

pitched well on occasion, but tended to be erratic on occasion. As will be noted in the scoring statistics, a majority of the games were more slug-fests than air-tight pitching duels.

The batting average of the team for the season was .304: Bill Arth .500 in five games; John Callahan .464; Joseph "Unser Joe" Keller .375; Bob Burkhard .341; Lee Wagner and Ralph Eisenzimmer .333; Eugene McCarthy .222; Simon Super .214; Norbert Lang .187; and Merle Rouillard .111.

If excuses for a good team are ever appropriate (which is doubtful), they were for the 1934 Johnnies. The first of five losses was to the University of Minnesota, Big Ten champions for this year, by a score of 8-3. Two games were lost to the College of St. Thomas, which that year swept unbeaten to the MIAC championship behind its great pitcher John Rigney. Rigney was practically unbeatable in college ball. He went directly from the campus of St. Thomas to the ball park of the Chicago White Sox and immediately began his brilliant pitching career in the major leagues.

LINE-UP			Stars—Bill Arth, John Callahan, Joe Keller		
Ralph Eisenzimmer	'34	ss			
John Callahan	'37	c			
Robert Burkhard	'35	cf			
Bill Arth	'34	1b			
Joseph Keller	'37	rf			
Quiren Klasen	'36	lf			
Norbert Lang	'37	3b			
John Doherty	'35	2b			
Loren Henkemeyer	'34	p			
Si Ryan	'34	of			
John Marrinan	'35	p			
Kenneth Bloms	'34	p			
Simon Super	'34	of			
Eugene McCarthy	'35	1b			
Marvin Frejlek	'34	p			
Hugh Gilmore	'34	p			
Merle Rouillard	'36	of			
Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker			Stars—Himsl, Blenker, Doherty, Burkhard, Callahan		
Captain—Robert Burkhard					

SCORES			Opponent		
SJU					
18	St. Joseph	6			
3	U. of Minnesota	8			
12	St. Cl. Eagles	11			
12	St. Cl. Eagles	11			
6	St. Cloud T.C.	5			
2	St. Thomas	6			
5	St. Olaf	6			
9	Hamline	2			
11	St. Cloud T.C.	8			
16	Gustavus	11			
7	St. Thomas	15			

RECORD		
Overall:	7 wins	5 losses
Conference:	2 wins	3 losses

#### — 1935 —

The one single element lacking in the 1934 team was a strong pitching staff made up of at least three first string pitchers. That unusual commodity in college baseball in the 1930's appeared miraculously on the St. John's campus with the arrival of Avitus "Vedie" Himsl and Austin McCarthy, brother of Eugene McCarthy. There were several infield changes that were necessitated by the departure of 1934 lettermen, but they were quickly filled by new men with equal abilities. Eugene McCarthy went to first base, Ralph Eisenzimmer was replaced

by John Doherty at shortstop, and Timothy Donohue replaced Norbert Lang at third base. Philip Gravelle, another freshman, went to second base.

In a thirteen-game schedule, St. John's won ten games and lost three for second place in the conference. One of the losses was to the University of Minnesota by a score of 7-4. This game was Vedie Himsl's first college experience on the mound and was in every sense of the word a remarkable achievement.

On Memorial Day, the last outing for the year, St. John's split a double-header with Gustavus Adolphus on the Gustie field. Himsl won the first game 4-2, but St. John's lost the second by a score of 8-1. Prior to this defeat St. John's had won four straight games and, except for this loss, would have won the MIAC championship.

