

## — 1976 —

St. John's harriers, beginning with 1973, never lost sight of their glory days in cross-country history, 1968-72, when for five straight years the C-C teams won the MIAC championship. Each fall the distance runners set their sights on being the team to begin another championship tradition, only to be disappointed again. In 1975 injuries were their stumbling block; in 1976 it was injuries and study abroad. Coach Lyndgaard was dismayed when he learned that two of his stars, Dale Gross and Joe Perske, were spending the year in a study abroad program.

It was not because there was a great lack of talent on his squad that the coach was disappointed. He considered his freshman crop perhaps the best group of beginners ever assembled at St. John's. There were among them Joseph Sokolowski, the two-mile Minnesota high school champion; Loren Ehrmantraut; Joe Metzger, an excellent prospect; Michael O'Brien; Timothy Hendricks and Chris Napp. But again the old injury nemesis cropped up: Joe Sokolowski missed most of the season because of the recurrence of a summer leg injury and Joe Metzger suffered an ankle injury that reduced his effectiveness.

Nevertheless, it was a strong team that lined up at the starting posts and posed an attainable challenge to St. Thomas for the 1976 title: Captain Steve Gathje was a talented, experienced runner, one of the outstanding MIAC harriers of the 1970's. Others were seniors Kevin Riley, Chris Lee and Dan Carroll; juniors Andy Cragg and Dan McGuinn; sophomores Peter Gathje, Norton Hatlie, Tim McKenna and Dean Ward; freshmen Loren Ehrmantraut, Joe Metzger, Joe Sokolowski, Tim Hendricks and Chris Napp.

The St. John's harriers ended their regular season with a fourth place finish in the MIAC meet. Captain Steve Gathje led the Johnnies with an eleventh place finish. Coach Lyndgaard wrote about the meet: "Excellent performances from Andy Cragg and freshman Loren Ehrmantraut allowed the Johnnies to finish a respectable fourth in the MIAC."

As the *Record* commentator reported: "The effort was the culmination of an autumn full of eleven-mile runs and long hours of roadwork under the clickety stopwatch of Dave Lyndgaard, sometimes aided by his wife Barb." Steve Gathje, in assessing the somewhat disappointing finish, said: "Inconsistency and inexperience were the two main reasons why we weren't able to put it all together this year" (*Record*, November 5, 1976).

The 1976 cross-country team qualified for the NAIA District 13 play-offs in St. Paul, and from there drove to Cleveland "to leg out 8,000 meters in the NCAA Division III meet." Steve Gathje again led the way, finishing number 101 in a field of 400 runners. Freshman Tim McKenna was number 108 and Andy Cragg 133 (*Record*, November 19, 1976).

## — 1977 —

The 1977 cross-country team, again coached by Dave Lyndgaard, was led by co-captains Andy Cragg and Dan McGuinn. The team was made up largely of juniors and sophomores that included some of the best distance runners that had come to St. John's over the previous three years: juniors Pete Gathje, Joe Perske and Dean Ward, sophomores Loren Ehrmantraut, Joe Metzger and Joe Sokolowski. Andy Cragg was generally considered the number one man, at least the most experienced, and Pete Gathje, who was a qualified national meet runner in the NAIA track meet in 1977, was number two; sophomore Joe Sokolowski was particularly well talented.

The team had one failing: the tendency to show up brilliantly as individuals sporadically but failing to put all their talents together in a concerted effort from meet to meet, thereby working more as individuals than as a team intent on winning despite the opposition. In spite of the shaky early season, Coach Lyndgaard remained optimistic. His patience paid off for, finally, at Carleton, the last invitational before the MIAC meet, the St. John's harriers put all their talents together and demonstrated that they could run with the best colleges in the country.

St. John's took third place in the Carleton Invitationals, a step ahead of St. Thomas. Coach Lyndgaard was confident that his team had the stuff to out-run even the Hamline Pipers, whose power, it was reported, was awesome. "If we run the race we're capable of," he said, "we should be able to run with anyone in the conference. Barring injuries and sickness, by conference meet time we should be able to field a very tough twelve-man squad" (*Record*, October 7, 1977).

