antrim the only 1968 team member graduating, the coach had a line-up of tried golfers to start the season: Mark Harrigan, Joe Nett, Tony Strupeck, Jack Herb, with freshmen Joseph Parise and Paul Welle to

challenge them for first place positions on the team. The motivation provided by the freshmen was demonstrated when freshman Joe Parise, who emerged from the conflict as the conference champion for 1969, stirred up the Jays to a startling comeback at a time when it seemed that the team might finish among the also-rans of the conference.

Unfortunately, the *Record* failed to report the entire season's play, despite an elaborate program of six invitationals and only two dual meets. In the 1970 preview for the coming season we read a brief account of the final phase of the MIAC tournament: "In last year's conference meet the Johnnies stormed from ten points behind in a rain and hail storm at Edina's Braemar Country Club to capture the first title in school history. Joe Parise, the conference individual champion and medalist, was the hero of the day by coming from behind with two 76 scores for the first and second rounds. In scoring his 76 finish he broke out of a three-way tie to secure medalist honors" (*Record*, April 15, 1970).

-1970 -

"Golfers Playing Unfamiliar Role" was the headline of the 1970 golf preview: "The St. John's golf squad is in an unfamiliar position they are the defending champions and are rated a strong favorite to repeat" (*Record*, April 15, 1970).

Heading the list of returnees for the 1970 season was sophomore Joe Parise who in 1969 had broken a three-way tie to take medalist honors in the conference. Others less noteworthy were senior captain Mark Harrigan and seniors Craig Schneider and Jack Herb; juniors Joe Nett, Tony Strupeck and Paul Welle; sophomore Robert Brick and three promising freshmen—James Kruzich, Kim Culp and Patrick McKeon.

The prediction of Terry Haws was that the race would be between St. John's, Gustavus and St. Thomas, with Duluth coming in as a darkhorse possibility. The weather was particularly adverse to the Jays, however, ". . . because of inclement weather the entire Jay schedule prior to the conference championship was cancelled, and so the conference meet was their first competitive event. The team finished in a very disappointing seventh place in the MIAC" (*Record*, March 26, 1971)

-1971 -

Joe Parise in his pre-season column in the *Record* was guardedly optimistic in his predictions for 1971. "St. John's," he commented, "is definitely a potential contender, but whether the Johnnies can sharpen up and show some consistency remains to be seen" (*Record*, March 26, 1971). Later, in an interview conducted by the excellent commentator Ernie Bedor, Parise again was guarded in speaking of his own chances to win the individual title: "It all depends on how hot you get and how everyone else does. The team, I know, will be a lot better. . . . Joe Nett has been playing his best golf and could win the championship" (ibid). It might be added that he and three others had gone to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Easter season to practice so as not to be caught unprepared before the conference meet.

The 1972 *Sagatagan* published the outcome of the Jays' golf season as follows: first place in the St. Cloud dual meet, third place in the Cobber-Dragon Invitational, second place in the MIAC, second place in the NAIA District 13 play-offs. It was one of the good St. John's years in golf.

-1972 -

Around 1972 or slightly earlier, a radical change had taken place in the reporting of golf activities. With the new academic calendar and the shortening of the spring season from June to May 20 or so, the golf season was now limited to ten days at the most. As a result, careful records of the spring sports were not kept as important. For the 1972 golf season, by a lucky break, the newspaper clippings of the St. Paul *Pioneer*

Press are available.

St. John's finished in second place in the conference, losing first place to Macalester by a meager eight points: Macalester's total points for the meet of 791 to the 799 of St. John's. Joe Parise won seventh place with a total score of 155, Kim Culp and James Kruzich tied for tenth place at 159 points, Pat McKeon took seventeenth place, and Douglas Dero and John Possin were in 36th and 37th places respectively. The solid second place finish ranked the Jays among the leaders in the conference.

-1973 -

The untimely death of Terry Haws brought football coach John Gagliardi to the head coaching position of golf in 1973. The turn-out of candidates for the team was enthusiastic with 36 contestants for the ten-man squad the coach would select. Coach Gagliardi singled out five veterans as most likely winners of the choice spots on the team: Kim Culp, Douglas Dero, John Possin, James Brewi and Pat McKeon. When the MIAC championships came around, however, the team was represented by three new men, David Koebele, Rick Sheldon and Tom Broman, along with Culp and Brewi.

After the first round of the conference golf tourney St. John's title chances looked bleak. The new members, through lack of experience, found it difficult to cope with what they called the "choppy unpredictable greens." Brewi, in an interview with a *Record* sportswriter, acknowledged that the conference "had a lot of good experienced teams." According to a later report, the Jays were headed for sixth place in the conference standings.

- 1974-1978-

Since neither the school paper nor the golf coach kept statistical data and squad rosters for the years 1974-78, Coach Patrick Haws was able to provide only the following information about these years:

1) The MIAC standing of St. John's for the period; 2) the name of the team captain for each year; 3) the names of the individual competitors who represented St. John's in the conference championship matches.

1974-MIAC place: third. Captain: Jim Brewi. Team members: Dave Krebs, Scott Hogan, Doug Spanton.

1975-MIAC place: sixth. Captain: Jim Brewi. Team members: Dave Koebele, Doug Dero, Phil Murphy.

1976-MIAC place: third. Captain: none. Team members: Mike Jennings, Mark Hall, John Dorgan.

1977-MIAC place: fourth. Captain: Mike Jennings. Team members: Mark Hall, Jim Lehman, Robley Evans.

1978-MIAC place: fourth. Captain: Mike Jennings. Team members: Jim Lehman, Terry Putz.

CHAPTER VIII: Wrestling

Adapted in part from a study by David Grovum, '77, "The

Wrestling Program and Terry Haws at St. John's," 1977.

There is something about their sport that wrestlers are proud of. There are rules and regulations that are strictly observed. Holds that might injure an opponent are barred. The wrestler is always competing with an

opponent of his own weight, and for this reason wrestlers are classified into ten different weight categories or divisions: 118 pounds, 126, 139, 142, 150, 158, 167, 177, 190, and heavyweight. And, since each wrestler has a weight within his class that is natural or best suited to him, he must be truly dedicated in order to maintain it. He may starve himself for days trying to reach that all-important weight limitation.

In the twenty-eight seasons that St. John's has had intercollegiate wrestling teams, St. John's has won fourteen Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships and placed second twice. It has produced 72 individual MIAC champions. After each MIAC tournament the wrestler considered to be the most valuable is selected by a vote of all the coaches. St. John's has a record of three such awards. In short, after examining the record of St. John's in wrestling, one can recognize that the wrestling program has been one of the school's most honorable sporting activities.

It all started in the fall of 1941 when a freshman by the name of Daniel Rooney from Robbinsdale came to St. John's. He was a two-time Minnesota high school wrestling champion. Shortly after his arrival he learned for the first time that St. John's had no wrestling program.

His reaction was an astounded "What, no wrestling at St. John's!" After making this astonishing discovery he began to think things over and finally decided to establish a full-fledged wrestling program, with himself as the wrestling coach. With a small crowd of approximately thirty enthusiasts, including several students from the St. John's Prep School, he succeeded in obtaining the approval of the athletic director and commenced the task of molding a team.

The first wrestling match was held on February 16, 1942, following a St. John's basketball game. The event was received with enthusiasm by the faculty and student body. Although St. John's lost 19-8 to a veteran Macalester team, the expectations for further developments soared high. A second encounter with Macalester was set for later in February that St. John's lost after a toughly contested battle, 19-16. The Jays had improved and exhibited their progress with considerably more activity and a variety of holds. As for Rooney, he won his first match at 128 pounds in the first meeting. In the second, he was awarded a victory in his first match by a forfeiture, but earned a decision in the second. Two other St. John's men won matches that evening: Daniel "Bunny" Radakovich at 165 pounds and Richard Weber at heavyweight. The St. John's wrestling team engaged in two more dual meets that winter. They lost to the University of Minnesota Farm School 18-14, and to Carleton College 23-11. Although the 1942 Jays lost four meets that inception year, Dan Rooney himself went undefeated. In March of 1942 he bettered his undefeated record by capturing the 115 pound championship in the Northwest Amateur Athletic Union Tournament. The St. John's team took fourth place. Daniel Rooney was pleased with the team's progress.

Then the war intervened. Coach Rooney re-assembled a team of some twenty men in 1943 but was unable to schedule matches at St. John's with other schools. Then gas rationing made squad travel to other schools impossible. College enrollments dwindled, and finally in 1943 Rooney himself was drafted. College sports folded for the duration.

- 1946-47-

After the end of the war, in the 1946-47 winter sport season, wrestling was resumed at St. John's. Under student coach John Condon the first intercollegiate wrestling meet was held at Macalester in a five team conference get-together. John Condon was the only SJU wrestler to take first-place honors. It was an event that aroused little interest at St. John's, and indeed must have been a drab affair, to say the least.

-1947-48-

The first official mat season at St. John's for which a championship was ever awarded took place in the

1947-48 season, namely, to Macalester. The irony of the situation was rather evident, for Macalester and St. John's were the only schools to enter teams. The enthusiasts, nevertheless, did not lose hope but went ahead campaigning among other conference schools for the development of wrestling as an MIAC monogram winning sport. The St. John's record for the year was three wins, one loss, and two ties: two wins over the University of Minnesota Farm School, and a victory over Gustavus, 19-6. At the MIAC tournament that year St. John's had one individual champion, John Weimerskirch from Litchfield, who was an outstanding star in the St. John's annals for all his four years at St. John's. Because of him St. John's took second place in the meet. The coach of the year, Norman McDonnell, admitted that the team was lacking in experience in tournament competition.

- 1948-49 -

The coaching duties were again taken over by Norman McDonnell (brother of Fr. Kilian McDonnell, O.S.B.). The team improved greatly over the mediocre showing of the past year, with a record of five victories and one defeat. In the MIAC tournament SJU again placed second to Macalester by a score of 40-45. The championship was in doubt, however, until the finals in the heavyweight division when George "Judd" Pribyl of St. John's was decided by a score of 1-0. St. John's won three individual championships: John Weimerskirch won at 145 pounds, Coach Norman McDonnell at 157 pounds, and Ted Burgraff at 175 pounds.

The Status of Wrestling in 1949

At this point, as we look in retrospect over the past few years, wrestling had finally taken hold on the St. John's campus. The period from 1942 until 1949 had been difficult years for the program. First, the war years when it had to be dropped completely, then the years of adjustment when veterans returning to college were unsettled about their futures, and anything new like a wrestling program was looked at askance as something new-fangled that would gradually die out when the few enthusiasts had either left St. John's, graduated, or had turned to the established major sports program. The student-coaches were persistent, however, and interest began to grow. The very popularity of successful wrestlers as campus citizens, men such as John Weimerskirch and George Pribyl, gave the sport a prestige value that soon became contagious. And not to be underestimated in this process of building up interest in wrestling was the role of the student-coach.

The student-coach was usually considered the best wrestler on the team. He was almost always a senior appointed by the athletic director and given some financial allowance for his work. The use of student coaches was very economical for the school, though this was not the basic reason for choosing students to serve as coaches. The basic reason was that there were very few wrestling coaches around, and students with some skill in the sport and leadership talents were the most convenient coaches available. Athletic Director George Durenberger said of them: "They had great enthusiasm for the sport and they were much closer to the students. They were natural and very successful.. There was no reason to make a switch in policy."

This policy of appointing student-coaches continued through the 1950's and into the 1960's. However, as the sport continued to grow and the necessity of doing some recruiting became more urgent, there was need of a permanent faculty coach. Besides, student-coaches had begun to complain that their coaching duties were interfering with their academic programs. A new system had to come eventually.

- 1949-50-

In the 1949-50 season, Jack Hyneman, a Litchfield product, was appointed student-coach, and Judd Pribyl was elected team captain. It was a year in which the general feeling among the wrestlers was that now was

the time to move up. The most important move in this direction was a victory over Macalester. Macalester had been conference champion for the past three years and again was coming up with a strong team. By this time, however, the Jays were also beginning to feel their strength and accepted the challenge. They proved to be as good as their self-evaluation and defeated Macalester for the first time, 18-12. The *Record* for the year reported, "St. John's won four out of the eight matches, with three pins by the Johnnies deciding the match." The St. John's team went 3-3 on the season, which included victories over Macalester, 18-12, and two victories over the St. Cloud Teachers by scores of 18-12 and 19-13 respectively.

Although the state meet was scheduled to be held at St. John's, problems arose which forced the meet to be held at Gustavus-and again Macalester came up with a tremendous performance to take first-place honors. St. John's placed fourth in the tournament behind Macalester, St. Thomas and Gustavus. "The outstanding star of the day was John Weimerskirch," who successfully defended his 1947 title at 145 pounds. Captain Judd Pribyl and Fred Grant won the remaining St. John's points.

- 1950-51 -

Jack Hyneman again accepted the coaching duties of the St. John's team for the year 1950-51. As could be expected, the nucleus of the team centered around John Weimerskirch, who was undefeated in two years and had won two MIAC wrestling championships. Near the end of the season, however, John had his undefeated streak broken at fortyfour. He was beaten on a pin by a former Northwest A.A.U. champion who had enrolled at St. Cloud Teachers College.

Going into the 1950-51 tournament, St. John's had another fantastic wrestler besides John on its squad-Jim McKeown, who carried an unbeaten record into the conference. Both men lived up to expectations by winning the individual titles in their respective weights. There was also a third Johnnie that year to win an individual title, senior Judd Pribyl, who outpointed the defending champion Don Messegna of St. Thomas in the 177 pound class, 5-4. It was an exciting match, and when it was over a happy mob of Johnnie students carried the winner off the mat. It was a sure sign that finally wrestling had found a way into the Johnnie hearts. It was the happiest day of Judd Pribyl's life.

Although the Jays won four individual championships, they could muster only enough points for fourth place in the conference. St. Olaf won the MIAC championship. As for John Weimerskirch, after winning his third straight consecutive title and amassing a record of 59 wins and two losses, he was awarded the Carl Larson Memorial Trophy, an award given to the outstanding wrestler in an MIAC tournament.

- 1951-52 -

Entering the 1951-52 wrestling season Athletic Director George Durenberger appointed John Weimerskirch wrestling coach, with captain-elect Jim McKeown as his principal pal and adviser. Both men were previous MIAC champions and most certainly the best informed and most capable wrestlers on campus. There was a large turnout of candidates for the squad, among them only five veterans. To counteract the small number of veterans was the leadership ability of the two expert wrestlers. With luck they were bound to go far.

Under careful guidance and coaching the team managed to carry a 6-2 record for the season. Highlight of the season was the Jays' defeat of St. Cloud Teachers College by a score of 20-13 in their first match. It was a remarkable achievement, because St. Cloud had been the previous year's Northwest A.A.U. champion. Pins by John Weimerskirch and Leo Kemper led the way.

The 1952 wrestling team made history in March of that year by bringing home its first MIAC wrestling championship. It was the first outright St. John's championship in any sport in ten years. Four of the eight individual championships were won by St. John's: John Weimerskirch (145), Jim McKeown (157), Fred

Grant (130) and Clem Schoenbauer at heavyweight. Beginning with this championship, St. John's was not to give up the title for the next seven years. 1952 marks the end of John Weimerskirch's wrestling career at St. John's, one of the most remarkable in MIAC wrestling history. John was a brilliant wrestler. He began his wrestling career in Litchfield, Minnesota, where he won the state high school championship, first at 98 pounds in his junior year and at 133 pounds in his senior year. As a freshman at St. John's he won his first MIAC championship at 147 pounds, then repeated as champion in his sophomore, junior and senior years at the same weight. The team recognized his unusual ability and elected him to the captaincy in both his sophomore and junior years. He had qualities of leadership also, for when the athletic director appointed him as wrestling coach for the 1951-52 season, he coached the Johnnies to the first championship in St. John's wrestling history.

John Weimerskirch's record is best seen in his won-loss record: 82 victories versus only two losses, and the all-conference award in each of his four years of competition. To top off all the long lists of first, he was the first MIAC wrestler to receive the Carl Larson Memorial Trophy, awarded annually to the outstanding MIAC wrestler for the year.

After graduation, John Weimerskirch entered the Navy and retired in 1971 with the rank of commander. He continued his education since his retirement, and though presently engaged as an engineering technician, he has an advanced degree in education. He writes, "If ever you need a wrestling coach with an advanced degree in higher education administration, let me know."

- 1952-53 -

Jim McKeown took over the coaching duties of wrestling in the fall of 1952. It was reported: "The team has its largest turn-out in St. John's history with only one veteran missing from the last year's squad—John Weimerskirch." Fred Grant, a 1950 individual MIAC champion, was elected captain.

Early in the season the Johnnie matmen, including Captain Fred Grant, were plagued with various injuries, but Coach Jim McKeown was unworried, feeling that somehow he would field a full squad.

The coach's optimism was rewarded for, after overcoming the injuries, the team produced a 9-2 winning record which included a streak of six straight dual meets—the best performance of any wrestling team prior to this date.

Entering the MIAC wrestling tournament March 5, 1953, the Jays were the overwhelming favorite for the crown and, in fact, proved it conclusively by out-wrestling St. Thomas by twelve points. The Jays won five individual titles and three second-place finishes. Jim McKeown won his third straight title and was awarded the Carl Johnson Memorial Trophy as the tournament's outstanding wrestler. Fred Grant won his second straight title at 130 pounds. Other winners were Jerre Miller at 123 pounds, Leo Kemper at 177 pounds, and Robert Forster at heavyweight.

- 1953-54 -

In the fall of 1953 George Durenberger appointed Jerre Miller as wrestling coach for the year. With only five lettermen on which to build his first team, he had his work cut out for him. He had a successful season, however, with an 8-2-1 record, the team's one loss being to strong South Dakota State, 22-8. The team entered the MIAC meet a heavy favorite to capture the conference championship.

On March 6, 1953, St. John's won its third consecutive MIAC title with 50 points based on six first-place individual championships and two second-place wins. The 50 points garnered by St. John's doubled runner-up Gustavus's 24 points. Winning individual championships were Lou Adderley (130 pounds), Sy Weber

(147)-now Fr. Otto, O.S.B., presently director and facilities manager at the Warner Palaestra- DeVaughn Nelson at 177 pounds, Tom Kempley at 157, Jim Tacheny at 177 pounds, and Leo Kemper, heavyweight.

- 1954-55 -

The job of defending the St. John's title for the 1954-55 season was given to Jim Tacheny, the new player-coach. With him were two veteran champions to assist him in winning the fourth championship.

The season again turned out to be a success, with the team winning six straight dual meets in an overall record of eight wins against three losses. The Jays defeated every MIAC opponent handily but lost to non-conference foes, St. Cloud twice and South Dakota State once. In a dual meet with St. Thomas, the two teams set the largest number of points registered in any previous meet in a score of 30-10. St. John's won 20 points by pins and 10 by forfeit; St. Thomas won 10 points by two falls.

In the MIAC meet held that year at St. John's, the Jays successfully defended their title for the fourth time. They squeezed by Macalester by a close score, 43-41. Player-coach Jim Tacheny at 167 pounds, DeVaughn Nelson at 157, and Donald Flynn at 137 pounds won divisional titles. Unlucky Lou Adderley suffered a back injury in his final match and had to forfeit his 123 pound title to Kerr of St. Thomas.

- 1955-56 -

Going into the 1955-56 season, player-coach DeVaughn Nelson had the problem of working an inexperienced team daily in order to get his new men prepared for the defense of the wrestling title. It was especially difficult this year because one champion of the previous year, one runner up, and four other first-string men had either graduated or transferred to the University of Minnesota. The determination and rigorous training of the Jay matmen paid off, however, in a very satisfactory 8-4 season. Coach Nelson personally racked up seven straight wins in his 167 division.

In the March 3 MIAC meet, St. John's retained its conference championship for an unprecedented fifth straight time. Four Johnnies acquired individual titles: Coach Nelson his third title at 167 pounds, Donald Flynn his second at 137, Mike Gibbs at 147, and Larry Betzler at 157. Al Eisele, a later *Record* sportswriter, in a study of the five years 1952-56, found that the Jays by now had totaled twenty-three individual championships in all, with championships in each weight classification.

- 1956-57 -

Sophomore Larry Betzler was appointed coach for the 1956-57 season, the only returning wrestler with an MIAC title. As was expected, the shortage of experienced wrestlers made the work of coaching doubly difficult, but Betzler was a hustler and an enthusiast who insisted on hard work and dedication. The record of the Jays prior to the conference meet was mediocre, five wins in the conference meets and two losses, but a good record overall that made the possibility of retaining the championship at least worth anticipating.

Despite misgivings, some of them justifiable, St. John's won its sixth straight championship by the slender margin of 59-58, a one-point advantage over powerful Concordia. Concordia won three individual championships against two for St. John's (Betzler in the 147 class and John O'Fallon in the 167). The St. John's depth proved just a point too much for the Cobbers. Gary Sauer and Pat Walrath were runners up in the tournament.

It was what were called "the shock troops" that pulled out the victory: namely, Jerry Dalseth, Arnie Mages, Roger Ludwig, and Dean Hall. Of these men, Dean Hall was the only one who would be missing in the

following year. Once more things were looking good for the future!

- 1957-58-

On the opening day of wrestling practice in November, 1957, the squad was greeted by the new coach Mike O'Fallon, a member of the faculty and a former MIAC champion, the first non-student coach in St. John's wrestling history. The new coach had reason to be optimistic since on the team were two MIAC champions, Larry Betzler and John O'Fallon, and two runners up, Gary Sauer and Pat Walrath.

It was an eminently successful season. The Johnnies piled up a record number of nine meet victories versus only one defeat at the hands of St. Thomas by a score of 18-14. It was an off-day meet in which unusual things happened, for Larry Betzler, the three-year standby of the Johnnies, suffered his first defeat in fourteen encounters.

The string of St. John's victories and their scores was impressive. The Johnnies defeated Macalester 30-5, St. Thomas, in a return match, 25-8, and Gustavus 35-5. In non-conference meets St. John's also defeated Marquette 19-9 and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee 23-9.

The St. John's grapplers again showed their power in the MIAC tournament by taking the conference title by a margin of 16 points over its nearest competitor, Macalester, 72-56. Individual titlists were Gary Sauer, 123 pounds; Larry Betzler, 147 pounds; and James Kuelbs, who wrestled at 157. MIAC team standings for the season were St. John's first, 72 points; Macalester second, 56; Gustavus third, 42; St. Thomas fourth, 35 points; Concordia fifth, 29 points; Augsburg sixth, 27 points.

The 1958 champions took part in the first NAIA wrestling tournament at Mankato the week following the MIAC meet. The Johnnies tied for seventh place in the tournament, Gary Sauer taking third place in the 123 pound classification. Larry Betzler advanced to the consolation finals but was decided by Tom Tessler of Northern Illinois University, the eventual winner of the national championship.

- 1958-59 -

In 1958-59 the athletic department reverted to the former policy of using student-coaches in the training of its wrestling team. The new student-coach, Jim Kuelbs, a talented athlete and wrestler, found himself in charge of one of the top teams in the MIAC of his time. Prospects of a winning season were excellent and the successful defense of the 1958 championship seemed assured.

The season opened with a 29-3 defeat of North Dakota State, followed by a third-place finish in the Carleton Invitational. St. John's pace-setters in the field of fourteen teams were Bob Dumonceaux, heavyweight, Gary Sauer at 123 pounds, John O'Fallon, 177 pounds, and Jim Kuelbs at 157. In an early-season match with Marquette University, St. John's came up with a 29-9 victory, followed closely by a defeat of St. Thomas 21-4. Coach Jim Kuelbs pinned his man in one minute, thirty-six seconds.

In a quadrangular meet hosted by Carleton, young Tom Brudos, Gary Sauer, freshmen Jerry O'Rourke and Bob Dumonceaux led the way to a first-place finish. But it was not easy sailing in every encounter. In a meet held at South Dakota State, the Johnnies dropped again to third place behind powerful University of Minnesota with its 96 points and South Dakota's 55 points. St. John's garnered 48 points. In dual meets the Johnnies continued to have their ups and downs, defeating Macalester 20-9 but losing to Bemidji 24-8 (they had red faces over this one).

Meanwhile the youthful freshmen were making their way upward, winning matches and displacing their less talented elders. They were Bob Randall, John Fritz, Jerry O'Rourke, Fred Philipson, and Bob Mariana, all

talented wrestlers following the examples of the standbys Gary Sauer, Tom Brudos, Larry Betzler, John O'Fallon, Jim Kuelbs and Bob Dumonceaux. Except for possible accidents and unforeseen circumstances, the way looked clear for a repetition of the MIAC crown.

St. John's entered the 1958-59 MIAC tourney with a very respectable 8-3-1 won-loss-tie record for the season. The Johnnies did very well in the meet. Individual champions were Gary Sauer at 123 pounds, Tom Brudos at 130, freshman Jerry Dalseth at 137, Larry Betzler at 147 (his fourth in succession), and Jim Kuelbs at 157 (his second consecutive title). Bob Dumonceaux took third place in the 191 category and Bob Mariana third place in the heavyweight division. But Macalester tied the Johnnies with 76 points.

This tie score with Macalester furnishes one of those ironies that takes place when a strong wrestling team with an abundance of firstplace winners can be defeated or tied by a weaker one which, though unable to win first places, manages to win enough second, third, even fourth and fifth places to defeat the stronger team. This happened in the 1959 MIAC meet. St. John's won five first places in individual championships, three more than Macalester. The Macs, however, placed seven men in the final rounds, five of them finishing second and two of them fourth-enough in points to tie the stronger St. John's. Leading the St. John's pack were Larry Betzler who won his fourth straight 147-pound title and Jim Kuelbs at 157 pounds. The three remaining 1959 champions were Gary Sauer, Tom Brudos and Jerry Dalseth at 123, 130 and 137 pounds respectively.

- 1959-60 -

The young St. John's wrestling team failed by a single point in their quest for a ninth straight MIAC championship in the meet held on the Colledgeville campus, March 5, 1960. The Macalester "Scotsmen," who had tied the Jays in 1959, won the 1960 title with a total of 64 points to the 63 of St. John's.

