

with a score of 61 points versus winner Macalester's 73 points. In a third meet St. John's lost again, this time to powerful St. Olaf by a score of 68-54.

At this point Al Eisele, in his *Record* sports column "The Meat Grinder," gave St. John's only an outside chance of winning the title. "Unless developing stars appear on the horizon," he wrote, "John Gagliardi's squad will have to go some before they can seriously consider defending their conference laurels" (*Record*, May 2, 1958).

But contrary to Eisele's pessimistic appraisal of the Jays' chances, the team regained form. By the time the May 16 *Record* was issued, the Jays had won three meets. In the third of these Cyril Paul had regained his 1957 speed and won the 100-yard dash in 9.9 seconds. Kevin Hughes had broken Larry Schwietz's 1948 record in :15.8 time by running it in 15.5 seconds. The St. John's club had reason to be hopeful when it set out for the MIAC meet at Gustavus on May 18. Their hopes were justified. St. John's won the 1958 championship by a close margin. The MIAC standings and scores in the meet were as follows:

Roster: Russell Banner, Duane Deutz, Patrick Fleming, Peter Froehle, Gedeon Heinrich, Robert Henry, Keith Hughes, Kevin Hughes, Buford Johnson, John Kaiser, Robert Kelly, Jerome Kollodge, Marvin Kollodge, James Kuelbs, Ronald Labat, Thomas Lux, Gilbert Mages, Roger Martin, Bruce Mason, William Moldaschel, Leonard Mrachek, Joseph Nicholson, Raymond Olmscheid, Cyril Paul, John Quesnell, Philip Ratte, Jerome Schoenecker, James Singsank, David Sieben, Myron Wiest, Richard Wiest

Conference standing: St. John's 53½, Macalester 47½, Concordia 34½, Hamline 23½, Duluth 15½, Gustavus 15½, St. Thomas 12½, Augsburg 8

— 1959 —

Owing to the omission of dates of meets it is difficult to follow the sequence of happenings in the 1959 track season. It is clear that early in the season St. John's dropped a meet to Duluth by a score of 68-72, allegedly because Cyril Paul did not run in the early meets. In a dual meet with St. Cloud T.C. the Jays reversed the situation by a decisive win, 73-50, with freshmen Thomas Withrow first in the long jump and Fred Philipson first in the discus and shot put, both giving promise of being the finds of the year. Strong likewise was the mile relay team of Bob Randall, Withrow, Moldaschel and Schoenecker. Schoenecker and Moldaschel were having their best season in the distance and mid-distance runs, the mile and two-mile and 880 races respectively. Bruce Mason, a sophomore dashman who had never run in a track meet before his freshman year at St. John's, was outstanding.

In a triangular meet with St. Olaf and Macalester, St. John's placed second. St. Olaf led with 67 points, St. John's had 49 and Macalester finished with 35. Bill Moldaschel, the reigning 880 runner of the con-

ference, ran a brilliant race in the time of two minutes and seven hundredths (2:00.7), his top career record for this event.

A May 16 triangular meet at St. John's with Macalester and Concordia that ended with a victory by St. John's was one of the most thrilling meets of the year; Schoenecker and Moldaschel took first places in all the events they entered. "A second place behind Concordia in the mile relay gave St. John's its needed margin of victory in a meet that went down to the final event" (*Record*, May 22, 1959). St. John's won the meet by one point: St. John's 56, Macalester 55, Concordia 40.

The 1959 track season ended in somewhat of an anti-climax. The Jays finished in third place with 34¼ points to champion Macalester's 66. Macalester's superiority in weight men (discus and shot put) and its distance runners, who took second and third places in the mile and two-mile runs, were too much for the Jays. Jerry Schoenecker was the only St. John's man to take two first places in the meet: the mile and the two-mile. Cyril Paul, on whom the St. John's teams for the past three years had placed their hopes for first places in the 100 and 220 dashes and a share in the first place relay race, placed third.

In a tribute to all that St. John's owed to the most colorful sprinter in its history up to that time, the *Record* reporter wrote: "Paul, the Trinidad speedster who has thrilled fans with his running over a four-year period, bowed out with a pair of thirds in the dashes plus a heroic effort as anchor man on the second-place Jay mile relay team" (*Record*, June 19, 1959).