Coach Lyndgaard summed up the results of the MIAC meet succinctly: "St. John's finished fourth, despite a very strong race from Sokolowski. The Johnnies by a narrow margin missed qualifying for the NAIA national meet, but managed to finish in the middle of the field at the NCAA national meet in Cleveland" (summary notes by Dave Lyndgaard).

All the MIAC teams were beaten to the finish line by the Pipers of Hamline. St. Olaf and St. Thomas were next in line, with the Johnnies coming in fourth. Joe Sokolowski placed sixth, Andy Cragg 21st, Pete Gathje 24th, Joe Perske 25th, Joe Metzger 28th and Loren Ehrmantraut 33rd.

Roster: Andrew Cragg, Loren Ehrmantraut, Tom Gasperlin, Peter Gathje, Norton Hatlie, Tim Hendricks, Dan McGuinn, Joseph Metzger, Jim Moodie, Tom Novak, Mike O'Brien, Joseph Perske, Joseph Sokolowski, Tim Thornton, Dean Wood



## CHAPTER VII

# Tennis

There are no records extant to tell us when lawn tennis made its first appearance on the St. John's campus. The first specific reference to it is found in the 1892 *St. John's University Catalog*, copies of which were sent annually to prospective students interested in St. John's. In the section labeled ATHLETICS, four lawn tennis clubs are listed: the Columbian, the Stars, the Crescents and the Cleveland. For each "club" two members are named. It is possible that a club was actually a team, with two doubles partners—possibly also the only players who owned *racquets*, as "rackets" was then spelled. In the 1894 catalog, however, the club names are omitted and in their place is a simple statement to the effect that the school affords the opportunity to play tennis on campus: "Lawn tennis courts—Two. Clubs unorganized." Even that statement was dropped in 1896 when references to all sports were dropped, only to reappear in 1900 with the formation of the St. John's Athletic Association.

Why the term "unorganized" was used in the catalog for a few years is not clear. It is possible that there were only a few tennis players on campus and hence there was no need for an organization; or, possibly, they wished to avoid misleading a prospective student into the expectation of lawn courts with neatly trimmed grass and lines marked off with snow white lime. However that may be, it is still surprising to know that tennis actually was being played at St. John's in 1892. Tennis made its first appearance in the United States in 1874 in New York, and though it soon became a popular sport nationwide, St. John's was hardly the place in 1892 for the neatly rolled grass

courts on which "lawn" tennis was played. From what we read about the rough, stony playing fields of early St. John's it is hard to imagine lawns on which the student body could romp and play.

There is no doubt that tennis was a popular sport at St. John's ten years or so later when the 1908 edition of the "Athletic Annual of the St. John's Athletic Association" was published. Under the title of "Tennis," pages 32-33, is the following appraisal of the game at St. John's at that time: "Tennis has always been a secondary sport at St. John's. During the past two years, however, prospects have brightened considerably, and at present it proves to be one of the favorite pastimes on the campus. Early this spring . . . the courts have been overhauled, new implements acquired, and everything made ready for an enjoyable season. The outlook for a good representative team is most promising, there being a good number of A.A. members aspiring for the honor at present. Last year was the first in which our players had the pleasure of meeting an outside team; and altho the Lake Shore Team of St. Cloud defeated the defenders of the Cardinal and Blue, the showing made by the latter was very creditable. Accordingly, several series with the same team have been arranged for this season, and it is hoped that the present tournament at home will develop some real fast material."

The account ends with the names of fifty-six members of the A.A. who signed up for the tournament.

Tennis with outside teams never flourished at St. John's, though the two old courts of the 1900's remained in use until 1924—much used by the students in spring and fall. They were located in the area that now fronts Alcuin Library, were badly kept up generally, with two bedraggled looking backstops made of chicken wire to keep the service balls in play.