There was considerable chagrin in the Johnnie camp when the realization sank in that, after a period of eight years of victories, St. John's found itself in second place by the hairline margin of one measly point. On the other hand, the teams had tied the year before, and by the law of averages (if there is such a thing) some one of the Minnesota colleges was bound to catch up sometime. The bad luck simply took place in 1960, a year the Jays expected to win the title for the ninth time.

Student-coach Jim Kuelbs had a good day of it, however. He not only won the championship in the 167 class for the third time, but he was also awarded the Carl Larson Trophy, granted annually to the outstanding wrestler of the conference meet. But the real surprise of the meet was that St. John's second personal championship was won by Pat Murtaugh, a freshman, in the 157 class.

While enumerating the strokes of good fortune, it may be well to mention the hard luck of freshman Thomas Frank, who, after winning his first two matches, in the third suffered the excruciating pain of a dislocated elbow and hence was forced to forfeit his match. An enterprising calculator might assume that if Frank had not suffered his accident the one-point advantage of Macalester would have vanished into thin air and St. John's would then have won its ninth successive championship.

Quality performers on the St. John's squad mentioned in the final report are the following: Douglas Svihel, third, 123 pound class; Ben Pulkrabek, second, 177 class; Bob Dumonceaux, second, heavyweight; Jerry O'Rourke, third, heavyweight; Steve Dalseth, third, 137 class; John Fritz, third, 147 class.

The MIAC standings for 1960 are the following: Macalester (1), 64 points; St. John's (2), 63; St. Thomas (3), 53; Augsburg (4), 42; Gustavus (5), 26; Concordia (6), 22.

- 1960-61 -

Following the graduation of Jim Kuelbs, senior Robert Dumonceaux was appointed wrestling coach for the year 1960-61. During his first season the Jays posted an overall record of six wins and three losses. In competition with the MIAC colleges, the record was five meet wins and one loss.

In the MIAC meet held in March, 1961, St. John's dropped to third place, despite four St. John's wrestlers reaching the finals. Sophomore Ben Pulkrabek in the 191 class was the only St. John's division champion of the meet; in fact, he was beginning to show signs of becoming the outstanding wrestler of the entire period. To date he had won 17 individual matches with only one defeat. Bob Dumonceaux's record was 15 wins and three losses.

But Augsburg, gradually improving its MIAC status over a period of years, finally came to the front by winning the 1961 title, 58 points to Macalester's 51 and St. John's 49.

- 1961-62 -

From a large squad there were twelve to carry on St. John's wrestling fortunes into 1962: five freshmen—James Aust, Gerry Faust, Mike Lane, Tony Leifeld; three sophomores—Steve Dalseth, Ben Pulkrabek and Douglas Svihel; three juniors—John Fritz, Donald Noltmier and Jerry O'Rourke.

1962 was a championship year. Former student-coach Robert Dumonceaux, who entered the mathematics department as an instructor, was re-appointed by Athletic Director George Durenberger to take over the wrestling team. Bob Dumonceaux was the second non-student coach to undertake the leadership in wrestling. He was capable, for the team enjoyed a 10-3 record through the regular season and at the MIAC annual tournament brought to St. John's its ninth conference championship in a period of eleven years. With a total score of 70 points, St. John's defeated runner-up Concordia 70-57 and dropped Augsburg to third place 70-52.

In the MIAC meet St. John's wrestlers won four first place individual championships: Tony Leifeld in the 123 pound classification, John Fruth (a freshman) at 130 pounds, John Fritz, 147 pounds, and Ben Pulkrabek, heavyweight. Other point winners were John Kuelbs third in the 157 division, Dick Steidler, Glenn Rother, Don Schreifels,

Gerry Faust and Dave Schaefer winning points in different classifications.

- 1962-63 -

In 1962-63 St. John's reverted to its traditional policy of appointing a student-coach to handle the wrestling team, the honor in this case being bestowed on Ben Pulkrabek, the outstanding wrestler of the past two years. Spirits were again high, and the Johnnies were confident of their ability to defend their 1962 conference title.

With a successful early season behind them (five wins, two losses and one tie), they entered the meet, poised and certain that they would emerge as victors. Their self-confidence was justified, for they won their tenth championship in a period of twelve years, though in a way they had not anticipated. The Johnnies won no first places. Five of their top wrestlers entered the finals, but had to settle for five corresponding second places. It was balance and depth, those precious qualities that all teams desire, which won for them. From the beginning of the season they had worked under a handicap by not having a sure-fire first-place member on their team when Ben Pulkrabek, their standby for the two preceding years, had to withdraw from competition because of academic problems.

St. John's won five second places in the following classifications: freshman Rick Spano, 130 pounds, John

Faust 137, James Brum 157, Don Schreifels 165, Gerry Faust 191 pounds. Jim Keul (165) and Don Hinz (177) each won third places. Douglas Svihel took fourth place.

Ironically, it was through St. Thomas that St. John's won the championship. While the Jays were having their troubles winning their five second places, strong Concordia was gradually creeping up on them. But, luckily, St. Thomas defeated the upcoming Cobbers, thereby depriving them of the chance to close in on the 57-54 advantage of St. John's.

The outstanding wrestler for the Johnnies was Jim Brum, but he was upset in the finals and, like the rest of the top performers, had to settle for second place. The MIAC meet scores for the 1963 season were the following: St. John's 57, Concordia 54, Gustavus 50, Augsburg 43, St. Thomas 32, Macalester 28.

- 1963-64-

John Kuelbs succeeded Bob Dumonceaux as wrestling coach for 1963-64. Lack of perfect balance was apparent from the beginning of the conference meets when the Johnnies suffered a 23-11 trouncing by Concordia on the St. John's floor. It was the first St. John's loss of the season, since the team had defeated the University of North Dakota State earlier. St. John's lost the first three matches to the Cobbers' lightweight performers. In the fourth match John Faust was decisioned 4-0. Jim Keul, Jim Brum and Don Schreifels then picked up three wins that were followed by a tie. Stan Suchta, heavyweight, won his match.

The next reported dual meet ended in a decisive victory over St. Thomas, 28-8, with a revamped line-up that gave promise of better things to come. But that was not to be. The MIAC colleges had all tightened up their wrestling teams and the Johnnies left the conference tournament at Gustavus Adolphus in third place, overcome by what the reporter called the "tremendous balance" of Concordia that had made the Cobbers the pre-season favorites for the conference crown.

The wrestling standings of the conference at the end of the tournament were as follows: Concordia, first place and champions, 69 points, Gustavus 58 points, St. John's 56, Macalester 49, Augsburg 35, St. Thomas 23, Hamline 3. As for individual scoring by the Johnnies, Don Schreifels (177 pounds) was the lone St. John's champion. John Faust was runnerup in his weight (137). Jim Keul, also in the 137 pound class, almost came up with the surprise of the meet but was decisioned 1-0. Jim Brum was third in the 157 pound class. Stan Suchta and Mike Arens took fourth place in the heavyweight and 177 pound divisions respectively.

- 1964-65 -

When the 1965 wrestling season rolled around, a change in the coaching policy was immediately apparent. Wrestling had begun to decline in quality, though not because of lack of student interest. Interest was as lively as before-so much so that the student-coaches were being overburdened by the large number of candidates aspiring for fame on the wrestling mat. The student-coaches were paying the price of sports popularity by losing valuable time for their studies. Hence it was that in the fall of 1964 Robert Dumonceaux, a member of the faculty, was appointed wrestling coach.

The season opened with a resounding defeat by powerful St. Cloud State to the tune of 35-6. A defeat by Gustavus followed. In the Carleton Invitational, however, St. John's placed third in a large field, but behind Concordia and Gustavus. Emerging from these early contests were a few dependable point winners such as the senior star wrestler Donald Schreifels, and a powerful freshman from Iowa named Maury Neifeld, and Dave Carroll, heavyweight.

By the time the MIAC tournament came up, St. John's had a somewhat mediocre record of four wins, six

losses, and one tie. Complete statistics of the meet were not published, though the final result squeaked through the silence that St. John's had placed third behind Concordia and Gustavus, as had been predicted. The one star of the meet was senior Donald Schreifels who, besides his two consecutive MIAC individual championships, ended his wrestling career with an overall record of 36 victories, 12 losses, and one tie. Freshman Maury Neifeld won his first championship at 191 pounds.

The lack of a complete listing of all the St. John's contestants who took part in the meet makes it impossible to mention who the other performers were. Among them were certain to have been Jim Brum, Dave Carroll, James Keul, Rick Spano, Roger Trobec, John Schaubach and Larry Anthony.

- 1965-66 -

Bob Dumonceaux coached his 1965-66 wrestling team to a very respectable 6-3 season with six dual meet victories and three losses. In the MIAC tournament the Jays took third place in a tough field of seasoned athletes. He started the season with eleven lettermen from 1965, but only one individual champion, Maury Neifeld, the powerful Iowan who was the lone winner of first place in the heavyweight division. Neifeld returned to Iowa to enter the state university at the beginning of the second semester, however, leaving the coach without a single champion for the remainder of the 1965-66 season. His absence was particularly felt because Gustavus and Concordia so dominated the field that the other colleges were completely out-classed-St. John's included.

Nevertheless, the pre-MIAC tournament record was impressive. The Jays took third place in the tough Carleton Invitational, and in dual meets won five straight victories over the following schools: Minnesota-Morris 25-10, St. Thomas 25-6, Carleton 36-10, Bethel 21-5, and the University of North Dakota 26-16. Impressive as were the scores of these meets, the losses were horrendous: 11-27 to Gustavus, 8-25 to Augsburg, 11-30 to Concordia. Outstanding performers for the year were Brad Haycraft, Tom Beyers, Phil Hartle, John Schaubach, Mike Oehler and Jim Keul.

The statistics of the 1966 MIAC tournament were not published. As a result, the following list of returning lettermen with their weights from the preview for the 1966-67 season is all the information available for the 1966 team: Tom Scanlan (123), Tom Beyers (137), Larry Anthony (161), Frank Schwab (152), Tom Edmond (160), Brad Haycraft (130), Phil Hartle (177), James Bisek (177), Bill Formen (177), Don Generous (177), Mike Haider (191), Michael Oehler (191), James Keul (177).

- 1966-67 -

It was an optimistic Coach Dumonceaux who opened up the 1966-67 wrestling season. He realized that his squad was inexperienced for the most part, but he was also convinced that the individual wrestlers had the most potential of any squad he had coached prior to this time. Injuries set the team back early, however. His team captain, Mike Oehler, suffered a torn knee cartilage and was supposedly out for the season. Thomas Wollmering, an ex-Prep wrestler of great promise, also damaged a knee and had to undergo surgery that definitely sidelined him for the remainder of the season. These major injuries, plus the current slight injuries that always hold up a team's progress, were discouraging without, however, changing the coach's feeling that better things were ahead.

The result of the injuries and delays, so the *Record* reported, was a dreary seasonal start, highlighted by three straight losses to St. Cloud State, the University of North Dakota, and Gustavus. Nevertheless, progress was made, for Captain Mike Oehler's knee mended without surgery and he was able to return to the squad after the Christmas holidays.

It was a happy event; the *Record* reported a resurgence in power despite the lackluster start. St. John's

hopes climbed upward as the squad took first honors in two dual victories in Northfield, the defeat of St. Olaf 32-3, and of Carleton 25-15, thereby raising the season's record to three wins and three losses. Moreover, the weight department was improved by the addition of three big men: Dave Tripp, Tom Schutta and Phil Ledermann.

The outcome of the MIAC meet justified Coach Dumonceaux's optimism. The March 6, 1967, issue of the *Record* carried the headline: "Westby and Beyer Grasp Trophies as St. John's U. Matmen Regain Old Prowess." In holding third place, Dumonceaux felt that the team looked like the Johnnies of old. Haycraft at 130, Denny Scherer at 160, Phil Hartle at 177 and Captain Mike Oehler at 191, all took third places. Brad Haycraft defeated the 130 pound defending champion. Bob Dumonceaux deserved the coach of the year award for a magnificent job in bringing up youngsters-freshmen and sophomores-to a challenging position against experience-hardened MIAC wrestlers. The third place finish in this particular year, as reporter Woodie Woodward observed, "resulted from the efforts of three freshmen, five sophomores, one junior and one senior." It was a young team and, given the continued influx of talented freshmen, St. John's was set for a great future in wrestling, a new beginning for the sport at St. John's.

- 1967-68-

Terry Haws took over as wrestling coach in the fall of 1967 at a time when the fortunes of the St. John's wrestling program had been on a decline for several years. An experienced coach, first at St. James, Minnesota, and then at St. Cloud Cathedral, he had enjoyed a fantastically successful coaching career in football and wrestling. He was fully aware of the weaknesses of the team he was taking over, but was resolved to make the most of what he had as the nucleus for a new start. He set as goal for his first year a second place, if not first place, finish in the MIAC.

Captain Philip Hartle was unable to compete with the team before Christmas because of an injury, but Terry had, among others, heavyweights Dave Tripp and Dave Carroll, Bob Sullivan (135), and Tom Goebel (123) to take up the slack.

After a good record in the regular schedule of dual meets, the team was still no better than a darkhorse for the title and lacked depth. But the wrestlers were well trained and prepared. In the MIAC meet, held on February 24, the Jays took fourth place behind strong Augsburg, Concordia and Gustavus. Coach Haws was disappointed but was satisfied that the team would be a contender for the championship in 1969.

- 1968-69 -

Following the end of the 1968 season Terry had been busy recruiting, though it could hardly have been called that, it was so casual. He was well-known as a wrestling coach of superior ability, especially in Catholic high school circles, and after his first season succeeded in attracting five Catholic high school champions to St. John's. He had his own system. It was simply a matter of writing a note to wrestlers here and there, a note of congratulations for a victory, or good wishes for an upcoming meet, and the promise of a cheery welcome if and when they came to St. John's. His policy was not to contact the first-place winners in the state; the ones he preferred above all were the second and third place winners, the ones whose abilities he knew to be excellent but who would be passed over in silence by the big schools. Terry's system was recruiting on a high level!

Among his first five recruits from Catholic high schools were Tom O'Neil, James Kavanaugh, David Johnson and Leo Dehler, all of whom played prominent roles in the success of St. John's wrestling program. Most prominent among a few others was Gary Svendsen, a freshman from Coon Rapids who had taken second place in the state high school wrestling meet in his senior year.

The new freshmen quickly gave proof of their superior training in high school. St. John's finished as a strong second-place contender in the 1969 wrestling meet-the runner-up to Augsburg. Terry was disappointed but not discouraged and predicted good things to come if the team would improve as rapidly as it had in the past season. Captain Dave Tripp would be the only loss to the team, and the talented freshmen would then be stronger, experienced sophomores. A sign of things to come was Gary Svendsen's capture of first place in the 118 weight classification, the beginning of an illustrious career. Eight of the eleven men competing were freshmen.

- 1969-70 -

The 1969 wrestlers had one of the best starts in St. John's athletic history. After the team had streaked through dual meet after dual meet with twelve victories, they accepted a bid to the Pillsbury Invitational. St. John's won first place in the eight-team tournament and followed up the victory with two more dual meet wins, bringing their number of undefeated meets to fourteen for the year.

Balance was the key to the victories, with Terry Elfering, Gary Svendsen, Bob Sullivan, Dave Johnson, Captain Henry Wollmering, Denny Legatt, Tom Miller, Larry Ackerman and Gary Eustice shouldering most of the load. The resurgence of wrestling on the St. John's campus was obviously due to the competence of the coach and his recruits.

In the February 21, 1970 MIAC meet, the Johnnies were competing successfully for the championship when two bad breaks spoiled their chances and they had to be satisfied with second place in the conference. First, Dave Johnson (130) suffered a neck injury and had to forfeit his match. Then followed a questionable call in overtime that cost freshman Gary Eustice his heavyweight crown. Outstanding performers were Gary Svendsen (134), Gordon Molitor (150), Dennis Legatt (158), Larry Ackerman (167), Henry Wollmering (177) and Tom Miller (heavyweight).

The National Catholic Invitational Tournament

Terry Haws, for all his quiet ways, was not content with merely local fame. He was certain that his wrestlers stood a good chance of performing well against any college in the country, and hence he accepted with alacrity an invitation to the National Catholic Invitational Tournament to be hosted by John Carroll College in Cleveland, Ohio. It offered a new opportunity to compete in a national tournament that was better known than the Minnesota MIAC, and Terry was elated to receive the invitation.

The competition, he afterwards reported, was the strongest St. John's had ever confronted-Notre Dame, Marquette, John Carroll, Dayton University, St. Vincent, Duquesne and other Eastern colleges. But the Johnnies responded to the challenge with their best performance of the season, capturing three individual titles and ending in second place behind John Carroll. Finalist winners of championships were Gary Svendsen, Tom Miller and Henry "Hank" Wollmering, the last named being chosen as the outstanding wrestler of the tournament.

- 1970-71 -

To tell the whole story of wrestling 1970-71 as reported by wrestler Tom Miller in the pages of the *Record*, would require more space than this history affords. It is the story of a team of fiery, championship hungry young wrestlers directed by a calm middle-aged coach who possessed interiorly all the fire of his protégés, plus the ambition to make St. John's known nationally in wrestling as well as in football.

The St. John's "grapplers," as they were popularly called in the school paper, had a great year. In the preliminary part of the season the Jays won the Augsburg Invitational by a score of 27-11 (*Record*, January

22, 1971, p. 4). Prior to this, however, on November 21, St. John's had twelve place-winners in the Bemidji Invitational, in competition with twelve other Minnesota colleges (*Record*, January 22, 1971): Tom and Gary Svendsen (126 and 134 pounds), heavyweight Gary Eustice, Terry Elfering, Jim Cudi, Tony Schoenecker, Joel Hagen, Dennis Leggatt, Kurt Wachtler, Tony Fike and Jerry Workman.

Then followed a setback in the Carleton Invitational in which Augsburg edged St. John's for first place—a setback St. John's redeemed by a first place victory in the Pillsbury Invitational.

The MIAC conference championship meet was one of those close contests that are won only in the last match, a masterpiece by Jerry Workman. With the score 93-90 in favor of St. John's, Workman pinned his two-time Augsburg champion opponent in a match that put St. John's ahead 96-93. Then, with the outcome still in doubt, Tom Miller pinned his Gustavus opponent and the meet ended with St. John's the winner 100-97, the 1970-71 champions.

The Jays were jubilant. But there was little time for mere rejoicing. The following week came the National Catholic Invitational Tournament at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.

With a ten-man team Coach Haws engineered the Jays into an early lead in the NCIT that they never relinquished. All ten men survived into the semi-finals. In the finals St. John's won six first place individual championships and two third places for the Catholic title—the second championship for St. John's in eight days.

- 1971-72-

John Elwell, a *Record* reporter, wrote that "The St. John's University wrestling squad is the best Catholic university squad in the nation. Only a few years ago, when football stole the limelight, wrestling was just one of the 'off season' sports here at St. John's. . . . The man responsible for the recent success is Head Wrestling Coach, Terry Haws" (*Record*, October 14, 1971).

Actually, Terry Haws was only in the middle point of an illustrious career that would have established a dynasty of wrestlers, such as the state of Minnesota had never seen before, had he maintained his good health. He was the master recruiter and the master coach, the man who with only a note of congratulations or a word of encouragement to a high school wrestler attracted him to St. John's.

But Terry had a heart problem, and on February 2, 1972, following a dual meet with Augsburg that ended in a 15-15 tie, he suffered a massive heart attack that left him bedridden for two months. He was unable to take care of his team on the following February 19 for the MIAC championship title, but under the supervision of Fr. Otto Weber, O.S.B., and Larry Haws, the coach's brother, the team came through with a victory, the second MIAC championship in Terry's four years at St. John's.

It was a tough meet. Augsburg was strong with several top drawer individual performers, but balance prevailed and the Jays won by a score of 95.5 by St. John's, 89.5 by Augsburg, and 61 by Concordia. Terry Elfering and freshman Joe Hayes were the only St. John's wrestlers who won championship titles. Depth counted, however, and the needed points were scored by the tried and experienced Tom and Gary Svendsen (126 and 134 pounds), Tony Fike (150), Dennis Legatt (158), Larry Osterhaus (167), Jerry Workman (177), and Gary Eustice (heavyweight).

Since Coach Terry Haws was unable to accompany the team to Cleveland for the National Catholic Invitational Tournament, the team was under the direction of Larry Haws. The team did well and won the Catholic tournament handily. Terry Haws, though absent, received the honor of being named "Catholic Coach of the Year." As had become the usual thing, St. John's sent representatives to take part in the NAIA

national tournament held that year at Klamath Falls, Oregon. The Jays placed seventh in a field of 98 colleges. Gary Svendsen won first place in the 134pound division and was named All-American, the first St. John's wrestler up to this time to win that title in the NAIA.

- 1972-73 -

Terry Haws, though still unwell after his heart attack, again took over his wrestling duties for the academic year 1972-73. Despite the illness of the coach, the team showed all its former power, and new additions to the squad were manifesting his uncanny ability to recognize wrestling talent and then mold it into his teams.

The 1973 season opened auspiciously. The Johnnies streaked through a series of four dual meets with victories over St. Thomas 35-6, St. Mary's 38-6, Augsburg 20-17, University of Minnesota- Morris 20-8. There was no doubt in the conference that St. John's was the favorite for the 1973 title.

Early in February Terry accompanied his team to Cleveland for the National Catholic Invitational Tournament, although he had been urged not to go because of his health. Arriving in Cleveland, he had another massive heart attack while dining with the team and died before they could get him to a hospital.

There was consternation in the St. John's camp, but since the team was already in Cleveland it was decided to go ahead with the tournament. Under the care of Fr. Otto Weber, a former SJU wrestler, and Larry Haws, the team did well but had to settle for a third place finish. Host John Carroll University took first place, Marquette second, only one point ahead of the storming Johnnies. While the older members of the team performed up to their abilities, the younger element, possibly disturbed by the death of their coach, did not do as well as was expected.

The St. John's wrestling team pulled itself together shortly after the tragic death of their coach. As the *Record* put it, "It took the trio of Fr. Otto Weber, Tony Fike and Gary Svendsen to compensate for the loss of Terry Haws" (*Record*, March 2, 1973). Augsburg was still the arch-rival of St. John's, but the Johnnies met them head-on and won the MIAC championship by a score of 93-90, the third championship in four years. The power of SJU was manifested by their taking half of the individual titles. Primarily responsible for winning the title The Jays were jubilant. But there was little time for mere rejoicing. The following week came the National Catholic Invitational Tournament at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio.

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Record. In fact, it was a team effort that was inspired by the memory of their coach Terry Haws.

It would be a gross oversight to omit a word in praise of Terry Haws. We cannot tell the whole story, for his success in coaching was only one aspect of a full Christian life, both as a teacher and a public citizen. But the thousand people who packed the St. Cloud Cathedral at his funeral tell that story—men from all walks of life, students, twenty-six priest concelebrants (sixteen from St. John's, ten from St. Cloud parishes)—testify to the universal esteem he was held at St. John's and the Diocese of St. Cloud. What attracted people to him was his capacity to understand—he was a good listener and for those in trouble he found an answer, and if he did not have it at first, he would work at it until he found it.

In many ways his teams were an outward expression of himself. The key to his success as a coach, said one of his protégés, was his "contagious confidence." The week before a crucial meet he devoted to the development of self-confidence in his wrestlers. He called attention to their good points, their strengths and chances to win. He told them that any capable wrestler, given good luck, could defeat a national champion. They all knew of his confidence in them, and by listening to him it became theirs. Tom Svendsen said of him: "He instilled confidence. He made you think the opponent's first mistake was stepping on the mat with you. And when you believed, it became true" (*Record*, March 2, 1973). His wrestlers were grateful to him for more things than wrestling. He taught them to stand on their own feet, whether on the mat or in life, and to fear no duty.

In the funeral sermon Fr. Ray Schultzenberg read a paraphrase of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter nine, vv. 24-27, that Terry had made a guide for his life work: "In a race everyone runs but only one gets the prize. So, run your race to win. To win the contest you must deny yourself many things that would keep you from doing your best. An athlete goes through all this trouble just to win a blue ribbon or a gold medal or silver cup. But we also do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I am not shadow boxing or playing around. Like an athlete I punish my body, treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to. Otherwise I fear that, after enlisting others for the race, I myself might be declared unfit, or ineligible, and ordered to stand aside." Terry's teaching covered the whole of life, student life and life after college, and he exemplified it in everything he said or did.

- 1973-74 -

For the 1973-74 season new Athletic Director Jim Smith secured the services of Roger Ludwig to take the place of Terry Haws. Roger, an outstanding St. John's football player and wrestler who graduated in 1959, was an inspiring and vigorous leader. When he took over the head coaching position, the Johnnies were riding high on a string of 58 undefeated dual meets. But always strong Augsburg during these years was determined to break it. All-American Tom Svendsen (brother of Gary), who had not returned for the first semester, was out of shape and fell victim to a 6-1 decision. Dave Kalkman also lost his match, Dave Riley tied his, and Brad Eustice lost his heavyweight match. It was enough to break the four-year string of MIAC championships.

The loss to Augsburg awakened the Jays. In the MIAC meet, held at Hamline in late February, the Jays made a decisive comeback and won their fourth straight title, out-wrestling Augsburg by a total of 104 points to 75.5. Conference championships were won by Jay Huffman at 118 pounds, Tom Svendsen (134), Larry Osterhaus (150), Jerry Workman (177) and Greg Miller (heavyweight).

There are no reports to indicate that St. John's took part in the National Catholic Invitational for this year, but they did attend the NAIA national meet held at River Falls, Wisconsin. Co-captain Tom Svendsen captured All-American honors for the third time in two years when he placed third in the NAIA national championship meet. He lost only one match, that to the eventual 134 pound champion of the University of

Wisconsin, but clinched third place by a 3-0 victory in the consolation finals.

The 1974 wrestling tourney marks the last season, from 1969-74, that the name of a Svendsen brother ever failed to find a prominent place in the St. John's wrestling annals. Gary, the older brother, left behind him a record of 105 victories versus only nine losses. Except for his freshman year when he wrestled at 118 pounds, he competed for the following three years at 134 pounds. In his career he was awarded three all-conference titles (1969-72), losing out only in his senior year when, just at the end of a heart-breaker match, he was decisioned by an Augsburg College friend. For once the "Haws' luck" failed him.