Roster: Jerry Schoenecker, William Moldaschel, Bruce Mason, Cyril Paul, Thomas Withrow, Gilbert Mages, Robert Pilney, Buford Johnson, Tom Withrow, Bill Moldaschel

Conference standing: Macalester 66, Hamline 38, St. John's 34¼, Duluth 23½, St. Thomas 20½, Concordia 15-9/10, Gustavus 5, Augsburg 4

— 1960 —

The 1960 Jays were eager to regain the championship they had lost to Macalester in 1959. Besides, it was Jerry Schoenecker's last year and they had to take advantage of the ten, fifteen or twenty points per meet that he had contributed over the last three years. Tom Withrow was with the team also with his ten, twelve or fifteen points in the dashes and the broad jump. Other veterans were Tom Deutz and Buff Johnson in the high jumps, Bruce Mason in the 440 and the mile relay, Gil Mages and Robert Pilney in the pole vault, Dave Sieben in the hurdles and Fred Philipson in the weights. In addition, John Gagliardi had a host of talented freshmen to work into the team. Among them was John Maciejny who threw the javelin 161 feet, two inches on his first-ever try.

The 1960 Jays had their ups and downs early. In an early meet with St. Cloud State the Jays came out the losers 72-49. Then they bounced back to crush Concordia 72-52. Jerry Schoenecker put on a spectacular show, winning the half-mile, the mile and the two-mile for 15 points. Fred Philipson won the discus and the shot, and Tom Withrow the 100 and 220 dashes. First places were also won by Bruce Mason in the 440, Bob Pilney in the pole vault, and Tom Deutz in the high jump. Hopes for the championship in the MIAC skyrocketed.

The somewhat erratic course of the Jays continued, however. In the May 20 issue of the *Record* a loss to St. Cloud State is reported. Although the Jays captured six first places, they fell victims to the Huskies' depth. In the final meet of the season preparatory to the MIAC meet, the Jays were nosed out by Macalester. Judging from the reports given above, it is highly probable that the Jays finished in second place.

Jerry Schoenecker

In 1960 Jerry Schoenecker, one of St. John's running greats, concluded his racing career at St. John's. In four years of track he was beaten only once as a freshman when he was out-run in the two-mile. After that he won brilliantly in the mile and two-mile, year in and out, meet after meet, running with style and without a loss.

In a recent letter, 1977, he writes that as an adult he has spent fifteen years in the care of emotionally disturbed children and presently is Foster Care Supervisor for Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Jerry runs when the weather is good and reports that he loves the feel of running. "I can break a five minute mile," he writes. "I enjoy dancing a great deal as a physical expression of grace and control." (When a student he taught dancing at the Arthur Murray studio in St. Cloud.)

Roster: Ronald Amel, Kenneth Boice, Thomas Deutz, Jerry Donlin, John Dullea, D. Edwards, John Fritz, John Hoffman, James Hrabe, Buford Johnson, David Kotewa, Adrian Ledermann, John Maciejny, Gilbert Mages, Bruce Mason, John Muller, Donald Noltimier, Robert O'Hara, Frederick Philipson, Robert Pilney, Donald Rasure, Charles Reichert, Thomas Rost, Martin Rosenhamer, David Sieben, James Singsank, Jerry Schoenecker, Thomas Withrow, Albert Woodward

— 1961 —

Coach John Gagliardi found himself faced with a rebuilding job when the 1961 track season opened. An assurance of ten to fifteen points per meet was lost with the graduation of Jerry Schoenecker. The loss was compensated for to some extent by the strongest shot-discus department that St. John's ever had. The weight men were actually the major part of John Gagliardi's offensive line in football:

John McDowell, Dave Honer, John Maciejny and Fred Philipson. The weakest spot in the team line-up was the place left vacant by the departure of high jumper Buford Johnson. On the other hand, the return of twelve veterans (not necessarily all point winners) that included speedy freshman Bob Spinner, Coach Gagliardi's star running back on his football team, was encouraging. With the tried Tom Withrow and hurdler Captain Bruce Mason to give poise to the team he was assured of an interesting season and a close race for the MIAC title.

In the first meet of the season held at Selke Field in St. Cloud, St. John's won eight first places out of fifteen events. Nevertheless, the Jays lost by a score of 65-66 as St. Cloud managed to pick up enough second and third places to win.

The record of the 1961 Jays, so far as meets are concerned, was one dual meet lost, two triangular meets won, one lost, one quadrangular meet won. It was, as John Gagliardi had predicted, an interesting season.

In the MIAC the Jays finished the 1961 season in second place as runnerup to Macalester, a team that for sheer quality and depth was overwhelmingly superior to anything else in the conference. The MIAC standings were as follows: Macalester 79 points, St. John's 36, Gustavus 23, Hamline 22, Duluth 19½, Concordia 17, St. Thomas 10½, Augsburg 3.

