

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 Mainz, Lambert Weckwerth and Polycarp Hansen. Among the lay members were Alfred Knaeble, '00, the first catcher in an outside game under the aus-

pices 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 football and basketball in future years: John Knaeble, for example, the second of the four Knaeble

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 Hamline, a team directed by the coaching phenomenon of the period, Professor Bragan. Though St. John's out-hit Hamline 12-8, the fielding was erratic. The Cardinal and Blue made eight errors and were almost defenseless against the clever base-running of the Hamline 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		Coach—Cassidy	
Ralph Capron	'08 ss	Captain—Callanan	
Hyacinth Cismowski	'14 1b	Stars—Callanan, Locnikar	
Edward Callanan	'08 2b	SCORES	
Raymond Kraus	'10 c	SJU	Opponents
John Gores	'10 cf	15	Alumni 2
John Quinlan	'08 rf	10	Elk River 7
Joseph Kopp	3b	2	Elk River 1
Matt. Locnikar	lf	20	Alumni 4
Scott McHenry	'08 p	4	Hamline 9
Fr. Sylvester Harter	'10 p	3	Fargo 7
Norb. Borgerding	'10 3b	5	Fargo 4

— 1909 —

Only two intercollegiate teams were played in 1909, with Hamline and Macalester. The first game with Hamline 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 Hamline. Hamline 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		Coach—Frank Cassidy	
John Rowland	'10 lf	Captain—Kraus	
John Jershe	'16 c	Stars—Steichen, Kraus	
Ray Kraus	'16 rf	SCORES	
Carl Kapsner	'14 cf	SJU	Opponents
James Morrison	'09 ss	4	Hamline 9
John Steichen	'09 1b	1	Macalester 18
Theo Harter	'09 2b		
Louis Gravel	'09 3b		
Ray Douville	'10 p		

— 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			Coach—Ed Flynn
Frank O'Donnell	'11	ss	Captain—First
Phil Boll	'10	2b	Stars—Vonderhaar, Boll
Ray Kraus	'10	rf	
Carl Kapsner	'14	lf	SCORES
Frank First	'16	c	SJU
Herman Vonderhaar	'10	3b	Opponents
Gustave Dierkes	'12	1b	9 Elk River 0
Robert Hackner	'14	cf	14 Macalester 16
John O'Brien	'12	p	3 Hamline 2
Ray Douville	'10	p	4 St. Thomas 6
			3 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			Coach—Flynn
Frank O'Donnell	'11	ss	Captain—O'Donnell
Robert Hackner	'14	2b	Stars—Kettler and O'Brien
Carl Kapsner	'14	lf	SCORES
Victor Schmitt	'12	3b	SJU
Frank Kettler	'17	1b	Opponents
John O'Brien	'12	p	1 Macalester 10
Ignatius Wiltzius	'12	c	1 St. Thomas 7
Lisle Jesmer	'11	rf	5 Macalester 3
Alois Goeb	'14	utility	9 Fargo 0
Joseph Tims	'11	p	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			Coach—Flynn
Alois Goeb	'14	rf	Captain—Woulfe
Frank O'Donnell	'12	2b	Stars—O'Brien, Wiltzius
Clyde Robideau	'12	cf	SCORES
Carl Kapsner	'14	lf	SJU
Frank Kettler	'17	1b	Opponents
David Woulfe	'14	ss	6 Macalester 0
Walter Roche	'14	3b	2 St. Thomas 7
John O'Brien	'12	p	5 Mechanic Arts 0
Joseph Tims	'12	p	4 St. Thomas 5
Val Rausch	'13	p	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			Coach—Flynn
Robert Hackner	'14	cf	Captain—Hackner
Walter Roche	'14	rf	Stars—Porwoll, Rausch, Goeb
David Woulfe	'14	ss	
Clarence Bisenius	'17	3b	SCORES
Carl Kapsner	'14	lf	SJU
Joseph Porwoll	'14	2b	Opponents
Alois Goeb	'14	c	3 St. Thomas 4
Frank Kettler	'17	1b	14 St. Cloud H.S. 3
Val Rausch	'13	p	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 9¼ seconds. (For Hackner's athletic record see Basketball.)