In his four years, Gary won the All-American award twice—in fact, he was the first St. John's wrestler to win this award for his coach, Terry Haws. He was also a National Catholic champion twice.

Tom Svendsen was not less famous than his older brother Gary. He graduated in 1974 with an almost identical record of 96 victories versus twelve losses. Like his brother, he was a three-time recipient of all-conference honors, beginning with his sophomore year. He was awarded All-American honors three times, twice in one year, and was a champion place-winner in the National Catholic Invitational Tourney in 1971, '73 and '74. He once placed second in the NCAA national tournament and contemplated competing for a place on the Olympics team.

The *Record* thus describes him: "When one thinks about a wrestler, a stocky, brawny type comes to mind. Tom Svendsen, at 6 feet, 140 pounds, hardly fits this mold. His leanness is an asset. On the mat his arms and legs drape like vines. His opponent might have bigger biceps, but he is helpless in a tangle of limbs. . . . One teammate remarked, 'in practice Svendsen makes me feel like a pretzel' " (*Record*, April 13, 1973).

- 1974-75 -

The 1975 National Catholic Invitational Tournament was held early in January at St. John's and found the Jays unprepared for the powerful matmen of Notre Dame, Marquette and the Eastern schools. The Johnnies performed well under the circumstances, but were dropped to third place for the year 1975. David Kalkman (150 pounds) was the only St. John's wrestler to win first place honors. Joseph Wentzell and Tom Skudlarek made it to the finals but were defeated in their attempt to win championship titles. The team was disappointed by its showing.

But Coach Ludwig was an able, optimistic coach; instead of permitting the Jays to bemoan their fate, he made use of the weeks following the NCIT tourney to bolster them up for the conference meet to be held in mid-February at St. Olaf. But the opening day of the MIAC meet was a sorry one for St. John's. Carl Neuburger and Jay Huffman, both normally high-point winners, suffered knee injuries in the finals and had to forfeit their matches to their Augsburg opponents. On the other hand, forfeitures were not the only reason for disappointments. Augsburg was at the peak of its power and was truly a formidable opponent. Dave Kalkman (150 pounds), a St. John's All-American, was decisioned by Augsburg's Bill Schmidt, also an All-American.

St. John's heavyweight Greg Miller easily defended his second championship title and was the only St. John's MIAC titlist for 1975. Other St. John's place winners were Tom Skudlarek (third place at 158), Tom Matlon (fourth at 177), and Joe Wentzell (third at 190).

Final standings of the conference teams and their points scored are the following: Augsburg first (156.5), St. John's second (128), Concordia third (86), Duluth fourth (59), St. Thomas fifth (48), Hamline sixth (30), St. Olaf seventh (19), St. Mary's eighth (11), and Gustavus ninth (2.5). The Augsburg victory ended a five-year championship streak for St. John's.

- 1975-76 -

Roger Ludwig resigned his coaching position at the end of the 1975 school year and was succeeded by Greg Miller, heavyweight wrestler and football star who had just graduated. As a first-time coach, Greg had his problems, one of which was overwhelming-what to do about Augsburg that blocked the way to any possibility of taking the championship in the MIAC-Augsburg with six All-Americans on its team, a national second-place NAIA rating, and the 1975 coach-of-the-year mentor. Faced by the impossible, Coach Miller decided to do all he could with what he had and then see what would happen.

The early season dual meet record was not particularly auspicious with a middling 5-5 record, five wins and five losses. To complicate matters, the Johnnies were committed shortly after the Christmas holidays to the National Catholic Invitational Tournament in Cleveland, Ohio, a meeting that would require a long exhausting trip by car without much chance for a rest before the opening of the tournament. The results were disappointing, for the team took fifth place behind Seton Hall University, Marquette, Notre Dame, and the defending champion John Carroll University. Point' winners were John Shimshock, third place at 167 pounds, Tom Matlon fourth at 177, and Don Butzen at 142 pounds. Tom Skudlarek (167) and Jay Huffman (118), on whom Coach Miller was depending for points, both lost their matches in the semi-finals through injuries. It was a severe setback for the team, but Coach Miller still looked forward for improvement and a better showing in the MIAC tourney to be held at the College of St. Thomas in mid -February.

Greg Miller worked hard with his young wrestlers in the time remaining before the MIAC meet, and it paid off. The team ended the season with a highly commendable third place finish behind Augsburg (99 points) and Concordia (80.5), with St. John's at 43.5. Freshman Lon Feia (118) and Mike Bobick (134), sophomore Tom Matlon (177) and junior Tom Skudlarek (167) took home third place honors. Junior Steve Bechtold took fourth place to be St. John's sixth winner, but he was forced to forfeit his match in the semi-finals because of a rib injury.

St. John's took part in the national NAIA tournament held at Edinborough, Pennsylvania, but made a disappointing showing. John Shims hock and Tom Skudlarek were the only two St. John's participants to get by the first round.

Members of the 1976 squad and their weights are the following: Peter Baumann, James Bard (150); Steve Bechtold, Mike Bobick (134); Don Butzen (142); Terry Clark (150); Jim Countryman (heavyweight); Mike Davis (150); Lon Feia (118); Lee Fitzke (190); Gregory Hiemenz (134); Jay Huffman (118, co-captain); Kurt Kalland (177); Allan Keller (142); Eric Koslowski (heavyweight); Paul Looney (158); Thomas Matlon (177); Carl Neuburger (118, co-captain); John Shimshock (142); Rick Saindon (134); Tom Skudlarek (177); Robin Tacheny (134); John Wachtler (177); Joe Wentzell (190); and Jim Zrust (heavyweight).

- 1976-77 -

The 1976-77 wrestling season opened in a cheerful mood. Coach Miller proclaimed that this year's freshman crop represented "the best recruiting job ever done for the wrestling program." Ten of the freshmen had wrestled in the state high school tournaments the year before. The addition of Pat Sherry, a well-rounded-out, 190-pound transfer, was by no means a handicap.

The results of the improved material with which to mold a new wrestling team were not immediately apparent. Competition in the MIAC was strong as usual and the new men had to struggle in collaboration with the efforts of their coach before they were ready to meet their opponents in dual meets. The Johnnies did well in the invitational tournaments, however. St. John's won first place in the St. John's Takedown Tournament and the St. Thomas Invitational, with the five returnees from 1976, co-captains John Shimshock and Tom Skudlarek, Mike Bobick, Tom Matlon and Lon Feia showing up well. The Johnnies did

not do so well in the St. Cloud Invitational, however, coming up with a fourth place finish in a field of 16 contesting colleges.

The Johnnies failed to improve on their conference standing. Again they placed third with no individual championships to embellish their record. Lon Feia at 118 pounds and Tom Matlon at 177 were runners up in each of their weight divisions. Co-captains John Shimshock and Tom Skudlarek, at 142 and 167 pounds respectively, Paul Loaney at 158 pounds and Pat Sherry at 190, all placed third. Champion of the year was Augsburg, with St. Thomas in second place much to the chagrin of the Johnnies who had been looking forward to a second place finish themselves.

Since funds were not available to send the entire ten-man squad to the NAIA nationals in Spokane, Washington, only four men took part in the NAIA tourney-co-captains Skudlarek and Shimshock, Paul Loaney and Tom Matlon. The Johnnies were assigned as opening opponents several of the top-seeded contestants and hence were eliminated early in the tournament.

The 1977 team roster included co-captains Tom Skudlarek and John Shimshock, Mike Bobick, Dennis Clark, John Elton, Lon Feia, Paul Hyland, Melvin Koenig, Peter Kranz, Paul Loaney, Tom Matlon, Pat Sherry, William Wall, Donald Burns, Greg Feldmeier, William Harrison and Donald Quinn.

- 1977-78-

Coach Greg Miller started the 1977-78 wrestling season under the burden of an almost unsupportable handicap, a team made up of sophomores and freshmen with only one senior, Captain Tom Matlon. In the first meet of the season, January 17, St. Cloud State enjoyed a romp over the young Johnnies by a score of 42-0. Coach John Oxton of St. Cloud acknowledged that St. John's had "a very young team" and added an explanation of his lopsided victory: "We put three experienced seniors against three of their freshmen at the start of the match, and any time you're able to do that you can expect to come out pretty well" (St. Cloud *Times*, January 18, 1978).

In the invitationals that preceded the MIAC tournament, St. John's regularly took fourth place with the exception of the St. Cloud Invitational, when the Johnnies took fifth: fourth place in the National Catholic Tournament, the St. John's Takedown, the Pillsbury, and the North Country Invitational. On the other hand, they did better than fair in the dual meets: six wins versus four losses overall, and six wins versus two losses in the conference.

In the early part of the season the team was plagued with injuries, but when the MIAC meet came around Captain Matlon expressed his conviction that the wrestlers were at full strength, with the toughest competition to be furnished by St. Thomas and Augsburg, both of whom had defeated the Johnnies earlier. Unfortunately, the Johnnies made their poorest showing of the season with a sixth place finish. Captain Matlon lamented the finale: "It was a dismal finish for our team and an equally dismal day for many of our fine athletes" (*Record*, March 3, 1978).

One bright stand-out of the season was sophomore Greg Feldmeier, who was elected winner of the Most Improved Wrestler Award. He was second place finisher in the National Catholic Invitational, and first in the North Country Invitational. An entrant in the NAIA national tournament, he lost his final match by only one point, the point that would have made him an All-American. Another award winner was Tom Matlon (Most Valuable, third in the National Catholic, first in the St. John's Takedown). Freshman Joe Cavanaugh was champion in his weight in the North Country Invitational, fourth in the MIAC and was given the Outstanding Freshman Award. Freshman Shawn McDonald took first place in the St. John's Takedown.

CHAPTER IX: Hockey

How did hockey get its great start in the state of Minnesota? Some say that it came as a result of the Prohibition Amendment and the contraband trade with Canada where the best of liquors were procurable. Well, so the legend goes, hockey is the national sport in Canada, and when the old-timers crossed the border for refreshments they caught onto the game of hockey and brought it back with them-together with the contraband.

But that is not all. Due to the wisdom and foresight of Northern Range mining towns, taxes collected on iron ore were spent on the improvement of schools and recreational facilities, among them indoor hockey rinks. That is why the kids on the Iron Range have been the best skaters in Minnesota.

Hockey did not get its start at St. John's by way of contraband, however. It came by the slow and hard way. There had always been skating on Lake Sagatagan and the ponds surrounding the college, whether they were artificial or natural, but it was Fr. Polycarp Hansen, O.S.B., who in 1910 made the first serious effort to organize a skating game to take advantage of the surrounding environment. Why the attempt to establish hockey was a failure no one seems to know, but it very likely was the lack of a device to clear the ice of snow and keep it in playing condition throughout the winter.

The next serious attempt to establish a hockey program was made in 1925 by Fr. Damian Baker, O.S.B., who never could understand why a young man would choose to spend his leisure time within doors instead of going out of doors and become engaged in a sport proper to the season of the year. There were plenty of skiers on campus but very few skaters. And that bothered him. Perhaps he was coming down with a mild case of cabin fever himself. At any rate, he was an organizer, and it was not long before he was able to see the first intramural program of hockey instituted on the St. John's campus.

The first games were played on Lake Sagatagan. The monastic bathing house was on the lake shore and could be used as a warming house. Scrapers were assembled in the carpenter shop. to clear away the snow, and goals were constructed of two-by-fours-only ankle high. Somebody once said that if there was no puck available, a weighted can of Copenhagen wrapped with friction tape was a likely substitute - another legend!

The hockey sticks were of two kinds: those bought from a sporting goods house, and those found in the woods. Both were as heavy as baseball bats. One hockey stick usually lasted two years. The hockey program enjoyed a precarious existence for the next few years, and colorful winter carnivals were held at the end of each season. Skating contests were arranged and the winners received awards.

A change in the program developed during the first four years. Groups of students gathered into independent teams, and around 1929 one of the groups played annual matches with the St. Cloud Lions. In 1932 another change took place, mainly through the enthusiasm and energy of Simon "Si" Ryan, a football player of astounding vitality who had played on the hockey team of West Minneapolis High School. He proposed that St. John's should put out a representative hockey team and play the other college teams of the state. His enthusiasm and drive were contagious and swept even Fr. Damian off his feet. Once more he was called upon to play a role in the establishment of hockey at St. John's.

At first Fr. Damian was asked to serve as referee of the scrimmages of the two or three teams on campus; then he was asked to assist in choosing the teams, and finally, at their request, he consented to be their coach.

The first hockey team was made up of Si Ryan as captain, William Freeman, Eugene McCarthy, Louis Lundemo, George Esterly, Jerome Cramer, Donald McHale, Jude Paquin (a Canadian), Allen Ross and Louis

Niemeyer.

In the first game they defeated St. Cloud Normal School 4-1, then were defeated by St. Cloud Cathedral High School 0-3, and in a third game overcame St. Cloud Normal again by a score of 3-2.

It is evident that the administration was prepared to approve of a college hockey team because in December, 1932, it was announced that beginning with 1933 St. John's would enter a hockey team in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Fr. Damian assumed a sort of sponsorship of the hockey team, for, following the announcement that St. John's was entering a hockey team in the conference, he requested a budget for funds to purchase uniforms, gloves, shin guards and other accouterments proper to the playing of the game. The athletic department balked at his request for custom made sticks, however, as a bit too much since, so they said, the carpenter could make them just as good and as substantial.

- 1933 -

By the opening of the 1933 season the stage was set for the first conference competition. It was a good team made up of several veterans: Si Ryan (captain), Eugene McCarthy, Frank Hendrickson, John O'Malley, George Esterly, John Devney, Robert Kyle, Elmer Madsen, Carl Priley, and Milton Lydell. The team showed its inexperience in the execution of team tactics and lost all the six games scheduled: to St. Cloud Teachers 1-10, to Macalester 2-7, to St. Thomas 0-3, to Macalester 0-3, to St. Cloud 2-4, and St. Thomas 0-1.

- 1934 -

The 1934 edition of the hockey team proved to be superior to the version of 1933, mainly through the addition to the squad of the Maus brothers from St. Cloud, Eddie and Dick. Eddie went on to become one of the most prolific scorers in St. John's hockey history. The team assembled early and was blessed with ideal weather in which to practice a week and a half earlier than in the past year. For moral support the team had its first cheerleader in the person of Ferdinand "Chickie" Lehn. Midway in the season, after more experience in teamwork, the Johnnies proved themselves to be contenders for the title by an upset victory over previously unbeaten Macalester. But the loss by injury of star goalie Bill Dreher, plus a two-weeks' thaw, put a damper on all St. John's hopes on that score. The Johnnies slid to an overall record of 3-5 and a 2-2 conference standing before falling victim to St. Thomas in the last game of the season.

Members of the 1934 team were William Dreher, Si Ryan, Eugene McCarthy, John Devney, Frank Hendrickson, Milton Lydell, Leonard Werner, George Toman, Robert Kyle and Fred Thielman.

- 1935 -

Within three years of its inception, the St. John's puck chasers copped the MIAC hockey championship. The team, led by dynamic, hard-driving Eddie Maus, was well balanced and excelled in defense, thanks to Bill Dreher, by allowing opponents only three goals the entire season. Perhaps the proudest man associated with the team was Fr. Damian himself who had brought to the top of the conference Eugene McCarthy, Bill Dreher, Eddie Maus and others in a stretch of three consecutive years.

As a post-season treat the team was permitted to invade the Iron Range to play the Chisholm Maroons and the Duluth Red and White, both semi-pro teams. The Johnnies lost by scores of 1-9 and 3-7 respectively, a setback sharp enough to suppress any tendencies to superiority.

Dreher was the outstanding goalie of the conference and Eugene McCarthy the highest individual scorer on

the St. John's team. The team record overall was six wins and four losses; the conference record four wins and no losses.

Members of the championship team were William Dreher, Eugene McCarthy, Leonard Werner, Duncan Campbell, Eddie Maus and Robert Kyle. Spares: Jerome Mulvehill, Francis Weber, Austin McCarthy, Gaylord Stenglein, Richard Maus, Elmer Madsen and Joseph Kelso.

- 1936 -

An important discovery of the 1936 season was the realization that not all the good hockey players had to come from the Twin Cities or the Iron Range. Four of the top-flight 1936 hockey players were from St. Cloud: Leonard Werner, Eddie Maus, Dick Maus, Willard Nierengarten and Robert Kyle.

The team naturally was looking forward to another championship season, despite the loss by graduation of Bill Dreher, but visions of continued glory were dashed away by a tie game with St. Thomas and a loss to Macalester respectively, 3-3 and 1-4. Following losses to St. Cloud and Alexandria, the Jays defeated Macalester 4-1 and St. Thomas 4-1. Much to their own surprise, they improved over the season by ending in second place in the conference with two wins, one tie, and one loss. The overall record was three wins, one tie, and three losses. Squad members were the following: Wally Johnson, Chuck Hinz, Lee Wagner, Eddie Maus, Leonard Werner (captain), James Alexander, Austin McCarthy, Willard Nierengarten, Loren May, Duncan Campbell, Ralph Miller, Robert Wolf, Bob Kyle, Sylvester Burke, Frank Richie, Robert Carney, DeWayne Wohlleb, Raphael Armstrong, Kenneth Cater.

- 1937 -

One thing was definitely missing when the Jays assembled for the 1936-37 hockey season, the presence of Fr. Damian, who resigned this year and was succeeded by a student-coach, James Alexander. Thus was inaugurated a new policy in the selection of coaches that was to persist for the next few decades.

1937 was a losing season, occasioned partly by the loss of team captain Austin McCarthy, Eugene's younger brother, who suffered the fracture of a collarbone in the first game of the season. 1937 was a six game season that ended with an overall record of only one victory and five losses. The conference record was one victory and three losses. The squad: Wallace Johnson, Chuck Hinz, Ralph Miller, Eddie Maus, Austin McCarthy, Willard Nierengarten, Loren May-the last a freshman who already showed promise of future stardom. Among the spares were Robert Kyle, Charles Pillsbury, Val Fandel and Donald Hollenhorst.

- 1938 -

Chuck Hinz was appointed student-coach of the hockey team for the 1938 season. Prospects looked bright to the new coach since several of the outstanding players of the previous year had returned. Among them, particularly, were Loren May, Ralph Miller and Austin McCarthy. Miller scored seven goals for the season. The team played well and appeared to be certain of the championship until the last two games when the ceiling fell in on them and they lost to St. Thomas by scores of 1-4 and 1-3.

The team roster: Wallace Johnson, Austin McCarthy, Willard Nierengarten, Loren May, Chuck Hinz, Ralph Miller, Albert Welte, Nick Stoffel, Al Sauerer, Val Fandel, John Kelly, Don Hollenhorst, Edward Oettiker, (now Rev.) Robert Knaeble.

- 1939 -

A new breath of enthusiasm broke out in 1939 when thirty-three candidates signed up for admission to the

hockey team. Chuck Hinz was in his second year of coaching, with Ralph Miller of St. Cloud his captain. For a change there was a higher concentration of players from the northern parts of the state and the Iron Range. New men were Albert Welte and Don Norman from Crookston, Stanley Tregillis from the Iron Range and Bob Murphy from Duluth, a goalie of considerable merit. It was a borderline team that ended in third place in the conference with a record of one win, two ties, and two losses, and an overall record of one win, six losses, and two ties. High scorer for the season was Loren May with six goals, followed by Lloyd Perron with four, Stanley Tregillis four, and Al Welte five.

Team roster: Robert Murphy, Loren May, Ralph Miller, Chuck Hinz, Stanley Tregillis, Al Welte, Lloyd Perron, Nick Stoffel, Wallace Johnson, James Courtney, Fran Gerlach, Donald Norman, Al Sauerer, Donald Hollenhorst, Konald Premo

- 1940 -

For a change, a member of the coaching staff, Vernon McGree, was appointed coach for the 1940 season. In a ten-game schedule the Johnnies won three games, tied one and lost six. In the conference they won three games and lost four for a third place standing. Stanley Tregillis and Bob Murphy, both from the Iron Range, won all-conference honors. Top scorer for the season was James Courtney.

Roster: Nick Stoffel (captain), Stanley Tregillis, Robert Murphy, Lloyd Perron, James Courtney, Don Norman, Richard Hope, Edward Zins, Lawrence Hickner, Arthur Durch, Howard Isaac, Jerome Conkins.

- 1941 -

Coach Vernon McGree had a nucleus of eight lettermen on which to build his 1941 team: Captain Lloyd Perron, Richard Hope, James Courtney, Eddie Zins, Lawrence Hickner, Jerome Conkins, Don Norman, Art Durch and Frank Gerlach. It was a season that abounded in mishaps, injuries, the loss of Captain Perron to the military service in the Air Corps. Don Norman, on whom he depended for a team leader, suffered an injury that incapacitated him for the main part of the season. The team broke even in wins and losses-3-3 in the conference, 4-4 overall. Henry "Hank" Strobel was the find of the season and responsible for some of the best skating.

New men on the roster were Al Sauerer, Eugene Sebesta, Charles Tambornino, Konald Prem, Robert Murphy, Robert Piotrowski, Henry Strobel, William Freeman and Don Schnobrich.

- 1942 -

Coach Vernon McGree enlisted in the army in 1942 and was succeeded by Eugene McCarthy, now a teacher in the college. For a new coach, the hockey situation was not promising. The draft had decimated the college enrollment and Eugene had virtually a new team except for Henry Strobel and Don Norman-George Schmit, Albert Rowe, Vincent Plumbo (a freshman baseball player from Cretin), Robert Stevenson, Herbert Anderson and Robert Piotrowski. The hockey program underwent a period of crisis this year. In a game played on St. John's ice with St. Thomas a free-for-all brawl broke out over unnecessarily rough body checking-fisticuffs, skirmishes, and various other torts that were stopped only by the grace of cool heads, coaches and referees so that they could end normally. A public relations squabble ensued, however. Fr. Walter Reger, O.S.B., faculty representative in athletics, threatened to drop hockey as a varsity sport. Athletic Director George Durenberger, realizing that the game should not be relegated to a club activity, managed to patch things up.

All intercollegiate competition was suspended in the MIAC during the war years, 1943-46. Fr. Adelard Thuente, O.S.B., possibly the most popular faculty member during these years, got the hockey rink set up

and scheduled a few games to show the few students still in college that SJU had at least some sort of athletic program. In the winter of 1945 they played two games with St. Cloud teams, and in 1946 made a sporadic attempt to keep hockey moving. On the schedule was a game with St. Thomas, lost 3-10. It was an unequal game, however, as St. Thomas still had a military contingent on campus and was permitted to field the cadets in conference play. In a game with Gustavus at St. John's, the Johnnies defeated the Gusties 4-2, but in the return game at Gustavus they lost by a score of 3-5. No championships were awarded in hockey in 1945 and 1946.

- 1947 -

Once the war was ended and the truce signed, demobilization took place rapidly. Returning veterans flooded the colleges and overburdened the teaching staffs in most colleges and universities of the country. Fr. Adelard gladly relinquished the hockey coaching reins to Don Norman, a competent coach who had graduated from St. John's in 1942 with three letters in hockey. Norman took over where Fr. Adelard had left off and developed an excellent team of some thirteen members that included Billy Sullivan, David Roske, James Medved, Vincent Plumbo, Lawrence McNeely, Fred Schultz, Captain Edward Zins, Le- Roy Steichen, Raymond Grundtner (now Fr. Grundtner), Bill Sumpmann, and Richard Loudon. The team put together a seven-game winning streak, then won the St. Paul Winter Carnival championship by defeating Eveleth and St. Cloud in that order. In a trip to Crookston, Norman's home town, the Jays defeated a local semi-pro outfit, and from there moved up to Grand Forks, North Dakota, to engage a Grand Forks team of the States Dominican League. This trip was strongly objected to by Fr. Walter Reger, who had made an agreement with Abbot Alcuin Deutsch not to permit any St. John's teams to play outside the territorial limits of Minnesota. However, with gas at the astonishing cost of nineteen cents a gallon, and Hitler and the Emperor of Japan out of the way, Old George decided to splurge, even if it put his tenure at St. John's in jeopardy.

- 1948 -

It was around the year 1948 that Athletic Director George Durenberger was working within the conference for uniform rules governing the conduct of a standard hockey program—the selection of competent officials, the sweeping of the ice between periods, the standard length of rinks, the ratification of schedules before play commenced, the changing of goals, etc. Some of the officials were incompetent, only two colleges scraped the ice between periods, St. John's and St. Cloud. None of the rinks were alike in their dimensions. The St. John's rink was like Lake Superior, Macalester's like Lake George in St. Cloud. The Gustavus interior rink was egg-shaped, consequently any puck caroming off the side boards ended behind the goal net. In other words, George was determined to make hockey a major sport in every sense of the word, and on the whole he was successful.

Mickey (Lawrence) McNeely took over the hockey team replacing Don Norman, who had accepted the hockey coaching position at the University of North Dakota, incidentally taking with him the two Crookston stars, William (Billy) Sullivan and James Medved. The first handicap McNeely had to face was the loss of two stars. Consequently, the Jays lost the first five games they played by close scores. They bounced back, however, at this point and swamped Augsburg 9-1 for their first victory of the season. They dropped another game to Macalester 3-4, and went on to win the three remaining games on the schedule. In the St. Paul Winter Carnival St. John's topped Hamline in the opening round, only to lose to St. Cloud in the semi-finals by a score of 2-3.

The overall record of the 1948 season was five wins versus seven defeats, and in the conference four victories and four losses. High scorer of the season was Frank Macioch, who edged out Dave Roske by the narrowest of margin.

Members of the team were the following: Mickey McNeely, Arthur Arnold, Maurice Schille, Charles "Chuck" Forbes, William Sumpmann, Robert Ligday, Patrick Bresnahan, Fred Schultz, LeRoy Steichen, Patrick McHale, Merrill McKibben, David Roske, Roland Theis, and James Gleason.

