

— 1935 —

Within three years of its inception, the St. John's puck chasers copped the MIAC hockey championship. The team, led by dynamic, hard-driving Eddie Maus, was well balanced and excelled in defense, thanks to Bill Dreher, by allowing opponents only three goals the entire season. Perhaps the proudest man associated with the team was Fr. Damian himself who had brought to the top of the conference Eugene McCarthy, Bill Dreher, Eddie Maus and others in a stretch of three consecutive years.

As a post-season treat the team was permitted to invade the Iron Range to play the Chisholm Maroons and the Duluth Red and White, both semi-pro teams. The Johnnies lost by scores of 1-9 and 3-7 respectively, a setback sharp enough to suppress any tendencies to superiority.

Dreher was the outstanding goalie of the conference and Eugene McCarthy the highest individual scorer on the St. John's team. The team record overall was six wins and four losses; the conference record four wins and no losses.

Members of the championship team were William Dreher, Eugene McCarthy, Leonard Werner, Duncan Campbell, Eddie Maus and Robert Kyle. Spares: Jerome Mulvehill, Francis Weber, Austin McCarthy, Gaylord Stenglein, Richard Maus, Elmer Madsen and Joseph Kelso.

— 1936 —

An important discovery of the 1936 season was the realization that not all the good hockey players had to come from the Twin Cities or the Iron Range. Four of the top-flight 1936 hockey players were from St. Cloud: Leonard Werner, Eddie Maus, Dick Maus, Willard Nierengarten and Robert Kyle.

The team naturally was looking forward to another championship season, despite the loss by graduation of Bill Dreher, but visions of continued glory were dashed away by a tie game with St. Thomas and a loss to Macalester respectively, 3-3 and 1-4. Following losses to St. Cloud and Alexandria, the Jays defeated Macalester 4-1 and St. Thomas 4-1. Much to their own surprise, they improved over the season by ending in second place in the conference with two wins, one tie, and one loss. The overall record was three wins, one tie, and three losses.

Squad members were the following: Wally Johnson, Chuck Hinz, Lee Wagner, Eddie Maus, Leonard Werner (captain), James Alexander, Austin McCarthy, Willard Nierengarten, Loren May, Duncan Campbell, Ralph Miller, Robert Wolf, Bob Kyle, Sylvester Burke,

Frank Richie, Robert Carney, DeWayne Wohlleb, Raphael Armstrong, Kenneth Cater.

— 1937 —

One thing was definitely missing when the Jays assembled for the 1936-37 hockey season, the presence of Fr. Damian, who resigned this year and was succeeded by a student-coach, James Alexander. Thus was inaugurated a new policy in the selection of coaches that was to persist for the next few decades.

1937 was a losing season, occasioned partly by the loss of team captain Austin McCarthy, Eugene's younger brother, who suffered the fracture of a collarbone in the first game of the season. 1937 was a six-game season that ended with an overall record of only one victory and five losses. The conference record was one victory and three losses.

The squad: Wallace Johnson, Chuck Hinz, Ralph Miller, Eddie Maus, Austin McCarthy, Willard Nierengarten, Loren May—the last a freshman who already showed promise of future stardom. Among the spares were Robert Kyle, Charles Pillsbury, Val Fandel and Donald Hollenhorst.

— 1938 —

Chuck Hinz was appointed student-coach of the hockey team for the 1938 season. Prospects looked bright to the new coach since several of the outstanding players of the previous year had returned. Among them, particularly, were Loren May, Ralph Miller and Austin McCarthy. Miller scored seven goals for the season. The team played well and appeared to be certain of the championship until the last two games when the ceiling fell in on them and they lost to St. Thomas by scores of 1-4 and 1-3.

The team roster: Wallace Johnson, Austin McCarthy, Willard Nierengarten, Loren May, Chuck Hinz, Ralph Miller, Albert Welte, Nick Stoffel, Al Sauerer, Val Fandel, John Kelly, Don Hollenhorst, Edward Oettiker, (now Rev.) Robert Knaeble.

— 1939 —

A new breath of enthusiasm broke out in 1939 when thirty-three candidates signed up for admission to the hockey team. Chuck Hinz was in his second year of coaching, with Ralph Miller of St. Cloud his captain. For a change there was a higher concentration of players from the northern parts of the state and the Iron Range. New men were Albert Welte and Don Norman from Crookston, Stanley Tregillis from the Iron Range and Bob Murphy from Duluth, a goalie of considerable merit. It was a borderline team that ended in third place in the confer-

ence with a record of one win, two ties, and two losses, and an overall record of one win, six losses, and two ties. High scorer for the season was Loren May with six goals, followed by Lloyd Perron with four, Stanley Tregillis four, and Al Welte five.