LINE-UP			SCORES		
John Doherty	'35	ss	SJU		Opponents
John Callahan	'37	c	4	U. of Minn.	7
Robert Burkhard	'35	cf	4	Avon	3
William Blenker	'36	lf	6	St. Cl. Eagles	1
Timothy Donohue	'38	3b	1	St. Olaf	3
Joseph Keller	'37	rf	8	St. Thomas	7
Philip Gravelle	'37	2b	12	St. Cloud T.C.	9
Eugene McCarthy	'35	1b	10	St. Thomas	9
Vedie Himsl	'37	p	10	Hamline	5
Austin McCarthy	'38	p	11	St. Cloud T.C.	5
John Marrinan	'35	p	10	Little Falls	0
Hugh Gilmore	'35	p	5	St. Cl. Eagles	0
Lee Wagner	'36	c	4	Gustavus	0
Quiren Klasen	'35	of	1	Gustavus	7
Leo Klasen	'36	ss			
Eugene Roeder	'36	of			
Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker			RECORD		
Captain—Callahan			Overall: 10 wins		
Stars—Himsl, Blenker, Doherty, Burkhard, Callahan			Conference: 4 wins		
			Conference—2nd place		

#### — 1936 —

The sudden popularity of baseball that had followed the 1934 and 1935 seasons was manifested again in 1936 when several highly talented candidates tried out for the 1936 team. Prominent among them were Ernie Sowada, a left-handed speed and curve ball artist who complemented the right handers, Himsl and McCarthy, to give St. John's the perfect pitching staff. It was and is still considered the strongest pitching trio in St. John's baseball history. After graduation, Himsl was signed by the Cleveland Indians and is now an executive in the Chicago Cubs' organization. Ernie Sowada, following his graduation, pitched several years with the Minneapolis Millers until the outbreak of World War II, during which he served as a Navy officer in the military service. Austin McCarthy, even as a freshman, was con-



sidered by the Detroit scouting staff the best pitching prospect in the state. Ironically, both Ernie and Austin are now exercising their talents in the medical profession.

The 1936 team won the first St. John's baseball championship since 1919 with a record of eight victories and one loss in the conference. The only other loss was to the University of Minnesota by a score of 4-2 in a game pitched by Himsl.

The season was not without its theatrics, especially in the final game at Gustavus Adolphus which decided the championship. With the score tied at 2-2 in the 10th inning, team captain Lee Wagner drove a Gustavus pitch over the left field wall to break the tie. This was followed by a single by Bill Blenker and a steal of second. A double by Linus "Skeets" Ebnet scored Blenker with the winning run.

LINE-UP			SCORES		
Timothy Donohue	'38	ss	SJU	Opponent	
Joseph Keller	'36	rf	12	St. Joseph	1
Lee Wagner	'36	rf	8	Avon	0
Bill Blenker	'38	cf	10	St. Olaf	1
Linus Ebnet	'38	2b	7	St. Cloud T.C.	2
Bernard Meinz	'38	1b	13	St. Thomas	1
Quiren Klasen	'36	lf	0	Gustavus	2
Philip Gravelle	'36	3b	1	U. of Minn.	2
John Callahan	'37	c	6	Albany	5
Vedie Himsl	'38	p, lf	21	Augsburg	1
Ernest Sowada	'39	p, rf	13	Hamline	0
Austin McCarthy	'38	p, of	10	St. Thomas	2
Leo Klasen	'36	ss	20	Augsburg	3
Eugene Roeder	'36	lf	13	Hamline	1
Joseph Achatz	'39	1b	4	Gustavus	2
John Hughes	'36	c			
Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker			RECORD		
Captain—Wagner			Overall: 14 wins 3 losses		
Stars—Blenker, Keller, Wagner,			Conference: 8 wins 1 loss		
Ebnet, Himsl, Callahan,			Conference—1st place, championship		
McCarthy					

### — 1937 —

The story of the 1937 baseball season to repeat the 1936 championship is one of those that stir the memories of alumni when they recall the three great pitchers, Himsl, Sowada, and McCarthy, who by some happy chance happened to be on the same team during their college years. When candidates for the 1937 team appeared in the batting cage for tryouts, it soon became evident that the three stellar pitchers were the best hitters on the squad, and that the available outfielders, with the exception of ever reliable "Unser" Joe Keller, were unable to fill the shoes of the graduated sluggers Bill Blenker and Lee Wagner. It was apparent that if St. John's was to repeat as MIAC champions it would have to be by making use of the triumvirate bats.