- 1949 -

The 1949 hockey sextet was led by Coach McNeely, aided by team captain David Roske. Hopes were high for a good season as the Jays' young team blasted St. Cloud Teachers 4-0 and St. Thomas 6-3. The team passed the puck well and stars Lou Cotroneo, Don Sagissor and Dave Roske drove in the goals. But the early good fortune did not last. The tables were turned and the Jays lost their next five games. The team was thoroughly discouraged until Coach McNeely put Cotroneo in the net and a complete reversal of form took place. St. John's made a recovery in the St. Paul Winter Carnival, then defeated Carleton 2-0 and nosed out Augsburg 3-2. The rejuvenated St. Thomas entry defeated St. John's in the finals 1-3.

The overall season record was three wins versus six losses. In the conference the record was two wins versus seven losses. Squad members were Arthur Severson, Fred Schultz, LeRoy Steichen, Frank Macioch, Patrick Bresnahan, Jerome Schultz, Donald Sagissor, Lou Cotroneo, Joseph Cascalenda, Thomas Klein, Robert Ligday, George Moudry, Arthur King, George Schroeder and Patrick McHale.

- 1950 -

On the graduation of Coach McNeely, George Hickner, '41, who attended the University of Minnesota for graduate school work, returned to St. John's in 1960 for special courses in education and the coaching of the hockey team. Captain-elect of the hockey team was Frank Macioch, the fiery, rough-and-ready puck maneuverer of the time. Frank Macioch and Coach Hickner complemented each other admirably.

The first game of the season was a 4-4 tie with Macalester. The new goalie, Ted Joyce, was credited with 40 saves. The St. John's rinkmen continued to play well and by January 13 had defeated Hamline 3-1 and Gustavus 4-2 at Gustavus. Joyce continued to play a stellar game in the net. The Jays then defeated St. Thomas 5-4 and powerful Duluth 2 1.

The 1950 Johnnies finished their best season in years with an 8-2-1 record to win the championship, though they were forced to share the top spot in the conference with Macalester.

To add to the conference championship, the team won the St. Paul Winter Carnival title, the second time in four years. Highlights of the season were the phenomenal goal tending of Ted Joyce and the fine skating and shooting of Lou Cotroneo, Fred Schultz and Frank Macioch.

Credit for the good season was accorded to George Hickner for a superb job of coaching.

Team personnel: Pat Bresnahan, Dave Roske, Fred Schultz, Robert Ligday, John Martin, Donald Sagissor, Augie Donovan, Joseph Cascalenda, Lou Cotroneo, Theodore Joyce, Theodore Meysembourg, and Joseph Jwanouskos.

- 1951 -

Lloyd "Bud" Perron, on the completion of his nine-year term in the Air Force, returned to St. John's to complete his college studies. A former hockey, baseball and football player, he took over the coaching position in hockey, his favorite sport. Perron was confident of a good showing in the MIAC, for he had nine returning lettermen and a former Olympic star named Bob Boeser on his squad. Among his players he also had fireball Cotroneo as team captain, Frank Macioch, a hard driving skater and Ted Joyce, the most

outstanding goalie since the days of Vincent Plumbo in 1942.

But the Jays had hard luck from the beginning of the season. "Jumping" Joe Cascalenda broke a leg, and Lou Cotroneo was out for several games with a severe ankle injury. Nevertheless they managed to finish third in the conference behind co-champions Macalester and St. Thomas. Highlight of the season was a thrilling 5-4 overtime victory over St. Thomas. Bob Boeser was the high scorer with a total of 27 points for the season.

Team personnel: Lou Cotroneo (captain), Frank Macioch, Richard Donovan, Donald Sagissor, Theodore Joyce, Joe Cascalenda, Robert Boeser, Jerome Kline, Patrick Thompson, Charles Cammack, Glenn Kirsch, Charles Dowdle, Richard Hickner, James Lilly.

- 1952 -

Bob Boeser returned to St. John's in 1952 as coach of the hockey team. He was an exceptional figure in the St. John's hockey scene. A graduate of De La Salle High School in Minneapolis, he became an outstanding amateur skater and was selected by the Olympic Committee to represent the United States as a member of the 1948 Olympic team. After the Games, he traveled with amateur teams in England, France and Eastern European countries before settling down at the University of Minnesota, from which he transferred to St. John's in

-1951-

Boeser's 1952 team was a hot and cold combination that failed to live up to its original promise, partly because of the graduation of Ted Joyce, goalie, and Richard Donovan, center, at the end of the first semester. The inconsistent Jays defeated strong Duluth twice by the large margins of 9-0 and 6-2, then lost to Macalester 4-6 and 4-7. Boeser was high scorer of the team with 20 goals and 13 assists for 32 points. The season record was six wins and three losses overall; three wins and three losses in the conference.

Team personnel: Playing-coach Robert Boeser, Captain Donald Sagissor, Joseph Cascalenda, Ted Meysembourg, Philip Hartman, William Halmbeck, Roger Vanelli, Lou Cotroneo, Glenn Kirsch, Richard Donovan, Don Sagissor, Frank Albers, Ted Joyce, Paul Sokup, Richard Gravelle, James Lilly.

- 1953 -

With only four lettermen to work with, including himself, Ted Meysembourg, Boeser's successor, found the hockey outlook very bleak, so bleak that rumors were floating about that St. John's was dropping hockey as a varsity sport. When it was finally settled that a conference team would be fielded as usual, Coach Meysembourg took firm hold of the situation. The four veterans were enthusiastic and between them got together a relatively talented squad that went through the season with a record of two wins and nine losses. John Beaudry, a freshman from Duluth, proved to be the find of the year as he went through the season with 20 goals and 13 assists for a total of 33 points.

In midseason the team lost Co-captain Glenn Kirsch to the draft for the Korean War. It was the final step that broke down the already precarious defense. But the 1953 team still remained a better team than Gustavus that lost two games to the Jays by scores of 12-0 and 7-2. Team personnel: Player-coach Ted Meysembourg, co-captains Charles Cammack and Glenn Kirsch, John Beaudry, James Pascoe (total points 15), Richard Marchek, Frank Albers, Mike Ruddy, Robert Larson, Kenneth Galatowitsch, Paul Sokup, and Phil Wartman.

- 1954 -

In his second year as coach, Ted Meysembourg and his captain, Charles Cammack, got together a team that finished the season with an overall record of four wins and seven losses. The conference record was two wins and seven losses for a fourth place finish.

The 1954 team was far from being a representative team, winning wise, but it was a plucky outfit that played up to its full capacity.

Coach Meysembourg developed two top-flight performers, Robert Larson and Mike Ruddy, whose playing gave a touch of distinction to a team that was otherwise unspectacular. Dennis Stedman, ClemCommers, John "Jake" Rydell and goalie Chuck Cullen were to star in the following years.

Members of the 1954 squad: Playing-coach Ted Meysembourg, Captain Charles Cammack, Dennis Stedman, Paul Kunert, Clem Commers, Edward Regan, John "Jake" Rydel, Dick Marchek, Wayne Kotaska, Patrick Mingo, Kenneth Christian, Robert Larson, Michael Ruddy, Frank Albers, Paul Sokup, Charles Cullen.

- 1955 -

The athletic director was aware that the solution to the hockey problem was the appointment of a member of the coaching staff who could give continuity. It was in his second year at St. John's that the brilliant football coach John Gagliardi was appointed coach of the hockey team. By his own admission he was aware that his qualifications for the post were limited. When asked why he had been chosen to coach hockey, he replied, "I had an uncle in Chicago who once went to a Black Hawks' game."

Yet what "Gag" lacked in knowledge of hockey fundamentals he more than made up for in a determination "to put the darn thing together." He was a good observer and quickly noted the need of a leader. "The team had the horses but not the leader," so he promptly nominated himself for that role. One other blessing he had, namely, the presence on the squad of only one senior. "The majority of the squad being sophomores and freshmen, they did not notice my ignorance of the game when by a slip of the tongue I called the rink a 'court' and a penalty a 'foul,' " he explained.

The 1955 Jays were able to win fourth place in the conference, and also a victory over the powerful Duluth Branch Bulldogs. The story is worth the telling, as recorded in the *Record* February 4, 1955, p. 3: "Up until the end of the first semester the Jay pucksters had been able to win but one game, and that one over Carleton, 8-1. The other games are but bitter memories: losses to UMD 2-9 and St. Thomas 1-6. That made the record 0-3 on the league and 1-5 for the season. "But then, John Gagliardi's fighting sextet moved into the Duluth Curling Club with only the idea of keeping the score respectable. When the score read 2-0 in the Johnnies' favor at the end of the first period, the Duluth fans chuckled mildly to themselves. In the second session the Jays kept dogging the Bulldogs' forwards, back checking relentlessly and moved to an unbelievable lead of 5-1.

"We escaped with a 5-4 win, but that one win gave the Jays a real morale boost. The players became more confident in themselves, but still lost none of their fighting play and went on to beat Macalester 2-1 and Hamline 4-3."

-1956-

The 1956 season ~tarted where the 1955 ended. The Jays had one of their finest finishes with an overall record of twelve wins, four losses and one tie. The conference record was eight wins versus four losses, second only to Duluth, the conference champion. John Gagliardi continued to give evidence of his ability to master the fundamentals of a sport hitherto unknown to him, and then spark his team to the peak of their abilities. Undoubted star of the year was Byron Johnson from St. Cloud Cathedral who had 14 goals and 11

assists. He was closely followed by Leonard Kohler with 12 goals, 11 assists and a total of 23 points. To single out these two stars is to do an injustice to a team made up of a supporting cast of Jack Quesnell, John Rydel, Chuck Cullen and Mark Lohmann. Chuck Froehle, football star, won first place in penalties with eight and sixteen minutes in the penalty box.

Team roster: Byron Johnson, Charles Cullen, Leonard Kohler, John Rydel, Jack Quesnell, Edward Regan, Charles Froehle, Clem Commers, Cornelius Loiselle, Charles Dubore, Patrick Mingo, Patrick Moran, James Higgens, Paul Kinnert, Mark Lohmann.

- 1957-

In 1957 the hockey rink was moved to a spot parallel to the north side of the gymnasium in order to have the shadow of the gymnasium shield the ice from the rays of the sun. The team had better luck with ice, therefore, in 1957, and used the hard surface in negotiating several good games that would have been failures in times past. It was an "unusual year," however, as the *Sagatagan* expressed it, a so-so year, and somewhat of a let-down from the high spirited 1956. Duluth, with its Canadian recruits, could not be denied for two games. The Tommies also dropped the Jays by two games, 6-2 and 3-2. The season record was eight wins versus seven losses, and a conference record of six games won and six lost. The team finished in fourth place.

The find of 1957 was Al Goulet, a freshman star from St. Thomas Military Academy in St. Paul, who overshadowed the 1956 high-point man Byron Johnson with a total number of points (34): fourteen goals and twenty assists. Goulet broke the total number of points rolled up by Bob Boeser in 1952, though Boeser's record of twenty goals remained intact. Other top-flight performers were John "Jack" Quesnell with 27 points, Chick Cullen, the goalie, Phabe (Philibert) Wartman, Leonard Kohler, Clem Commers, Chuck Froehle, and Captain "Jake" Rydel.

Other team members not mentioned above were Bernie McNerny, John Fournelle, Fran Rapley, Gary Pendy, Frank Moran, John Kelly, Leonard Kohler, Tom Campbell.

- 1958 -

In a December 1957-58 preview of the coming hockey season, Coach Gagliardi admitted in his kidding manner that he would have a good team: "I've got a group of fellows back this season. Boom Kohler promised me no more fights. Quesnell hasn't got Froehle around to help him when he gets into trouble, so he'll calm down. And By Johnson says he's coming to practice this year. What more could a coach ask? (*Record*, December 6, 1957). .

Actually, John had the one-two scoring combination of Al Goulet and Jack Quesnell of 1957. All in all, he had a strong, hustling gang that could body check with anything in the conference. The Catholic high schools in the state in recent years had been sending star hockey players to St. John's-Bob Boeser of De La Salle, Al Goulet of St. Thomas Academy, Mike Murphy, Patrick Moran and others from Cretin.

Yet there were problems: George Durenberger, athletic director, protested against schedules that were too long, both from the financial angle and the academic. Duluth had built up a juggernaut that dominated the conference and was injuring it by the importation of hockey players from Canada who filled in weak spots in their line-ups. John Gagliardi was happy, nevertheless, with his third place in the conference with six wins and four losses, and an overall record of nine wins and four losses.

1958 roster: Leonard Kohler, John Kelly, Patrick Moran, Jack Quesnell, Mike Murphy, Francis Rapley, Bernie McNerny, Gary Pendy, Al Goulet, Don Charpentier, Thomas Campbell, Joseph Reid, William Cassette,

Charles Schwartz, John Fournelle, Phil "Phabe" Wartman.

- 1959 -

The 1959 hockey season opened with Jack Quesnell the only senior holdover from the 1958 team. But Jack was a great competitor. Though he weighed only 140 pounds, he played with an abandon and know-how that netted him 21 goals for the season, the record at that time. It was Jack's last year and he left with the respect of the entire student body as one of the outstanding personalities in St. John's athletic history.

It was also John Gagliardi's last year as coach of hockey. They had been five good years. When he first took over coaching the game, it was mainly as a stay-busy chore over the winter. But it had become a major occupation. Collegiate football had become more and more complex, however. The city schools were extending their counseling programs, which meant that for the coaching tribe the work of counseling prospective students, talking to parents, and conducting athletes over the campus had been building up until he could no longer carry the two jobs without neglecting one or the other. Fr. Fintan Bromenshenkel, O.S.B., now entered to take over the hockey coaching position.

Team roster: Jack Quesnell, John Fournelle, Peter Gareri, Joseph Reid, Anthony Nagurski, Thomas Campbell, Stephen Tell, Michael Murphy, Gary Pendy, Charles Schwartz, Robert Pilney, Bernard Mc-Inerny, Frank Rapley, Robert Christensen.

- 1960 -

Fr. Fintan Bromenshenkel made an auspicious start in his coaching career by winning the first six games on the schedule. The team looked very promising with fourteen lettermen and several promising freshmen to support the veterans. Especially well qualified were freshmen from the northern part of the state, the good hockey country: James Humeniuk and Terry Noble from Baudette, Harold Froehle from Thief River Falls. Leading scorers for the season were Peter Gareri from the Iron Range with 20 points, Thomas Campbell and Gary Pendy with 19. Star at the net was goalie John Brandt.

The overall record for the season was eleven victories and five losses. In the conference the Jays won five games with three losses, all three to the top conference teams.

The team roster: Peter Gareri, Thomas Campbell, John Fournelle, Francis Rapley, Gary Pendy, Richard Hanson, Michael Murphy, Charles Schwartz, James Humeniuk, Harold Froehle, Robert Christensen, Terry Noble, Anthony Nagurski, Gary Noble, James McCoy, and John Brandt.

- 1961 -

Although Fr. Fintan Bromenshenkel lost five veteran mainstays from the 1960 team, the Jays posted a season record of nine victories and six losses. In the conference they took fourth place with five wins and three losses, the three losses being to league-leading Duluth, Macalester and St. Thomas. The team was tied with St. Thomas for third place prior to the final game of the season. They lost to St. Thomas, however, 2-11, and ended in fourth place behind Duluth, Macalester and St. Thomas, in that order. One of the highlights of the season was Terry Noble's record winning score of 24 goals, Peter Gareri with fifteen. 1961 was the last year of Mike Murphy, a star athlete who had played on the Cretin High School team that defeated state champion International Falls, Mike Childs, and Steve Tell, a hardy body checker who had played in high school under Kenneth Yackel, coach of the Edina hockey team.

Team roster: John Gramer, Jim Kearney, George Floria, Thomas Flaig, James Fellman, Steve Tell, Mike Childs, Peter Gareri, Bob Christensen, Michael Murphy, Tony Nagurski, Harold Froehle, Terry Noble, Bob

Hollenhorst, Larry Blaylock, Timothy Sullivan, John Boyd.

- 1962 -

The hockey season of 1962 might be called "Fr. Fintan's Disaster Year." The 1962 team was plagued throughout the season with injuries that left the team never at full strength in any game. Peter Gareri, team captain and high scorer, was out of play for eight games, and Bob Christensen broke an ankle early in the fall and was never able to play up to his full capacity. The season started with only seven lettermen a situation that demanded the use of freshmen in order to keep the team on the ice. Inexperience and injuries were the main reason why the Jays posted a year's overall record of three wins and fifteen losses in an 18-game schedule. The conference record was two wins and four losses.

Team members: Thomas Flaig, Anthony Nagurski, Peter Gareri, John Kearney, Daniel Haider, James Kileen, Patrick Roche, Jerry Welter, Robert Hollenhorst, James Glowack, Robert Christensen, John Goulet, Richard Stuart, Dan Commers, Harry Froehle, John Moore, Timothy Sullivan, Larry Blaylock.

- 1963 -

In 1962 the hockey rink was moved to a site north of St. Thomas Hall and south of the old barn. There was little protection from the north wind there, and the athletic department found itself in an embarrassing situation as the December north winds blew over the chill surface of the frozen Watab. It was a time when, following Fr. Fintan's resignation, there was no goalie, no coach, and only seven returning lettermen. It was at this point that Captain Snead of the military science department took over the hockey coaching position.

Captain Snead had all the requirements for the position-four years of hockey at Delafield Military Academy, Wisconsin, one year of intramural hockey at the University of Wisconsin, and four years of hockey at West Point, from which he graduated in 1953.

The pre-hockey training was basic military stuff, two miles of running without a stop, isometric exercises, etc. They also played a little field hockey before the lake and the ponds froze over.

The squad was still young, with only one senior, three juniors, and the remainder mainly freshmen. Captain Snead worried lest the freshmen be declared ineligible for varsity sports, but they were declared ineligible only for the major sports, football, basketball and baseball; so, with the freshmen to depend upon, the coach estimated that they would win half their games. Actually they won six games and lost ten for their overall performance. In the conference they won four games and lost ten. They found an excellent goalie toward the end of the season in James Belisle, a freshman. Rich Froehle won the all-conference award and Marty Igo honorable mention.

Squad members were: Rich Froehle, Wally Blaylock, John Kearney, James Belisle, Patrick Roche, Mike Hollenhorst, Marty Igo, Patrick Cruikshank, James Kileen, Thomas Diffley, John Sipe, William Sullivan, Arthur Grady, Thomas Hayes, Robert Hollenhorst, James Kearney, John Moore, Joseph Palen.

- 1964 -

The 1964 hockey season was one of those abbreviated periods when unseasonably warm weather makes an outdoor hockey rink unplayable. Under these adverse conditions St. John's played only ten games, with a season record of three wins and six losses, one tie. In conference play they posted a record of one tied game and four losses. It was a dismal year for the ambitious, enterprising Captain Snead, only lately promoted to major.

Lettermen for the season were Thomas Bauer, James Belisle, Walter Blaylock, Patrick Cruikshank, Richard Froehle, John Goulet, Arthur Grady, Patrick Hare, Thomas Hayes, Michael Hollenhorst, Martin Igo, Patrick Jacobs, James Kearney, John Moore, Joseph Palen, Patrick Roche, Thomas Younghans.

- 1965-

The year 1965 was one of those numbered as memorable when the Jays made themselves famous-or was it notorious?-not by winning the championship, but by their heroics, according to the viewpoint of the spectator. The league leading Winona Canadiens (alias of St. Mary's) had already cinched the championship.

The Jays were struggling along as usual but full of life and vigor when the rumor began floating around that this was St. John's last year in hockey-for two reasons: first because college hockey was impossible without an indoor rink, second because the game was too expensive.

Within a few hours after hearing about the rumor, Eddie Maus, '37, an all-time hockey star of the past, stirred into existence a Twin Cities Hockey Alumni Club whose only end and purpose for existence was to stage a whopping demonstration of Johnny loyalty in the Augsburg game to be played February 19 in the Aldrich Arena, Minneapolis. Two thousand tickets were sold at fifty cents a ticket, and two thousand fans were at the arena to cheer on the Fighting Jays.

The Johnnies won the game 6-5 in an overtime, but not before the fans witnessed an amazing plethora of penalties-two holding penalties, three elbowings, three interferences, one high sticking, one pushing, two miscellaneous, and one cross check. The whole thing was capped by a full arched blood-letting stick swipe by goalie Tom Bauer. But more important than beating Augsburg and surviving the all-outbruhaha- winner-take-all brawl, was the fact that the Jays continued the season by clobbering Concordia 7-1, Gustavus 11-1, and Hamline 4-0. They won seven of the last nine games on the schedule for second place in the conference. In the meantime, the St. John's *Record* received for printing four letters from Eddie Maus, George Toman, Chuck Hinz, and Lorry May lauding the merits of hockey and the virtues of its participants. 1965 was Coach Snead's last year at the helm of hockey at St. John's-his last and most dramatic exposure to St. John's loyalty.

Team members were Wally Blaylock, Rich Froehle, Tommy Bauer, Tom Younghans, Mike Musty, James Trachsel, Terry Hartman, Thomas Hayes, Mike Pomroy, Paul Jung, Steve Hartman, James Borgestad, Gerald Grochowski.

- 1966 -

The 1966 hockey situation called for a new coach to succeed Major Snead who was transferred to another post. By chance, a big, easygoing French Canadian from near Quebec was on hand who was more than willing to take over the hockey program. Weighing slightly less than a football tackle and a bit more than a fullback, he was a goalie and just the thing that the athletic director was looking for. But not necessarily the registrar and Fr. Donald LeMay, O.S.B., the director of admissions! Fr. Donald asked himself, "Can I admit him? Can I make an exception in his case?"

Fr. Donald became a pawn in the admissions game, and a deluge of letters flowed in from the four corners of hockeydom to help him make up his mind. One was from Fred Shero, later coach of the Philadelphia Flyers, another from Walter Busch, president of the Minnesota North Stars. So Gaston Rheume was accepted and signed up for hockey, French Grammar and Physical Education.

Gaston made himself the goalie of the team. When he stood in front of the net he looked like an armored

medieval knight guarding the castle gate. He said of himself, "Wherever hockey is, I am. My ambition is to get an excellent hockey program going at St. John's." And, in truth, he did.

The team had a slow start, but once on the winning trail St. John's managed to work out an overall record of nine victories and eight losses, a conference record of six wins and seven losses. The Jays dropped two games to St. Thomas and St. Mary's, alias the Winona Canucks. Highlight of the season was the splitting of a double-header with the University of Wisconsin whose coach hoped to brighten his season record by two slop victories over a small college or university. He was stunned to speechlessness when he dropped a game to St. John's.

Perhaps the best group of senior hockey players left St. John's following their graduation in June, 1966: Jim Trachsel (all-conference and most valuable player), Wally Blaylock (captain), Tom Younghans, Thomas Hayes, Terry Hartman, Joe Palen, Martin Igo, James Belisle, Mike Pomroy. Other members of the team were Jim Borgestad, Steve Hartman, Paul Jung, John McCarthy, Mike Musty, Bob Froehle, Matt Lynch, Gerry Grochowski, James Michaud.

- 1967 -

The 1967 hockey season commenced with grave misgivings that the team would not do better than seventh place in the conference. The loss of the nine seniors from the previous year left only juniors as ranking leaders of the squad. Besides, with Gaston Rheume running out of French classes and physical education courses, the prospects for his academic future looked dim. But by January 23, 1967, eight games later, St. John's was leading the league. Six of the first seven games were won by scores of 3-2.

In the first game of the season St. John's won over the Tommies in their own back yard, the Aldrich Arena, and repeated the victory the next night at St. John's, also under the lights. The remainder of the season was a replica of the first game-St. John's completed the season with a record of twelve wins, five losses and one tie for second place in the conference.

Highlight of the 1967 season was the much appreciated invitation to take part in the First Minnesota Small College Hockey Tournament, together with Gustavus, Bemidji and St. Mary's. To their own astonishment the Jays won all their games except the last one, namely, the finals against Bemidji. The Jays held Bemidji scoreless until the third period when the smooth skating Canadian-loaded Bemidji team pushed over the winning scores. Mike Musty, "the Human Bowling Ball on Skates," won the all-tournament award for his aggressive game, and Gaston Rheume the Most Valuable Player of the tournament award, as well as the all-conference honors.

Credit for the good season was unanimously given to Gaston, both for his sterling play as goalie and his coaching. "Confidence," said Cocaptain Gerald Grochowski, "is the only word to describe him. Confidence in us and our confidence in his coaching are what kept us going through the whole season."

- 1968 -

Gaston Rheume's 1968 team entered the conference race bolstered by the prediction of the sportswriters that they would win the MIAC championship. The Jays started out well with a 4-1 win over Wisconsin State, then lost seven of the next eight games with a regularity that was morale breaking. At this point the steady encouragement of Cocaptain Gerry Grochowski and the confidence of the older members of the team began to payoff. The Jays won six of the following eleven games, plus one tie, to end the season with a conference record of three wins, nine losses, and two ties. The overall record was seven wins, eleven losses, and two ties.

The reason why the team fell so completely apart was partly an unusual number of injuries that kept the trainer Phil Kostelnik busy taping Gaston's ankle, Mike Musty's knee, massaging Tom Haeg's back, and bandaging Jim Borgestad's lacerations. But relief and happiness came with two wins in the last games of the season over Ohio State 6-4 and Ohio University 6-3. They were prestige victories, for both of the Ohio universities were on their way upward in "big-time" hockey. SJU lost to Notre Dame 3-6 in a game played at Duluth.

The 1968 team was one of the most traveled during Rheaume's career at St. John's-more or less Gaston's benchmark of what was about right in the scheduling of a St. John's hockey team.

Members of the squad were the following: Freshmen: Lyman Brink, Tom Carlsen, Tom Colaizy, Dennis Maruska, Nicholas Miller, Patrick Reak. Sophomores: Thomas Haeg, Myron Henrickson, Bill Laliberte, James McDonnell, Bill Trachsel. Juniors: Gerald Grochowski, Mike Laliberte, James Michaud, Gaston Rheaume. Seniors: James Borgestad, Steve Hartman, Paul Jung, Jack McCarthy, Mike Musty, Dave Thein.

- 1969 -

Coach Gaston Rheaume started the 1969 hockey season with Gerald Grochowski as his assistant coach, and three players-Grochowski, Bill Laliberte, and Myron Henrickson-as co-captains. Prospects for a good season looked fair with eight lettermen back. But the fortunes of battle turned against the Jays with postponements due to bad weather, streaks of bad luck in the games and injuries. The season ended with a record of six wins and ten losses in a sixteen-game schedule.