According to the *Record* statistician, the performance of the point-winners was as follows:

"John McDowell and Tom Withrow shared team honors, each collecting nine points. McDowell won the Jays' lone first place by sailing the discus 142 feet, 10½ inches. He placed second in the shot put. Withrow scored in four events, finishing second in the broad jump and mile relay, and fourth in the 100 and 200-yard dashes.

"Other scoring was done by Dave Honer and John Maciejny, second and third in the discus throw; Bob Spinner, second in the 100-yard dash; Fred Philipson, fourth in the shot put; Bob O'Hara, fourth in the high hurdles; Bruce Mason, Rich Leister and Chuck Reichert sharing second in the mile relay" (*Record*, June 23, 1961).

Roster: Rick Ahles, Ronald Amel, Bernard Beckman, Kenneth Boice, James Conn, Roger Deutz, John Dullea, John Fritz, David Honer, James Hopkins, Timothy Keaveny, Benjie Kreweicki, Richard Leister, John Maciejny, Gilbert Mages, Jim Marrin, Bruce Mason (captain), John McDowell, Bob Monroe, Robert O'Hara, Frederick Philipson, Donald Rasure, Charles Reichert, Robert Spinner, Thomas Withrow, Ronald Youso, Theodore Vornbrock

— 1962 —

The 1962 track team was one of the strongest teams in St. John's history. That the Jays did not win the championship was not to the

discredit of the team, for it ran the strong Macalester team a tight race for the title and was leading until the last three events of the MIAC meet that ended in Macalester's favor, 65-56. The two teams, Macalester and St. John's, clearly out-classed the other conference contestants, the closest of which was St. Thomas with 28½ points.

In a series of eight meets during the season St. John's won five. In the first, held at St. Cloud State's Selke Field, the Jays won eight first places out of a total of fifteen, but lost to St. Cloud 66-65. The Huskies picked up second and third places to compensate for the lack of first place finishes.

In the Carleton Relays, for which the Jays were unprepared, St. John's took sixth place in a field of thirteen. A triangular meet followed which St. John's won over St. Thomas and Augsburg by a score of 75 points to 52 by St. Thomas and 23 by Augsburg.

In the meets that remained, the Jays continued to win mainly through the efforts of Tom Withrow, John McDowell and Dave Honer in the weights, Bob Spinner in the 100 and 220 dashes, and Bruce Mason in the high and low hurdles and the 440 dash. The team did particularly well in a quadrangular meet won by St. John's with 63 points. Mankato had 54 points, Gustavus 26 and Northwestern 7.

St. John's won second place in the MIAC tournament as runnerup to Macalester, the MIAC champion. Individual performances by the Jays were as follows:

Individual results: 100 yard dash—Spinner 1st, Withrow 2nd, Fritz 3rd, Welder 5th; discus—McDowell 1st; shot put—McDowell 1st, Honer 2nd, Philipson 5th; high jump—Brown 2nd; mile run—Cruse 2nd; long jump—Withrow 1st; pole vault—Froehle 4th; mile relay—Welder, Fritz, Reichert, Withrow 3rd

Roster: Richard Ahles, Kenneth Boice, William Blake, William Brown, William Cruse, Tom Enestvedt, John Erickson, John Fritz, Richard Froehle, Leonard Gallagher, Matt Hagovsky, James Hunt, David Honer, George Korbel, John McDowell, Robert O'Hara, Charles Reichert, John Richards, William Rooney, David Schaefer, Tom Schwinghammer, Robert Spinner, William Sullivan, Theodore Vornbrock, George Welder, Thomas Withrow

Conference standing: Macalester 67, St. John's 56, St. Thomas 28½, Concordia 21, Gustavus 17, Duluth 8, Augsburg 4½

— 1963 —

Coach John Gagliardi at the opening of the 1963 season predicted an exceptionally fine spring and no team losses: "We will go undefeated this spring," promised John. "No, sir, we won't lose any games this spring." He may not have been completely serious, but his team captain, Chuck Reichert, echoed his coach: "We'll be good this year," as he and three teammates left the gym to do some road work.

The season did not turn out as well as was expected by coach and captain, mainly because of a plague of injuries that hounded the athletes and kept them from performing up to their potential.

