

— 1958 —

The 1958 team displayed a strong, aggressive line and fast, hard-hitting backs. Behind the blocking of Sev Youso, Felix Mannella, Gene Kramer, Bob Henry, and Bob Stich, the fast backfield of Joe Crotty, Duane Deutz, Tom Irving, Bernie McInerney, and Bob Ilg crossed the goal line 22 times in racing to five quick victories. One of these was a 13-0 win over St. Thomas in a great defensive game in which SJU held St. Thomas to 12 net yards in rushing. The Jays scored on a 25-yard run by Tom Irving in that game and on a 35-yard pass play from Bob Ilg to Joe Crotty. Two bad breaks for the Johnnies—a clipping penalty which nullified a touchdown and a blocked punt—helped Gustavus to win the highly publicized Swiggum-Deutz contest three weeks later by a score of 18-7. As a result, St. John's ended up with a 5-2 record (6-2 overall) and third place in the conference behind Gustavus and Concordia.

Duane Deutz, halfback, Felix Mannella, guard, Sev Youso and Roger Ludwig, tackles, Dave Boyle, end, and Tom Irving, fullback, made the all-MIAC team. Duane Deutz was also chosen Catholic Little All-American. Roger Ludwig was named the most valuable player in the MIAC, the first St. John's lineman to win that distinction.

As was stated above, Bill Osborne, '48, who had served as head basketball and baseball coach and assistant football coach, left St. John's to go into the insurance business in Billings, Montana, and Ed Hasbrouck, '50, former Johnnie basketball and baseball star, took his place. John Gagliardi gives Hasbrouck a great deal of credit in building the championship teams of the 1960's, especially for his early recognition of talented players, so that they could be pushed into action and given experience as early as the middle of their freshman year.

— 1959 —

St. John's opened the 1959 season by losing to Concordia, the team which had humbled them (40-8) in the last game of the 1958 season. They then counted three straight victories, but lost by a close score to Duluth, and by 0-14 to Gustavus in a hard-fought contest which featured the running and passing of the Swiggum-Skoog combination. The Johnnie team suffered crucial injuries—Deutz, Irving, and O'Reilly—and could never snap back. The final standing was 4-3 (5-3 overall), and fourth place in the conference. Gustavus won the title with a 7-0 record.

Despite his injured knee, Duane Deutz accumulated a rushing record of 1,993 yards during his four years at SJU (1956-59). This has since been surpassed by Tim Schmitz, whose total for the four years

(1974-77) was 3,933. Duane failed to make all-conference in 1959, however, and only Felix Mannella and Gene Kramer were so honored. Other names which stand out in the 1959 season are Dick Miller, fullback, and Bernie Kukar, halfback, who also starred in basketball.

— 1960 —

The Johnnies lost heavily through graduation in the spring of 1960 and it took five weeks and three losses (Augsburg, Concordia, and pesky Macalester by another 15-14 score) before the new material began to shape up in the 1960 season. They finally did this with a bang, turning on St. Thomas and blasting them 34-13. In a game which Duluth was doped to win easily and with the Bulldogs leading 7-0, Jim Glowack tossed a pass to Ken Roering, who romped for a touchdown. The Jays missed the point after touchdown, but with the score 6-7, they scorned settling for a tie. Glowack hit Bob Spinner in the end zone for a two-point conversion. The Jays then went on to tie Gustavus 6-6 on a wet field at St. Peter and ended the conference season with a 3-3-1 record and fifth place (4-3-1 overall). However, with the pressure off, St. John's rolled over St. Cloud 50-0 in the final game. Duluth took the title with a 6-1 record.

Gene Kramer and Tom O'Reilly, ends, Bernie Kukar, halfback, Fred Philipson, tackle, and Bob Gavin, guard, made all-conference, and Gene Kramer was elected to the Little All-American team. Tom McIntyre set a high standard in punting with a total of 1,566 yards in 47 attempts, for an average of 35.4 yards per punt.