Team roster: Robert Murphy, Loren May, Ralph Miller, Chuck Hinz, Stanley Tregillis, Al Welte, Lloyd Perron, Nick Stoffel, Wallace Johnson, James Courtney, Fran Gerlach, Donald Norman, Al Sauerer, Donald Hollenhorst, Konald Prem.

— 1940 —

For a change, a member of the coaching staff, Vernon McGree, was appointed coach for the 1940 season. In a ten-game schedule the Johnnies won three games, tied one and lost six. In the conference they won three games and lost four for a third place standing. Stanley Tregillis and Bob Murphy, both from the Iron Range, won all-conference honors. Top scorer for the season was James Courtney.

Roster: Nick Stoffel (captain), Stanley Tregillis, Robert Murphy, Lloyd Perron, James Courtney, Don Norman, Richard Hope, Edward Zins, Lawrence Hickner, Arthur Durch, Howard Isaac, Jerome Conkins.

— 1941 —

Coach Vernon McGree had a nucleus of eight lettermen on which to build his 1941 team: Captain Lloyd Perron, Richard Hope, James Courtney, Eddie Zins, Lawrence Hickner, Jerome Conkins, Don Norman, Art Durch and Frank Gerlach. It was a season that abounded in mishaps, injuries, the loss of Captain Perron to the military service in the Air Corps. Don Norman, on whom he depended for a team leader, suffered an injury that incapacitated him for the main part of the season. The team broke even in wins and losses—3-3 in the conference, 4-4 overall. Henry "Hank" Strobel was the find of the season and responsible for some of the best skating.

New men on the roster were Al Sauerer, Eugene Sebesta, Charles Tambornino, Konald Prem, Robert Murphy, Robert Piotrowski, Henry Strobel, William Freeman and Don Schnobrich.

— 1942 —

Coach Vernon McGree enlisted in the army in 1942 and was succeeded by Eugene McCarthy, now a teacher in the college. For a new coach, the hockey situation was not promising. The draft had decimated the college enrollment and Eugene had virtually a new team except for Henry Strobel and Don Norman—George Schmit, Albert

Rowe, Vincent Plumbo (a freshman baseball player from Cretin), Robert Stevenson, Herbert Anderson and Robert Piotrowski.

The hockey program underwent a period of crisis this year. In a game played on St. John's ice with St. Thomas a free-for-all brawl broke out over unnecessarily rough body checking—fisticuffs, skirmishes, and various other torts that were stopped only by the grace of cool heads, coaches and referees so that they could end normally. A public relations squabble ensued, however. Fr. Walter Reger, O.S.B., faculty representative in athletics, threatened to drop hockey as a varsity sport. Athletic Director George Durenberger, realizing that the game should not be relegated to a club activity, managed to patch things up.

All intercollegiate competition was suspended in the MIAC during the war years, 1943-46. Fr. Adelard Thuente, O.S.B., possibly the most popular faculty member during these years, got the hockey rink set up and scheduled a few games to show the few students still in college that SJU had at least some sort of athletic program. In the winter of 1945 they played two games with St. Cloud teams, and in 1946 made a sporadic attempt to keep hockey moving. On the schedule was a game with St. Thomas, lost 3-10. It was an unequal game, however, as St. Thomas still had a military contingent on campus and was permitted to field the cadets in conference play. In a game with Gustavus at St. John's, the Johnnies defeated the Gusties 4-2, but in the return game at Gustavus they lost by a score of 3-5. No championships were awarded in hockey in 1945 and 1946.

— 1947 —

Once the war was ended and the truce signed, demobilization took place rapidly. Returning veterans flooded the colleges and overburdened the teaching staffs in most colleges and universities of the country. Fr. Adelard gladly relinquished the hockey coaching reins to Don Norman, a competent coach who had graduated from St. John's in 1942 with three letters in hockey. Norman took over where Fr. Adelard had left off and developed an excellent team of some thirteen members that included Billy Sullivan, David Roske, James Medved, Vincent Plumbo, Lawrence McNeely, Fred Schultz, Captain Edward Zins, LeRoy Steichen, Raymond Grundtner (now Fr. Grundtner), Bill Sumpmann, and Richard Loudon. The team put together a seven-game winning streak, then won the St. Paul Winter Carnival championship by defeating Eveleth and St. Cloud in that order. In a trip to Crookston,

Norman's home town, the Jays defeated a local semi-pro outfit, and from there moved up to Grand Forks, North Dakota, to engage a Grand Forks team of the States Dominican League. This trip was strongly objected to by Fr. Walter Reger, who had made an agreement with Abbot Alcuin Deutsch not to permit any St. John's teams to play outside the territorial limits of Minnesota. However, with gas at the astonishing cost of nineteen cents a gallon, and Hitler and the Emperor of Japan out of the way, Old George decided to splurge, even if it put his tenure at St. John's in jeopardy.