The first meet of the year was a trip to Northfield for the Carleton Relays at which the Jays finished in fourth place. Macalester, then at the peak of its dominance over the MIAC in track, scored 75 points, St. Olaf placed second with 46, Carleton with 40 and third place, St. John's 35½ and fourth place. St. John's lost one first place (McDowell in the discus), two second places, two third places, four fourths and one fifth place. It was not an especially good showing, but several men gave promise of figuring largely in the season's outcome—Rich Froehle in the pole vault, Bob Spinner in the 100 and 220 dash, Chet Blaszczek in the hurdles, Tom Enestvedt in the high jump, and Chuck Reichert, the most consistent and fastest runner on the team in the mid-distances and even, if necessary, in the dashes.

A May 17 report in the *Record*, mainly a preview of the St. John's prospects in the conference meet, offered no hope of a happy ending for the team. According to the report, the squad had been afflicted with injuries and stood little chance of doing well. The list of injuries is impressive—shin splints, muscle pulls, muscle spasms, not to speak of slipped discs and other back injuries. Chuck Reichert had run in only one meet all spring, and he was not only the team captain but also the most reliable point winner among all the runners. It was feared that he would be unable to run at all.

Strong point of the team were the weight men: John McDowell, undefeated all season in the discus, Rich Froehle in the pole vault, Bob Spinner in the dashes and Chet Blaszczek in the hurdles.

Macalester repeated as MIAC track champions.

Roster: Ronald Amel, Chester Blaszczek, Basil Christie, Nicholas Christianson, Thomas Enestvedt, John Erickson, David Hartle, David Honer, Patrick Jacobs, David Kelly, David Kuebelbeck, Leo Lundy, John McDonnell, Robert O'Hara, John Pierman, Charles Reichert, Lawrence Rooney, George Smith, Robert Spinner, Stanley Suchta, Kenneth Voss, George Welder

— 1964 —

The 1964 track season must have appeared uneventful to the *Record* sportswriters for they lavished headlines on baseball and tennis and neglected track and field. It was unfortunate for John McDowell who was the outstanding weight man in the discus and shot put throughout his four years at St. John's. He probably was the best weight man St. John's has ever had in these events, from the beginning of track and field up to the present time. In the 1964 MIAC meet he was the only St. John's double winner and literally carried St. John's to fourth place in the conference in an otherwise mediocre Jay season. With a little more depth in the running events, St. John's could have gone far.

In the first meet of the season, April 15, St. John's placed second behind MIAC champion, Macalester. What is remarkable about the meet is that St. John's took first place in all the field events except one, whereas Macalester took first place in all the running events. McDowell won firsts in the discus and shot put, Ken Voss third in both events and Dave Honer second in the discus. Pat Jacobs won first place in the pole vault, William Blake second. Tom Enestvedt won first place in the high jump and second in the broad jump.

In a quadrangular meet between Hamline, Duluth and Augsburg, the Johnnies won first place through the work of McDowell, Voss and Enestvedt. In the track events Spinner was third in the 100-yard dash, Jon Theobald fourth; Paul Wieland took second in both the mile and half-mile. Enestvedt took third in the low hurdles; Richard Long came in third in the two-mile run.

In the conference championship meet St. John's won fourth place, mainly on the victories of John McDowell in both the discus and the shot put. Dave Honer took third in the discus and Ken Voss third in the shot put.

McDowell, a genial, fun-loving giant who starred also at tackle on John Gagliardi's NAIA champion football team of 1963, played professional football after graduation under Vince Lombardi of the Green Bay Packers for several years before retiring.

Roster: William Blake, Frederick Cremer, Thomas Enestvedt, John Erickson, John Fabri, LeRoy Hagen, David Honer, Patrick Jacobs, Douglas Johnson, Anthony Kluk, John London, Richard Long, Leo Lundy, John McDowell, George Smith, Robert Spinner, Jon Theobald, Lloyd Wieland, Paul Wieland, Kenneth Voss

— 1965 —

The decline of interest in track at St. John's that was noticeable in the 1963 and 1964 seasons became somewhat of a landslide in 1965. Track was completely ignored in the 1965 *Sagatan*, the editors evidently rating it below wrestling and tennis—the minor sports, as they were then called. It was almost ignored in the *Record* also, except for a preview and two sketchy reports that offered little encouragement for the trackmen.

In the preview we read the following statement: "Until last year St. John's track team had finished consistently in the MIAC's upper division. This year, however, the track forecasters contemplate only gloom for the oncoming season. With the loss of lettermen Dave Honer, John McDowell, Bob Spinner and others, the prospects indeed have Stygian darkness" (*Record*, April 2, 1965).