In order to generate power at the plate, it was a matter of using one of the pitchers in the outfield for every game, at the same time not risking the danger of hurting their pitching arms. A fairly elaborate system of relays by the infielders was devised to enable the pitchers to play without loss of team defensive power. The improvisation worked. Himsl over the season hit at a .500 average with three home-runs and two doubles; Ernie Sowada batted .500 with three triples; McCarthy batted .400 with one homerun.

Highlight of the season was Sowada's pitching feat in defeating the University of Minnesota by a score of 5-3. In this game Philip "Gabby" Gravelle glowed with triumph when on a relay Himsl to Gravelle from left field, the latter threw out a runner at the plate trying to score from second on a single. Himsl set a strikeout record for St. John's of 20 strikeouts in one game (over Augsburg), one short of the MIAC record of 21 set by John Rigney when pitching for St. Thomas in 1934. Sowada's strikeout record was 19.

In a schedule of 16 games St. John's won 14 and lost two, one of these to Gustavus with whom St. John's shared the championship.

LINE-UP			SCORES		
Philip Gravelle	'37	3b	SJU	Opponent	
John Callahan	'37	c	2	St. Cloud T.C.	0
Austin McCarthy	'38	p	10	St. Cl. Semipros	2
Linus Ebnet	'38	ss	10	Hamline	3
Bernard Meinz	'39	1b	12	Augsburg	0
Edward Callahan	'39	rf	1	St. Cloud T.C.	2
Leo Winkler	'38	cf	5	U. of Minn.	3
Conrad Winter	'40	2b	12	St. Olaf	11
Vedie Himsl	'37	p, of	5	Hamline	4
Ernest Sowada	'39	p, of	4	St. Olaf	1
Joseph Keller	'37	rf, cf	16	St. Thomas	2
Quiren Klasen	'36	of	4	Gustavus	3
Leo Klasen	'37	ss	11	St. Cloud T.C.	1
Gerald Sheehy	'40	cf	13	Augsburg	0
John Kehoe	'40	p	1	Reformatory	0
Leo Koch	(?)	p	4	St. Thomas	1
Joseph Achatz	'39	1b	0	Gustavus	1

Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker			RECORD		
Captain—Himsl			Overall: 14 wins 2 losses		
Stars—J. Callahan, McCarthy,			Conference: 9 wins 1 loss		
Himsl, Sowada			Conference—1st place		
			Co-championship with Gustavus		
			Pitchers' records—Himsl 6-1,		
			Sowada 5-0, McCarthy 3-1		

### — 1938 —

Linus "Skeets" Ebnet, a professional baseball player who was working for a college degree and played shortstop or second base (Northern League players were eligible at that time), took over baseball coaching duties in 1938, replacing Fr. Dunstan who said he wanted



to know again what spring was like, listen to the birds and see the flowers grow. Weather conditions were bad and the team was forced to practice in the gym longer than usual to get into shape. Shortly after the season commenced, star pitcher Sowada suffered an appendicitis attack and later a severely cut finger that limited his number of pitching appearances as well as sometimes his effectiveness. Even though handicapped, however, he had three wins over against two losses. Jack O'Reilly, a relief pitcher, had one win. Austin McCarthy, who had his best year, fast-balled the team into four wins and one loss. He batted for an average of .462.

The season overall record was eight victories and three defeats; the conference record stood at six wins and two losses for third place.

The final game victory over Gustavus Adolphus by a score of 2-1 was a classic of team leadership on the part of player-coach Ebnet. Although the Jays were out-hit, Sowada scattered the five Gustie hits so that Gustavus did not score. In the meantime, St. John's had only one hit, but Skeets took advantage of walks and Gustie misplays to win the game 2-0. The loss dropped the Gusties into a tie with St. Thomas for the championship.

Four of the 1938 Johnnies were awarded places on the mythical MIAC all-conference team, as follows: Sowada, pitcher; Austin McCarthy, pitcher; Ebnet, second base and captain of the mythical team; Edward Callanan, outfield. James Boyd and Wayne Kuesel received honorable mention.

