

LINE-UP			Coach—Houle	
Ralph Koll	'30	ss	Captain—Heisler	
Adon Zimmer	'29	cf	Stars—Siebenand, Heisler	
Jim Phillips	'31	rf, c		
Ray Heisler	'28	p	SCORES	
Bob Pettit	'28	lf, p	SJU	
Al Siebenand	'30	2b	3	Augsburg 10
Syl Vonderheide	'29	1b	16	Augsburg 2
Herman Linnemann	'31	3b	8	St. Mary's 5
George McKasy	'28	c	4	St. Olaf 14
Wilfrid Boone	'28	of	2	Gustavus 7
Walter Moynihan	'28	of	8	St. Mary's 3
Len Bussen	'28	p	3	St. Olaf 4
Adolph Spiering	'28	2b	2	Gustavus 17

— 1929 —

Coach Houle commenced the 1929 baseball season with the problem of creating a strong pitcher-catcher combination capable of competing successfully in the MIAC. In genial James Caveney he had a competent catcher, not particularly strong at the plate but endowed with an uncanny ability to get hit by a pitched ball without being injured—or killed. His battery mate, Vincent Hensler, was backed up by freshman Lewis Klingsporn, a Prep star in his senior year (permitted to play by a special concession obtained in 1925 from the conference representatives).

Klingsporn was a sensation with a dazzling fast ball. In his first conference game he allowed St. Thomas only one hit for a 1-2 loss. The game, tied 1-1 from the fourth inning until the ninth, was lost by a dropped fly ball that advanced a runner to third, after which he scored on a wild pitch. In another game with Concordia Klingsporn whiffed fourteen batters to win by a score of 12-5. Had Klingsporn returned to St. John's after his freshman year he would have been one of the all-time star pitchers in St. John's athletic history.

The season record was four victories and five defeats. Two games scheduled with St. Mary's and Gustavus were not reported in the *Record* or possibly may not have been played.

LINE-UP			Stars—Baumgartner, Klingsporn, Siebenand, Zimmer	
Al Siebenand	'31	3b		
Joe Hennen	'33	2b		
John Baumgartner	'29	rf	SCORES	
Adon Zimmer	'29	cf	SJU	
Frank Schneider	'29	lf	4	St. Cloud T.C. 2
Syl Vonderheide	'29	1b	2	St. Cloud T.C. 7
Adolph Spiering	'29	ss	1	St. Thomas 2
James Caveney	'30	c	6	Augsburg 7
Lewis Klingsporn	'29	p	12	Concordia 5
Vince Hensler	'30	p	3	Gustavus 17
Bill Carr	'29	cf	6	Augsburg 9
Coach—Houle			8	St. Thomas 3
			12	St. Mary's 4

— 1930 —

1930 was Coach Bill Houle's last year at the St. John's baseball helm. It was a disappointing year for a talented coach who in his own words said: "I resigned because I could not stand defeats. When I first accepted the position at St. John's, I hoped to attract top athletes to St. John's, but I failed."

Actually, it was through no fault of Coach Houle that his 1930 season was a failure. It was the second year of the "Great Depression of 1929" and the enrollment at St. John's had declined appreciably. With the exception of Captain Al Siebenand, Herman Linnemann, and Vince Hensler, the team was made up of untried players. Especially lacking was an experienced pitching staff. The team failed to win a conference game, with the result that it ended the season in the conference cellar. The overall season record was three victories and eight losses, five of these being to conference opponents.

LINE-UP			SCORES	
Al Siebenand	'30	3b	SJU	
Herman Linnemann	'31	ss	2	Holdingford 5
George Schoener	'31	lf	0	St. Cloud T.C. 10
James Caveney	'30	c	6	St. Joseph 2
Anton Volk	'30	p, rf	2	Avon 1
John Murphy	'31	cf	1	St. Cloud T.C. 2
Al Krumweide	'30	1b	5	St. Olaf 9
Vincent Hensler	'30	p	1	Augsburg 7
Matthew Loch	'31	rf	10	St. Cloud Cath. 9
Gus Luckemeyer	'34	ss	1	St. Thomas 6
Coach—Houle			7	Augsburg 11
Captain—Siebenand			1	Gustavus 8
Stars—Siebenand, Schoener, Linnemann				

— 1931 —

The departure of Coach Houle left St. John's without a baseball coach since Joe Benda, the new basketball-football coach, was occupied with the football spring-training program. In the emergency, the newly appointed director of athletics, Fr. Roland Kapsner, O.S.B., took over the baseball team and deputized Herman Linnemann of St. Joseph, a veteran shortstop, to act as coach.

It was a low year for baseball among all the conference colleges, and St. John's decided to drop out of competition, restricting games to the St. Cloud Teachers' College and five of the nearby small town teams: St. Joseph, Avon, Rockville, and Holdingford. It was not an attractive schedule, but it served as a training period for several players who were to figure later in the 1932 and 1933 teams. Unfortunately, the star catcher, Edwin Hackert, '31, did not return the next year.

Hackert ranks among the sharpest line-drive hitters that ever performed on the St. John's campus.