The 1969 team was not a high scoring aggregation. Scoring leader was Tom Colaizy with 24 points, Myron Henrickson with 22, Ronald Nagurski 18, Thomas Carlsen 18, Bill Laliberte 16, Mike Rizzi 12, John Baratto and Tom Haeg 10, Gerry Grochowski 7, James McDonnell 7, Patrick Mahoney 6, Tom Cook 4, Ken Charpentier 4, Phil Wetzel 2, Patrick Reak 1. The remaining members of the team were the star goalies Patrick Kernan and James Michaud.

Highlights of the season were two out-of-state trips: to Indiana to play Notre Dame at South Bend, and to sunny Colorado Springs to play the Air Force team. St. John's lost to Notre Dame 4-5 and 1-6. The two games with the Air Force were also losses, 1-6 and 6-8.

- 1970 -

An air of enthusiasm marked the beginning of the 1970 hockey season. The three co-captains, William Laliberte, Tom Colaizy, and Myron Henrickson, in a condition training program, led the young aspirants up-hill-down-dale and through weight-lifting exercises, getting the team ready for the freeze-up. They even prayed for cold weather, but in vain. The weather insisted on being good.

Coach Rheaume was left practically entirely with underclassmen for scoring since graduation had cleared out the four scoring seniors of 1969. But, as it turned out, what the team needed most was a solid defense. The overall record was six wins and thirteen losses; the conference record was two wins and thirteen losses.

Team roster: David Blaylock, Timothy Broback, Ronald Brown, Don Carlini, Tom Colaizy, Tom Cook, Paul Fontaine, John Gilmore, David and Tom Haeg, Myron Henrickson, Charles Hippe, Bill Laliberte, James McDonnell, Jeffrey Milbert, Michael Rizzi, Phil Wetzel, William Russ.

- 1971 -

The 1971 Johnnies improved slightly over their poor showing in 1970 by winning nine games versus thirteen losses overall, and four conference victories versus eight losses. But again, as in 1970, the late approach of winter and the occasional thaws during the winter deprived the team of practice time, either for defense or a strong, aggressive offensive type of play. The fact that the Jays suffered four shutouts over the season proves conclusively that the 1971 Johnnies were not a high scoring team. What is surprising, however, is that Timothy Broback received all-conference honors despite the weak St. John's attack.

It must be added that the student attitude during the season was indifferent, an attitude shared by the editors of the *Record*, who failed to report the final outcome of the season in terms of conference standings. It was a low finish, for Gustavus was champion, followed by St. Mary's, Concordia, Augsburg, and Hamline in that order. .

The team: Timothy Broback, Charles Belland, David Blaylock, Ronald Brown, Don Carlini, Thomas Carlsen, Todd Clark, Tom Colaizy, Barry Dixon, Paul Fontaine, Charles Hippe, David Igo, Patrick Kernan, Jeffrey Milbert, Daniel Moudry, James Petry, Mark Polles, Leonard Przybylski, Michael Rizzi, William Russ, David Van De Velde, Michael Roche.

- 1972 -

In the preview for the 1972 hockey season the *Record* writer reported that the prospects for the future were bleak, black and ominous for the future. No other report was published. The team, it reported, was lacking in quality hockey players from among the upperclassmen and was made up mainly of sophomores and freshmen. Coach Gaston Rheaume announced, however, that he was scheduling a large number of games in order to provide the opportunity for the younger players to gain experience. He also appointed Patrick Kernan, his goalie, to be his assistant, and Leonard Przybylski and Jeffrey Milbert co-captains. As an added attraction he promised six cheerleaders to liven up the spectators.

The attempt to improve the situation failed to improve the team, for the *Sagatagan* reports the season results as follows: overall, two wins and sixteen losses; conference, two wins and eleven losses. The only cheerful report to make of the 1972 season was that Patrick Kernan, goalie, was awarded all-conference honors for his work.

- 1973 -

Rarely has a hockey season begun with higher hopes than did the 1972-73 entry. "Come one, come all and see the all-new St. John's hockey team—new players, new plays, new equipment, and a new coach." And tri-captain Mark Polles crowed, "Last year we were a pushover, but this season. . . we're going to surprise a lot of people!" (*Record*, November 17, 1962).

John Ludwig, a teacher at Apollo High School in St. Cloud, replaced Gaston Rheaume, who had little or no success in his last two years at St. John's. But it was not long before the good spirits of the new Johnnies took a nose dive and the season ended with an overall record of five wins and seventeen defeats and a conference record of two wins and eleven losses.

Reasons for the poor showing of the team were never defined, but, regardless of what the real reasons for the decline may have been, the most obvious was the limitation of practice to one hour a day, from six until seven o'clock in the morning at the new St. Cloud indoor ice arena. It was an unwise arrangement at best. Then began the mutual recriminations. The players complained of the coach, the coach complained of the players. The only commendable records of the season were sixteen goals and four assists by Dave Van De Velde and the five goals and ten assists of freshman Stacy Christensen. Highlight of the season was the 22-14 defeat of Gustavus Adolphus in the last game of the season.

The team roster: Charles Belland, Douglas Beutel, P. Matthew Brenk, James Carlson, James Carr, Stacy Christensen, Antonio Deguisippi, Jerry and Rich Fredella, David Haeg, Richard Harren, Peter Hill, David Van De Velde, John Laudon, John Lucachick, Daniel Moudry, Mark Polles, Leonard Przybylski, Michael Roche, James Rothstein, Richard Sitt, Daniel Sherlock, Timothy Schoenberg.

- 1974-

The wounds of the past year had not been healed over when 1973- 74 rolled around. Nevertheless, the preview for 1974 was forward looking and filled with hopes for a new dawn. "Any team that will practice when it is still dark outside has to have something going for it," wrote a sportswriter (*Record*, November 16, 1973). Coach Ludwig was greeted by a thin group of twenty-eight hockey players that included three very promising freshmen from Minnetonka: Allen "Buzz" Albee, Tom Stovern and Timothy McHale, all three of whom he placed immediately on the varsity team.

But 1973-74 turned out to be another disaster year with a record of six wins, thirteen losses, and a tie. The record approximates that of the previous year, but it also included two losses of 21-0 to Gustavus and 16-1 to Concordia. It was, in fact, a season of dissension that is best passed over with a minimum of comment. The players were rebellious and some refused to follow orders given during the games.

Coach Ludwig resigned, thoroughly disillusioned by the experience, saying that he had met the players half way but that they on their part had refused to reciprocate. "Ultimately," the *Record* commentator wrote, "the success or failure of the hockey program will depend, not on a part-time versus a full-time coach or the presence or absence of artificial ice, but on the players themselves" (*Record*, March 22, 1974).

Team roster: Charles Belland, Stacy Christensen, James Carr, James Anderson, David Igo, Timothy Krueger, Allen Albee, Thomas Stovern, Timothy McHale, Thomas Kozlak, George Noesen, Michael McCarthy, Gordon and Leonard Przybylski, Dave Van De Velde, James Rothstein, Timothy Schoenberg.

- 1975 -

The appointment of David Igo, a 1974 graduate, as head coach of hockey on a full-time basis, brought about a sudden shift in St. John's fortunes. Probably at the insistence of Dave Igo himself, a new arrangement was made with the St. Cloud Municipal Ice Arena for a three o'clock afternoon practice hour to supplant the utterly ridiculous six-to-seven a.m. hour of the past two years.

David Igo was a hard working coach with definite leadership qualities that enabled him to gain the confidence of the young St. John's skaters. The team had the good fortune to have four young freshmen, Rick Larson, Andy Overman, Kenneth Potts and Joseph McGough to supplement the three 1973-74 prizes, Buzz Albee, Tom Stovern and Timothy McHale.

After a first game loss to River Falls State 3-5, the new Johnnies won the next five games that included double-header wins against Hamline and St. Mary's. The season overall record was ten wins versus fourteen losses, and a conference record of eight wins and eight losses for a fifth place finish in the MIAC, the best record in five dreary years. According to the *Sagatagan*, the success of the 1975 hockey team was due primarily to Dave Igo's leadership and solid coaching, plus the brilliant skating of Stacy Christensen and Rick Larson. Stacy garnered 46 points for first place among the skaters; Rick Larson took second place with 42 points. Other scorers were Andy Overman, Ken Potts, Joseph McGough, Allen "Buzz" Albee, and James Rothstein.

- 1976 -

There is little to write about the 1976 hockey season for the reason that the *Record* failed to give the team names and scores of half the games scheduled. In addition, the *Sagatagan*, that generally supplied information not found in the *Record*, was not published in 1976. But Stacy Christensen was still on the hockey team and supplied whatever the season lacked in interest.

Stacy Christensen had an interesting career at St. John's. When John Ludwig complained to the team that they were not playing good hockey, Stacy, a product of West High in Minneapolis, explained that they could not get much done in an hour of practice-that in his high school they practiced as much as three hours at a time. In 1976, as captain of the team, he accumulated a season total of 48 points, garnered from 29 goals and 19 assists. He also established the school record of 142 points for four years of college competition, thereby supplanting Mike Musty's 111 points registered in 1968. He won the All- American hockey award and the all-conference award for the second straight year in 1976.

Coach Igo was pleased with his first line of Christensen, Rick Larson, and Andrew Overman as possibly the best in the conference, as also was Bob Hanson the best goalie (*Record*, February 11, 1976).

- 1977 -

Dave Igo's 1977 team was still striving to overcome its reputation as a loser that had been hanging over it from the early 1970's. But they were a daring outfit and scheduled the best teams of the area that were available-Superior-Wisconsin (national NAIA champions for 1976), the Air Force, and Bemidji with its array of Canadian recruits.

The season opened with a loss to the Air Force by a score of 3-6, followed by a 9-7 victory over Superior. Then followed four straight losses to the Air Force and Bemidji until finally they succeeded in defeating St. Mary's 14-7. Once settled down, the Jays managed to roll up a series of victories and ended in the conference with six games won, seven lost, and one tied. The St. John's team finished in fourth place in the MIAC.

Highlights of the season were such games as the rousing comeback from a possible humiliating defeat by Superior from;) score of 5-0. Coach Igo was happy with the courage and persistence of his team and looked forward to a better record in 1978.

Squad roster: Anthony Bauer, Dana Carlson, Daniel Dryer, Frank Fairbanks, Richard Gunderson, Robert Hanson, Robert Johnson, Stuart Lindberg, Rick Larson, Timothy McHale, John Mitchell, Mark Nordberg, Andrew Overman, Kenneth Potts, Thomas Stovern, James Vucinovich, Mark Zallek.

-1978 -

Jerome "Jerry" Haugen, '78, baseball and football star, succeeded Dave Igo as coach of the 1978 hockey team. His appointment was first received with dismay on the part of some of the players but quickly changed when it became apparent that the new coach knew the fundamentals of the game and, in addition, possessed the ability to get the most out of his men. "There is no fooling around now" was the word that quickly passed around.

Coach Haugen had a superlatively good season, due partly to personal drive and a good coaching job, partly also to the fine quality of the team handed down to him from the Igo regime. The season record was ten wins versus four losses, for third place in the conference. Highlights of the season were the defeats administered to Gustavus and Mankato, both powerhouses in the state and picked to annihilate the daring Johnnies. Another crowd-pleasing victory was the defe2t of St. Thomas by a score of 5-3, despite a 3-0 lead hammered out by the Tommies in the first period.

Coach Haugen was proud especially of the All-American award to goalie Bob Hanson and the all-conference awards to Hanson, Andy Overman and Rick Larson. James Vucinovich received honorable mention. 1978 was one of the really good hockey seasons in St. John's athletic history!

Team roster: Anthony Bauer, Todd Brandstetter, John Dalton, Tony Delisi, Rick Deslauriers, Daniel Dryer, Frank Fairbanks, Dick Gunderson, Bob Hanson, Thomas Kedrowski, Rick Larson, Mark Mc- Cullen, John Mitchell, Mark Nordberg, Thomas O'Keefe, Kenneth Potts, Andrew Overman, Greg Rancone, Peter Weum, James Vucinovich, Mark Zallek.

Chapter X: Golf

The history of golf at St. John's should rightfully have a preliminary section entitled "The Birth and Death of a Golf Course"-a strange title to be sure, for after all a golf course is simply a piece of landscape adjusted to provide pleasure for human beings who tramp across meadows, ford water hazards, get into traps and out of them, all in pursuit of a white pellet that finally drops with a plunk into a hole in a bit of turf called a green. But the St. John's golf course! That's a different story-the only school-owned golf course in the state.

The coming birth of the St. John's golf course was announced more or less as a rumor in the April 2, 1925 issue of the *Record* to the effect that St. John's might be planning to build a golf course: "The little white pellets may often be seen flying around the lower campus pursued by enthusiasts of the great old game. Who knows but that St. John's may put in a golf course in the near future!"

A year later, April 29, 1926, the sportswriter noted that some progress had already been made for a golf course. The site of the new course was the area north of the lower campus. "Every afternoon a cavalcade of students with caddies, bags and camp followers wend their way to the hills. The present course is in an ideal location and with some improvements can easily be the best desired."

A year later, 1927, a writer reports hearing loud detonations of dynamite explosions on the course, blasting out stones and stumps that obstructed the fairways. "The work on the greens will be finished after this dangerous work has been accomplished, and then St. John's will be one of the very, very few but proud possessors of a school golf course" (*Record*, April 28, 1927).

Progress on the newly created course was leisurely. In the fall of 1927 the tees and greens were plotted out, as suggested by golf pro Archie Houle, brother of Coach Bill Houle, and early in the spring of 1928 the Golf Club began making preparations to schedule matches with the other MIAC colleges. They were certain to make a good showing, they said, because they had in their midst two top-flight golfers: "Prospects were never brighter for a formidable golf team. St. John's is fortunate in having two men who probably have no peer in the conference: Walter Moynihan and Joe Ryan." Moynihan, it continues, was the city champion of Sauk Centre, and for the past two years. champion of the Central Minnesota Golf Association. Joe Ryan, Brainerd's contribution to golf at St. John's, was city champion of his home town. Besides these two, there was Fred Warner of Minneapolis (*Record*, May 26, 1928).

It is apparent from the above that the golf enthusiasts were planning to field a team for conference competition as soon as the greens were completed. On May 19, 1928, the *Record* reported that "the fairways are clear of stumps and stones and all that remains to be done is the completion of the greens. When they are finished St. John's will have the most picturesque course in this part of the state" (*Record*, May 19, 1928).

Considering the positive statements of 1928, it seems strange that for the next two years there were no

references in the *Record* or the *Sagatagan* to conference competition. There was no lack of activity on the campus, however. In 1931 the Golf Club inserted in the *Record* a list of some forty members on whom was placed the responsibility of keeping the greens in good order and the sand surfaces smooth and firm for putting. The impression is that the Golf Club was a smooth working organization, with golfers competing against one another rather than seeking opponents outside the St. John's circle. We read in the *Record* for May 8, 1930, page 7: "The golf course is constantly being attended by the students. This year, more than ever, it is well patronized—a real jaunt for golfers, up and down hills."

Among the members of the Golf Club mentioned in the *Record* during the years 1925-1931 were the following: George Clifford '28, Walter Moynihan '28, Joe Ryan '29, Ray Hite '31, Myron Wiest '31, Roman Niedzielski '31, Rader Hilbe '33, Othmar Janski '31, Fred Hughes '31, Ira Bradford '31, Edward Hennessy '32, Loren Wolter '34, Urban Frey (later Fr. Frederic, O.S.B.) '33, John Devney '33, Bob Burkhard '34, Wilson Wright '34, Jerome Kramer '33 and Walter Weisgram '33.

In 1931 the club sponsored an 18-hole intramural tournament in which Lorry Wolter (star center on St. John's first football championship team) won a cup as prize for first place. Other prizes were awarded, among them a golf sweater with matching socks donated by the Town Toggery clothing store of St. Cloud. The prevailing note of the few golf articles in the *Record* of the time is that the students were delighted with the course and intent on making St. John's a sort of golfer's paradise.

But in all this enthusiasm the faculty was left out of the picture entirely. It was known that the college president, Abbot Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B., who had no objection to golf for the students, was opposed to the sport for members of the community. He considered golf a game played almost exclusively by the wealthy, leisured classes of people and opposed to the vow of poverty. Besides, he thought it a waste of time that could be more profitably spent at almost anything else proper in a monastic environment.

It happened, however, that three of the school administrators of the St. John's educational enterprise, like the students, had caught the golf fever, and during the summer months indulged in their new diversion. It might be added that it was necessary to keep their golf activities safe from the abbot's attention, or from the attention of anyone else, for that matter. However, the young director of athletics, George Durenberger, was a companion with them in some of their golf adventures and still loves to tell about the golfing escapades of the three Benedictine administrators, Frs. Mark Braun (later Abbot Mark), Walter Reger and Theodore Krebsbach, all three deans of the various departments of the college and prep school. He writes:

"The clubhouse for the three monks during these years consisted of a long pile of cordwood stacked close to the first tee. The Reverend Fathers tucked their clubs in the woodpile between the cordwood sticks where they usually escaped the rain. One of Fr. Mark's more serious problems was interference from the porter's office. On many occasions he would have to replace his few clubs in the wood pile and return to his office to convince some parents that they should enroll their boy at St. John's.

"Fr. Mark was also a serious reader of the magazines on golf techniques and would often regale his confreres with 'suggestions' for improving their game. But to no avail! Nor did Fr. Mark improve his own game to any appreciable extent.

"The highlight of the monks' adventures took place one balmy summer evening when they were all gathered on the summer porch with the community and the abbot. That evening, out of the generosity of his heart, Bro. Ambrose, a famous community gagster, approached Fr. Mark and gave him a handful of golf balls he had found on the golf course. I never did find out what happened after that because a few of the monks continued to play."

Fr. Mark later said, "It was an acutely embarrassing moment!" He also had a faint suspicion that the episode was one of Bro. Ambrose's practical jokes, for which he had a unique propensity. Rumor has it that the carefree hours spent on the golf course by Fr. Pat O'Neill, O.S.B., a blithe spirit from St. Bernard's Abbey in Alabama! was the reason for the eventual (and inevitable) ban on faculty golf.

- 1931-1933 -

Around 1931 the Great Depression began to make its effects felt in all colleges in some way or another. At St. John's its effects were especially experienced in a decline of interest in golf. Moreover, drawbacks to the St. John's golf course became more apparent as the golfers became better acquainted with the new courses that were springing up in the smaller — towns throughout the state.

George Durenberger has vividly described the drawbacks: the first was the fact that the course had been superimposed on the St. John's cow pasture. When the herd began to be increased in size in the early '30s, a handicap that at first was little more than a bothersome hazard suddenly became a major problem. Big George describes the situation:

"One of our first major problems was that the cows somehow developed a liking for standing on the greens; cow droppings, plus hoof marks, made putting somewhat difficult. Someone came up with the idea of installing fence posts around the greens with a single strand of barbed wire. This kept the cows off the greens, but it still posed a new problem for the golfers approaching the green. Special ground rules had to be worked out.

"Another problem was the vast accumulation of leaves from the nearby hardwood trees, especially in spring and fall. As someone said at the time, 'A golfer spent one hour golfing and two hours looking for the ball among the leaves.' "

A third problem, a serious one, was the close proximity of the fairways to one another. On several of them a slice or hook could easily cross an adjoining fairway, thus providing a dangerous physical hazard. Not a few players had been struck with golf balls over a season. Finally, when the Depression had touched bottom in 1933 and student interest in golf had reached a deep low, the administration decided to abandon the course as a safety measure.

- 1934 -

The loss of the golf course was felt eventually by the St. John's student body, some of whom gave up the sport. There still remained a few enthusiasts in 1934, however, who banded into a team of four to represent St. John's in the conference. St. John's finished in last place, with John Bateman, '34, leading the team as captain. Bateman finished in sixth place. Other members of the team were John Dale ('34), Lane Scofield ('36) and Wilson Wright ('34).

- 1935 -

Things picked up in 1935 under the leadership of George Kuklinski, '38, who was a better than average college golfer. In the conference tournament of 1935 he finished in fifth place with a score of 156 for the eighteen holes. Other point makers were Lane Scofield (173), Joseph Kelso (174) and Robert Phillips (187).

Incidentally, George Kuklinski, an ardent golfer, suffered the loss of an eye in 1934 when hit by a golf ball on the St. Cloud Country Club links—an accident that reconciled the St. John's students for the loss of their much appreciated but hazardous golf course.

Little or no notice was taken of the golf teams of 1936 and 1937 in either the *Record* or the *Sagatan*, though the *Sagatan* ran a feature picture of Kuklinski in the 1936 issue. Teams might have been organized in a loose way, though there is no evidence of their having competed in the MIAC in 1937.

- 1938 -

But golf took a turn for the better in 1938 when William "Bill" Browne made a spirited effort to put St. John's back on "golfdom's map." He organized a ten-man team made up of Robert Burns ('38), Don Hollenhorst ('39), Randall Murphy ('41), Thomas Rabideau ('43), George Wegener ('41), Dewayne Wohlleb ('39) and Charles Maher. No reports of the season were made beyond the statement that the team had practiced hard on the abandoned golf course.

- 1939 -

In his second year Coach Browne had several new names to add to his team roster: Richard Maertz ('42), a well-qualified golfer, Edwin Lamb ('39), Dennis Booker ('40), Dan Hoolihan ('42). The 1940 team apparently made only a mediocre showing, for the *Sagatan*, referring back to 1939, reported: "The Johnnie diggers didn't do much in the Minnesota conference but dig a lot of divots."

Bill Browne's 1940 golfers did not make a much better showing. Just before the conference meet, sports editor Homer "Rod" Hurd wrote a forecast of Bill's linksters: "Forecast? Johnnies to finish outa the chips. Prospects?-About like the weather, which ain't been so good."

Key members of the 1940 golf squad were Bill Browne '40, George Wegener '41, Dennis Booker '40, Rick Maertz '42, James Lamm '41, Eugene Bolger '41, William Hart '43, Henry "Hank" Strobel '43 and Robert Hughes '43.

- 1941 -

Highlight of the 1941 season was the first victory in golf over St. Cloud T.C. by a score of *7U-4U*. But it was followed immediately by a 10-2 drubbing at the hands of Gustavus Adolphus. In this meet with Gustavus, held on the St. Cloud Country Club course, Henry "Hank" Strobel scored a hole-in-one on the ninth hole. The feat stirred up memories in the mind of George Wegener of the hole-in-one shot he made on the country club course of his native home town, Portal, North Dakota. "At the tender age of fourteen," he recalled, he made a hole-in-one on the tenth green. It was the first international hole-in-one in history. He explained that Portal is located along the line that separates Canada from the United States. The tenth tee-off of the golf course happens to be on the Canada side of the line and the green on the United States side. Therefore, his hole-in-one was the first international hole-in-one and made on the only international golf course in the world.

Actually, the feat was published in Ripley's "Believe It or Not" column, and Wegener was the recipient of several trophies and citations. Incidentally, George was one of the top golfers in St. John's early golf history.

- 1942-'43-'47-'51 -

There are no records of golfing activities at St. John's for the years 1942-43, just after the opening of World War II. Following the war, in 1947, a feeble attempt was made to revive the sport at St. John's with the announcement of a projected match with St. Cloud T.C. that apparently was never played; however, in 1951, five years later, the *Record* announced the resumption of golf in a way that would seem to indicate a real attempt had been made in 1947: "It has been five years since a golf team has

teed off in collegiate circles, and although there are no satisfactory local facilities, the students have expressed a desire to take to the links again" (*Record*, April 12, 1951). The '51 team was granted a \$100 allowance by the athletic department. Team members were Larry Chouinard '51, Jerry Engleson '52, James Van Hercke '51, John "Jack" Litchy '52, James Lilly '53 and Paul Vogel '51.

The luck of the 1951 team varied. St. John's took first place in a triangular meet with St. Cloud and Mankato, but shortly afterwards they were swamped by Gustavus. In the conference the team finished in seventh place, with Paul Vogel St. John's highest scorer.

- 1952-1953 -

No scores were reported for the 1952 and 1953 seasons. A team made up of James Lilly, Bob Hintgen, Jerry Engleson and Joseph Welle was organized in 1952 but none for 1953. Though there is no record of a team in 1954, columnist Dom St. Peter in his "Heavenly Daze" column gave expression to a rumor that plans were brewing to build a links on the picnic grounds across the Watab. "Well, it looks like a golf course may be on the way to becoming a reality here at St. John's. . . . We've heard a great deal of talk about a Johnny golf course in the past two years and are happy to see it on the way to become a reality" (*Record*, May 7, 1954).

- 1955 -

On April 1, 1955, a long article appeared in the *Record* proclaiming the near advent of a golf course in the picnic area across the Watab. "St. John's will have its first golf course since 1933 within the next year or two, if the present project proves to be popular enough to be carried to completion. . . . For the past three months small crews of frustrated lumberjacks, faculty, collegians and a smattering of preps have been seen carrying axes, saws and other paraphernalia to the pasture area west of the Watab."

Among them were Frs. Conrad Diekmann and Dunstan Tucker, George Durenberger and one student in particular, Dean Hall. Prior to the preparations recounted above, consultations had been held with Joe Ryan '31, Dr. George Clifford '28, and the golf pro of the Alexandria golf course for advice in establishing the locations of tees and greens, and all seemed to be progressing regularly. But then suddenly all work stopped. Athletic director George Durenberger has told the story many times in the past:

"Work progressed slowly but surely. The workmen brought along their chain saws and opened up a fairway through the woods, though much of the area was clear. My son David remembers the Durenberger family out on the course evenings picking up stones, brush, etc.

"Then came the letters. One said that God had been good to St. John's for ninety-nine years and we must not do anything to offend him. Another wrote that golf was a game only for the wealthy people, so we would be doing our students an injustice, since most of them are poor, by creating an interest and skills for a game economically beyond their means. Another objected to the picnic area: 'If we permit this to happen, the grounds will be surrounded by women in short skirts.'

"Some of this rubbed off on Abbot Baldwin, as I was instructed to stop the work on the course for the sake of peace, and we did."

The athletic director's disappointment was softened by the construction of a second course in St. Cloud and new courses in Albany and Cold Spring, so the demand for golf courses was lessened.