Linus "Skeets" Ebnet lost his life tragically during the summer of 1938 when struck on the head by a pitched ball while playing with Winnipeg in the Northern League. Fr. Dunstan resumed coaching duties the next spring.

LINE-UP			SCORES		
			SJU	Opponents	
James Boyd	'41	1b			
Timothy Donohue	'38	ss	4	U. of Minn.	8
Linus Ebnet	'38	2b	7	St. Cloud T.C.	6
Norbert Vos	'41	3b	10	Watkins	0
Austin McCarthy	'38	p, of	14	Hamline	4
Edward Callanan	'39	rf	8	St. Olaf	1
Gerald Sheehy	'40	cf	8	Macalester	2
Wayne Kuesel	'39	c	26	Hamline	6
Ernest Sowada	'38	p, of	1	St. Thomas	6
Leo Winkler	'38	of	6	St. Mary's	3
Bernard Meinz	'38	of, ss	0	St. Olaf	2
Albert Sauerer	'42	c	2	Gustavus	0
John O'Reilly	'38	p			
James Roche	'40	of			
George Grace	'41	c			
Andrew Glatzmaier	'39	ss			
Coach—Ebnet					
Co-captains—McCarthy, Sowada					
Stars—McCarthy, Sowada, Callanan, Ebnet					

RECORD  
Overall: 8 wins 3 losses  
Conference: 6 wins 2 losses  
Conference—2nd place

Pitchers' records—McCarthy 4-1,  
Sowada 3-2, O'Reilly 1-0

## — 1939 —

The presence of Ernie Sowada, star pitcher and captain on the 1939 baseball squad, was sufficient to raise hopes for first place in the conference. With the exception of Sowada and three other lettermen, the team was made up largely of freshmen. With a record of five victories and four defeats in the conference, the team had to settle for a third place ending to the season. The overall record was nine victories and five defeats.

The 1939 Johnnies were talented ball players, though due partly to immaturity they faltered occasionally in close games. The catching position, in particular, was weakened through the loss of Wayne Kuesel when he re-injured a football knee. Lost also was Gerry Sheehy, the stabilizer of the outfield, through the tearing of ankle ligaments early in the season. Nevertheless, the Johnnies led the conference until May 9. In the last two weeks they lost three of the last four games on the schedule.

The ever-willing but overworked Ernie Sowada was the star of the year. He had a record of seven wins against two losses, one of these to the University of Minnesota. He struck out fourteen Minnesota batters but lost the game by a score of 9-0, mainly because of team misplays for which his pitching was not responsible.

Three members of the 1939 team made the MIAC all-conference team: Ernie Sowada, Norbert Vos, third base, and Jimmy Boyd, first base. Boyd also won the MIAC batting crown with an average of .424. Vos hit four homeruns, one triple and a double; Boyd two homeruns, three triples, and four doubles. The latter was one of the first St. John's athletes to lose his life in World War II.

LINE-UP			SCORES		
			SJU	Opponents	
Lloyd Perron	'51	cf			
James Boyd	'41	1b	5	St. Cloud T.C.	4
Ernest Sowada	'39	p	14	Holdingford	10
Norbert Vos	'41	3b	10	Augsburg	2
Conrad Winter	'39	2b	0	U. of Minn.	9
Albert Sauerer	'42	c	22	St. Cloud T.C.	14
Wayne Kuesel	'39	c	7	Hamline	5
Jerome German	'41	p, lf	10	St. Thomas	7
Andrew Glatzmeier	'39	ss	8	Gustavus	3
John Boerner	'41	p, of	4	St. Olaf	0
John O'Connell	'43	of	5	St. Mary's	6
Verne Neer	'41	c	3	Macalester	9
Frank Liewer	'42	p	11	St. Thomas	10
			2	Gustavus	6
Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker					
Captain—Sowada					
Stars—Sowada, Boyd, Vos					

RECORD  
Overall: 9 wins 5 losses  
Conference: 6 wins 4 losses  
Conference—3rd place  
Pitchers' records—Sowada 7-2,  
German 1-1, Boerner 1-0, Liewer 1-2



## — 1940 —

When asked about prospects for the coming 1940 season, the coach replied that this was going to be a rebuilding season. Gone were all the mainstays of the past year such as Ernie Sowada, catcher Wayne Kuesel, first baseman Jimmy Boyd, and Conrad Winter, second base, leaving the infield with only one letterman, the redoubtable Norbert Vos at third base. The rest of the infield would have to be made up of freshmen.