LINE-UP			Coach—Flynn
Matt Lauer	'15	rf	Captain—Roche
Walter Roche	'14	c	Stars—Lauer, Mondloch, Hackner
David Woulfe	'14	lf	
Robert Hackner	'14	cf	SCORES
Victor Schmitt	'14	ss	SJU
Bernard Kuhl	'17	3b	Opponents
Frank Kettler	'17	1b	9 St. Thomas 10
John W. Schmitt	'17	2b	11 Mechanic Arts 1
Frank Mondloch	'18	p	10 Macalester 9
Albert Flannigan	'16	p	2 St. Thomas 6
			2 Hamline 4

— 1915 —

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 fast-ball 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			Coach—Flynn
Frank Kettler	'17	1b	Captain—J. W. Schmitt
Alfred Wipfli	'16	2b	Stars—Wipfli, Flannigan
Joe Gaffney	'23	3b	
John W. Schmitt	'17	ss	SCORES
Frank Manley	'15	lf	SJU
John J. Schmitt	(?)	cf	Opponents
James Stroeder	'17	rf	6 St. Thomas 9
Bernard Kuhl	'17	c	1 N. Dak. Aggies 3
Frank Mondloch	'18	p	2 Shattuck 0
John Flannigan	'17	p	3 Shattuck 4
			5 Macalester 14
			7 St. Cloud 5

— 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			Captain—J. W. Schmitt
Frank Kettler	'17	1b	Stars—O'Leary, Flannigan,
Alfred Wipfli	'16	2b	Mondloch, Counihan
John W. Schmitt	'17	ss	SCORES
Joseph Gaffney	'23	3b	SJU
Bernard Kuhl	'17	lf	Opponents
Louis Mohs	'17	cf	1 St. Cloud 3
Mike Goblirsch	'17	rf	9 St. Olaf 8
John O'Leary	'16	c	1 N. Dak. Aggies 0
John Flannigan	'17	p	4 Macalester 3
Frank Mondloch	'18	p	2 Luther College 1
Clinton Counihan	'17	ph	0 St. Olaf 3
Coach—Flynn			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 Minne-

sota 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			Coach—Flynn
John W. Schmitt	'17	ss	Captain—J. W. Schmitt
Francis Welters	'20	1b	Stars—Counihan, Mondloch
Clinton Counihan	'17	2b	SCORES
Joseph Gaffney	'23	3b	SJU
Welter	'17	cf	Opponents
August Kapsner	'20	rf	8 U. of Minn. 1
Bernard Kuhl	'17	lf	0 St. Thomas 1
John O'Leary	'17	c	5 St. Thomas 4
Frank Mondloch	'18	p	7 Park Region 3
Clinton Counihan	'17	p	

— 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 Commercial 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			Stars—Hilgers, Mondloch,
Matt Barry	'20	ss	Reuter, Beneke
Matt Weber	'20	1b	
Leonard Beneke	'18	2b	SCORES
August Kapsner	'20	3b	SJU
Ralph Bodine	'18	rf	Opponents
George Reuter	'19	cf	5 St. Cloud H.S. 7
Joseph May	'18	lf	3 St. Cloud H.S. 1
Wm. Hilgers	'18	c	8 Luther Col. 1
Frank Mondloch	'18	p	3 St. Thomas 3
Coach—Flynn			2 St. Cloud H.S. 1
Captain—Mondloch			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 stickwork 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			Stars—Barry, Reuter, A. Kapsner
John Daleiden	'21	c	
Wm. "Bart" Rooney	'20	lf	SCORES
Matt Weber	'20	1b	SJU
August A. Kapsner	'20	p	Opponents
Matt "Bill" Barry	'20	ss	3 St. Cloud H.S. 1
John Cullen	'20	2b	4 St. Olaf 2
George Reuter	'19	cf	3 St. Thomas 2
Leonard Kapsner	'23	rf	5 St. Cloud H.S. 2
Leo Wilzbacher	'19	3b	5 River Falls Nor. 0
Fran. "Hans" Wagner	'19	3b	6 Hamline 5
Coach—Flynn			4 St. Thomas 6
Captain—Barry			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 num-

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

— 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		SCORES	
Leonard Kapsner	'22 3b	SJU	Opponents
John Daleiden	'21 c	6	St. Cloud H.S. 0
Andrew Parnell	'25 lf	7	Town Toggery 3
Joseph Tucker	'22 cf	1	St. Olaf 3
Andrew Wahl	'22 ss	1	Macalester 4
Charles Treanor	'21 2b	4	St. Thomas 7
Melvin McDonald	'22 2b	4	River Falls Nor. 5
James Keaveny	'22 rf	4	Gustavus 3
Bernard Wiesler	'23 p	0	St. Thomas 9
Peter Meyer	'21 p	1	Macalester 5
Coach—Cahill			
Captain—Daleiden			