It is well to add that times and attitudes inevitably change. Abbot John Eidenschink, Fr. Alfred Deutsch, and Fr. Leroy Kremer of the St. John's Seminary manage a game or so once a week in the summer with

Bill Blattner and Al Siebenand on the Albany course.

- 1956-1957 -

The student golfers of 1956-57 seem to have accepted the cancellation of the golf course plans on the principle that the ways of monks are often strange and inscrutable. But finally Jim Cesnik, sports editor of the *Record* for 1956, queried: "While on the subject of spring sports, one might do well to ask whatever became of the nine-hole golf course hailed in the April 1 *Record* last year, heralding a golf comeback after 20 years of decline" (*Record*, April 13, 1956). He received no reply. An ambitious golfer by the name of William "Bill" Weber in 1957 assembled a team made up of "Mick" Mullen, Thomas Clifford, Paul Brown and freshmen George Peterson, Timothy Ondahl, Donald Carpenter and Stanley Kucera. It was a reasonably good team, for the Jays took sixth place in the conference in a field of fourteen. Freshman George Peterson won sixth place in individual competition.

- 1958 -

Colonel William Lorimer III of the local ROTC military department was appointed golf coach with George Peterson as his team captain for the 1958 season. It was a solid, substantial team made up of Captain Peterson, Bill Weber, Tim Ondahl, Gary Pandy and freshmen Mike Skwira, Richard Wadden and Ben Ori. The team met opponents on a fairly even basis, breaking the season at about a .500 average.

- 1959 -

It was around this time that it became more and more evident that the reason for the lack of student support for the golf team, and especially the mediocre showings of the Jays in conference meets, was due to insufficient training on the golf courses. It was during the coaching years of Colonel Lorimer that the athletic director, George Durenberger, made arrangements for the free admission of the golf team to the St. Cloud Country Club links. Whether this arrangement was directly responsible for the improvement of the Jays is impossible to say, but the fact is that the golfers for the years 1957-60 were considerably improved in their match play. Of the fifteen candidates from whom to make selections for the conference, Colonel Lorimer selected Captain George Peterson '60, Cedric Waggoner '62, Mike Skwira '61, Lyle Banta '62 and Bill Black '61.

- 1960 -

Coach Lorimer's 1960 golf team was one of the strongest in St. John's golf history up to that time. Team captain George Peterson was the top golfer in the conference and the medalist in the 1960 MIAC tourney (see *Sagatagan*, 1961). During the regular season the team came up with a perfect record and defeated every team in the conference at least once. Unfortunately, the conference meet was held too late for the results to be published in the *Record*. It is known from the official list of championships, however, that Duluth won the 1960 golf title.

Members of the team were the following: George Peterson (captain), Michael Skwira, Eugene Schuster, Cedric Waggoner, Donald Charpentier and David Matuska.

- 1961 -

Colonel Lorimer retired from the army in 1960 and was succeeded by Major John. Leonard, also a member of the St. John's ROTC staff were two strong lettermen, Captain Michael Skwira and Eugene Schuster, the latter a star performer on the 1960 team. Also on the list of candidates were Frank and Thomas Jelinek, John Borgmann and Kenneth Preimesberger. Among an array of freshmen were Denis

Duffy and Jay Dunham.

The first meeting of the year was lost to Hamline 12-3, with freshman Duffy starring. In a quadrangular meet held at St. Mary's, St. John's defeated Gustavus 9-6, but lost to the Maryans 6-9. The Johnnies continued to do well in MIAC competition and out-shot Concordia at Alexandria, then defeated Augsburg at Keller, St. Paul, with Skwira and Schuster tied at 77 for the medalist position. On May 9 the Johnnies clobbered St. Thomas on the St. Cloud course by a score of 13 ½-4. Schuster was low man with a 76, followed by Skwira with 77.

The 1962 *Sagatagan*, reviewing the prospects for the 1962 golf team reported, "The 1961 team finished high in the conference last year."

-1962 -

In his second year as head of the golfing fraternity, Coach John Leonard maintained a cheerful outlook on the prospects for his team. Captain Skwira was lost to the squad by graduation, but the combination of golf star Eugene Schuster, Ken Preimesberger, Denis Duffy, Jay Dunham and Tom Fritz formed a solid nucleus on which to build.

Despite the good prognostications, the Johnnies finished in sixth place. The five-man squad fired a high 625 strokes, each member playing 27 holes. The title was won by Duluth with 576 strokes.

The members of the team that played in the conference tournament were Denis Duffy '64, Tom Fritz '64, Eugene Schuster '63, John Reichert '65 and G. Joseph Liemandt '65.

- 1963 -

The golf seasons 1963 and 1964 do not rate high in the history of St. John's sports, at least according to the amount of information that is available for record keeping. The new coach, Captain David Bear of the military ROTC staff, was confident that his 1963 golf team, though young, had the potential to eventually win the conference title. The basis for his conviction was, first of all, the ability of his team captain Eugene Schuster, both as player and fiery leader, to stir up the confidence of his teammates. The problem that afflicted St. John's teams, he wrote, was the lack of consistency, a tendency to be easily discouraged when making a faulty shot and failing to shake it off. He lamented also the lack of a campus following for golf, the one sports activity that is more a lifetime game than any other sport at St. John's.

It is probable that his message found a hearing, for after two early setbacks through losses to St. Thomas and Concordia, the next two matches were a complete reversal in form, a convincing romp over Gustavus by a score of 14-1. This was followed by a defeat of Macalester in an unexpected 8-7 victory over the favorite for the championship. With the record of two wins and two losses, the team was determined to out-score Hamline and be set for a determined try for the championship. Unfortunately, the above was the last report on the 1963 season. Duluth, however, was the 1963 title holder.

- 1964 -

The 1964 golf season commenced with an Easter Week jaunt down south to Excelsior Springs of Missouri. The team expected ideal golfing weather, but the temperature dropped to 28 degrees Fahrenheit. It rained, and the ice caked three-fourths of an inch on umbrellas (*sic*). By the end of the trip the team had participated in six tournaments but invariably ran into rainy and cold weather that limited or nullified practice periods (*Record*, April 17, 1964).

The first meet at home was a triangular affair at the St. Cloud links with St. Thomas and St. Mary's. The Johnnies tied St. Thomas 7)4-7)4 but were bombed by St. Mary's 11-4.

The 1964 Johnnies participated in two large tournaments, the first at Bemidji, from which St. John's emerged in eleventh place in a field of sixteen schools. Later, in another invitational between Minnesota and North and South Dakota colleges, St. John's placed seventh in a fourteen-college tourney. Makeup of the 1964 squad was as follows: John Schneeweis ('66), Thomas Lynn ('67), John Ponterio ('66), Mike Williams ('67), Jon Schilling ('66) and team captain Robert Neis ('65). In addition to those mentioned were Joe Liemandt and Ken Utecht.

-1965 -

The only record of the 1965 season available is the following excerpt from the *Record*, May 26, 1965: "St. John's golf team completed a moderately successful season this spring despite frequent rains. Seniors Robert Neis ('65) and Joe Liemandt ('65), juniors John Ponterio ('66), Jon Schilling and John Schneeweis, sophomores Mike Williams and freshman Pat Antrim were the main contributors as the Johnnies finished high in the MIAC open held at Minneapolis' expansive Hazeltine course on May 15-16." The 1965 conference champion was Macalester.

- 1966 -

The golf team of 1966 was similar to that of 1965—a group of linksters who both practiced and played off-campus to the utter indifference of the rest of the St. John's student body. Again, as in the previous Year, the only information about the team is contained in a single article of the *Record*, May 13, 1966:

"The rather inconspicuous sport of golf at St. John's finds this year's team enjoying an exceptional year on the MIAC tour. Coached by Jon Schilling, the team is looking forward to its first conference championship. "Finding adequate facilities in the early part of the season proved to be difficult, and it took a couple of early defeats by Macalester and Hamline to get the rust out. The Jays then tied an exceptionally strong St. Cloud team and followed that with crushing defeats of Concordia and Augsburg at St. Cloud on May 4.

"Playing on this year's team are seniors John Ponterio, Roger Hipwell and Jon Schilling, junior Michael Williams, sophomores Pat Antrim, Dennis Bianconi and Joseph Lamothe, and freshmen John Bonifaci, Thomas Malerich and Tom Kozney.

"The Johnnies will play in the Honeywell Invitational and the Cougar Invitational at Alexandria, as well as the remaining conference matches before heading down to Hazeltine for the MIAC championship tournament tomorrow."

Macalester took the title, the third in a series of conference championships that started in 1964 and ended in 1968.

-1967 -

In 1967 St. John's continued for another year the policy of having a student-coach take charge of the team. The new coach, senior Michael Williams, took a firm hold of the assignment, fully convinced that the chief fault during the past few years had been inconsistency. He immediately made a move to get in a period of daily practice to remedy the team's situation.

In the early part of the season St. John's defeated Gustavus and St. Mary's but lost to St. Thomas and

Augsburg. At this particular point Coach Williams blamed the weather for the inconsistency, although, when asked for an opinion, he replied, "We may have been bothered at times by lack of practice, but overall our only drawback was our instability, our inability to come in with consistent showings. There's no doubt about it, we can beat anybody. Whether we do or not is another matter" (*Record*, May 9, 1967).

St. John's finished the season in eighth place, one point ahead of Gustavus, the cellar holder. Macalester again won first place. The St. John's team was made up of the following members: Michael Williams ('67), Patrick Antrim ('68), Dennis Bianconi ('68), Timothy Baumgartner ('70), John Bonifaci ('69), Mark Harrigan ('70).

- 1968 -

Terry Haws, the new wrestling coach and football assistant, took over the golf team in 1968, the year following the eighth place finish of the St. John's Jays. Terry adhered closely to the analysis of former coach Williams and his effort to overcome the team's failings—that the trouble was not entirely the lack of talent but of consistency from meet to meet. It had become almost a trademark of the golfing Jays that individual players did well in one meet and failed miserably in the next.

Terry's system was to observe carefully the performance of each member of the squad, gradually advancing the best scorers from meet to meet as on an ascending ladder. The result was that talented freshmen Joe Nett, Craig Schneider and Anthony "Tony" Strupeck, as they climbed the ladder, gradually began to replace the letter winners of the previous year. Moreover, the freshmen made excellent replacements. Antrim, a holdover from 1967, said, "Weather permitting and if we jell together, nobody could touch us."

The Jays toppled Hamline 11-4 and Augsburg 12-2, led by two freshmen: Joe Nett with a 77 score and Craig Schneider with a 78. The Jays traveled the next day to St. Mary's and stopped them 12-3, as also title contender Macalester 11-4.

Hard luck halted the brilliant early spurt of the youthful Jays, however, in the form of injuries to John Bonifaci and Mark Harrigan, and the Jays dropped the next four meets, with a resulting conference meet record of four wins and four losses.

In the MIAC tournament the St. John's golfers jumped from eighth place to fourth, with John Bonifaci and freshman Tony Strupeck leading the team, followed closely by Joe Nett, Craig Schneider and Dennis Bianconi.

Terry Haws, despite his disappointment with the team for not doing better, was satisfied that his system had worked. The future looked bright.

- 1969 -

The high hopes of Terry Haws at the end of his first season as golf coach were amply justified. The 1969 team won the MIAC championship, the first and only golf championship in St. John's history. With Pat Antrim the only 1968 team member graduating, the coach had a line-up of tried golfers to start the season: Mark Harrigan, Joe Nett, Tony Strupeck, Jack Herb, with freshmen Joseph Parise and Paul Welle to challenge them for first place positions on the team. The motivation provided by the freshmen was demonstrated when freshman Joe Parise, who emerged from the conflict as the conference champion for 1969, stirred up the Jays to a startling comeback at a time when it seemed that the team might finish among the also-rans of the conference.

Unfortunately, the *Record* failed to report the entire season's play, despite an elaborate program of six invitationals and only two dual meets. In the 1970 preview for the coming season we read a brief account of the final phase of the MIAC tournament: "In last year's conference meet the Johnnies stormed from ten points behind in a rain and hail storm at Edina's Braemar Country Club to capture the first title in school history. Joe Parise, the conference individual champion and medalist, was the hero of the day by coming from behind with two 76 scores for the first and second rounds. In scoring his 76 finish he broke out of a three-way tie to secure medalist honors" (*Record*, April 15, 1970).

-1970 -

"Golfers Playing Unfamiliar Role" was the headline of the 1970 golf preview: "The St. John's golf squad is in an unfamiliar position they are the defending champions and are rated a strong favorite to repeat" (*Record*, April 15, 1970).

Heading the list of returnees for the 1970 season was sophomore Joe Parise who in 1969 had broken a three-way tie to take medalist honors in the conference. Others less noteworthy were senior captain Mark Harrigan and seniors Craig Schneider and Jack Herb; juniors Joe Nett, Tony Strupeck and Paul Welle; sophomore Robert Brick and three promising freshmen-James Kruzich, Kim Culp and Patrick McKeon.

The prediction of Terry Haws was that the race would be between St. John's, Gustavus and St. Thomas, with Duluth coming in as a darkhorse possibility. The weather was particularly adverse to the Jays, however, ". . . because of inclement weather the entire Jay schedule prior to the conference championship was cancelled, and so the conference meet was their first competitive event. The team finished in a very disappointing seventh place in the MIAC" (*Record*, March 26, 1971)

-1971 -

Joe Parise in his pre-season column in the *Record* was guardedly optimistic in his predictions for 1971. "St. John's," he commented, "is definitely a potential contender, but whether the Johnnies can sharpen up and show some consistency remains to be seen" (*Record*, March 26, 1971). Later, in an interview conducted by the excellent commentator Ernie Bedor, Parise again was guarded in speaking of his own chances to win the individual title: "It all depends on how hot you get and how everyone else does. The team, I know, will be a lot better. . . . Joe Nett has been playing his best golf and could win the championship" (ibid). It might be added that he and three others had gone to Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Easter season to practice so as not to be caught unprepared before the conference meet.

The 1972 *Sagatagan* published the outcome of the Jays' golf season as follows: first place in the St. Cloud dual meet, third place in the Cobber-Dragon Invitational, second place in the MIAC, second place in the NAIA District 13 play-offs. It was one of the good St. John's years in golf.

-1972 -

Around 1972 or slightly earlier, a radical change had taken place in the reporting of golf activities. With the new academic calendar and the shortening of the spring season from June to May 20 or so, the golf season was now limited to ten days at the most. As a result, careful records of the spring sports were not kept as important. For the 1972 golf season, by a lucky break, the newspaper clippings of the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* are available.

St. John's finished in second place in the conference, losing first place to Macalester by a meager eight points: Macalester's total points for the meet of 791 to the 799 of St. John's. Joe Parise won seventh

place with a total score of 155, Kim Culp and James Kruzich tied for tenth place at 159 points, Pat McKeon took seventeenth place, and Douglas Dero and John Possin were in 36th and 37th places respectively. The solid second place finish ranked the Jays among the leaders in the conference.

-1973 -

The untimely death of Terry Haws brought football coach John Gagliardi to the head coaching position of golf in 1973. The turn-out of candidates for the team was enthusiastic with 36 contestants for the ten-man squad the coach would select. Coach Gagliardi singled out five veterans as most likely winners of the choice spots on the team: Kim Culp, Douglas Dero, John Possin, James Brewi and Pat McKeon. When the MIAC championships came around, however, the team was represented by three new men, David Koebele, Rick Sheldon and Tom Bromen, along with Culp and Brewi.

After the first round of the conference golf tourney St. John's title chances looked bleak. The new members, through lack of experience, found it difficult to cope with what they called the "choppy unpredictable greens." Brewi, in an interview with a *Record* sportswriter, acknowledged that the conference "had a lot of good experienced teams." According to a later report, the Jays were headed for sixth place in the conference standings.

- 1974-1978-

Since neither the school paper nor the golf coach kept statistical data and squad rosters for the years 1974-78, Coach Patrick Haws was able to provide only the following information about these years:

1) The MIAC standing of St. John's for the period; 2) the name of the team captain for each year; 3) the names of the individual competitors who represented St. John's in the conference championship matches.

1974-MIAC place: third. Captain: Jim Brewi. Team members: Dave Krebs, Scott Hogan, Doug Spanton.

1975-MIAC place: sixth. Captain: Jim Brewi. Team members: Dave Koebele, Doug Dero, Phil Murphy.

1976-MIAC place: third. Captain: none. Team members: Mike Jennings, Mark Hall, John Dorgan.

1977-MIAC place: fourth. Captain: Mike Jennings. Team members: Mark Hall, Jim Lehman, Robley Evans.

1978-MIAC place: fourth. Captain: Mike Jennings. Team members: Jim Lehman, Terry Putz.

Chapter XI: Soccer

- 1967 -

In the period from 1966-69 two new sports made their appearance on the St. John's campus, soccer football and rugby. First came soccer. A change in the general atmosphere of St. John's, as well as in other colleges, had been building up after the war, one feature of which was the heavy influx of foreign students from various countries-Mexico, Central and South America, the Bahamas, Viet Nam, Hong Kong all countries where soccer was the international sport par excellence. It was in response to their

request for soccer equipment that Athletic Director George Durenberger furnished them with the needed material: balls, goal nets and an adequate playing area on the new intramural field. He also arranged a series of scheduled games with colleges where soccer had become one of the fall sports, especially Macalester and Carleton.

It turned out that not only foreigners but also North American students were interested in soccer and wanted to play the game. Although it was a popular international sport, every American boy had at one time or another engaged in a modified form of soccer, kicking the ball only and striving to drive it over a given goal line. The great difference that the Americans had to surmount in order to play the game was that the player could use any part of the body except the arms and hands to maneuver the ball to a point where it could be kicked into the nets. Butting the ball with the head, known as "heading," is a characteristic feature of the game.

A total of 35 candidates signed up for membership in the squad. Of the 35 members who eventually remained on the team, seven were foreign students: Abel Laguna, from Peru, who was the coach and principal strategist; Roberto Marchan, captain, from Puerto Rico; Juan Russo, Panama; Jose Ertze, Mexico; James Burrows, Bahamas; Douglas Apel, Guatemala; and Kmwah Ng, Hong Kong. American members of the team were Steve Pavkovich, Dick Oman, Douglas Pels, Richard Tichich, Robert Pinder, James Vivaldelli, Mark Juetten, Mike Molitor, John Ferret, Larry Schmitz, Thomas Hogan, John Cretzmeyer, Larry Kidder, Steve Zwisler and Fred Thielman.

Outcome of the season was a record of 3-2-1-three wins, two losses and one tie. The Jays defeated Macalester 4-2, Hamline 3-1 and 3-1 then won by a forfeit over St. Mary's, and tied Gustavus in the rain 0-0. They lost to the University of Minnesota 7-0 and St. Thomas 3-2.

Prospects for the future looked good to Coach Abel Laguna. What was lacking mainly was experience and coordination of the team in passing the ball by kicks from player to player, and the patterns of play in advancing the ball to the goal, much as in hockey. George Durenberger promised to do his best to get soccer accepted by the conference as a championship, letter-winning sport.

- 1968 -

1968 was the first season of organized soccer in the MIAC, with teams representing five of the colleges: St. John's, St. Thomas, Hamline, Augsburg and Macalester. Concordia, Duluth and Gustavus had not officially joined the league as yet. Gustavus, a particularly tough competitor, joined at the end of the 1968 season.

Once more the St. John's team was coached by Abel Laguna, the Peruvian soccer strategist, with Puerto Rican Bob Marchan as team captain. There was little change in the team personnel, with the exception of Dave Kowalski, Mark Studer and Steve Pollock, all three of whom made valuable contributions to a good season, especially on the offensive. Bahamian Jim Burrows served as the star goalie and made good use of his baseball experience in blocking the entrance to the goal, despite a leaky defense that sometimes left him as the sole guardian of the net. It was a developing team, however, with the greatest weakness being the lack of finesse in scoring goals after the fullbacks and halfbacks had turned the ball over to the forwards.

The conference season opened with a defeat at the hands of St. Olaf, 4-3, but the team continued to advance in skill until finally, in the best game of the season, the Johnnies exploded to defeat Macalester 5-2. It was in this game that the new trio of Dave Kowalski, Mark Studer and Steve Pollock came into their own. Kowalski and Captain Roberto Marchan each scored two goals and Mark Studer one. Jim Burrows blanked the Macs in the second half as defender of the net.

The season ended in a three-way tie between St. John's, St. Thomas and Macalester, with identical records of four wins and one loss. The season was noteworthy for being the first year soccer letters were issued-fifteen in number. At the end of the season Coach Laguna proffered the special thanks of the team to George Durenberger for getting the game recognized by the St. John's Monogram Club and the MIAC. "It took George three years," he said, "but he did it!"

- 1969 -

Coach Abel Laguna graduated in the spring of 1969 and was succeeded in office by James "Big Red" Vivaldelli. On the schedule were five conference games: Macalester, Augsburg, Hamline, St. Thomas and Gustavus Adolphus. It was a season in which several new names were added to the team roster, players who were instrumental in promoting the success of the team: freshman Tim Broback was one, scoring the only point in a victory over St. Olaf, 1-0. Then there were rugged and effective Tom Keul, goaltender, who had three shutouts over the season, halfbacks Tim Hogan and Kinwah Ng. The 1969 Johnnies were called the "Five Nation Team" because of its makeup of Douglas Apel, Guatemala; Vinh Dink Nguen, South Viet Nam; Ramsey Shu, Hong Kong; Ning Uyen Chen and Kinwah Ng, both from Hong Kong; finally Paul Gotay, Puerto Rico.

American members of the team were Rick Althoff, Tom Bates, Tim Broback, Rich Bunting, John Cretzmeyer, Weston Cutter, Peter Daudu, Tom Gilligan, Tim Hogan, Steve Pavkovich, Bill Russ, Mark Studer, Jim Vivaldelli, Tom Weber and John Weiss.

The 1969 soccer team finished the year with an overall record of five wins, one tie and two losses. The conference record was 4-1-1 for second place. It was a strong, well-balanced team despite having been defeated by Gustavus 4-0, the Gusties winning the crown with a record of five wins and only one loss.

Soccer had come a long way since its beginning in 1966, three years before. The proportion of games won versus the number lost was approximately the same, but the quality of play had improved significantly. One by one, the conference colleges had taken up soccer until In 1969 the only conference member without a soccer team was Concordia. Players and spectators alike had arrived at the point where a total of 35 candidates signed up for membership in the squad.

Of the 35 members who eventually remained on the team, seven were foreign students: Abel Laguna, from Peru, who was the coach and principal strategist; Roberto Marchan, captain, from Puerto Rico; Juan Russo, Panama; Jose Ertze, Mexico; James Burrows, Bahamas; Douglas Apel, Guatemala; and Kinwah Ng, Hong Kong. American members of the team were Steve Pavkovich, Dick Oman, Douglas Pels, Richard Tichich, Robert Pinder, James Vivaldelli, Mark Juetten, Mike Molitor. John Ferret, Larry Schmitz, Thomas Hogan, John Cretzmeyer, Larry Kidder, Steve Zwislser and Fred Thielman.

Outcome of the season was a record of 3-2-1-three wins, two losses and one tie. The Jays defeated Macalester 4-2, Hamline 3-1 and 3-1, then won by a forfeit over St. Mary's, and tied Gustavus in the rain 0-0. They lost to the University of Minnesota 7-0 and St. Thomas 3-2.

Prospects for the future looked good to Coach Abel Laguna. What was lacking mainly was experience and coordination of the team in passing the ball by kicks from player to player, and the patterns of play in advancing the ball to the goal, much as in hockey. George Durenberger promised to do his best to get soccer accepted by the conference as a championship, letter-winning sport.

- 1968 -

1968 was the first season of organized soccer in the MIAC, with teams representing five of the colleges:

St. John's, St. Thomas, Hamline, Augsburg and Macalester. Concordia, Duluth and Gustavus had not officially joined the league as yet. Gustavus, a particularly tough competitor, joined at the end of the 1968 season.

Once more the St. John's team was coached by Abel Laguna, the Peruvian soccer strategist, with Puerto Rican Bob Marchan as team captain. There was little change in the team personnel, with the exception of Dave Kowalski, Mark Studer and Steve Pollock, all three of whom made valuable contributions to a good season, especially on the offensive. Bahamian Jim Burrows served as the star goalie and made good use of his baseball experience in blocking the entrance to the goal, despite a leaky defense that sometimes left him as the sole guardian of the net. It was a developing team, however, with the greatest weakness being the lack of finesse in scoring goals after the fullbacks and halfbacks had turned the ball over to the forwards.

The conference season opened with a defeat at the hands of St. Olaf, 4-3, but the team continued to advance in skill until finally, in the best game of the season, the Johnnies exploded to defeat Macalester 5-2. It was in this game that the new trio of Dave Kowalski, Mark Studer and Steve Pollock came into their own. Kowalski and Captain Roberto Marchan each scored two goals and Mark Studer one. Jim Burrows blanked the Macs in the second half as defender of the net.

The season ended in a three-way tie between St. John's, St. Thomas and Macalester, with identical records of four wins and one loss. The season was noteworthy for being the first year soccer letters were issued-fifteen in number. At the end of the season Coach Laguna proffered the special thanks of the team to George Durenberger for getting the game recognized by the St. John's Monogram Club and the MIAC. "It took George three years," he said, "but he did it!"

- 1969 -

Coach Abel Laguna graduated in the spring of 1969 and was succeeded in office by James "Big Red" Vivaldelli. On the schedule were five conference games: Macalester, Augsburg, Hamline, St. Thomas and Gustavus Adolphus. It was a season in which several new names were added to the team roster, players who were instrumental in promoting the success of the team: freshman Tim Broback was one, scoring the only point in a victory over St. Olaf, 1-0. Then there were rugged and effective Tom Keul, goaltender, who had three shutouts over the season, halfbacks Tim Hogan and Kinwah Ng. The 1969 Johnnies were called the "Five Nation Team" because of its makeup of Douglas Apel, Guatemala; Vinh Dink Nguen, South Viet Nam; Ramsey Shu, Hong Kong; Ning Uyen Chen and Kinwah Ng, both from Hong Kong; finally Paul Gotay, Puerto Rico.