When the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference was formed in 1920, St. John's enthusiastically entered teams in baseball, football and basketball, but for some reason, whether it was budgetary problems or the feeling that St. John's was as yet unable to compete effectively in track and tennis, or the miserable tennis courts, the administration did not enter teams in the two last-named sports. The students, however, had their own ideas about the matter. Unaware probably of the problems, or indifferent to them, they pressured hard for the organization of track and tennis teams on the intercollegiate level. St. John's sent four men to the MIAC track meet in 1921 and 1922, but tennis had to wait. Only in 1924 was approval granted for the organization of a varsity tennis team with Fr. Hyacinth Cismowski, O.S.B., as coach. Fr. Hyacinth was an all-around athlete in his student

days and an enthusiastic supporter of sports in later years. The first announcement of a tennis team, probably written by Fr. Hyacinth himself, is interesting: "For the first time in its history, St. John's will be represented by a varsity tennis team. The material is somewhat limited and inexperienced, and while no glorious records will crown the deeds of the 1924 varsity team, we may look with an optimistic eye on the tennis teams of the future years. The squad, coached by Father Hyacinth Cismowski, consists of the following: Donald Blake, August Carroll, Robert Murphy, Edward Powers, Nick Schmitt, Leo Terrahe, Notker Thelen and Charles Topping" (*Record*, May 1924, p. 260).

In the June-July issue of the *Record*, 1924, p. 331, it was admitted that the varsity team had failed to play any outside teams: "Although the tennis squad did not play any outside teams, it showed the school that the athletic curriculum at St. John's is not complete without a varsity team. We hope that the tennis players will be given a chance to show their mettle even to better advantage next year."

It was at this time that Fr. Arnold Mondloch, O.S.B., stepped into the tennis picture. One of the most energetic and farseeing benefactors of the early MIAC athletic program at St. John's, he was acutely aware of the folly of attempting to enter a tennis team with no more than the old tennis courts on which to play. During the summer of 1924, almost single-handed, and with the aid of a small motorized tractor-grader, he constructed seven new tennis courts and enclosed them within a heavy chain-wire enclosure. It was truly a magnificent tennis court, certainly the best in the conference for the time it was built—the era preceding the concrete court period. When in September of 1924 the students returned to St. John's, the tennis advocates realized the superior workmanship in the construction of the courts and the effect they would have on the quality of tennis at St. John's. The *Record* wrote of it as "an acquisition of which we can all be proud. No institution in the state can boast of better ones. Fr. Arnold Mondloch, under whose supervision they have been perfected, is to be congratulated. Plans for a grand opening for Sunday morning, October 26, 1924, are nearing completion" (*Record*, October 6, 1924, p. 4).

For some reason the enthusiasm of 1924 did not carry over into 1925. A team was organized by Fr. Hyacinth, but no outside games were played, at least not on the intercollegiate level. They did devise a method for the selection of the team, however: namely, a series of elimination matches in the intramural system, after which the survivors would be evaluated and the team members announced. It is possible that the process of elimination was never completed, for Fr.

Hyacinth, whose health had been failing, was sent to the Bahama Islands for recuperation and work in the missions.

On May 6, 1926, the *Record* carried the announcement that "this year, finally, St. John's will enter a track and tennis team in the conference meet, which will be held at Hamline, May 22. This is the first time for a number of years that St. John's will have representative track and tennis teams, and right here is the chance for our 'Spike and Cleat' athletes to show their ambition."

When the team representatives had been chosen, St. John's sent them to the Hamline meet. In tennis doubles, Donald Blake and Walter Miller were defeated by the veteran St. Olaf champions. George Clifford, a freshman, won his way to the semi-finals, however, which was, the *Record* reported, "quite an achievement, considering that it was his first appearance in intercollegiate competition" (*Record*, May 27, 1926).

— 1927 —

"St. John's Will Stage College Tennis Meet," so reads the headlines of the sports page of the March 31, 1927 *Record*. It was the St. John's announcement that the conference delegates at their spring meeting had accepted the invitation of St. John's to hold the 1927 annual MIAC tennis tourney at St. John's, May 20.

There followed a flurry of intramural contests between likely candidates for the selection of the St. John's team members: Donald Blake, Joe Ryan, Claude Maertz, James Deagan, Norvell Callaghan, Willard Johnson, Edmund Schaefer, Walter Moynihan, George Clifford, Dick Hornig, and others. George Clifford was selected to represent St. John's in the singles.