What was particularly lacking was a strong, forceful catcher to handle the very promising freshman pitchers, Francis "Hack" Nierengarten and Edward Claussen. On the other hand, among the new additions to the squad were several potential stars who came into their own in the next two years: Vernon "Chubby" Ebnet, Thomas Paul, Ray Schultzenberg, and veteran outfielders Pat Freuen, Gerry Sheehy (captain), and John Boerner.

In fact, it turned out to be a real rebuilding year. The team tended to play brilliantly one game and then make a few costly mistakes the next. The very average record of six games won overall and five lost was somewhat deceiving, for the enthusiasm and the desire to win was strong. One of the losses was to the University of Minnesota. Several other losses were in close games. The conference record was four games won, four lost, for fifth place in the MIAC standings—the lowest conference rating in Fr. Dunstan's coaching years.

The 1940 team placed two men on the all-conference team: Norbert Vos at third base and John Boerner in the outfield. Captain Gerry Sheehy received honorable mention.

LINE-UP		SCORES	
Robert Johnson	'40 ss	SJU	Opponents
Norbert Vos	'41 3b	10	St. Cloud T.C. 3
Edward Claussen	'48 p, 1b	6	St. Olaf 4
Francis Nierengarten	'41 p, 2b	4	Macalester 3
John Boerner	'41 p, of	5	St. Cloud T.C. 4
Gerald Sheehy	'40 cf	5	Augsburg 4
John O'Connell	'43 lf	10	Macalester 5
Thomas Paul	'47 of	5	St. Thomas 6
Ray Schultzenberg	'41 of, 2b	0	Hamline 7
Vernon Ebnet	'47 2b	4	St. Olaf 6
Lloyd Perron	'51 1b	6	U. of Minn. 12
Jerome German	'41 p, of	(?)	Gustavus (?) won
Roy Chyba	'41 1b	CONFERENCE STANDING	
Vernon Neer	'41 c	Hamline	.778
John Heidemann	'40 1b	Gustavus	7-2 .778
Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker		St. Olaf	7-5 .700
Captain—Sheehy		St. Thomas	5-3 .625
		St. John's	4-4 .500
		St. Mary's	2-6 .286
		Macalester	2-6 .250
		Augsburg	0-9 .000
RECORD			
Overall:	7 wins 5 losses		
Conference:	4 wins 4 losses		

## — 1941 —

The big event of the 1941 baseball season was the addition of Vincent Plumbo of Cretin High School, St. Paul, to the team roster, thereby filling a pressing need that had been keenly felt for the past two years, 1939 and 1940. St. John's did not win the championship, however, though it led the conference until the last game of the season. Max Molock's St. Mary's team had been coming up fast during the month of May and nipped the Johnnies at St. Mary's in a ten-inning contest by a score of 7-6 on May 30.

The consensus of the coaches at their last meeting at the end of the year was that St. John's and St. Mary's had the best balanced squads in the conference. Four players on the St. John's team were put on the all-conference nine. "Hack" Nierengarten was picked as the top pitcher in the conference and Norbert Vos was the leading hitter. John "Jud" Boerner was placed at first base. Vincent Plumbo, though only a freshman, was chosen unanimously as the outstanding catcher in the league.

St. John's took second place in the conference, one game behind St. Mary's, with a record of seven victories and three losses.