The next report (April 30, 1965) repeats the gloomy prognosis for the season, following which it narrates the progress of the team to date:

"After a third place finish at Moorhead's Concordia Relays, the Jays traveled to Gustavus for a quadrangular meet with Concordia, Hamline and Gustavus. Again, taking third, freshman Doug Johnson captured a first in the half-mile, and senior pole vaulter Bill Blake and weightmen Fred Cremer and Mike Paquette collected points in their respective events.

The next and last report is contained in a brief summary of all the spring sports in one article entitled "Year-End Summary":

"Two dual meet track victories against St. Thomas and Bethel managed to salvage an otherwise disappointing track season in 1965. SJU wound up next to last place Hamline in the MIAC meet at Macalester. The Johnnies' Fred Cremer captured third place in the shot put, and half-miler Doug Johnson took second in his specialty" (*Record*, May 26, 1965).

Roster: John Albers, William Blake, Fred Cremer, Thomas Enestvedt, John Garceau, Patrick Jacobs, Douglas Johnson, Richard Landwehr, Philip Ledermann, Leo Lundy, James Moore, Donald Nett, Michael Paquette, George Smith, Lloyd Wieland, Paul Wieland

— 1966 —

When Jim Smith, the new basketball and track coach, took over the track reins in 1966 there was only one way track could move and that was up. His was a rebuilding job of the first magnitude—namely, to jump from the position of doormat of the conference to a respectable place among the leaders. However, despite the ten lettermen on which to build, there was lacking the necessary depth in the field events that is so necessary for a well-balanced team. He was aware of the dire need to recruit potential trackmen from among the student body in hopes of recruiting discus throwers, shot putters and jumpers to offset the weaknesses on the squad.

It was not long before Jim Smith's driving and the hard work of the budding trackmen began to pay off. Fortunately, among the new aspirants were two newcomers of exceptional ability, a freshman basketball player who was also a high jumper and soon was known to his teammates as "Jumping Jim Holmes." Another new star was sophomore David Lamm, a sprinter who in the very first meets attracted the attention not only of St. John's but also of the entire conference.

There were other talented freshmen, but for Coach Smith's immediate needs Jim Holmes and Dave Lamm came onto the scene as gifts from the Olympic gods. In the MIAC meet held at the end of the season, Holmes took third place in the high jump and fourth in the broad jump with a leap of 21 feet and over. Lamm ran the 100-yard dash in 9.8 time, tying the conference record set in 1958 by Concordia's

Gabrielson, and also tying the 53-year-old record of St. John's set in 1913 by Robert "Bob" Hackner. Lamm probably would have won the 220-yard dash also had he not slipped when making the turn at the end of the track and had to settle for second place.

In the MIAC meet the Jays rang up 21 ½ points to take fourth place in the conference. Coach Smith was justifiably jubilant and began looking forward to the next season when his young tracksters would be more mature.

Other finishers in the 1966 MIAC meet were freshman Donald Nett (fourth in the 100-yard dash) and Mike Paquette, who placed fourth in the shot put (45'5") and in the discus (134'). "Some of the 'unsung heroes' who contributed immensely to the track team's performance were senior pole vaulter Pat Jacobs, senior half-miler Bill Carney, co-captain Douglas Johnson and weight man Fred Cremer, John Rieder, a promising freshman, John Garceau, a distance man, Bob Froehle, Dave Haycraft, "Tex" Martin, Steve Kanies, Phil Ledermann, Jon Samuelson, Bill Thibedeau, and Rick Wong" (*Record*, May 27, 1966).

Roster: James Bauer, Robert Froehle, John Garceau, David Haycraft, James Holmes, Patrick Jacobs, Douglas Johnson, Steve Kanies, John King, David Lamm, Phil Ledermann, Thomas Linhoff, Patrick Marx, Gregory Motl, Donald Nett, Michael Paquette, John Rieder, Jon Samuelson, Jack Stube, John Stile, Robert Sullivan, Peter Terres, David Thein, William Thibedeau, Richard Wong
Conference standing: Macalester 71, Gustavus 45, Concordia 33, St. John's 20½, St. Thomas 20, Augsburg 9, Hamline 6, Duluth 4

— 1967 —

On the opening of track competition in 1967 Jim Smith had reason to be enthusiastic about the future of track at St. John's. On his team were two first-year men who were the prizes of the conference in 1966: David Lamm, a sprinter, and James Holmes, a jumper of extraordinary talent. Both were sure point winners from their first appearance at St. John's. Supporting them as newcomers were Martin Lundy and Alpheus Finlayson, two triple jumpers from the Bahamas who, he thought, would be top performers in the long jump events. Besides, from 1966, he had co-captain Douglas Johnson in the quarter-mile and the half-mile, and co-captain John Garceau, a cross-country stand-out on whom he could depend for the mile and two-mile events.