American members of the team were Rick Althoff, Tom Bates, Tim Broback, Rich Bunting, John Cretzmeyer, Weston Cutter, Peter Daudu, Tom Gilligan, Tim Hogan, Steve Pavkovich, Bill Russ, Mark Studer, Jim Vivaldelli, Tom Weber and John Weiss.

The 1969 soccer team finished the year with an overall record of five wins, one tie and two losses. The conference record was 4-1-1 for second place. It was a strong, well-balanced team despite having been defeated by Gustavus 4-0, the Gusties winning the crown with a record of five wins and only one loss.

Soccer had come a long way since its beginning in 1966, three years before. The proportion of games won versus the number lost was approximately the same, but the quality of play had improved significantly. One by one, the conference colleges had taken up soccer until in 1969 the only conference member without a soccer team was Concordia. Players and spectators alike had arrived at the point where they could recognize good soccer and appreciate the fifteen goals the 1969 team had scored versus seven by the opponents.

In a resume of the season, Tim Tuohy of the *Record* staff quoted Coach Vivaldelli's praise of the work and improvement achieved by the "Kickers." He attributed their improvement to greater finesse around the opponents' goal, more skill and astuteness in passing the ball, and greater aggressiveness of the players. Individuals singled out for commendation were Tom Keul for his work as goalie (three shut-outs), Doug Apel for his six goals, and Tim Broback, Mark Studer and Tom Gilligan for their aggressive play. The player-coach Vivaldelli had become an outstanding defensive fullback.

With only Kinwah Ng and Steve Pavkovich graduating, the coach was looking forward to 1970 for the best soccer team St. John's had. thus far produced (*Record*, November 7, 1969, p. 4).

- 1970 -

Sometime in the interim between the 1969 and 1970 soccer seasons, Athletic Director George Durenberger appointed Axel Theimer, music instructor and director of the men's chorus, coach of the soccer team.

The appointment of an Austrian who had played soccer in his native country brought a flavor of Europe to the St. John's athletic scene. He was a vigorous young man, not yet twenty-five and greatly in need of exercise. He first became interested in watching the St. John's soccer team practice and in time joined in the training exercises, running and kicking. Now and then he would stop to give the players a tip when it was apparent that a fault was correctable, sometimes suggesting a play that was successful in European soccer-pointers on finesse that the American players at St. John's had never heard of before.

The appointment was almost to be expected eventually. James Vivaldelli, the 1969 coach and player, welcomed his successor for the reason that it gave him the opportunity as assistant coach to exercise the leadership that the squad needed in order to make progress in mastering the game. Moreover, a number of the 1969 team members had not returned, and there were vacancies to be filled by new men. Missed, especially, were Mark Studer, the leading 1969 scorer, Tom Keul, who had developed into a first-class goalie, and Kinwah Ng, their outstanding halfback who had graduated.

The overall record for the season was four wins, four ties and two defeats; the conference record three wins, three ties and two losses. The number of tied games is indicative of the stubborn defense the team had developed. The season ended with St. John's in third place behind Gustavus (first) and St. Thomas (second).

The only team members mentioned in the game reports were Tim Hogan, John Weiss, John Cretzmeyer, Steve Pollock, James Vivaldelli, Tim Broback and Ning Yuen Chen.

- 1971 and 1972-

The *Record* for the years 1971 and 1972 showed little or no interest in soccer. For that reason the outcomes of the 1971 and 1972 seasons have been culled from the *Sagatagan*: 1971, four wins, six losses, four ties; 1972, six wins, nine losses.

Returning for the 1971 season were the following veterans: Weston Cutter, Daniel Dimarco, David Farnesi, Patrick Machogu, Vinh Dink Nguen, Thomas Weber, John Weiss, David Yeh, Stephen Pollock and Steven Young (*Record*, October 1, 1971).

SCORES-1971

SJU Opponents

0 Gustavus 8

0 Macalester 0

3 Augsburg 3

6 Hamline 1

2 St. Thomas 3

3 St. Olaf 5

0 Gustavus 7

4 Macalester 1

3 Augsburg 2

1 Carleton 2

2 Hamline 1

0 St. Thomas 4

RECORD

Overall: 4 wins, 2 ties, 6 losses

SCORES-1972

SJU Opponents

0 St. Olaf 2

6 Luther 0

0 St. Thomas 7

0 Gustavus 9

1 Macalester 4

1 Augsburg 3

3 Hamline 2

(?)St. Thomas 2

2 Gustavus 5

0 Carleton 5

1 Macalester 2

2 Augsburg 3

3 Hamline 2

6 Concordia 1

2 St. Cloud 1

RECORD

Overall: 6 wins 9 losses

Conference: 4 wins 8 losses

-1973 -

The 1973 soccer season was one of transition from an experienced coach, Axel Theimer, to a beginner in the coaching game, Matthew Sikich, a 1972 graduate of St. John's. Captain of the team was David Yeh, a native of Hong Kong who had done all his earlier playing in the techniques of a country where soccer was an international sport. On the team were two other players experienced in foreign-style soccer, Geoff Murphy and his brother Brian, both rugged American players who had lived in Athens, Greece, during the years when they were going through grade school. Like Captain Yeh, they were expert soccer performers. With the exception of a few other players on the team, the 1973 edition was made up mainly of beginners who had little knowledge of the game and practically no experience. The *Record* gives the names of only a few of the veterans on the team: Carl Neuburge Joe Speltz, Ward Johnson, and young Tom Rocheford who later was captain of the 1976 team and coach of the 1977 aggregation.

The inexperience made itself evident in the first nine games of the season, during which the team won only one game, lost six and tied one. The spirit of the team was good, however. Coach Sikich had won the confidence of his players, and in the next five games won two, lost one and tied two others. The record of the season, therefore, was three wins, six losses, and three ties for fourth place in the conference—a respectable finish despite a miserable beginning. The closing games inspired hope for the future. Geoff Murphy was especially cheerful and predicted that the Jays would win the conference the next season. He based his prediction on his belief that Americans are talented soccer players. "They may not pass as well, but they make up for it with hustle. Every year the top conference teams get better" (*Record*, November 2, 1973). Coach Sikich shared the enthusiastic optimism of his players.

- 1974 -

In his introduction of the 1974 soccer team to readers of the *Record*, Carl Neuburger prophesied that the "soccer fans are in for a treat this year as SJU is fielding what is proving to be the best team ever in the history of St. John's." Nothing could have been truer. The high hopes of Coach Matt Sikich at the end of the 1973 season were by no means unfounded. The number of star soccer players returning from the

previous year was unusual: senior Captain Tom Rocheford; juniors Jim Sawyer, Jack Sandberg, Geoff Murphy, Bernard Rahming and Carl Neuburger; sophomores Joe Speltz, Jim McGough, Brian Murphy and Joe Mueller. Not mentioned, however, were three freshmen, Chi- King "Paddie" Lai, Ken Potts and Mike Lilly, three superb soccer players without whom the Johnnies would not have won their way to the semi-finals in the NAIA national tournament.

Apparently Coach Sikich became aware early that his three freshmen were highly talented performers, for their names figure consistently in the scoring columns throughout the entire season. After an initial loss to St. Olaf (3-6), the Jays ran up a streak of eight victories, one tie with Gustavus (3-3) and then a one goal loss to Augsburg, 1-0.

There remained the post-season games for the national championship, as St. John's, by virtue of its record, was eligible to enter competition for the championship of NAIA District 13. In the play-offs the Johnnies first defeated Lakehead of Canada by a score of 2-1. They were then pitted against the tough Augsburg team and emerged the victors in a thrilling 1-0 victory. It was a game that left the SJU supporters jubilant and the defeated Auggies stunned in disbelief.

St. John's placed five players on the all-MIAC team: Captain Tom Rocheford, goalie; Geoff Murphy and his brother Brian, forwards; Mike Lilly, only a freshman, center-forward; Jim McGough, defense.

ROSTER

Chi-King"Paddie" Lai

Michael Lilly

James McGough

Joseph Mueller

Brian Murphy

Geoff Murphy

Carl Neuburger

Kenneth Potts

Thomas Rocheford

Bernard Rahming

Joseph Sandberg

James Sawyer

Joseph Speltz

Coach-Matthew Sikich

Captain-Tom Rocheford

SCORES

3 Bethany 1

4 Bethel 0

3 St. Olaf 6

0 Augsburg 0

3 St. Thomas 2

1 Macalester 0

3 Gustavus 3

7 Hamline 0

4 St. Olaf 1

1 Augsburg 0

(?) St. Thomas (?)

2 Macalester 1

8 Hamline 2

The 1974 Quest for the National NAJA Championship

Carl Neuburger wrote a lively account of the SJU struggle to annex the NAIA championship to its 1974 laurels:

"The soccer team, which ended its conference season with an 8-2 win over Hamline, played some of its best soccer of the year last weekend as they defeated Lakehead of Canada 2-1 and Augsburg 1-0 to take the District 13 regional crown. Lakehead had defeated the Johnnies two weeks earlier and were a trifle arrogant coming into the match, but the cocky Canucks were sent to the showers, bedazzled by a tough Johnnie defense led by the Rock of Gibraltar (or rather the Rocheford of St. John's) that allowed only one goal to the tough Lakehead team. Ken Potts and Brian Murphy were each able to beat the Lakehead goalie to advance the Johnnies to the finals of the District 13 NAIA play-offs with Augsburg.

"In an exciting game against Augsburg the Johnnies were able to break a 0-0 deadlock with a perfect 35-yard shot by Geoff Murphy that caught the Augsburg goalie slightly out of position. Solid defensive play by Joe Speltz, along with Jim Sawyer, Jim McGough, and Brian Murphy kept the Auggies in check, and magnificent goal-tending by Tom Rocheford left the Augsburg players and fans in bewilderment and at the short end of a 1-0 score" (*Record*, November 18, 1974). The defeat of Augsburg entitled the Johnnies to enter the NAIA Nationals in order to compete for the national title as top team of its class in the nation. The *Record* failed to post a report of the Johnnies' fortune in the national meet. The fact is that St. John's was seeded to meet the Kickers of Quincy College, Illinois, a team that for years dominated the NAIA nationals. St. John's lost the semi-final game by a score of 8-0.

- 1975-

Coach Matt Sikich, when he saw his 1975 soccer team in action was convinced that this was the best of his three teams. A large number of his 1974 players had returned and, except for the absence of Tom Rocheford, it was basically the same as that of the previous year. The Jays made a fast start in the conference race by blitzing Hamline 5-0 with ease and defeating strong St. Olaf in a hard-fought game by a score of 3-2. The two initial victories left them in first place in the conference and full of confidence for a big year. The team was well balanced with a stout defense and a versatile offense led by sophomore Mike Lilly, who already had scored five goals in the first two games. Flanking Lilly were sophomore Ken Potts, freshmen Tim Rutka, Patrick Lilly, Mark Cote, Pete Rocheford and Angelo Castellano. Among the halfbacks were veterans John Sandberg, Captain Geoff Murphy, and freshman Shawn Dougherty.

On the defense was junior goalie Tom Kozlak, protected by fullbacks James Sawyer, Joe Speltz, Steve Westlund, Carl Neuburger, and freshmen John McHale and Dale Kiedrowski. The squad was larger than usual, but numbers were necessary because of the freshmen and other inexperienced players.

The *Record* is silent about the progress of the team until the October 28 issue which carried a brief statement under a snapshot of Tim Rutka in action to the effect that the soccer team had suffered reverses. St. John's had dropped games to St. Thomas (1-3) and to league-leading Augsburg (1-4), losses which relegated the Johnnies into third place with only one more game to go. The record for the season was eight victories, four losses, and two ties. Winner of the 1975 soccer title was Augsburg.

-1976 -

It is difficult to write an adequate resume of the 1976 soccer team in the short space allowed for each year in this history. It was a glorious season played by what was undoubtedly the strongest, most versatile and most unified team in St. John's soccer history. After an initial loss to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay by a score of 2-3 and a 1-1 tied game with Gustavus, the Jays exploded with a string of eight conference victories, then a tie, followed by three more conference wins for a record of eleven wins and three ties for first place and the MIAC championship. The overall record was thirteen wins, two losses, and three ties.

Credit has to be given to Coach Matt Sikich who assembled the team and coached it, but, as for playing the games, even more credit has to go to Captain Mike Lilly and his companions in arms who formed a unit more powerful than the brilliant team of 1974. The outstanding scoring star was Mike Lilly, probably the most prolific scorer that St. John's had ever seen, but the championship was essentially a team achievement, scoring 47 points to eight by the opposition. The defense was "awesome," as one columnist wrote. The defense shut out the opponents in eight conference games, with an average of only one goal per game for the season.

According to the reports of games, the total number of key members was fourteen: forwards Pat Lilly, Mark Cote and "stylish" Tim Rutka; midfielders Mike Lilly, John Cella, Shawn Dougherty and John McHale; on defense were, first of all, two gladiatorial goal tenders, John Warren and Robert Cherry, with fullbacks Dale Kiedrowski, Joe Speltz and Steve Westlund. Key substitutes were Michael Bruckbauer, Pete Weyandt and Pete Rocheford, all-purpose men who were called upon often to substitute for an injured player.

The NAIA Play-offs

The play-off games for the district championship were almost as dramatic as the games of the regular

season. St. Thomas and Augsburg, second and third place finishers in the MIAC standings, were both eligible for the district play-offs and hence were forced to play one another to decide who should meet St. John's.

Augsburg defeated St. Thomas in a game that went into seven overtime periods before the Auggies finally broke the tie to win the right to play St. John's for the District 13 championship. The Augsburg-St. John's game also ran into extra periods and only ended when, in the second overtime, John McHale spotted Mike Lilly breaking for the goal and threaded his way through the Auggies' defensive line to pass the ball to Lilly, who fired the ball into the net for a 2-1 victory and the undisputed District 13 championship.

The next move was to win the deciding game over the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, District 14 champions, for the Area III playoffs, preliminary to the semi-finals of the NAIA tournament in the Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California. In fact, the Jays defeated Parkside easily, only to discover that the next opponent would be Quincy College' the perennial winner of the meet. With a gulp of dismay but plenty of courage the Jays fought the Quincy kickers valiantly but lost by a score of 5-0. We will let the *Record* columnist relate that story:

"The soccer team's recent loss to Quincy College was a generally expected fate. But the final score of 5-0 was a marked improvement over the trip taken two years ago.

" 'They outclassed us,' said Mike Lilly. 'They were quick and had good defense. We had two very good chances to score in the first half but we couldn't quite put them in.'

"One consolation was that it took Quincy eight minutes to make its first goal.

" 'The last time it was the first nineteen seconds,' said Lilly. 'That doesn't mean anything, really; but still, we are a better team than we were two years ago' " (*Record*, October 13, 1976, p. 11).

The following players of the 1976 soccer team were awarded berths on the all-conference team: Mike Lilly, Mark Cote, Steve Westlund and John Warren. Lilly and Warren were also awarded All-District 13 honors.

The team roster included Michael Bruckbauer, John Cella, Robert Cherry, Mark Cote, Shawn Dougherty, Dale Kiedrowski, Michael Lilly (captain), Patrick Lilly, John McHale, Timothy Rutka, Joe Speltz, John Warren, Steve Westlund and Pete Weyandt.

Games won, tied or lost: Green Bay 2-3 (lost), Gustavus 1-1 (tied), Hamline 6-0 (won), St. Olaf 1-0 (won), Augsburg 4-3 (won), Macalester 3-1 (won), Gustavus 2-1 (won), Hamline 7-0 (won), St. Olaf 2-2 Augsburg 0-0 (tied), St. Thomas 1-0 (won), Macalester 8-0 (won), St. Mary's 8-0 (won).

-1977-

Coach Matthew Sikich was succeeded by Peter Rocheford, a 1976 graduate of St. John's who had played under Sikich for four years. Coaching was new to him, but he managed to lead his team to a second place finish in the MIAC. Assisting him was Pat Haws, director of the swimming pool and coach of the swimming team.

Coach Rocheford inherited a strong team that included Mike Lilly (styled in the *Record* as the "Gem"), scrappy Kenneth Potts and stylish Timothy Rutka. Also on the team from 1976 was the 1976 all-conference goalie, John Warren. Lost, however, were two other all-conference players, Mike Cote and

Steve Westlund. Goalie Bob Cherry, who had alternated with J--rren as goal tender, was also lost as a "defector to St. Thomas," as the sportswriter jokingly expressed it.

To some extent the 1977 season was a rebuilding year, inasmuch as the brilliant passing combinations of 1976 had been broken up. The season began most propitiously with four victories of the first five matches played. Then the reverse took place; the Johnnies won only one game of the last five. The record for the regular season of play was 5-4-3 (five wins, four losses, and three ties). The overall record was 5-5-3.

Far from being a losing team, the 1978 "kickers" were a well-balanced organization that lacked only aggressiveness or a bit of luck in making the one point more in each game that would have launched the team into the upper stratum of the conference. To use an athletic cliché, the Johnnies were "never out of the game." Only Augsburg and St. Thomas (winner of the 1978 soccer title) defeated St. John's twice. The other scores all indicate that the 1978 Jays were a well-balanced but unspectacular team in an unspectacular conference season. .

The season record is as follows: games won-over St. Olaf 3-1; Hamline 2-1; Macalester 1-0; St. Mary's 3-2; Bethel 2-0. Games lost: to St. Thomas 1-2, 0-1; Augsburg 1-3, 1-2. Games tied: Gustavus 1-1, and Bethel 2-2.

Squad members: John Cella, Dave Theissen, Paul Gelbmann, Robert Porter, Thomas Torborg, Timothy Stevens, Thomas Wiesenhahn, David Uppgaard, Paul Schoen, Timothy Rutka (co-captain), Frank Pilney, Patrick Lilly (co-captain), David Clark, John McHale, Roger Hassinger, Richard Teigen, Michael Kilian, Michael Tierney, Daniel Mulvaney, James Phelps, Kerry Fitzgerald, George Theisen, Robert Schmidt, Tom Hotz, Mark Jansen, Timothy Frederick, Gregory Wolff, Bill Moran, Gregory Steveken.

Chapter XII: Rugby

Historically, one William Webb Ellis, a soccer playing Englishman, is credited with inventing the game of rugby when, frustrated by the exclusive use of the feet and in defiance of the rules, he simply picked up the ball and ran with it to the goal line. This was in 1823. The new tactic (even though against the rules) caught the fancy of the athletes at Rugby School, who quickly developed a running attack that has been the hallmark of the sport ever since. The rules for rugby, as we know them, were standardized in 1871, a period during which the great prestige schools of the United States, such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton, adopted rugby as a favorite college sport.

With one lapse of time, rugby-USA-has been around for over one hundred years. The fantastic upward surge which it is undergoing today followed a drought of approximately forty years, from the early 1920's to around 1964, when a revival of the game took place. The popularity of the sport before the early 1920's is attested by the fact that the United States took the gold medals in the 1920 and 1921 Olympics, after which rugby for some reason was struck from the list of Olympic events.

Unfortunately for the purpose of this history, few Americans have ever seen rugby played. To the casual observer it may seem to be a chaotic form of mayhem disguised as a sport. Actually, if he watches a rugby match carefully, he will soon observe that the seeming chaos conceals finesse and strategy that belong specifically to the game. American style football players who have also competed in rugby have learned to respect a fast-moving sport played by rugged performers without the helmets, face masks and shoulder pads they are accustomed to see on the American football players.

But what quite generally is not known is that rugby is as much a social event as an athletic contest. Rugby matches conclude traditionally with a party provided by the host club. Winning is as important in rugby as in other contact sports, but with the ruggers a loss is not such a calamity as to preclude a post-game party with refreshments. In fact, the rules of good sportsmanship, according to rugby traditions, demand the post-game activities in which the bumps and bruises and hard checks are accepted in the spirit of good fellowship. For them the sometimes rough and tumble style of play falls under the heading of good clean fun. In the "party," opponents of a strenuous afternoon congratulate one another for a good game over a glass-or two or three-of beer (the American substitute for English ale) and look forward to the time when they can meet again.

Thomas Haigh, an instructor in the St. John's department of mathematics, founded the St. John's Rugby Club in the spring of 1968. A former St. John's Prep School student, he learned the game while an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin. During the month of March of his first year as instructor at SJU, he spent a week or so indoors in the gymnasium introducing a group of some twenty college students to the basics the game, after which he arranged rugby matches with the University of Minnesota and the Carleton College clubs.

The rugby beginners of St. John's lost both matches by scores of 10-0 and 9-6 respectively, but Coach Haigh was satisfied with the results, especially since the number of applicants for positions on the team doubled after the first game. Rugby was popular from the beginning! Since that time rugby has become St. John's largest club sport that is, a game not included in the regular program of St. John's varsity and intramural sports, but is independently organized and financed by the club members. Though in recent years the University has provided some limited financial assistance to the club, the bulk of the expenses for uniforms, dues, food, gas, lodging, and post-game activities has been met by the members themselves.

Haigh returned to the University of Wisconsin in the fall of 1968 to complete his doctoral studies in mathematics, but he left behind a group of rugby enthusiasts who took over where their coach had left off—Marty Fenlon, Bruce Bromander, John McCambridge, Mike Drapcho, Rick Moore, Steve Merz, and others. In 1969 the St. John's Rugby Club joined the Minnesota Union, and in 1970 associated itself with the Midwest Rugby Union (based in Chicago). In 1971 the club was granted full membership. It was a prestigious group that in 1971 numbered thirty teams and seven associate memberships. Heretofore totally independent financially, the St. John's club now appealed to the Athletic Allocations Board (the AAB) for assistance, and through George Durenberger was granted the sum of \$200 for new uniforms and new rugby balls. Under the urging of club president Mike Drapcho, they then scheduled games with the University of Wisconsin and the two St. Louis teams in the Missouri Union.

First the St. John's ruggers defeated Tom Haigh's Wisconsin team 9-5, then the following weekend defeated the St. Louis Rebels 3-0 and the St. Louis Bombers 14-3. Plenty of eyebrows were raised! The victories rendered the Jays eligible for the Mid-America Cup Tournament that was to be held this year in Milwaukee. It was the objective they were hoping for—the opportunity to spread their fame beyond the confines of Minnesota by defeating the top rugby teams in the Midwest.

The success of the brash young ruggers was phenomenal, despite a first-game defeat by the Chicago Lions, the 1970 Mid-America Cup champion and also the favorite for the 1971 meet. The defeat automatically dropped St. John's into the consolation round for the remainder of the meet. But the Jays were equal to the occasion. They first defeated Kent State 16-0, then the Amoco Club of Chicago 25-0. The final game was against the University of Minnesota Club that only a week earlier had defeated them easily. The St. John's club met the University head on, however, and won the match and the consolation championship by a score of 18-8.

Marty Fenlon, perhaps the most articulate promoter of rugby in his time, proudly wrote the *Record* report

on the victory: "There were two trophies presented after the finals of the Mid-America. One went to St. John's, along with the admiration and compliments of everyone at the tournament. The other went to the University of Wisconsin, and their captain is our own Tom Haigh" (*Record*, May 7, 1971). The 1971 victory was not the last of the St. John's Club achievements. They again won third place in the Mid-America Cup Tournament in 1972 and continued to take on all the prestigious clubs they could contact and play within the limits of their budget.

Members of the 1972 Rugby Club were Mike Bonacci, Larry Herrig, Peter Harriman, Patrick Hogan, Jeff "Boscoe" Meyer, Mark Caven, Dave Van Landschoot, Dick Howard, Michael "Montana" Stergios, Ferdinand Colon, Andrew Picla, Gregory Wells, and their great star Tom Miller.

The 1972 fall season ruggers had a very mediocre record to show for their efforts, due principally to the small turn-out of contestants for the team, as periodically happened when John Gagliardi's football players, who also formed the major part of the spring teams, were unavailable for rugby in the fall. The experience gained, however, along with the arrival of key veterans, spelled good things for the spring team of 1973. The Johnnies left the field victorious in all but two of their eight matches—both losses being sustained at the Mid-America Cup Tournament held in Chicago. Highlight of the season was the defeat of the University of Minnesota, the Big Ten rugby champions, by a score of 21-4.

Results of the year are the following: wins—Carleton 8-4, North-. field 8-0, Minneapolis Rugby Club 18-0; at the Mid-America Cup: Lincoln Park 8-6 and the University of Minnesota 21-4. Losses: both sustained in the Mid-America tournament, were to the University of Chicago 12-16, and Northern Illinois 3-18.

Members of the 1973 squad: Michael Bonacci, James Berg, Cark Caven, Marty Cella, Eric Dierkhising, Gary Eustice, James Fahrenkrug, Michael Fitzgerald, Peter Harriman, Joseph Hays, Richard Howard, Colin Mackenzie, Steve Merz (captain), Steve Pollock, vwilliam Schmeling, Thomas Sloan, David Van Landschoot, Michael "Montana" Stergios, Thomas Weber, Gregory Wells.

The 1974 spring season sparkled with enthusiasm and confidence. Many new players had been initiated in the fall and, combined with the tried veterans, they comprised the largest squad up to that time, almost fifty ruggers. From this season on, the club was able to field two and even three teams (called sides), the A group calling themselves the Rats, and the B team the Mice, the C team, the Lemmings. One of the reasons for the exuberance of the team was the bailing out of the club by the administration in a difficult financial situation, and the acquisition of a full set of new team uniforms, the support of the athletic department, and the possibility of securing the good will of the Athletic Allocations Board (*Record*, April 15, 1974). A printed program of the games had also been composed by John Forsythe and Jim Berg, with the art design by Daniel Keiser.

The 1974 spring highlights were a four-game Easter-break trip through Iowa, and the Mid-America Cup tournament, held in Green Bay. The St. John's ruggers fared well on both trips, especially at the Mid-America Cup. Beating Notre Dame 4-3 and Lincoln Park 20-4, the Johnnies were edged out in the semi-finals by the Big Ten champions, the University of Wisconsin, 13-10. St. John's again took third place against the Midwest's finest opposition. The Notre Dame match was reported as the most colorful, though not the best game of the tournament. Mike Black, one of the leaders of the team, writes: "The Notre Dame-SJU game was the talk of the tournament, with everyone wondering whom the Pope would root for. The answer was obvious, as a pre-game prayer by the Irish was cancelled out by expletives uttered by Notre Dame during the match" (*Record*, May 10, 1974).