Joe Hennen	'33	3b	Manager—Si Ryan
John Eisenzimmer	'34	2b	Stars—Hackert, Thelen,
Gus Luckemeyer	'34	ss	Luckemeyer, Fairbanks
Martin Mieke	'31	1b	
Edwin Hackert	'31	c	SCORES
Louis Kelsch	'31	rf, p	SJU
Leo Steiner	'32	lf	Opponents
Herman Linnemann	'31	cf, p	8 Freeport 3
Ed Thelen	'32	p	15 St. Joseph 8
Reuben Fairbanks	'31	p	14 Holdingford 11
Matthew Hoch	'31	rf	7 St. Joseph 16
Edwin Welte	'33		7 St. Cloud T.C. 9
Si Ryan	'34	2b, rf	10 Holdingford 2
Werner Wocken	(?)		1 Rockville 4
Coach—Linnemann			2 St. Cloud T.C. 4

— 1932 —

St. John's dropped out of conference baseball for only one year. In the spring of 1932 Fr. Mark Braun, O.S.B., dean of the college, assigned Fr. Dunstan Tucker, O.S.B., to coach the baseball team, as he said, "to revive interest in baseball and keep some of these guys on campus." There were five lettermen on hand from the 1931 contests with some small towns in the vicinity: August Luckemeyer, Joseph Hennen, John Eisenzimmer, Ed Welte, and Edward Thelen—the last named the only experienced pitcher on the squad. The problem of organizing a team capable of competing successfully with the powerhouses of the MIAC looked formidable indeed.

After an inauspicious 2-10 first game loss to Gustavus on April 10, the second day out of doors on the baseball diamond, the team advanced steadily and finished the season with a heart-warming victory of 12-1 against St. Olaf, one of the top teams in the conference. Big George Klasen, a freshman with little experience in baseball who pitched the game, gave promise of becoming an especially fine pitcher.

One of the characteristics of the 1932 team was its enthusiasm and willingness to work. The shortstop-second base combination of Michael Drexler and John Eisenzimmer became one of the best in St. John's baseball history, both defensively and offensively. Drexler led the team with a batting average of .357; Robert Burkhard had an average of .354. Drexler had all the potential of a first-class professional ball player but entered the seminary after his sophomore year.

LINE-UP			Leo Steiner	'32	cf
August Luckemeyer	'33	cf, p	Edward Thelen	'32	p
Joseph Hennen	'33	3b	George Klasen	'33	p
Michael Drexler	'34	ss	Joseph Keller	'37	of
Si Ryan	'34	c, of	Eugene Roeder	'36	of
Robert Burkhard	'35	rf	Leroy Ebnet	'32	of
Edwin Welte	'33	1b	Lawrence Iten	'34	of
John Eisenzimmer	'34	2b			

Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker	4	Augsburg	3		
Captain—Hennen	6	St. Cloud T.C.	8		
			(10 innings)		
SCORES		4	Gustavus	8	
SJU	Opponents	11	Albany	6	
2	Gustavus	10	12	St. Olaf	1
5	St. Cloud T.C.	6	RECORD		
	(10 innings)	Overall: 4 wins	4 losses		
12	Reformatory	6	Conference: 2 wins	2 losses	

— 1933 —

George Durenberger, Director of Athletics, took over the baseball team in 1933. The 1933 team was aggressive and reacted with enthusiasm to the challenge of the conference, dominated that year by George Myrum's Gusties, who repeated their 1932 championship. The Gusties lost only one game, and that one to George Klasen and the Johnnies by a score of 8-7. Later in the season the team was handicapped by an injury to Klasen's wrist, thereby leaving the pitching jobs to rookies Kenneth Bloms and Hugh Gilmore in competition against the more mature conference pitchers.

Kenneth Bloms, a senior Prep School star, pitched a no-hit, no-run game against Phalen Luther College. George Klasen, on his return to pitching duties, won the last game on the schedule by a one-hit defeat of St. Joseph, the winner of the Great Soo championship. Gus Luckemeyer lost a St. Thomas contest when pitted against the great John Rigney, 3-10.

LINE-UP			
Gus Luckemeyer	'33	cf, p	SCORES
Joseph Hennen	'33	3b	SJU
Si Ryan	'34	rf	Opponent
Joseph Keller	'37	c	8 Gustavus 7
Robert Burkhard	'35	lf	7 St. Joseph 6
Simon Super	'34	ss	10 St. Cloud T.C. 9
Edwin Welte	'33	1b	4 St. Olaf 5
John Eisenzimmer	'33	2b	6 St. Thomas 13
George Klasen	'33	p	7 Phalen Luther 0
Kenneth Bloms	'34	p	3 St. Thomas 10
William Arth	'35	1b	9 St. Cloud T.C. 13
Hugh Gilmore	'35	p	6 St. Joseph 1
Elmer Madsen	'35	c	RECORD
Louis Kohler	'34	c	Overall: 5 wins 4 losses
Coach—George Durenberger			Conference: 1 win 3 losses
Captain—Luckemeyer			
Stars—Klassen, Keller, Hennen			

— 1934 —

In 1934 Fr. Dunstan returned to coaching after a year's absence. It was a good year on the whole. The spring freshman crop was especially strong at the plate—in fact, an unusually gifted group of baseball players. There was everything needed on the team for a great year except a consistently strong top-flight pitcher. Loren Henkemeyer