In a series of six preliminary quadrangular and triangular events, St. John's lost only one, and that one to talent-rich Macalester that was then in its ninth championship year, a stretch that began in 1959. The season was brightened by the feats of the "incomparable Dave Lamm" in the 100 and 220-yard dashes, setting a new record of nine and six-tenths in the 100-yard dash and on several other occasions equaling the :9.9 record of Cyril Paul. Not to be overshadowed by

Lamm, Jim Holmes regularly jumped 6'1", 6'2", 6'4", and once in a meet against Macalester shattered all the MIAC records with a leap of 6'8", a feat that surprised even Holmes himself. He said, "The adrenalin must have been pretty high that day." Martin Lundy and Al Finlayson regularly swept the triple jump event, John Garceau the mile and Michael Paquette the discus.

In the state meet held at Macalester, however, the coach's fears that the lack of depth might be a handicap proved to be correct. St. John's took third place behind Macalester, the winner, and Gustavus. Of the thirty-nine points garnered by the Jays, thirty-one were earned by the above-mentioned stars: Dave Lamm, Jim Holmes, Martin Lundy and Al Finlayson. Lamm broke the conference record in the 220 by a run of 21.7 seconds. As was expected, Holmes won the high jump with a leap of six feet, four inches, and took third place in the hop-step-jump. Martin Lundy won the triple jump and Finlayson the hop-step-jump.

Jim Smith was pleased with the results, but at the same time acknowledged his early fears that lack of depth had been a problem. In the May 26 *Record* he made an appeal for more participants: "This year we lacked depth and spread ourselves out too thin, but I know there are guys who can help us out next spring. I don't know if they are shy or what." With more participants he promised a championship.

Roster: John Blin, John Cragg, Alpheus Finlayson, John Garceau, James Holmes, Douglas Johnson, Steve Kanies, Daniel Klenow, William Laliberte, David Lamm, Martin Lundy, John Martin, Dennis Merritt, Paul Muckerheide, Michael Paquette, John Rieder, Dennis Scherer, John Stube, William Thibedeau

— 1968 —

The year 1968 was crucial in St. John's track history. Macalester had been MIAC champion for nine consecutive years and the Jays were united in their resolve to unseat the Macs from the throne and occupy the lofty position themselves. It was by no means an idle dream. The Jays were loaded with talent as never before in St. John's track history. Jim Smith had revived interest in cross-country in the fall of 1965, and now in 1968 he had in the ranks of his trackmen the crack cross-country trio of John Cragg, Jeff Brain and Charles "Chuck" Ceronsky, each of whom was capable of taking first place in all the distance runs from the mile to the three-mile events—and the six-mile, if need be.

Dave Lamm in the dashes, Holmes in the high jump, the Bahamians Martin Lundy and Al Finlayson were as safe for winning points as money in the bank.

Filling out the list of promising contestants were several freshmen with fine high school records: Timothy Muller in the shot put and the discus, and Tom Schutta in the same events to support the work of veteran Mike Paquette. A weakness in the long jump and the hurdles still worried Jim Smith, but the lack of good hurdle material was taken care of by the addition to the team of flashy freshman Don Kluk, "Tex" Martin and Denny Merritt. It was no wonder that the Jays waded through the regular triangular and quadrangular meets without serious setbacks, thereby strengthening their resolve to win the conference meet, despite the known power of Macalester.

The MIAC meet bore out the soundness of the Jays' hopes as well as their respect for Macalester. The well-balanced Macs squeezed by the Jays in a close 93-78½ victory to retain their title.

Unfortunately the skimpy, incomplete report on the meet in the May 17, 1968 *Record* conveys nothing of the drama of a thrilling contest between two talented teams. The speedy Dave Lamm set two conference records, "blitzing the 100 in 9.6 seconds and the 220 in 21.5 seconds." Jim Holmes took first place in the high jump at six feet, two inches and scored in second place in the triple jump. Al Finlayson took first place in the triple jump.

Another exciting event was the high hurdles in which freshman Donald Kluk broke the conference record in 14.5 seconds time. John Cragg provided the heroic act of the conference when he won the three-mile event despite an only partially knitted broken bone in his left foot. In fact, he set a new record for the three-mile at 14:33.

