

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	Charles Degenaar	lf	.143
Tom Foehrenbacher	2b	.302	Bradley Weydert		.222
Jeff Norman	1b	.250	Raymond Welsh	dh	.167
Neal Binsfeld	c	.375	Peter Welle	rf	.279
Pete Rockers	ss	.279	Greg Wilkinson	lf	.120
Chris Braun	of	.271	Mark Zallek	c	.143
Scott Dressen	3b	.000	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 Commercial.

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, 6½ 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 en-

tirely self-coached. In fact, the lack of systematic training showed up in the meager 6½ 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 103-50½. He next defeated St. Cloud T.C. in a second dual meet 53½-32½. In 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 60½, St. Olaf 40½, Hamline 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, well-balanced 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.

Roster: Fred Cary, Bernard Coyle, Alphonse Fleck, Robert Halverson, Robert Harshberger, Matthew Himsl, Emerson Hynes, Brooks Keogh, Raymond Lang, Joseph Marx, Edwin Maus, Lawrence McArthur, (?) Meier, Jerome Mulvehill, James Murphy, George Nemmers, (?) Palubecki, Myron Pauley, (?) Pendergast, Ferdinand Peters, Adolph Prickril, Albert Schaefer, Carl Schlichting, LeRoy Schuller, Anthony Schultheis, Henry Uberecken

— 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

which he explained all the events and how they are conducted—all for the 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 by-word: "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 67½ 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 11½ 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, 8½ 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 Ochert, 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 all-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 Fahlander, 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 49½, St. Thomas 33, St. John's 26½, Hamline 21, Concordia 5½, St. Mary's 2

Roster: Eldred Cleare, Donald Coome, Jos. Connelly, Stephen Delyea, Wm. Fahlander, 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 65½. Gustavus finished at 38½.

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 12½ 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 10.4 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 Fahlander, 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

#### — 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 (72½ points) with its record of 63½ points. Hamline 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 38½.

#### 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 43½ points and third place. Macalester took the crown

with 70½ points; St. Olaf wound up second with 60 points; St. John's was third with 43½. 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 Ollman 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" Ollman, Eugene Pozorski, George Raths, William Riley, Thomas Schulte, William Smith, Robert Stevenson, Charles Travnick, Donald Travnick, 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 62½, St. Olaf 59½.

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 78½ points, St. Thomas 37½, 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 35½, St. Thomas 32½, 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 veterans were 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 85½-36. 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, 3½ 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 47½, Gustavus 22½, 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 1/2 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 94 1/2 points, with ten first places. St. John's found itself in sixth place with a total of 6 1/2 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 67½ 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 64½ 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 Oles' 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 4½ points (64½-60). 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 fieldhouse 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 Tom-

mies' 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 McNally 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 34½-16 but were fairly demolished by Macalester with 100½ 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 Stepniak, Dennis Studer, Michael Wachtler

Conference standing: St. Thomas 59, Macalester 34¾, Gustavus 27½, St. John's 24½, Hamline 23½, Duluth 17½

— 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 40½ 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 40½, 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 34¼.

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, 3½ 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 Schlumpberger, Frank Sherman, Charles Thomey, Max Thompson, Mark Twomey, James Veronick, William Winter

Conference standing: Concordia 58, Macalester 45¼, St. Thomas 34¼, 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 59½-62½. Not discouraged in the least after losing to the Oles, 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 76½-63½. 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 Schlumpberger, Frank Sherman, Charles Thomey, Max Thompson, Mark Twomey, James Veronick, William Winter

Conference standing: St. John's 56, Macalester 53½, Concordia 50, Hamline 27½, St. Thomas 13, Duluth 5½, 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, 1982, 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).\*

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

\* Cyril Paul was working his way through college by evening performances of his "Junkaroos," set to Bahamian calypso music.