— 1961 —

The prospects for 1961 were promising. Only a few starters from the previous year had been lost through graduation, and some new talent was starting to show up: Craig Muires, Bernie Beckman, and Bob Spinner, the latter two becoming the touchdown twins of the early 1960's, rivaling Boyd and Roche of the 1930's. Also on the squad were Rich Chalmers, Dave Sieben (son of Omer, '40, halfback of the late 1930's), Tom McKasy (former Prep and son of George, '28, catcher on the baseball team in the 1920's), Paul Labinski, Bill Wagner (son of Lee, '36, who played under Benda), Rich Froehle (son of Chuck, '27, and brother of Chuck, Jr., '57), and a number of others. Other regulars from 1960 were Bob Gavin, Bob Praus, Dave Honer, Fred Philipson, Tom McIntyre, Bob Stolz, and "Mack-Truck" John McDowell. The Johnnies surely appeared to be loaded this year!

The 1961 Johnnies bombarded their first four opponents—Bemidji 30-6, Gustavus 36-0, Concordia 48-6, and Augsburg 42-0, but suffered

a let-down against Macalester in a homecoming game on their field, 14-15. They rebounded against St. Thomas 38-14 and used practically only the second and third teams to roll over Hamline 51-0. Finally, they lost a heart-breaker to Duluth on a muddy field in the last two minutes. The Johnnies' standing at the end of this exciting season was 5-2 in the conference (6-2 overall), and a tie with St. Thomas for second place behind Duluth.

The power of the team is indicated by the number who won all-conference awards: Tom Wagner, fullback; Jim Glowack, quarterback; Bob Gavin, guard; Fred Philipson, Tom McIntyre, and Bob Stolz, tackles; and Ken Roering, end. Wagner, Philipson, and Stolz made the Catholic All-American team that year. Tom Wagner won the MIAC rushing title with a total of 696 yards. Jim Glowack was named most valuable player in the MIAC.

— 1962 —

When interviewed by sportswriters early in the 1962 season, Gagliardi said: "Anything can happen. We'll play each game one at a time, one quarter at a time." But in making this broad generalization, he grinned. And justifiably so. The 1962 team was a veritable horde of seasoned veterans who in workman-like fashion cut down every one of their opponents, beginning with Bemidji (30-14) and ending with Hamline (36-0). They took Gustavus by the ample score of 28-8, Concordia by 31-14, but just squeaked by St. Thomas 28-23, with the help of a 75-yard runback of a pass interception by Craig Muyres, quarterback, to complete the first undefeated, untied season in the school's history. (Concordia tied St. John's 0-0 in the first championship season, 1932.) Despite this record (7-0 in the conference, and 9-0 overall), St. John's was too little known to receive a play-off bid. As Gagliardi expressed it: "The Johnnies were untied, undefeated, and uninvited." The team was, however, grooming itself for greater things.

The power of the 1962 team is revealed by the following statistics: they compiled a total of 2,416 net yards rushing and 960 yards passing for an average of 375.1 yards per game. They scored 39 touchdowns, 27 on the ground and 12 in the air. Total yardage by opponents was 1,196 and 913, respectively, and 13 touchdowns. With this record the Jays were ranked in the eighth place in the nation in the NAIA poll.

All-conference nominations were Tom McIntyre, tackle, Bill Wagner, center, Craig Muyres, quarterback, Ken Roering, end, John McDowell, tackle, and Bob Spinner, halfback. Tom McIntyre had looked good enough to be given a try-out by the Minnesota Vikings of the

National Football League. Four players were nominated Little All-Americans—Tom McIntyre, Bill Wagner, Craig Muyres, and Ken Roering.

— 1963 —

With a good number of veterans from the undefeated squad of 1962, and strong replacements for the few who had graduated, St. John's in 1963 cut down its conference opponents by wide margins: Hamline 38-14, Duluth 60-6, St. Thomas 32-6, Gustavus 34-7, Augsburg 26-6, Concordia 28-0, Macalester 40-6, and one non-conference opponent, St. Cloud State, 40-0, to finish 7-0 in the conference and 8-0 overall. Such a performance could not be overlooked, and St. John's was invited to compete in the playoffs of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). They met their first post-season opponent, Emporia State of Kansas, in the Metropolitan Sports Stadium in the Twin Cities in a game organized and promoted by the area alumni in early November. They lost no time in demonstrating their right to be there. A blocked punt by Jim Dey resulted in a safety, and touchdown runs of five and four yards by Rich Froehle put the Johnnies out in front by 15-0 at the end of the first quarter. Bernie Beckman and Bob Spinner scored in the second quarter to bring the score to 28-0 by half-time. After scoring four more touchdowns in the third quarter, Gagliardi pulled his first team and the rest of the game was a scoreless battle between Emporia and the reserves. St. John's made 502 yards on the ground and 41 more through the air to establish an NAIA record of 540 yards in total offense. Final score: St. John's 54, Emporia 0.