The final results of the conference meet found George Clifford the singles champion of the MIAC, but Macalester the doubles champion. Clifford was master of the situation, though pitted against Tendall, the St. Olaf champion, a thrilling match between a sophomore and an experienced veteran. The match began with Clifford losing the first set 6-0. After that Clifford settled down and ran out the match in straight sets: 0-6, 6-1, 6-2, 7-5. In the last set he had trouble with Tendall, who ran up the count to 5-2. But at that point Clifford rallied by breaking through Tendall's service, then won his own service to tie the match at 5-5. He then ran out the match by winning consecutive sets and clinching the championship at 7-5.

As the *Record* emphasized, George Clifford deserved the title. In fact, even as a sophomore he was one of the natural athletes of his time, a star in football, basketball and baseball as well as in tennis.

He was amazingly fast and quick, almost instinctive in his reaction to playing situations. He had a strong backhand and was endowed with an uncanny sense of anticipation in knowing when to rush to the net for the kill or when to lie back on the baselines. As described by a knowledgeable observer, he played a conservative game, keeping the ball in play and forcing his opponent to err.

George entered medical school at the end of his sophomore year and did not return to St. John's. He spent the major part of his life as a competent, highly respected physician in his home town, Alexandria.

— 1928 —

The 1928 tennis team was chosen in the usual way by an all-college Spike and Cleat tournament. From a long list of contending candidates, the most promising were Norvell Callaghan, Raymond Hite, John "Red" Dore, Walter Moynihan, and the Pettit brothers, James and Bert. Freshman Ray Hite, Walter Moynihan, Bert Pettit and John Dore were the survivors. In this particular year the number of team members was limited to four players.

In a series of preliminary meets scheduled for the purpose of obtaining experience with the kind of opposition they would meet in the MIAC tournament, the St. John's tennis players lost to St. Olaf, Hamline, and Gustavus. It was not an encouraging record when viewed as preparation for the conference meet, but Ray Hite regularly emerged from each of the meets as the outstanding individual player and a favorite to take first place in the conference singles.

The state meet was held at St. John's on June 1-2, too late, unfortunately, for the results to be published in the school paper, since the meet took place after the appearance of the last *Record*. To the surprise of the conference, freshman Hite won the singles championship, the second consecutive singles crown awarded to St. John's. The story of Hite's victory was featured in the 1929 *Sagatagan*: "Hite defeated in turn Nelson of Gustavus, Reims of St. Thomas, Hall and Bowes of Hamline. These last two matches were tough, and in winning them Hite showed plenty to crown him for the year. From Hall, who had previously defeated a fine player in Doyle of St. Thomas, Hite won 7-5, 5-7, 8-6, and then defeated Hamline's Bowes 7-5, 8-6, 4-6, and 6-0" (*Sagatagan*, 1929).

Hite's style was much like Clifford's in 1927. He out-steadied and out-shot his opponents "by his clever serves to hard corners and following up with volleys down the side lines and lobs down the baseline, seldom committing an error in court work and seldom double faulting" (*ibid*).

Hite's victory was as noteworthy an event on the St. John's campus as that of George Clifford in 1927. Hamline, however, won the doubles championship.

— 1929 —

One feature of tennis that distinguished it from the other sports such as baseball and football, etc., was that the seasonal games and meets had no importance for the championship other than as a period of training for the MIAC tournament that concluded the season. But the 1929 tennis elimination tournament was even more interesting than the upcoming MIAC meet—the see-saw struggle between the contestants in order to determine who would represent St. John's. The struggle ended with Raymond Hite, Kenneth Raymond, Benjamin Stein (now Fr. Benjamin, O.S.B.), Tom Burke and Ira Bradford finishing as the team members, with William Carr, Edward Flynn and Adolph Spiering falling by the wayside.