LINE-UP		SCORES	
Edward Simonet	'47 of	SJU	Opponent
John Ollman	'47 of	6	St. Olaf 0
Vincent Plumbo	'48 c	11	Gustavus 1
Albert Sauerer	'42 rf	5	Hamline 4
Ray Schultzenberg	'41 cf, 2b	9	Augsburg 6
Vernon Neer	'41 c	3	St. Thomas 4
Julian Wolf	'47 2b, of	6	St. Mary's 7
Patrick Freuen	'42 lf	3	Augsburg 2
John O'Connell	'43 3b	8	St. Thomas 9
Edward Claussen	'43 p	9	Macalester 3
Francis Nierengarten	'41 p	0	Gustavus 1
John Boerner	'41 1b	CONFERENCE STANDINGS	
William Sinner	'43 of	St. Mary's	8-1 .889
Vernon Ebnet	'47 2b	St. John's	7-3 .700
Norbert Vos	'41 ss, c	Gustavus	6-3 .667
Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker		Hamline	5-4 .556
Manager—Bob Durenberger		St. Thomas	4-6 .400
Captain—Vos		St. Olaf	4-7 .364
		Macalester	3-7 .300
		Augsburg	3-8 .200
RECORD			
Overall:	7 wins 3 losses		
Conference:	7 wins 3 losses		

## — 1942 —

There can be no doubt that the 1942 baseball team was and always will be considered one of the greatest in St. John's history. It was a happy-go-lucky, fun-loving aggregation made up of enthusiasts like Vincent Plumbo who was a veritable charged battery of energy, never so happy as when he went to bat with men on base or was getting the



most out of his pitchers, Ed Claussen and Fred "Fritz" Blenker. The team amassed a total of 123 runs against 30 by the opposition. Claussen won five games, Blenker four, with neither pitcher ever needing relief. It was a perfect season of nine victories and no losses.

The unmistakable star of the team was Vincent Plumbo, with Claussen a close second. Plumbo batted a solid .416 and Claussen .292. The batting averages for the remainder of the team are truly impressive: Henry Ranweiler .375, Otto Schaefer .360, John O'Connell .340, Bruce Frank .333, Vernon Ebnet .243, Pat Freuen (team captain) .210, Fred Blenker .154, Edward Simonet .142.

An unusual feature of the team personnel was that among the 1942 regulars were two freshmen, Bruce Frank, first base, and Otto Schaefer, shortstop. Shortstop was the only uncertain position on the infield to be filled at the opening of the season, but within a week it was apparent that Schaefer fitted perfectly into the line of defense. His batting average of .360 was the surprise of the year.

St. John's placed three men on the all-conference team, Vincent Plumbo, Edward Claussen, and freshman Bruce Frank. Vernon Ebnet, second base, John O'Connell at third base, and Henry "Lefty" Ranweiler in the outfield received honorable mention.

LINE-UP			SCORES		
Vernon Ebnet	'47	2b	SJU	Opponent	
Vincent Plumbo	'47	c	23	Avon	3
Edward Claussen	'43	p, of	8	St. Cloud T.C.	2
John O'Connell	'43	3b	15	Macalester	1
Bruce Frank	'42	1b	18	Macalester	11
Henry Ranweiler	'42	of	9	Augsburg	5
Patrick Freuen	'42	of	9	Hamline	4
Otto Schaefer	'48	of, ss	20	Hamline	1
Julian Wolf	'47	2b, of	9	St. Thomas	0
Fred Blenker	'43	p	11	St. Thomas	3
Edward Simonet	'47	ss	14	St. Olaf	1
John Bruggemann	'42	p	18	St. Mary's	0

Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker  
Asst. Coach—Eugene McCarthy  
Manager—Bob Durenberger  
Captain—Freuen

#### RECORD

Overall: 11 wins 0 losses  
Conference: 9 wins 0 losses  
Conference—championship  
Pitchers' records—Claussen 5-0,  
Blenker 4-0

#### CONFERENCE STANDING

St. John's	9-0	1.000
St. Mary's	5-2	.714
St. Thomas	5-4	.625
Hamline	4-5	.444
Augsburg	4-5	.444
St. Olaf	1-5	.167
Macalester	1-5	.111