In a recent letter Dave Lamm, '68, holder of St. John's records in the 100 and 220-yard dashes (9.5 in the 100-yard dash, 9.4 wind-aided), writes that he still takes part in summer open meets. Last summer he ran a 10.7 in a 100-meter dash, which relates to 9.8 or 9.9 in the 100-yard dash. "At my age I am very pleased with that." His wife Pamela added a postscript that he holds the Governor's Physical Fitness State Meet records in the 100 and 220-yard dashes for the 25-30 and 31-39 age groups. He also holds the University of Minnesota intramural records for the same events from his law school days. Dave is practicing law in Mankato.

Roster: Jeff Brain, Charles Ceronsky, Gregory Cook, John Cragg, Alpheus Finlayson, Robert Fisher, Michael Halloran, Al Hechtman, James Holmes, Frank Hudoba, William Johnson, Jon Kallman, Daniel Klenow, Donald Kluk, David Lamm, John "Tex" Martin, Dennis Merritt, Kevin Moehn, Timothy Muller, Martin Lundy, Thomas Schutta, David Sier, John Stube, William Thibedeau, John Traynor, George Wilson, Peter Stickler

Conference standing: Macalester 93, St. John's 78½, Hamline 32, Gustavus 15, Concordia 15, St. Thomas 10, Augsburg 7, Duluth 5½

— 1969 —

When Coach Smith in his third year at the helm of St. John's track team looked over his 1969 prospects, it was with fervent longing for the championship. Macalester was still the top power in the conference, helped along by its excellent indoor facilities. But the Jays had been gradually creeping up on the Macs and the situation looked promising for an upset of the eleven-year champions. It did not turn out that way, but the story of the season is still a thrilling one.

St. John's had undoubtedly the advantage of having on the team the strongest distance runners of the 1968 cross-country champions—Chuck Ceronsky, John Cragg, Jeff Brain, and now freshman Joe Skaja. St. John's was weak in the sprints, however, having lost the "incomparable" Dave Lamm through graduation, but there were promising replacements in John Rieder, Henry Funk, Kevin Moehn and Donald Holtzman. In the 880 race Gregory Cook was holder of the school record in that event, and Don Kluk was the undefeated conference champion hurdler with an imposing record in the NAIA. Among the jumpers were Jim Holmes, Al Finlayson, Martin Lundy, Peter Stickler and several understudies in all the jumping events. In the weights were Tim Muller and John Stube. There was reason for optimism in the Johnnie camp, though the fact that St. Thomas and Gustavus were strong enough in 1969 to take away points from St. John's (and Macalester) rendered speculations concerning the MIAC standings for the year fruitless.

In a quadrangular meet involving Gustavus, St. Thomas, Augsburg and St. John's, Gustavus tied the Johnnies 53-53, although the Jays took five first places, six second places, three third places and five fourth places.

In preparation for the 1969 meet Coach Smith split his team, sending seven men to the Drake Relays and entering the remainder of the team in the Bethel Relays. Joe Skaja, only a freshman, won second place in the Drake 26-mile marathon. In the Bethel Relays, St. John's, minus its top men, took second place to Hamline: Don Kluk won the high hurdles, Jon Kallman the two-mile, Martin Lundy and Frank Hudoba the triple jump, Jim Holmes and Tim Muller won the javelin relay.

In an elaborately detailed account of the St. John's prospects in its upcoming MIAC meet (*Record*, May 9, 1969), Jim Smith conceded that the outcome was a toss-up. He added the comment that he would welcome in the crowd of spectators some of the "Rats" who had helped his basketball team win the MIAC championship. John Cragg agreed:

"It will take a top-notch performance by every man on the team. Everybody wants a shot at Macalester, though, and I'm sure we'll be able to get up for the meet" (*ibid*).

By some editorial error the *Record* failed to report the outcome of the meet. Macalester defended its title successfully, however. It is probable that St. John's took second place, for in 1970 the Jays won the championship and retained it for the next four years consecutively.

Roster: Jeff Brain, John Cragg, Chuck Ceronsky, Henry Funk, Al Hechtman, James Holmes, Donald Holtzman, Jon Kallman, Martin Lundy, "Tex" Martin, Timothy Muller, Ron Nagurski, John Rieder, Thomas Schutta, Gary Stanoch, Peter Stickler, John Stube, Paul Weingert

— 1970 —

There was rejoicing in the ranks of the St. John's trackmen when the 1970 MIAC meet was over and the Jays had out-scored Macalester 71½-64 for the championship. It had been a close contest between the three top teams in the conference—Macalester, St. John's and Hamline. Hamline took third place with 53 points.