The Camellia Bowl

This victory won for the Johnnies the opportunity to meet the all-black team of Prairie View College, Texas, in the Camellia Bowl, Sacramento, California. The Texas college had reached the title game by coming from behind to defeat Kearney State of Nebraska 20-7.

At the beginning of the Camellia Bowl game, it looked as if the game would be a walk-away for Prairie View. Speedy Jimmy Hall, substituting temporarily for Jim Kearney, star quarterback, ran 29 yards for a touchdown on the first Prairie View play from scrimmage, following a blocked Johnnie punt. John Harris kicked the point after touchdown, and the score was Prairie View 7, SJU 0, with only 3:40 minutes gone. St. John's soon snapped back, however, with a 41-yard punt return by halfback Bob Spinner, aided by a magnificent block by Jim Dey. Hartman's place-kick was blocked and the score was 6-7.

Minutes later Prairie View's Otis Taylor snared a Jim Kearney 61-yard pass for a touchdown, and Harris again added the extra point. The score: Prairie View 14, SJU 6.

But the Johnnies were by no means out of the game, and they staged another rally consisting primarily of the interception of a pass by John McCormick, defensive back, who ran it back 44 yards for a touchdown. Muyres passed to Beckman for the extra point and the score was Prairie View 14, St. John's 13. (At that time points after touchdowns counted only one point, even if made by a pass or a run.)

After the intermission, St. John's needed only six minutes to take the lead for good. Muyres tossed a 23-yard pass to Hardy Reyerson, who leaped five feet in the air to grab it, to cap a 60-yard drive. Then Muyres tossed another short pass to Ken Roering for the point after touchdown. Score: SJU 20, Prairie View 14.

When the Johnnies got the ball again, Beckman climaxed a double reverse with a pass to Roering in the end zone, and St. John's now led 26-14, as Muyres' pass for a point after touchdown fell incomplete.

Prairie View, however, was not ready to give up and executed a 69-yard drive, ending with a 14-yard Kearney pass for a touchdown. Harris again kicked the extra point. It looked as if Prairie View was about to take off again, but they fumbled on their own 23-yard line and St. John's recovered. Muyres hit Reyerson with a perfect touchdown pass and then passed to Spinner for the conversion. Score: SJU 33, Prairie View 21.

It took Prairie View only nine plays to grind out 60 yards for their next touchdown, as Ezell Seals plunged for the final yard. The Texas school then tried an on-side kick which was caught by Ken Roering, after which St. John's ran out the clock. Final score: SJU 33, Prairie View 27.

Bernie Beckman was named the game's most valuable player, Ken Roering the top lineman, and Jim Kearney of Prairie View the top back. Kearney had completed 11 out of 21 pass attempts for 208 yards and ran for 55 more. Muyres hit 9 of 16 attempts for 136 yards. Seals was high in rushing with 64 yards, while Spinner and Beckman ended with 59 and 52 yards respectively.

The quality of the opposition in that game is indicated by the fact that both Jim Kearney and Otis Taylor became pro stars and are still playing professional football. Taylor was also chosen all-pro back for several years.

The stay-at-home Johnnies were beneficiaries of a special bonus on the occasion of the Camellia Bowl game by it being made available

on television in the Upper Midwest through the efforts of an alumni group headed by Fred Hughes, '31.

The statistics of the Johnnies for this season are impressive. Craig Muyres completed 23 out of 50 pass attempts, for an average of .460, while Ken Roering, end, caught 12 Muyres' tosses for a total of 233 yards and two touchdowns. The Johnnies out-scored their opponents 298 to 45 in the regular season, and allowed only a meager 12.9 yards per game in the eight regular season games. They also broke the NAIA record for the least number of yards allowed during a season, a record formerly held by Florida A & M, giving up only a grudging 103 yards in conference play. The St. John's 1963 season record was 7-0-0 in the conference and 10-0-0 overall.

