

end. Demobilization did not commence until months later, but there were freshman athletes appearing on campus who needed athletic competition of some sort to keep them interested in normal college life with its competitive intercollegiate sports program, as well as the necessity of keeping themselves in shape physically. Most of the material on hand was inexperienced, though there were college ability players on the squad like Bruts Welsch, LaVerne Soltis (pitcher) and catcher Len Ohnsorg. Welsch, an accomplished batter, was commissioned to teach the freshmen the fundamentals of batting and fielding. He and Ollie Young were the leading hitters for the season.

LINE-UP		
Peter Tschida	'45	3b
Ollie Young	'46	2b
Arnold Weber	'50	ss
Henry Welsch	'47	cf
Laverne Soltis	'49	p
Eugene Wisland	'46	1b
Leonard Ohnsorg	'46	c
William Prickril	'48	rf
Andrew Ohnsorg	'47	lf
Jack Cassidy	'49	
Norb Lange	'45	
Pat Patterson	'49	
Herman Rausch	'46	
Gene Ring	'46	
Richard Fitzpatrick	'50	

Coach—Benda
 Assistant Coach—Welsch
 Manager—Don Hockert

SCORES			
SJU		Opponent	
4	St. Olaf	7	
2	St. Olaf	7	
4	St. Thomas	2	
13	Gustavus	8	
1	St. Thomas	10	
4	Gustavus	5	

RECORD 2 wins 4 losses

— 1946 —

The 1946 season was at once a time of rebuilding and at the same time winning games. The full tide of veterans streaming in from demobilization camps had not yet reached the campus, but there were enough baseball players among them to keep the coach on the outlook for star ball players. Among the veterans were several players who had been members of the 1942 team, principally Vernon Ebnet and Otto Schaefer. New arrivals at St. John's were John "Bud" Streitz from St. Cloud Cathedral and Lawrence "Mickey" McNeely who had played professional baseball in the Northern League and on top armed forces teams.

Coach Bruts Welsch had complete charge of the team since Joe Benda was also preparing for his team, the 1946 football entry into the MIAC. Due to the large number of candidates, Welsch was obliged to make many changes in the team personnel and player shifts to other positions, but in the end he had a fine baseball team after it had finally jelled.

The season ended with St. John's in third place in the conference with an overall record of seven games won and four lost. The confer-

ence record was five wins and four losses. Leading batters were Welsch, .400; Ebnet, .317; Chuck Miller, .314; and McNeely, .310. St. Thomas won the conference title.

Unfortunately, the *Record* does not list the winners of all-conference berths nor the final standings of the other MIAC colleges. At the end of the season four members of the team played with Northern League clubs: Welsch, McNeely, and LaVerne Soltis with the St. Cloud Rox; Vernon Ebnet with Fargo-Moorhead.

LINE-UP			Ollie Young	'46	rf
Vernon Ebnet	'47	2b	Len Ohnsorg	'46	c
Douglas Gits	'49	lf	Edward Zins	'47	3b
Henry Welsch	'47	1b	Elmer Dietrich	'49	ss
Lawrence McNeely	'49	ss	Al Noterman	'48	of, p
Charles Miller	'50	3b	Paul Hammers	'49	ss
John "Bud" Streitz	'47	cf, p	Robert Boyd	'46	of
Moses Sowada	'49	c	Robert Gits	'48	1b
Otto Schaefer	'48	of	RECORD		
LaVerne Soltis	'49	p	Overall: 7 wins	4 losses	
Ollie Murnane	'46	p	Conference: 5 wins	4 losses	
Howard Carroll	'50	p	Conference—3rd place		

— 1947 —

After three years in the Navy, Fr. Dunstan returned to his usual teaching, prefecting and baseball coaching. The call for baseball candidates was answered by an exceptionally large number of fine pitching aspirants: Richard Eich, Richard "Dick" Fisher, and Joe Schleper. In fact, there were so many new candidates that it was a problem to find the most suitable position for each one on the squad.

In the meantime, all the other colleges were strengthening their line-ups with returning veterans, and the conference was becoming perhaps better balanced with strong teams than ever before. As for St. John's, the one weak spot on the baseball line-up was the lack of another experienced pitcher to help support pitcher Soltis when the freshman hurlers were in need of relief.

St. John's led the conference until the last game of the season when it yielded first place to Augsburg on a percentage basis following a defeat by Hamline 1-2. The reason for the loss to Hamline was probably an unfortunate accident to Bill Osborne, leading hitter and spark-plug of the team, who two days before the last game broke his ankle in sliding practice.

The result of the season was that St. John's took second place in the conference with a record of nine victories and two defeats (both to Hamline).