Squad members were James Anderson, James Berg, Michael Black, Mark Caven, Mike Bonacci, Marty and Jack Cella, Tom Doran, Michael Dory, Brad Eustice, Fuzzy Fashant, James Fergle, John Forsythe, Gerard Fredella, Peter Hill, Daniel Keiser, Mike Kelly, Greg Lee, Steve Merz, Larry Osterhaus, Edward Poniewaz,

Scott Sahli, Bill Schmeling, John Scherer, Tom Sloan, Michael Stergios, Seni Tufele, Barry Vinyard, Tom Weber, and Daniel Whalen.

1975 was not one of the best years of the St. John's Rugby Club. The hard luck had started already in the 1974 fall season in which the Johnnies won five matches and lost six. Team philosopher Mike Black settled the problem, however. "The success of any season is not judged so much by the team's accomplishments as by the satisfaction they enjoyed. So even with a record of 5-6, the entire club will acknowledge that they had a successful season-and a good time" (*Record*, November 18, 1974).

The highest achievement of the spring season was the decision to establish an annual St. John's Rugby Invitational in which the Johnnies hoped to win first place and a trophy. But things did not work out as well as they anticipated because of the pesky Minneapolis Rugby Club which, though defeated 6-4 by St. John's in the first match of the year, in the tournament fought savagely and defeated the Johnnies in a 4-3 thriller. The parties for the two-day tournament were held at five o'clock on the Watab picnic grounds with an astoundingly successful finishing party.

Perhaps the highlight of the traveling season was the February trip to Louisiana for the Mardi Gras Rugby Tournament. Out of practice (and shape) after a long trip by car, the Johnnies did not do as well as they expected, though they managed to win three of their five games.

In the Mid-America Cup Tournament St. John's failed to do as well as usual. The team moved into the semi-finals to find themselves facing St. Olaf. Having played one more game than the Oles, and running out of players because of injuries, the Johnnies were defeated by St. Olaf by a score of 12-7.

Team members mentioned in the game reports for 1975 were Mike Stergios, David Trnka, Michael Dory, Mike Kelly, Edward Miller, Tim Nolan, Scott Sahli, Kenneth Worm, Michael Black, John Forsy the 1975 marks the final year of Mike Black at the head of St. John's Rugby Club. He was a one-man dynamo in terms of organization, promotion, enthusiasm and knowledge of rugby. While not a super-star on the field, he did more for the game than any other individual connected with the sport.

-1976-77 -

The 1976 rugby season found the Johnnies logging an impressive, undefeated season of thirteen victories and no losses. It was the best record in the eight-year career of rugby at St. John's. Under the leadership of co-captains John Forsythe and Scott Sahli, the St. John's ruggers melded into a cohesive unit that did not permit an opponent to score until the ninth game. Highlight of the season was a hard fought battle with the team's arch-rival, the Minneapolis Rugby Club, in which the Johnnies regained the championship they had lost in 1975. St. John's followed up the championship game with a close victory over the powerful Tommies by a score of 10-9 (*Record*, May 14, 1976, p. 13). Since the St. John's mediocre record of 1975 had rendered the team ineligible for the 1976 Mid-America Tournament, it was a tremendous uplift to the squad to have paved the way for participation in the 1977 tournament.

The starting team for 1976 and the positions played by the Johnnies were as follows: hooker: Scott Sahli; props: Mike Dory and Dave Trnka; 2nd row: James Zrust and Greg Lee; eighth man: Ken Worm; wing forwards: Thomas Sinner and Greg Palen; serum half: Timothy Nolan; fly half: Bill Schmeling; inside center: John Scherer; outside center: Mike Scully; wings: Jamie Anderson and Peter Hill; fullback: John Forsythe.

Over the nine years of its existence the St. John's Rugby Club had been gradually improving until in 1976 it had become the top college organization in the state. The fall version of the 1976-77 team was an immediate success. During the summer it had engaged in a tournament at Faribault in which it had

emerged in fourth place—a warning that was observed in the opening of the fall season by first beating St. Cloud State 44-4, St. Paul Pigs 9-3, Carleton 14-0, North Dakota State 11-0, the University of Minnesota 8-0 and Duluth (UMD) 18-0. At this point the Johnnies fell victim to the Minneapolis Club by a score of 3-24.

The defeat by the Minneapolis Club had not been unexpected. A fierce rivalry had sprung up between the two teams, and the Minneapolis Club had trained hard and seriously, fully determined to hold their own against the madcap collegians.

Despite the loss, the St. John's Club was again invited to compete in the Mid-America Cup Tournament to be held in Indianapolis in May 1977.

The Jays emerged from the tournament with a record of two wins and two losses. The powerful Ohio State entry easily defeated the Johnnies 21-11, and in the semi-finals the Minneapolis club, also invited, eked out a 10-9 victory over the Johnnies. St. John's defeated the West Side Harlicians 22-4 and Louisville 18-9. The 1977 *Sagatagan* reporter rejoiced that although the Johnnies had lost the rugby meet "they came away with the most important victory. They won the party" (*Sagatagan*, 1977, pp. 152-153).

The squad is pictured in the *Sag* as follows: Michael Zahler, James Zrust, Brad Eustice, John Scherer, Thomas Sinner, Gregory Palen, Ken Worm, Kevin Daly, Michael Scully, Christopher Boyd, Matthew Martin, Timothy Nolan, Richard Battiola, Francis Fitzgerald, David Trnka, Jeff Feldmeier, Scott Sahli, Thomas Wicks, Arthur Thelemann (*Sagatagan*, 1977, pp. 152-53).

- 1977-78-

Under the leadership of co-captains Rick Battiola and Valentine "Beano" Kraljic, the fall and spring seasons of 1977 and 1978 were distinct successes, reminiscent of the great rugby team of 1976. In the fall season the team went through a series of eight games without defeat, five of the victories being shut-outs: the University of Minnesota 18-3, St. Thomas 8-0, St. Olaf 1-0, the Banshees 11-0, Duluth 8-0, St. Cloud State 12-6, St. Paul 4-3, and Gary Owen 13-0.

In the spring season the triumphant Johnnies continued their victorious ways by winning eight games of a twelve-game schedule and again taking first place in the St. John's Invitational. The only loss to a college team was to St. Thomas, 4-6, on one of the St. John's "bad days." In the Mid-America Cup Tournament, however, the youthful Johnnies were pitted against the older veteran clubs of Akron, Ohio, and Cleveland, to whom St. John's lost by scores of 6-21 and 6-18 respectively. The Johnnies defeated Illinois State 9-7 and St. Cloud State 9-3, again demonstrating that when pitted against college teams the Jays were among the top college teams in the entire Midwest. Other Scores are the following: University of Minnesota 12-0, St. Paul Club 12-6, Carleton 12-9, Waconia 21-6, Le Sueur 16-7, Waconia 10-0, Minneapolis Club 0-12, a loss.

The A squad of the 1978 rugby team was made up of Daniel Roth Glen Steinhoff, Beano Kraljic, Martin Case, John Bodick, Timothy Miller, Joseph Sullivan, Richard Murphy, Gregory Feldmeier, Richard Battiola, Richard Robel, Mike Scully, Timothy Travis, Mike Madden Thomas Klint, Harpo St. Clair, David Rothbauer, Steven Pfefferle: James Meyer and Daniel Murphy.

Conclusion

Thus is concluded this short history of rugby on the St. John's campus. Opinions had been expressed that it is a brutal game. Actually, the ruggers themselves in their many articles in the *Record* and *Sagatagan* aimed to convey the impression of supermen engaged in an exhilarating physical sport, followed by a rousing good party. Timothy Nolan, one of the Rugby Club presidents, wrote: "To some naive bystanders

it's a form of masochism. Most will agree, though, that it is a unique social phenomenon. Where else can one observe an athletic activity, governed by strict rules and strategy, that exhibits competitive physical violence between two opposing forces and ends with a cheer for all participants! This is all part of the rugby spirit, the social brotherhood where all participants are pretty much accepted for what they are and what they have to contribute to the group" (*Record*, April 29, 1977, p. 8).

John Forsythe, in a brief summary of the first eight years of St. John's rugby, makes the point that rugby is a game played for the sheer fun of good sportsmanship. "I hesitate to single out individual players. The spirit of rugby as I know it does not promote individual recognition of a 'public nature.' A warm handshake, a hearty slap on the back, or a 'Hey, you played a hell of a game today' are lauds enough. It will be a sad day indeed when we have a leading scorer and a most valuable player."

Possibly lured by wild tales of the St. John's ruggers, Don Riley of the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* reported a match between the Johnnies and the St. Paul Banshees that ended 11-0 in favor of St. John's: "As unruly as a thornbush. As disciplined as a riot. . . . Delightful as a fresh breeze over a garbage pit. Yah, baby, I love the Rugby men." (The "garbage pit" was probably a reference to over thirty human bodies reeking of sweat after eighty minutes of controlled violence—a phrase dear to the ruggers.

Riley ended his impressionistic appraisal of the Johnnies in an exchange with another appreciative onlooker: "As a delightful St. Benedict coed coed to me Sunday, 'Aren't they the greatest? All covered with mud and so virile. They make the soccer and baseball players look like little boys.' "And Riley, his mind filled with images of bodies strewn over the field and his ears deafened by the shrieks of two ambulances, gently conceded the point. "That they do, honey. That they do" (St. Paul *Pioneer Press*, Wednesday, April 26, 1978: "The Eye Opener").

Chapter XIII: Swimming

Swimming is the most recent sport to come of age on the St. John's campus. The reason for this tardiness is obvious. Although beautiful Lake Sagatagan provided opportunities for spring and fall swimming, St. John's lacked the facilities for the long winter months during which the other MIAC colleges for years had been competing with one another in swimming and diving. It was the completion of the Warner Palaestra pool in 1973 that finally made intercollegiate swimming possible. It opened up the sport for the student body, and—as in all other sports when the students were given the facilities—the students of the early 1970's virtually swept St. John's into intercollegiate competition.

- 1971 -

The Swimming Club

It was a courageous group of students, therefore, who, even before the Palaestra, undertook to develop a swimming team which could compete with other Minnesota colleges, all of which enjoyed the advantage of regulation swimming pools. This crusade was led by David Van Landschoot, '72, and Steve Smith, '74, who cooperated as coaches and coordinators of the newly organized club. The immediate reason for promoting a swim team was to earn points toward the All Sports Award, which allows no points for the sport in which a school has no entry.

Lacking a pool on campus, the twelve mermen, led by Tim Phenow, Kevin Murphy, Mike White, Pete Petrini, and the coaches, travelled to surrounding communities—especially Cold Spring, Albany, and St. Cloud State "to get wet." Although this was their first year of intercollegiate competition, the team was able to compete in four dual meets. They lost all four, but finished in sixth place in the MIAC with 85 points, thus contributing six points to the All Sports Award total. They also gained valuable experience.

- 1972-73 -

This season was much the same, although there was a significant increase in the number of candidates and in raw talent. Peter Johnson, a St. Cloud broker, worked with the club as coach and manager for part of the season and got them off to a good start. Records show that the club competed in six dual meets, again losing all six but coming very close to beating both Gustavus and Duluth. The team's performance in the MIAC final meet resulted in another sixth place finish in the conference with a total of 108 points. The top place winners were the following: fourth place in the 800 free-style relay composed of Jeremy and Tim Rathes (sons of Phil, '40), Clancy McCarthy, and Pat Strothers; fifth place in the 200 backstroke by Gary Gerst.

- 1973-74-

The year 1973 saw the completion of the Warner Palaestra and its "fast" swimming pool. This magnificent new facility revolutionized the swimming program both recreationally and for intercollegiate competition. The club officially became a team under its first full-time coach, Pat Haws, who still holds that position. The swim team this year included an ex-track man, an injured hockey player, an ex-wrestler/ weight-lifter, and a sprinkling of experienced swimmers. The Palaestra pool was properly inaugurated with a 68-45 victory over Gustavus, which was not only the first home meet, but also the first swimming victory for the Johnnie club.

The MIAC championship meet saw the Johnnies with a 1-9 dual rating for the season, finishing in third place, a mere 7Yzpoints out of second. This meet, which was held in the new Palaestra, was acclaimed by the other colleges as the best MIAC meet in recent years. The Johnnies finished with four third-place winners: Bill Flynn, John Maguire, Tom Dwyer, and Jeremy and Tim Rathes in the 400 and 800 free-style relays; John Maguire in the 400 individual medley; and Clancy Mc- Carthy in the 1650 free-style. Overall, the Johnnies had 17 finishes in the top six events. The team's production of 304 ½ points was its best up to that time.

The 1974-75 team had its first "big-time" recruits in Bobby Greelis, Paul Cleeremans, Joe Tucker, Mark Tracy, Don Olson and Jim Mc- Gough. The team made its first Christmas trip to Florida for accelerated training and returned to put together a dual meet record of 5-1 in the MIAC, and 6-6 overall. They then took third place in the MIAC championship meet, with a new point total record of 344. The highlights of the meet were 18 top six-place winners with team records in all 18 events; and St. John's first NAIA qualifiers- Tom Dwyer (100 free-style), and the 400 free-style relay executed by Dwyer, Jeremy Rathes, Dave Scanlan, and Bobby Greelis.

- 1975-76 -

The 1975-76 team finished for the first time above the .500 mark in the dual meets, with a 5-1 MIAC record and 8-5 overall. In the MIAC championship meet the team improved its standing by advancing to second place with a total of 438 points. The Big Red enthusiasm on campus brought St. John's its first MIAC swimming champions: Jon Habben in the 50 and 100 free-style; Habben, Dwyer, Mark Tracy, and Joe Ehlert in the 400 free-style relay, and Joe Tucker in the 200 breaststroke. Joe also established the M-AC record by breaking a nine-year-old mark. The team had 28 top six-place winners, broke 16 of 18 team records, and qualified ten people in ten events for the NAIA championship meet, as also six people in four events for the NCAA Division III national championships.

- 1976-77-

In 1976-77 the team came up with a 3-2 MIAC record in the duals and 9-5 overall. The team held its own

invitational, squeaking by the crack Grinnell team 362-356. "Skosh" Wenner defeated an NCAA III champion diver on the three meter board by seven-tenths of a point to produce the winning margin.

The conference meet ended with St. John's again in second place with 483 points, only 27 points behind the new champions, St. Olaf. The Johnnies' Jon Habben increased his stature in the sprints by setting new MIAC records in the 50 free-style (21.86) and the 100 freestyle (48.44). The 400 free-style relay team, composed of Habben, Dwyer, Ehlert, and Mike Salchert, also retained its title. Thirty-three Johnnies finished in the top six. The diving squad of Jeff Eastman, "Skosh" Wenner, and Steve Remole established itself by finishing 2-3-4 on both the one meter and three meter boards. Ten swimmers qualified in sixteen events for the NAIA national meet, and nine in eight events for the NCAA Division III nationals.

-1977-78-

The 1977-78 season had its ups and downs. The early season record was fair-4-1 in the MIAC duals and 7-5 overall. The ups also included the first win over Hamline in dual competition-the first Hamline loss in six years-and a convincing victory over Grinnell in the St. John's Invitational by a margin of 155 points. The downs were injuries to Jeff Eastman the day after qualifying for the nationals in the NAIA and NCAA Division III, as also to Skosh Wenner, who suffered a punctured eardrum. In addition, almost the entire team was wracked with illness as the time for the MIAC championship meet rolled around. Only three of the 18 entrants had been in good health in the preceding week, and the top diver, Skosh Wenner, had had only three days of practice prior to the meet. Eastman was still in a cast and Steve Remole, the Johnnies' three-meter specialist, grimaced with pain from a badly sprained ankle every time he left the board.

However, the team swam well enough to capture second place for the third straight year, with a total of 432 points (150 points behind defending champion St. Olaf). Eleven swimmers qualified in all 18 events for the NAIA championships, and nine qualified in seven events for the NCAA III nationals. St. John's had previously participated in the NAIA national championship meets, but for various reasons, chose to compete in the NCAA Division III meet in 1978. The change proved to be a brilliant move. St. John's swimmers won their first All-American awards in the national NCAA Division III meet. Jon Habben won individual honors in the 500 free-style (tenth) and in the 100 free-style (eleventh). The healthy Steve Remole finished fifth in the three meter board dive; the 400 free-style relay team of Habben, Tracy, Schwietz, Greg Krenik, and Mike Salchert captured twelfth place. In all, St. John's had six All-Americans and placed twenty-second with 17 points, finishing higher than any other MIAC team.

Summary of Swimming Records, 1973-78

MIAC Duals.	18-9
Overall Duals.	31-30
MIAC Individual Championships.	10
MIAC Relay Champs	3
MIAC Records	3
NAIA National Championship Qualifiers.	35
NCAA III Championship Qualifiers.	24
NCAA III All-Americans.	6

CHAPTER XIV: Gymnastics

From the year 1903 until 1920 one of the most favored sports reported upon in the *Record* was gymnastics. Sometime during the nineteenth century, physical culture, combined with gymnastics, had become a popular activity among the followers of all those who were interested in maintaining their physical well-being. For the growing youths in private schools and in many public high schools it had been made an obligatory subject almost indispensable for the development of a balanced, well-coordinated body. St. John's was not an exception. As an early writer in the *Record* put it, ". . . the progress of physiology and psychology have brought this dependence (of mind on the well-being of the body) into stronger light and induced us to do more for the development of the body than was done some centuries ago."

That St. John's, when it was decided to build a new gymnasium, had this in mind becomes apparent when we learn that the gymnasium planners saw to it, first of all, that among its furnishings were all the items necessary for gymnastics according to the current conception of physical culture.

Moreover, when in 1903 the authorities secured the services of its first St. John's coach, he was not a baseball, football or basketball specialist but a physical culture expert, one whose qualifications included excellence in gymnastic exercises. Peter Boquel, the first coach and physical culture instructor, was primarily interested in gymnastics and only reluctantly assumed the task of coaching football. In carrying out his duties he acted almost entirely as a physical trainer and left to student managers the teaching of football techniques and strategy. Peter Boquel was succeeded in 1905 by Harry Comeau, a highly qualified gymnast, fencer, and all-around physical culture expert from Connecticut. Over and above his classes in physical culture he coached fencing, boxing and wrestling and at intervals arranged meets to show the results of proficiency and skill in training. One of the first things he did when he came to St. John's was to write an article on physical training, published in the *Record*. An expert performer himself, he capitalized on the opportunity to turn out excellent gymnastic teams that distinguished St. John's above the other Minnesota colleges in this particular art.

Frank Cassidy, another Easterner, this time from New York, continued the work of Comeau in 1907-09. He, in turn, was succeeded by Edward Flynn who for the next ten years, from 1910 to 1920, guided the athletic destinies of St. John's in all sports.

During the first nine years, from 1903 to 1911, gymnastic teams had no other objectives than the physical development of its members and, more or less as a by-product, the entertainment of the student body and the faculty. The exhibitions, some of them strikingly good, were the result of long practice and native skill polished off for beauty of form and action by the instructors. Events were equally divided between work on the flying rings, the parallel and horizontal bars, the side horse and the long horse, wrestling and boxing matches of five or six minutes, fencing, Indian club swinging, etc. The top teams put on exhibitions, sometimes before basketball games, sometimes during the halves. They were particularly appreciated on the major feast days such as Thanksgiving Day or Washington's birthday. Occasionally they worked with the university orchestra. Select accompaniments on the piano were given to each event, thereby adding a special attraction to the performance. Comeau several times fenced with crack swordsmen from the Minneapolis-St. Paul areas. Once during his first year at St. John's Coach Flynn gave a solo exhibition with Indian clubs and balancing exercises.

Attendance at the physical culture classes was compulsory for the first three academic years. For those who loved the exercise the classes were a delight; for those who did not they were a special form of torture. There was no exemption from the "torture" class, however. One irate parent who listened to the complaints of his son wrote to the rector of the college, Fr. Alcuin Deutsch, O.S.B., that he had no money to squander

on the gymnastic pants that students were required to wear for the exercises. He received a cool reply from the rector stating that "we have our good reasons for making any study or exercise a part of our course. . . and the necessity of preserving discipline makes it very disagreeable for us to have parents ask that an exception be made in favor of their sons. But if you feel that you cannot provide your son with gymnasium pants-they cost \$1.75 a pair-why, I will permit him to take the exercises without them, but in tennis shoes." There was no further correspondence on this point.

Coach Flynn was very proud of his gymnasts and in 1912 secured administrative approval of his request to bring the team to the Northwestern Gymnastic Society meet in the University of Minnesota armory in March, 1912. The competition in the Northwestern Society was not intercollegiate, but it was the only thing of its kind in the state. The only other college competing was St. Olaf, which in later years was outstanding in the quality of its gymnastic teams.

- 1912 -

It was only in 1912, therefore, that St. John's entered into formal competition with other gymnastic groups. Coach Flynn was acquainted with the officials of the Northwestern Gymnastic Society in Minneapolis, and in 1912 took his team to Minneapolis to participate in the gymnastic meet of the society. The Northwestern Gymnastic Society was then in its fourth year of existence. It had been organized in 1909 with the objective of stimulating interest in gymnastics at all levels, and therefore divided contestants into three groups, A, B, C, according to the varying abilities of the gymnasts.

At the 1912 gymnastic meeting, which was more an introduction of St. John's to the society than anything else, Coach Flynn's athletes failed to place in any of the events. They distinguished themselves as a coming organization, however, and in the 1913 meet they were awarded fourth place among the fifteen teams that had entered. Bronze medal winners in Class B were two St. John's contestants: Arthur Long, who won first place in the parallel bars and side horse events for a total ranking in Class B; James Stroeder won seventh place for "all-around" proficiency in Class B. The other members of the team who competed in Class C were John Sinner, eleventh place; Anthony Froehlingsdorf, fourteenth place; and Alphonse Borgerding, seventeenth place. Bernard Karels, the future basketball star who was still a student in the Prep School, tied for first place in club swinging.

- 1914 -

The 1914 gymnastic team ranked as one of the best teams in the state, taking fifth place among the sixteen teams that contested. James Stroeder moved from Class B to Class A and was awarded a bronze medal for fourth place. Anthony "Tony" Froehlingsdorf advanced into Class B and won the seventh place bronze medal for all-around proficiency. In club swinging he took fourth place. Alphonse Borgerding placed number 13 in all-around Class B work and won third place in club swinging. Most remarkable at this meet was the work of Thomas Lindsay, who in Class C was awarded second place in a field of more than 100 contestants.

- 1915 -

The team of 1915 has gone down in the history of St. John's gymnastics as winners of the highest grand average award for the meet. The award was a fine brass shield that the reporter predicted would decorate the gymnasium and perpetuate the memory of their achievement forever. It is a fine award, it is true, but for many years it was lost sight of until, in 1976, Bro. David Manahan, O.S.B., while rummaging around in the attic of the carpenter shop, found it, neglected and dust-covered, but still intact. "Thus passes the glory of the world," the old Romans used to say.

The award of highest grand average represents the individual merits of each of the contestants and, as such, was virtually the premier honor, for the team also brought back their individual laurels. Five of the seven gymnasts who entered the meet—Anthony Froehlingsdorf, Alphonse Borgerding, Julius Johnson, Edward Borgerding and Roman Schaefer—won bronze medals for places among the first ten competitors in Classes A, B, and C.

- 1916 -

Outstanding as was the achievement of the 1915 gymnastic team, that of the year following was even more remarkable. It was a team that achieved its objectives despite the hand injury incurred by team captain James Stroeder and the illness of two other top performers, none of whom could take part in the gymnastic exercises. Several had suggested that the team should not enter the meet, since the best they could do would be far below the level St. John's had maintained in the past. The team, Coach Flynn and the authorities thought otherwise, however. "And did they succeed!" was the rhetorical question of the *Record* reporter. "Here are the results. Judge for yourselves." "I. Among nineteen competing teams our boys captured second place and, with it, a brass shield two times as large as any so far won by any of our teams.

-1925-29-

When Coach Flynn returned to St. John's in the fall of 1924, he resumed his old position as coach of gymnastics. A first plan to organize two gymnastic teams, one in the college and one in the Prep School, was discarded in favor of one college team.

In this, his second term of duty as coach of gymnastics, he soon discovered that the glory days of the past 1910-20 era were no more. Nevertheless, in 1925 he brought a team to the Northwestern Gymnastic Society Meet at the University of Minnesota Armory. The newly developed gymnasts made a respectable showing but without gaining any points. His second venture in 1926 was likewise unsuccessful from the medal-winning standpoint, though several of the contestants succeeded in obtaining certificates of merit.

Progress began to become more evident when Clarence Froehle, '27, won first place in Indian club swinging in the 1927 meet.

In 1928, with interest in gymnastics beginning to develop in some of the MIAC colleges, especially at St. Olaf and St. John's, the conference began to consider making gymnastics a conference sport for intercollegiate competition—not independently, but in conjunction with the Northwestern Gymnastic Society. There was an immediate resurgence of incentive at St. John's, and in the 1929 meet St. John's made its best showing since 1920. The holdovers, from 1928 especially, made a notable effort to improve their performance. Edward Wirtz, '28, took third place in individual performance, and both the Band C teams took second place behind St. Olaf, the champion college team of the meet.

As for individual events, Roman Niedzielski, '31, won the gold medal in Class B, netting the highest number of points of any contestant in his class. John Lukan finished in seventh place in Class C, and Alois Gruenes tenth in Class C. Andrew Huhne (now Fr. Aldrich, O.S.B.), as a specialist, presented "The Landscape Paradise" in an Indian Club swinging exhibition. St. John's finished in second place in the conference behind St. Olaf.

The departure of Coach Flynn in 1929 to enter business marks the end of competitive gymnastics at St. John's. Coach Flynn left an indelible mark on St. John's, not only by bequeathing his name on Flynnville but mainly by leaving the memory of solid character, loyalty, and personal integrity. To use a catch-phrase, he was for years "Mister Athletics" at St. John's. If his career in gymnastics was less spectacular in his second

tour of duty, it was because student interest had shifted from individual sports to team sports. At present, the place once occupied by gymnastics has been swallowed up by a host of newer sport activities such as wrestling, hockey, tennis, swimming and golf.

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