The performance of the 1963 team won special recognition in the Johnnies' home territory. The Jays were awarded 12 of the 22 positions on the MIAC all-conference offensive and defensive units. Only eight individual players were so honored because four of the Johnnies were named to both the offensive and defensive squads, namely, Craig Muyres, quarterback and safety man; Bernie Beckman, halfback; Ken Roering, end; John "Mack-Truck" McDowell, tackle. Others who made one or the other of the berths on either all-conference unit were Rich Froehle, fullback, Bob Spinner, halfback, Hardy Reyerson, end, and Dave Honer, guard. Spinner won the MIAC rushing title with 530 yards, and Beckman was awarded the St. Paul *Pioneer Press-Dispatch* trophy as the MIAC's most valuable player. John McDowell was drafted soon afterward by the Green Bay Packers and played professional football for several years.

An interesting footnote to the 1963 season is the fact that all-conference end and top Camellia Bowl lineman, Ken Roering, went on to graduate school, earned a doctorate, and is now teaching at the University of Missouri.

— 1964 —

The 1964 squad lost heavily through graduation, but 17 of the men who helped to win the NAIA championship in 1963 were on hand when Gagliardi issued his call for fall practice. It should be noted that the MIAC rules no longer permit spring practice and also limit the pre-season practice—all of which makes competition with non-conference schools that have spring practice very difficult. This year John had to build around a core of returning regulars supported by an assortment of sophomores and freshmen: ends, Hardy Reyerson and Joe Mucha, backed by Jack Schoenecker (nephew of Norbert, '27, who starred as a basketball player in the 1920's); veteran tackles Mike

Collins and Fred Cremer, backed by George Korbel and Bill Dircks; Gary Youso, guard, backed by Bill Smock, John Ford, and Sid Prom, a junior. Previously injured Ed Donatelle was ready to return to his old guard slot.

Center-guards Paul Labinski (250 pounds), Jack Hickey (313 pounds), and Joe Ruhland (205 pounds) provided beef in the center of the line, while senior Jim Dey was available as an alert linebacker.

Backfield men who filled in the holes left by the graduation of St. John's all-time greats Craig Muyres, Bernie Beckman, Bob Spinner, and defensive back John McCormick, were veteran Rich Froehle, Pat Hare, Randy Halstrom, Joe Hartle, Stan Suchta, Terry Hartman (son of Lyle, '39), and freshmen Don Nett, Roger Trobec, and Jim Shiely.

A major change occurred in the coaching staff this year. Ed Hasbrouck had resigned as head coach in basketball and baseball and assistant in football, and his place was taken by graduates Joe Hartle and Paul Labinski in 1965. Later other Johnnie grads served as assistant coaches.

Although St. John's took St. Thomas 24-0 and Duluth 21-12, Hamline and Gustavus managed to squeak by SJU 8-6 and 15-14, respectively, while Concordia rolled to a 20-0 victory. St. John's won all its other games, to end with a 4-3 record and a tie for third place with Gustavus. (St. John's played no non-conference games this year.) Concordia won the title and represented the MIAC in the ninth annual Small College Playoffs (NAIA) by defeating Linfield, Oregon, 28-6 in the semi-finals and tying Sam Houston of Texas 7-7 in the NAIA title game.

All-conference selections were Jack Hickey, Hardy Reyerson, and Rich Froehle. Rich was awarded the St. Paul *Pioneer Press-Dispatch* trophy as the MIAC's most valuable player for 1965. His 1,541 total yards rushing from 1961 to 1964 ranked him as eighth among the great ball carriers turned out by St. John's, although all of these high marks of the past have been eclipsed by Tim Schmitz's near-4,000 yards from 1974-77. Paul Labinski, center-guard, was invited to try out for the Minnesota Vikings at their summer camp in 1964.