In the preliminary meets between the MIAC colleges and St. John's, there were the usual ups and downs of fortune that characterize trial events. Generally St. John's was always a threat, though not a favorite for the tennis title. Ray Hite, however, was always the outstanding individual competitor, whether playing singles or when paired with partners Stein or Burke in the doubles.

Highlight of the 1929 MIAC meet was Ray Hite's match with Macalester's Laatsch for the singles championship. In a series of matches Hite had won over Anderson of Concordia, Broeker of Hamline, and Doyle of St. Thomas. In the finals, pitted against Laatsch of Macalester, he lost the first set, then won the second. In the third and deciding set he was leading Laatsch by 5-2 and advantage-love, needing only one more point for the championship, when suddenly he lost control of his game and was defeated. For Hite, one of the top performers in St. John's tennis history, the loss was a heart-breaker.

— 1930 —

Since Raymond Hite did not return to St. John's for the year 1929-30 and Ben Stein was already in the novitiate, the 1930 team was open for an entirely new generation of tennis players. Kenneth Raymond, senior, was the only veteran who survived the spring try-outs, together with freshmen Harold Soukup from New Ulm, Lance McEown from Minot, North Dakota, and William "Bill" Harrer, ex-St. John's Prep School star, from Minneapolis.

Preliminary meets were arranged with St. Thomas (two), Macalester and St. Olaf. The outcome of the St. Thomas meets was not re-

ported, though the meets could have been cancelled because of bad weather. Macalester, however, swept the meet, and St. Olaf defeated the Johnnies 4-2. It was not a propitious beginning for the MIAC tournament.

The St. John's tennis ace for the year was Bill Harrer (now Fr. Philibert, O.S.B. [presently pastor in Frazee, Minnesota].) Lance McEown was a close second to Harrer, but especially effective in the doubles. Harold Soukup, "a flashy freshman" according to the *Record*, was among the most promising of the new group of freshmen about whom the *Record* reported after the MIAC tournament: "All the above were freshmen and much is to be hoped for in 1931—they will put the Johnnies out in front again in state college circles" (*Record*, May 29, 1930).

The account of Bill Harrer's match in the conference meet is interesting: "Bill Harrer, St. John's tennis ace, came through for the only tennis victory of the meet, with scores of 6-1, 6-1. His victory was so impressive that sports writers regarded him as the dark horse of the meet. His next match was with Dick Hall of Hamline, who had four years of college tennis experience. Bill Harrer lost the match, though the score 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 indicates how close the struggle was" (*Record*, May 29, 1930).

— 1931 —

A brightener for the tennis prospects in 1931 was the return of Ray Hite to St. John's in order to complete his course work for graduation. Ray had won the MIAC singles championship in his freshman year, 1928, and missed repeating his singles title in 1929 by a narrow margin. It was immediately obvious when the season began that he and Bill Harrer would likely pair up for an attack on the doubles title, a feat not yet achieved by St. John's players.

The first agendum in the season's work was the selection of the team to represent the college. Veterans Hite, Harrer, and Lance McEown were the almost automatic winners of the first three spots on the team. The problem was to select the fourth man from a number of candidates: Ralph Koenig, Frank Plakut, Jay Cross, William Freeman, Tom Ryan, Walter Weisgram, and Ralph Williams. In the series of matches designed for the situation Jay Cross emerged as the fourth man.

In the preliminary meets arranged for the development of the team St. John's was more than usually successful. In two meets with St. Cloud Teachers' College, the Johnnies won both by scores of 4-1 and 7-5. Shortly after the St. Cloud victories, they defeated Macalester in a single meet by the score of 6-0.

The two meetings with St. Thomas were a different story. St. Thomas had in Wachtler one of the St. Thomas greats for its singles star, and Delaney and Heimbach, in the doubles, two understudies who were the match of anything else in the conference. The Tommies swept the two meets by scores of 4-3 and 5-1, momentarily dimming St. John's hopes.

In the state meet, held at St. John's, Wachtler defeated Hite in the singles 9-7, 6-2, and 6-3. It was Wachtler's second consecutive championship in the MIAC.