— 1948 —

It was around the year 1948 that Athletic Director George Durenberger was working within the conference for uniform rules governing the conduct of a standard hockey program—the selection of competent officials, the sweeping of the ice between periods, the standard length of rinks, the ratification of schedules before play commenced, the changing of goals, etc. Some of the officials were incompetent, only two colleges scraped the ice between periods, St. John's and St. Cloud. None of the rinks were alike in their dimensions. The St. John's rink was like Lake Superior, Macalester's like Lake George in St. Cloud. The Gustavus interior rink was egg-shaped, consequently any puck caroming off the side boards ended behind the goal net. In other words, George was determined to make hockey a major sport in every sense of the word, and on the whole he was successful.

Mickey (Lawrence) McNeely took over the hockey team replacing Don Norman, who had accepted the hockey coaching position at the University of North Dakota, incidentally taking with him the two Crookston stars, William (Billy) Sullivan and James Medved. The first handicap McNeely had to face was the loss of two stars. Consequently, the Jays lost the first five games they played by close scores. They bounced back, however, at this point and swamped Augsburg 9-1 for their first victory of the season. They dropped another game to Macalester 3-4, and went on to win the three remaining games on the schedule. In the St. Paul Winter Carnival St. John's topped Hamline in the opening round, only to lose to St. Cloud in the semi-finals by a score of 2-3.

The overall record of the 1948 season was five wins versus seven defeats, and in the conference four victories and four losses. High scorer of the season was Frank Macioch, who edged out Dave Roske by the narrowest of margin.

Members of the team were the following: Mickey McNeely, Arthur Arnold, Maurice Schille, Charles "Chuck" Forbes, William Sump-

mann, Robert Ligday, Patrick Bresnahan, Fred Schultz, LeRoy Steichen, Patrick McHale, Merrill McKibben, David Roske, Roland Theis, and James Gleason.

— 1949 —

The 1949 hockey sextet was led by Coach McNeely, aided by team captain David Roske. Hopes were high for a good season as the Jays' young team blasted St. Cloud Teachers 4-0 and St. Thomas 6-3. The team passed the puck well and stars Lou Cotroneo, Don Sagissor and Dave Roske drove in the goals. But the early good fortune did not last. The tables were turned and the Jays lost their next five games. The team was thoroughly discouraged until Coach McNeely put Cotroneo in the net and a complete reversal of form took place. St. John's made a recovery in the St. Paul Winter Carnival, then defeated Carleton 2-0 and nosed out Augsburg 3-2. The rejuvenated St. Thomas entry defeated St. John's in the finals 1-3.

The overall season record was three wins versus six losses. In the conference the record was two wins versus seven losses.

Squad members were Arthur Severson, Fred Schultz, LeRoy Steichen, Frank Macioch, Patrick Bresnahan, Jerome Schultz, Donald Sagissor, Lou Cotroneo, Joseph Cascalenda, Thomas Klein, Robert Ligday, George Moudry, Arthur King, George Schroeder and Patrick McHale.

— 1950 —

On the graduation of Coach McNeely, George Hickner, '41, who attended the University of Minnesota for graduate school work, returned to St. John's in 1960 for special courses in education and the coaching of the hockey team. Captain-elect of the hockey team was Frank Macioch, the fiery, rough-and-ready puck maneuverer of the time. Frank Macioch and Coach Hickner complemented each other admirably.

The first game of the season was a 4-4 tie with Macalester. The new goalie, Ted Joyce, was credited with 40 saves. The St. John's rinkmen continued to play well and by January 13 had defeated Hamline 3-1 and Gustavus 4-2 at Gustavus. Joyce continued to play a stellar game in the net. The Jays then defeated St. Thomas 5-4 and powerful Duluth 2 1.

The 1950 Johnnies finished their best season in years with an 8-2-1 record to win the championship, though they were forced to share the top spot in the conference with Macalester.

To add to the conference championship, the team won the St. Paul Winter Carnival title, the second time in four years. Highlights of the

season were the phenomenal goal tending of Ted Joyce and the fine skating and shooting of Lou Cotroneo, Fred Schultz and Frank Macioch. Credit for the good season was accorded to George Hickner for a superb job of coaching.