— 1965 —

The year 1965 witnessed a change of pace. After polishing off River Falls State 16-0 and Bemidji State 8-0, St. John's methodically decapitated all conference opponents for a perfect 1.000 standing for the season: St. John's 48, Macalester 0; St. John's 18, St. Thomas 0; St. John's 34, Hamline 6; St. John's 17, Duluth 8; St. John's 34, Gustavus 0; St. John's 28, Augsburg 6; St. John's 10, Concordia 0.

This performance produced a second invitation to compete in the NAIA play-offs. The contests this year lacked the drama and suspense of the Prairie View encounter of 1963. In the first play-off game, St. John's dispatched Fairmount State of West Virginia 28-7, and in the title match, played in Augusta, Georgia, smothered Linfield, Oregon, which had been defeated in the semi-finals by Concordia in 1964, by a score of 33-0. This gave the Johnnies their second national championship within a space of three years, and a 11-0 record for the season. The NAIA showed its appreciation for the high quality of football and sportsmanship displayed by Gagliardi and his team by awarding him the NAIA title Coach of the Year. The MIAC extended a similar honor, this for the third time.

All-MIAC selections were the following—defensive unit: Fred Cremer, tackle, and John Ford linebacker; offensive unit: Dave Griffin, end, Mike Collins, tackle, and Jim Shiely, halfback. Other stand-outs for the season were Roger Trobec, fullback, and Don Nett, halfback.

Terry Hartman kept the opposing teams off balance with his consistent punting; in addition, he made 21 out of 23 conversion attempts and 5 out of 7 field goals, which together with one touchdown made him high scorer for the season. Other high scorers were Jim Shiely, Don Nett, and Dave Griffin.

— 1966 —

One might begin to wonder how long this could continue. Well, in 1966 the Johnnies did let up somewhat. They won a close victory over Bemidji State 26-20, then won three and lost three in the conference, all but one of the losses by one touchdown or less. They tied Gustavus 7-7. This resulted in a fifth place finish. Overall the record was 4-3-1.

Stand-outs in the line were Mike Collins, Mike Perry, and ends Terry Underwood, Ed Kranz, and Dave Griffin. The latter snared 20 passes by Gillham, Hartman, and Provinzino for a total of 333 yards and five touchdowns. Other ground-gainers were Roger Trobec and Don Nett; the latter won the conference rushing title with 513 yards. Fred Cremer was chosen all-conference as both offensive and defensive tackle.

— 1967 —

The coaching staff was strengthened the following year, 1967, by the addition of Terry Haws, who had been hired primarily to replace Bob Dumonceaux, now Dr. Dumonceaux, chairman of the SJU mathematics department, who relinquished his position as wrestling coach and took a leave of absence to continue his graduate studies. Haws

had been highly successful as wrestling and football coach at St. James High School and at Cathedral High School, St. Cloud, where his wrestling teams took seven state championships in ten years. As football coach, he had a record in high school of 67 wins versus 39 losses in 12 years of coaching.

His addition to the staff was especially needed since 1967 was clearly a re-building year. The Jays lost their first game to St. Cloud 0-10, and four more games by close scores. The bright spot in the season was the 12-7 final-game victory over Gustavus, conference champions for that year. The victory left a pleasant taste in the players' mouths for 1968. St. John's finished in fifth place with three wins and four losses (3-5 overall).

Names that stand out in 1967 were John Agee and Tom Klein, defensive backs, Joe Mullen, linebacker, Terry Underwood, end, and Tom Schutta, tackle. In the backfield Don Nett, his brother Joe, and Tom Gillham executed the ball-carrying and passing duties. Linebacker Joe Mullen and defensive back Tom Klein were awarded places on the defensive unit of the all-conference team, while Tom Schutta, Joe Cronin, fullback, and Terry Underwood and Dave Tripp, guard, received honorable mention.

— 1968 —

The year 1968 showed some improvement over the preceding two seasons. Although Gagliardi had trouble finding a dependable quarterback, spectacular rushing by John Balestri (787 yards in 179 tries, third best for SJU up to that time), and by scatback Bill Laliberte (501 yards in 116 attempts), supplemented by a strong rushing and pass defense led by Tom Schutta and Mike Starr in the line, Tom Klein and Mike Shea in the secondary (third in total defense in the conference), carried the Johnnies to a 4-3 finish and a tie for third place. Their overall rating was 6-4. Gustavus took the championship with a record of 6 wins and one loss.