#### — 1943 —

By 1943 the war-time draft had drained off over three-fourths of the student body and interest in intercollegiate sports declined in the same proportion. By the spring of 1943 track and tennis schedules had been cancelled and it was being debated by the college authorities

whether St. John's should not drop baseball and other intercollegiate programs for the duration of the war. The coaches settled the debate for themselves at the spring meeting of the MIAC by voting to follow a "Sports as Usual" program. Somehow a short schedule was arranged and a call for baseball candidates was issued.

With only four lettermen on campus, spring training practice was devoted mainly to training freshman candidates. It turned out to be a lot of fun, however, and in the five games played several potential stars were molded into a team that in the last two games showed themselves capable of making a good showing even in peace-time competition: especially Bill Osborne, John "Bud" Streitz, Henry "Bruts" Welsch, Jerome Terhaar, and James Sieh.

The "championship race" was a farce, however. At the end of the season the MIAC colleges suspended all conference activities for the duration of the war. Consequently, no championships were awarded for 1944 and 1945.

As for St. John's, the last three conference games scheduled were cancelled because of bad weather and, probably, lack of interest in re-scheduling them. Some of the players were called up by the Navy, among them Claussen in the last part of May. Augsburg was declared the 1943 champion and St. John's the holder of third place with three victories and two losses. Julian Wolf, one of the best line-drive hitters of St. John's, was selected for second base in the mythical all-conference team of the MIAC.

Fr. Dunstan entered the Navy this year as a chaplain and relinquished whatever baseball activities there might be to Henry "Bruts" Welsch for the duration.

LINE-UP			Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker		
John "Bud" Streitz	'47	p, of	SCORES		
Julian Wolf	'47	2b	SJU		
Fred Blenker	'43	p	Opponents		
Edward Simonet	'47	3b	7	Hamline	1
James Sieh	'43	lf	4	St. Thomas	7
Jerome Terhaar	'48	1b	3	Augsburg	12
Henry "Bruts" Welsch	'47	cf	11	Hamline	6
Bill Osborne	'48	of	12	Macalester	0
Bernard Gervais	'48	2b	RECORD		
Edward Claussen	'43	p	Overall: 3 wins 2 losses		
Leo Graebner	'43	c	Conference—3rd place		
Lloyd Fier	'48	of			
Fred Kranz	'43				
Joseph Martin	'49				
George Francis	'46				

#### — 1945 —

Football coach Joe Benda took over the 1945 baseball team with Bruts Welsch as his assistant. The war was gradually coming to an



pitched well on occasion, but tended to be erratic on occasion. As will be noted in the scoring statistics, a majority of the games were more slug-fests than air-tight pitching duels.

The batting average of the team for the season was .304: Bill Arth .500 in five games; John Callahan .464; Joseph "Unser Joe" Keller .375; Bob Burkhard .341; Lee Wagner and Ralph Eisenzimmer .333; Eugene McCarthy .222; Simon Super .214; Norbert Lang .187; and Merle Rouillard .111.

If excuses for a good team are ever appropriate (which is doubtful), they were for the 1934 Johnnies. The first of five losses was to the University of Minnesota, Big Ten champions for this year, by a score of 8-3. Two games were lost to the College of St. Thomas, which that year swept unbeaten to the MIAC championship behind its great pitcher John Rigney. Rigney was practically unbeatable in college ball. He went directly from the campus of St. Thomas to the ball park of the Chicago White Sox and immediately began his brilliant pitching career in the major leagues.