The conjecture of May 14 made by the Johnnies turned out to be correct, however. Hite and Harrer defeated the crack St. Thomas doubles team of Wachtler and Delaney. It was the first doubles championship won by St. John's in its short tennis history.

— 1932 —

With Ray Hite and Bill Harrer no longer on the scene, a new generation of netters took over in the 1932 season. Ralph Koenig and William Freeman had been on the roster the previous year and consequently were leading candidates for top positions.

The number of contesting candidates was larger than usual: Koenig and Freeman (already mentioned), Jerome Fortier, Louis Niemeyer, Leo Brown, Eugene Dupuch, Alois Himsl, Edmund Piotrowski, Raymond Knaeble and George Klasen. Winners of places on the tennis team were Ralph Koenig (captain), William Freeman, Karl Kolling, and Eugene Dupuch.

Both the *Record* and the *Sagatagan* failed to report on the outcome of the conference meet, held at St. Olaf, May 28—too late in the season to be included in the *Record* sports section for the year.

According to the official list of championships, St. Thomas won the 1932 title outright, both in singles and doubles.

— 1933 —

The 1933 Johnnies started late in the season. It was only on May 3, primarily because of bad weather and muddy courts, that the team was able to put in any regular time for practice and to commence the annual school tournament for the selection of the team personnel.

A change of policy now required that six men should comprise the team, with the number-one and number-two men representing the school in outside meets. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth men would be selected by the usual process of elimination. The result of the tournament was that Ralph Koenig and Karl Kolling won the num-

bers one and two spots respectively; James Coyne and Thomas Rowan, third and fourth; Clinton Lundgren and Hogan, fifth and sixth.

In the first meet with St. Cloud T.C. the Johnnies lost by a score of 7-2. In the second, of which better statistics are available, St. John's lost again 5-2, Koenig defeating Colletti in the singles, but Koenig and Kolling losing the doubles match to Colletti and Arnold. In a later meet, St. John's lost by a score of 6-1, Tom Rowan being the only St. John's player ringing up a victory.

Although St. John's did fairly well in the MIAC conference meet by reaching the semi-finals in two categories, the singles and the doubles, the Jays failed to reach the finals. In the first round of the meet Koenig defeated White of Hamline 5-2, 6-4; Benson of Gustavus won over Kolling of St. John's 6-2. Eventually, in the semi-finals, Koenig was defeated by Harry Hite, the cannon-ball server of St. Thomas. In the doubles, Judd and White of Hamline eliminated Koenig and Kolling 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Winners of the conference meet were the following: Engstrom of St. Olaf over Harold Hite of St. Thomas in the singles; Hite and Heimbach of St. Thomas defeating Judd and White of Hamline in the doubles.

It was around this time that more tennis meets were being held at St. John's than elsewhere because of the finely groomed courts and the accommodations afforded the visiting teams.

— 1934 —

In 1934 Fr. Damian Baker, O.S.B., took over the coaching job in tennis at the request of the players. There was drastic need of some sort of change, for the students themselves were disappointed in their performances, and even intercollegiate tennis itself had lost most of its glamor. One pressing problem was the lack of early practice time before the MIAC tournament, the result of late springs and inclement weather that left the clay courts unplayable, sometimes as late as the first few days of May. The fall before (1933), however, Fr. Damian had organized a tournament for candidates in tennis that had the double advantage of evaluating the freshman material on campus early in the year and of correcting the most obvious faults of those who appeared to have the ability to develop into first-class players.

The decision turned out to be of profit for the team. Though the same traditional policy of a school tournament was followed to determine who would make the team, the fall practice had already narrowed down the number of eligible candidates and therefore speeded up the selection of the required six-man team: Captain Thomas Rowan, num-

ber one man, Fred Thielman, number two, and Donald Schmid, Othmar Fuchs, Roger Vossberg and Dick Schulte, numbers three, four, five and six, in that order. Richard Schulte, a De La Salle graduate from Minneapolis, appeared to be the most talented of the freshmen.

In the pre-tournament meets St. John's defeated Macalester 4-2, but was defeated in turn by St. Thomas 2-4. St. Thomas turned out to be still a power in the conference, though not as formidable a foe as it had been the year before.