Team personnel: Pat Bresnahan, Dave Roske, Fred Schultz, Robert Ligday, John Martin, Donald Sagissor, Augie Donovan, Joseph Cascalenda, Lou Cotroneo, Theodore Joyce, Theodore Meysembourg, and Joseph Jwanouskos.

— 1951 —

Lloyd "Bud" Perron, on the completion of his nine-year term in the Air Force, returned to St. John's to complete his college studies. A former hockey, baseball and football player, he took over the coaching position in hockey, his favorite sport. Perron was confident of a good showing in the MIAC, for he had nine returning lettermen and a former Olympic star named Bob Boeser on his squad. Among his players he also had fireball Cotroneo as team captain, Frank Macioch, a hard driving skater and Ted Joyce, the most outstanding goalie since the days of Vincent Plumbo in 1942.

But the Jays had hard luck from the beginning of the season. "Jumping" Joe Cascalenda broke a leg, and Lou Cotroneo was out for several games with a severe ankle injury. Nevertheless they managed to finish third in the conference behind co-champions Macalester and St. Thomas. Highlight of the season was a thrilling 5-4 overtime victory over St. Thomas. Bob Boeser was the high scorer with a total of 27 points for the season.

Team personnel: Lou Cotroneo (captain), Frank Macioch, Richard Donovan, Donald Sagissor, Theodore Joyce, Joe Cascalenda, Robert Boeser, Jerome Kline, Patrick Thompson, Charles Cammack, Glenn Kirsch, Charles Dowdle, Richard Hickner, James Lilly.

— 1952 —

Bob Boeser returned to St. John's in 1952 as coach of the hockey team. He was an exceptional figure in the St. John's hockey scene. A graduate of De La Salle High School in Minneapolis, he became an outstanding amateur skater and was selected by the Olympic Committee to represent the United States as a member of the 1948 Olympic team. After the Games, he traveled with amateur teams in England, France and Eastern European countries before settling down at the University of Minnesota, from which he transferred to St. John's in 1951.

Boeser's 1952 team was a hot and cold combination that failed to live up to its original promise, partly because of the graduation of Ted

Joyce, goalie, and Richard Donovan, center, at the end of the first semester. The inconsistent Jays defeated strong Duluth twice by the large margins of 9-0 and 6-2, then lost to Macalester 4-6 and 4-7. Boeser was high scorer of the team with 20 goals and 13 assists for 32 points. The season record was six wins and three losses overall; three wins and three losses in the conference.

Team personnel: Playing-coach Robert Boeser, Captain Donald Sagissor, Joseph Cascalenda, Ted Meysembourg, Philip Hartman, William Halmbeck, Roger Vanelli, Lou Cotroneo, Glenn Kirsch, Richard Donovan, Don Sagissor, Frank Albers, Ted Joyce, Paul Sokup, Richard Gravelle, James Lilly.

— 1953 —

With only four lettermen to work with, including himself, Ted Meysembourg, Boeser's successor, found the hockey outlook very bleak, so bleak that rumors were floating about that St. John's was dropping hockey as a varsity sport. When it was finally settled that a conference team would be fielded as usual, Coach Meysembourg took firm hold of the situation. The four veterans were enthusiastic and between them got together a relatively talented squad that went through the season with a record of two wins and nine losses. John Beaudry, a freshman from Duluth, proved to be the find of the year as he went through the season with 20 goals and 13 assists for a total of 33 points.

In midseason the team lost Co-captain Glenn Kirsch to the draft for the Korean War. It was the final step that broke down the already precarious defense. But the 1953 team still remained a better team than Gustavus that lost two games to the Jays by scores of 12-0 and 7-2.

Team personnel: Player-coach Ted Meysembourg, co-captains Charles Cammack and Glenn Kirsch, John Beaudry, James Pascoe (total points 15), Richard Marchek, Frank Albers, Mike Ruddy, Robert Larson, Kenneth Galatowitsch, Paul Sokup, and Phil Wartman.

— 1954 —

In his second year as coach, Ted Meysembourg and his captain, Charles Cammack, got together a team that finished the season with an overall record of four wins and seven losses. The conference record was two wins and seven losses for a fourth place finish.

The 1954 team was far from being a representative team, winning-wise, but it was a plucky outfit that played up to its full capacity. Coach Meysembourg developed two top-flight performers, Robert Larson and Mike Ruddy, whose playing gave a touch of distinction to a team that was otherwise unspectacular. Dennis Stedman, Clem