All-conference selections were Dave Tripp, offensive guard, and Mike Shea, defensive back. This year the name Bob Nasby began to appear in the line-up followed by a "K". Bob became a dependable place-kicker for the next three years. Jim Winkels turned in a creditable performance in punting—47 punts for 1,776 yards, an average of 37.8 per kick. John Stencel also showed brilliance in returning punts and kickoffs.

— 1969 —

The year 1969 saw St. John's back in the groove. Scatback Bill Laliberte was still eluding the defense who came up with a handful

of air much of the time when they tried to tackle him. He piled up a total of 892 yards for the season, or 5.0 per carry. Mike Halloran, fullback, was second with a total of 582 yards and 4.0 yards per carry. Haskins, end, snared 21 passes thrown by Tom Kafka and Joe Nett for 251 yards. Dave Arnold, end, although only a freshman, was beginning to show promise of his future unparalleled pass receiving by catching 18 passes for 448 yards and six touchdowns. Chuck Hanish, end, also aided the pass offense by grabbing a respectable 13 tosses for 169 yards.

In the MIAC St. John's rated fifth in total team offense, third in rushing, and fourth in total team defense. In the final standings, St. John's came up with five wins, one loss (to Concordia) and one tie (7-7 with Gustavus). Victories over University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and St. Cloud State brought the overall record to 7-1-1. This record was good enough to merit an invitation to the seventeenth annual Mineral Water Bowl in Excelsior Springs, Missouri. In this game St. John's methodically cut down Simpson College of Iowa by a score of 21-0, the fifth straight post-season victory. The sportswriter for the *Kansas City Star* for November 30, 1969, who covered the game, was loud in his praise of the Johnnies' defensive play, led by Tom Schutta (voted the most valuable lineman of the game), supported by Denny Merritt, Mike Starr, Jim Anderson, and Mike Donovan.

Simpson made only 65 yards by rushing and 19 by passing, and never got beyond the Johnnie 25-yard line. But the offensive play of the Johnnies was equally brilliant. Simpson had thoroughly scouted Laliberte and had developed a strategy to contain him on sweeps, but, said the *Kansas City Star*, "He was deadly on traps and delays up the middle." He carried the ball 26 times and piled up 103 net yards, a record which caused him to be voted the most valuable backfield player of the game.

When Laliberte and Halloran were not riddling the line, Tom Kafka and Joe Nett were hitting Dave Haskins and Dave Arnold for a passing total of 132 yards.

Named to the all-conference team were Bill Laliberte, offensive halfback, defensive tackle Tom Schutta, linebacker John Lynch, and defensive back John Stencil. Honorable mention awards went to John Agee and Mike Donovan, defensive backs; Dave Haskins, end; Tom Kafka, quarterback; and Denny Merritt, linebacker.

— 1970 —

Only eleven regulars from the bowl-winning 1969 team reported for practice in August, 1970. Juniors and seniors were Tom Kafka,

quarterback; Bill Dorgan, halfback; Bob Nasby, kicker; Mike Starr, tackle; Frank Hudoba, center; Jim Anderson, guard; and John Lynch, linebacker. Several sophomores had looked promising the previous year: Jim Kruzich, defensive end; Gary Eustice, brother of Brad Eustice who starred in 1976, fullback; Tom Schirber, fullback; Steve Best, linebacker; Dave Arnold and Charles Kessler, ends.

Senior Tom Kafka continued his excellent passing attack of the previous year, averaging 104.2 yards per game, 12 going for touchdowns. Sophomore Dave Arnold continued his brilliant pass receiving, snaring 36 passes, thrown mostly by Kafka, to better his performance of 1969 with a total of 536 yards or 59.5 per game. This performance caused him to rate first in the number of touchdowns and second in total scoring in the MIAC that year. It also resulted in his selection to the all-conference offensive unit, along with Frank Hudoba, center. Jim Kruzich was chosen on the all-conference defensive unit.