St. John's was represented in the MIAC tournament by only three players: Rowan and Schmid in the singles and Rowan and Thielman in the doubles. Schmid won over Ray Schaak of St. Thomas in the first round, survived the second round, and then lost to Venzke, Macalester's singles star, in the semi-finals, 0-6 and 3-6. The Thielman-Rowan doubles team defeated Sauers and Britton of Hamline in the second round but dropped their doubles match in the semi-finals to Schaak and Heisbach of St. Thomas. No championship in tennis was awarded for 1934 by the MIAC.

— 1935 —

The *Record* reports on the 1935 tennis season are so scanty that there is practically no comment possible. The team was enthusiastic and hard working—at least that is the observation made in the one article devoted to the sport for 1935. St. John's scheduled two meets with St. Thomas, two with St. Cloud Teachers' College, and one with Macalester. The *Record* reported the results of one meet with St. Thomas, namely, that the Tommies had eked out a 4-3 victory over the battling Johnnies.

The conference tournament was held at St. John's, a popular site for the tennis finals because of the seven courts available and the excellent condition of the surface in the warm days of May. Athletic Director George Durenberger and his specially trained crew of groundskeepers spent hours of work on the courts, raking, rolling, and marking with lime for every meet that brought a conference opponent onto the St. John's campus. The favor was appreciated by the conference tennis coaches.

In the first round of the conference meet Captain Tom Rowan defeated Murphy of St. Thomas 6-2 and 7-5. Ralph Koenig lost to Holt of Hamline. In the second round Engstrom of St. Olaf defeated Rowan 6-2, 6-0. The only St. John's entry that reached the semi-finals was the doubles team, Koenig and Schwab, and they were defeated by Judd and Holt of Hamline.

Winners of the championship were Gustavus and Macalester—the Gusties in the singles, the Macs in the doubles.

— 1936 —

In the fall of 1935 Fr. Damian and Thomas Rowan (captain of the team) expressed their satisfaction with the results of their autumn tennis tournament. They had found it a success, with a great show of enthusiasm on the part of the freshmen who were seeking places on the tennis varsity in the following spring. William Goblirsch, a fireball from St. Cloud Cathedral, and Harry Majerus (now Rev. Majerus), an alumnus of Cretin High School in St. Paul, were the number-one and number-two candidates for the spring try-outs. Other freshmen who showed up well were Joseph McDonnell from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Robert Dailey of Alexandria. Both Dailey and McDonnell made the varsity, as well as Harry Majerus.

Other candidates who survived the spring try-outs were veterans Fred Thielman, Dick Schulte, Jerry Schwab and John Corrigan. The meets took place immediately following the choice of the team. Joe Duffy, columnist writer of "Sports Shorts," commented briefly on one of the meets: "Our tennis team did not fare well against the St. Cloud Teachers' College. Bad weather kept them off the courts" (May 7, 1936).

The only complete available report of a 1936 meet was the contest with St. Cloud T.C., in which the Huskies practically shut out the Johnnies, except for a winning match by Jerry Schwab, 5-7, 6-2, 7-5 in the singles, and a victory in the doubles by John Corrigan and Joe Kelso, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

There was no report regarding the outcome of the MIAC state meet. Always dependable in saying something quotable, columnist Joe Duffy observed dryly: "The tennis team surprised its followers by stubborn opposition to Gustavus. The match was not decided until the final set of doubles had been run off" (May 28, 1936).

— 1937 —

Freak weather conditions and a late spring forced Fr. Damian to pass up the annual school tennis tournament for the selection of the 1937 team members. The best he could do under the circumstances was to name members chosen from the 1936 tennis squad, with Richard Schulte, the only returning letterman, appointed captain. Team members were Joseph Kirchner, Homer Hurd, Joseph Daly, and, in the background, the untried candidates Timothy Donahue, Edward Fleming, Harry Majerus, Frank Ellenbecker, and Theodore Feyder (*Record*, April 29, 1937).

Two tennis meets were arranged with St. Cloud T.C., with, however, only a few practice periods on the St. John's courts. No report