— 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		Coach—Cahill	
Leonard Kapsner	'22 3b	Captain—Kapsner	
Andrew Wahl	'22 ss	Stars—Kapsner, McGovern	
Melvin McDonald	'22 2b		
Joseph McGovern	'22 1b		
Joseph Tucker	'22 cf		
John Pape	'23 lf		
Ben Siebenand	'22 rf		
Andrew Parnell	'25 c		
Bernard Wiesler	'23 p		
Walter Fox	'23 p		
Nicholas Schmitt	'25 rf		

— 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 Mar-

rin, as also sophomore Ernest Koepf, 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			Coach—Sanborn	
Francis Marrin	'24	ss	Captain—Parnell	
Lawrence Murphy	'25	2b	Stars—Carroll, Wiesler	
Harvey Pajeau	'23	3b		
August Carroll	'24	c	SCORES	
Ernest Koepf	'23	1b	SJU	Opponents
John McNally	'23	cf, p	14	Little Falls 3
Donald Norton	'23	lf	1	St. Olaf 3
Gilbert Collins	'23	rf	7	Gustavus 5
Bernard Wiesler	'23	p	1	Macalester 5
Joseph Weckwerth	'23	p	2	St. Thomas 14
Andrew Parnell	'25	c	1	Macalester 7
Maurice Noack	'23	if		

— 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 Fox	
John Gleason	'26	2b	Alois Hansen	'24 (?)
Andy Parnell	'25	1b	Coach—Sanborn	
Ray Humphrey	'24	cf	Captain—Gus Carroll	
Edward Powers	'24	lf	Stars—Humphrey, Lien, Carroll	
Gus Carroll	'24	ss	SCORES	
Nicholas Schmitt	'24	rf	SJU	Opponents
Joe Conway	'26	3b	3	St. Cloud T.C. 9
Leo Schumacher	'25	c	12	St. Cloud T.C. 8
Harold Lien	'26	p	1-0	St. Olaf 6-7
William Firner	'25		1	Macalester 7
Hubert Small	'24	of		

— 1925 —

Coach Sanborn was succeeded in 1925 by Gene Aldrich for a one-year 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			Coach—Aldrich
John Gleason	'26	2b	Captain—Leo Schumacher
Walter Miller	'27	ss	Stars—Gleason, Kapsner,
Carl Schumacher	'26	1b	C. Schumacher
Vince Goodman	'25	3b	
John Sweetman	'27	cf	SCORES
Leo Schumacher	'26	c	SJU
Leo Kapsner	'27	rf, p	Opponents
Henry Kirwin	'26	lf	3 St. Thomas 14
William Firner	'25	p	2 St. Olaf 18
Harold Lien	'26	p	4 Macalester 10
John Fox	'25	p	14 St. Cloud T.C. 8
Joe Conway	'26	3b	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 fourteen-inning 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			Captain—L. Schumacher
John Gleason	'26	2b	Stars—C. Schumacher, Lien, Haffley,
Herman Linnemann	'31	ss	L. Schumacher, Heisler
Carl Schumacher	'26	3b	SCORES
John Sweetman	'27	1b	SJU
John Haffley	'27	cf	Opponents
George Clifford	'27	lf	0 Gustavus 5
Daniel Buscher	'29	rf	20 St. Cloud T.C. 1
Leo Schumacher	'26	c	1 St. Thomas 3
Harold Lien	'26	p	12 Macalester 6
Ray Heisler	'28	p	1 St. Thomas 9
Stephen Tell	'26	c	8 Hamline 7
Walter Moynihan	'28	lf	12 Hamline 4
Coach—Houle			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			Coach—Houle
Walter Moynihan	'28	rf	Captain—Sweetman
Herman Linnemann	'31	ss	Stars—Siebenand, Heisler,
Nick Goblirsch	'27	c	Linnemann, Clifford
George Clifford	'27	cf	SCORES
Walter Miller	'27	2b	SJU
John Sweetman	'27	1b	Opponents
Tony Lawrence	'29	lf	7 St. Cloud Tech 3
Alois Siebenand	'30	3b	4 Augsburg 6
Ray Heisler	'28	p	13 St. Cloud Tech 3
Len Bussen	'28	p	4 St. Olaf 3
Louis Hanzel	'27	of	9 Gustavus 8
Leo Manion	'28	of	7 Augsburg 10
Fred Baker	'28	of	

— 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.