LINE-UP			Stars—Bill Arth, John Callahan, Joe Keller		
Ralph Eisenzimmer	'34	ss			
John Callahan	'37	c			
Robert Burkhard	'35	cf			
Bill Arth	'34	1b			
Joseph Keller	'37	rf			
Quiren Klasen	'36	lf			
Norbert Lang	'37	3b			
John Doherty	'35	2b			
Loren Henkemeyer	'34	p			
Si Ryan	'34	of			
John Marrinan	'35	p			
Kenneth Bloms	'34	p			
Simon Super	'34	of			
Eugene McCarthy	'35	1b			
Marvin Frejlak	'34	p			
Hugh Gilmore	'34	p			
Merle Rouillard	'36	of			
Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker					
Captain—Robert Burkhard					

SCORES			Opponent		
SJU					
18	St. Joseph	6			
3	U. of Minnesota	8			
12	St. Cl. Eagles	11			
12	St. Cl. Eagles	11			
6	St. Cloud T.C.	5			
2	St. Thomas	6			
5	St. Olaf	6			
9	Hamline	2			
11	St. Cloud T.C.	8			
16	Gustavus	11			
7	St. Thomas	15			

RECORD		
Overall:	7 wins	5 losses
Conference:	2 wins	3 losses

## — 1935 —

The one single element lacking in the 1934 team was a strong pitching staff made up of at least three first string pitchers. That unusual commodity in college baseball in the 1930's appeared miraculously on the St. John's campus with the arrival of Avitus "Vedie" Himsl and Austin McCarthy, brother of Eugene McCarthy. There were several infield changes that were necessitated by the departure of 1934 lettermen, but they were quickly filled by new men with equal abilities. Eugene McCarthy went to first base, Ralph Eisenzimmer was replaced

by John Doherty at shortstop, and Timothy Donohue replaced Norbert Lang at third base. Philip Gravelle, another freshman, went to second base.

In a thirteen-game schedule, St. John's won ten games and lost three for second place in the conference. One of the losses was to the University of Minnesota by a score of 7-4. This game was Vedie Himsl's first college experience on the mound and was in every sense of the word a remarkable achievement.

On Memorial Day, the last outing for the year, St. John's split a double-header with Gustavus Adolphus on the Gustie field. Himsl won the first game 4-2, but St. John's lost the second by a score of 8-1. Prior to this defeat St. John's had won four straight games and, except for this loss, would have won the MIAC championship.

LINE-UP			SCORES		
John Doherty	'35	ss	SJU		Opponents
John Callahan	'37	c	4	U. of Minn.	7
Robert Burkhard	'35	cf	4	Avon	3
William Blenker	'36	lf	6	St. Cl. Eagles	1
Timothy Donohue	'38	3b	1	St. Olaf	3
Joseph Keller	'37	rf	8	St. Thomas	7
Philip Gravelle	'37	2b	12	St. Cloud T.C.	9
Eugene McCarthy	'35	1b	10	St. Thomas	9
Vedie Himsl	'37	p	10	Hamline	5
Austin McCarthy	'38	p	11	St. Cloud T.C.	5
John Marrinan	'35	p	10	Little Falls	0
Hugh Gilmore	'35	p	5	St. Cl. Eagles	0
Lee Wagner	'36	c	4	Gustavus	0
Quiren Klasen	'35	of	1	Gustavus	7
Leo Klasen	'36	ss			
Eugene Roeder	'36	of			
Coach—Fr. Dunstan Tucker					
Captain—Callahan					
Stars—Himsl, Blenker, Doherty, Burkhard, Callahan					

RECORD		
Overall:	10 wins	3 losses
Conference:	4 wins	2 losses
Conference—2nd place		

## — 1936 —

The sudden popularity of baseball that had followed the 1934 and 1935 seasons was manifested again in 1936 when several highly talented candidates tried out for the 1936 team. Prominent among them were Ernie Sowada, a left-handed speed and curve ball artist who complemented the right handers, Himsl and McCarthy, to give St. John's the perfect pitching staff. It was and is still considered the strongest pitching trio in St. John's baseball history. After graduation, Himsl was signed by the Cleveland Indians and is now an executive in the Chicago Cubs' organization. Ernie Sowada, following his graduation, pitched several years with the Minneapolis Millers until the outbreak of World War II, during which he served as a Navy officer in the military service. Austin McCarthy, even as a freshman, was con-