Credit for the championship was due to Coach Jim Smith, who for four seasons had worked hard to catch up with powerful Macalester, training his men to pick up third, fourth and fifth place points as well as firsts and seconds, with the objective of coming up finally with a strong, well-balanced offense. According to Conrad Stroebe, the *Record* commentator assigned to cover the 1970 meet, the title was won pretty much as a strategic victory, with Smith deploying his men according to the strengths of Macalester, rather than to its weaknesses (of which there were very few). He pointed out in particular the strategy involved in winning the 880 run, an event that had been won three years consecutively by Macalester's great middle distance star, Dave Hodge. Hodge ran the mile race also, and when the event came up Coach Smith ordered Paul Muckerheide, his miler, to set a fast pace in hopes of tiring Hodge. Hodge won the event in the fast time of four minutes and ten seconds, but he was so exhausted that he failed even to place in his specialty, the 880. Hodge's failure to perform as usual opened the door to the Jays' Greg Cook, who ran the best race of his career and copped first place in one minute, 54 seconds. Mike Kremer took fifth place, with the result that St. John's gained seven points in an area where the year before Macalester had garnered thirteen.

Donald Kluk, one of the best hurdlers at St. John's from his freshman to his senior year, took two first places in the high and intermediate hurdles—an additional blow aimed at Macalester's strength.

Hard work and long-range planning had paid off. When he first assumed the duties of track coach, Coach Smith had brought about

he revival of cross-country and by 1970 had gathered together a four-or-five-man team of the finest cross-country runners in MIAC history: John Cragg, Jeff Brain, Chuck Ceronsky, Joe Skaja, Paul Muckerheide, Jon Kallman and others. It was this team that provided the "unbeatable competition" that brought down the Macalester twelve-year reign over MIAC track. The cross-country runners filled the gap caused by the graduation of Dave Lamm, of whom Jim Holmes once remarked, "He was not only a runner, he was half a track team."

St. John's had an impressive record for success in other track contests outside the MIAC. Donald Kluk won the All-American title in the hurdles at the NAIA nationals. Chuck Ceronsky won the 27-mile marathon championship at the University of Kansas Relays. Joe Skaja won second place in the Drake Relays' 25-mile marathon.

Roster: Dave Arnold, James Boehlke, Jeff Brain, Charles Ceronsky, Gregory Cook, John Cragg, Henry Funk, Alpheus Finlayson, Frederick Halloran, Francis Hudoba, Terry Kapsen, Donald Kluk, Michael Kremer, Martin Lundy, Pat McCatherly, William McNamara, Kevin Moehn, Paul Muckerheide, Timothy Muller, Mark Lundy, Brian Racette, Stanley Reuther, James Ryzek, Joseph Skaja, Bernard Smith, Gary Stanoch, Paul Weingart

Conference standing: St. John's 71½, Macalester 64, Hamline 53, Concordia 18½, St. Thomas 18, Duluth 12, Gustavus 10, Augsburg 9

— 1971 —

Spirits were high in the St. John's camp for a repetition of the 1970 MIAC track championship. Spirits were so high, in fact, that some of the 1970 stars were looking forward to the All-American rankings in the NCAA-NAIA national meets that usually finished off the entire season. In his column "It Takes Leather," Marty Fenlon warned them: "We hear rumors that the track team will be the best ever. It seems that these boys are looking past the MIAC to bigger gatherings. We hope that in looking past the conference they don't forget about it" (*Record*, March 12, 1971).

The openly expressed self-confidence of the squad was excusable, for on the team were All-American hurdler Don Kluk, MIAC 880 champion Greg Cook, John Cragg, Jeff Brain and Joe Skaja, champion cross-country distance runners, Dave Arnold in the 440 and the long jump, not to speak of outstanding newcomers Chuck Way, Dave Lyndgaard, Rudy Sawyer, Bill McNamara, Dan Smith and Bill Joyce. Chuck Ceronsky, who graduated in 1970, was Smith's assistant coach.

In preparing for the MIAC meet, Jim Smith again showed his concern about providing stiff opposition for his tracksters by splitting up his squad and sending small groups to the Drake Relays or the Kansas University Relays, and keeping the major part of the squad for the Minnesota meets: e.g., the Bethel and the Carleton Relays. Highlight