However, St. John's lost to Concordia and Gustavus and had to settle for second place with a 5-2 record (6-3 overall because of an unusual loss to St. Cloud State, 22-84).

— 1971 —

The Big Red had started out strong in 1971 by methodically picking apart Wartburg's offense, and posting a 49-13 win. They had the usual tilt with St. Cloud State and repaired the loss of the previous year with a 32-7 win. They then took arch-rivals St. Thomas (10-0) and Gustavus (20-10), and won the rest of the games with one exception—a loss to Duluth. Leading 21-16, the Johnnies lost the ball on Duluth's three-yard line with three minutes showing on the clock. One of the Johnnie defensive backs let a receiver get open, and our linemen, although practically smothering the Duluth quarterback, let him wriggle loose long enough to unleash a wobbly pass to his receiver, who ran unattended for a touchdown. Final score: Duluth 22, SJU 21.

Friends have been warned not to remind John of that game: the memory is too excruciating. However, the Card 'n Blue ended up with a respectable 6-1 standing in the conference and a tie with Gustavus for the championship (8-1 overall). They were also ranked seventh nationally in the NAIA.

Paul Schmit, quarterback, who replaced the injured Gary Marlow, starred in the game against Duluth with his brilliant passing, and continued to do so for two more seasons. Joe Nett, Gary Eustice, Bill Dorgan, and Tom Schirber piled up a total of 1,381 net yards by rushing versus 959 for the opponents, and a total of 1,235 in passing (1,088 for opponents) and 17 touchdowns. The backfield had a good deal of

help from the line and linebackers. Names that will be remembered by fellow Johnnies and by former backfield men around the conference are Kurt Wachtler, Chuck Mahoney, Nick Lynch and Greg Soukup, tackles; Steve Setzler, former Prep, middle guard; Lyle Mathiasen and Dick Humphrey, guards; Dave Arnold and Chuck Kessler, offensive ends; Jim Kruzich, Jim Brown, and Tom Dailey, defensive ends; and Bruce Hentges, Bill Haen, and Bob Bertoni, defensive backs. Seven of this crew were recipients of all-conference awards. The offensive unit included Dave Arnold, Lyle Mathiasen, and Joe Nett; on the defensive unit were Jim Kruzich (for the second time), Steve Setzler, Bruce Hentges, and Bob Bertoni. Steve Setzler was drafted by the San Francisco Forty-Niners for a defensive end position.

— 1972 —

A good sprinkling of veterans showed up for practice in August, 1972: Dave Arnold, the uncontrollable pass-snatcher; Jim Kruzich, rock-like defensive end; Lyle Mathiasen and Kurt Wachtler, tackles; Steve Best, linebacker; Chuck Mahoney, offensive guard; Mike Sanders, center; Tom Daily, end; and Bill McNamara and Jim Fergle, tackles. Paul Schmit continued to hit Dave Arnold with passes but had some able decoys in the persons of Chuck Kessler and Mike Messerschmidt, who served as targets when Arnold was being double-teamed. Marty Cella showed great speed in the backfield, producing 937 yards, while Dick Humphrey and Tom Wachlarowicz, older brother of Frank, the star basketball player, made passing by the opposition a risky undertaking. Together they intercepted ten passes for run-backs of 128 yards.

Despite the evident power of the team and its considerable experience, it lost to Gustavus (6-23) and Hamline (14-20) to end up 5-2 in the conference and 7-2 overall. This added up to second place.

Seven players made all-MIAC. On the offensive unit were Marty Cella, halfback; Dave Arnold, end; Chuck Mahoney, guard; and Lyle Mathiasen, guard. The defensive unit included Jim Kruzich, end; Kurt Wachtler, tackle; and Steve Best, halfback. Jim Kruzich was also chosen on the Academic All-American Team, in competition with players from colleges and universities throughout the country.

— 1973 —

St. John's started the 1973 season with the usual victory over St. Cloud State (42-7) and then clobbered Concordia and Macalester. St. Thomas, however, after losing 13 of the preceding games to St. John's, finally turned on its tormentor by a score of 17-10. St. John's snapped

back to take Hamline 14-7, but then lost the last three games to Duluth, Gustavus, and Augsburg, to end up with a 3-4 record (4-4 overall) and fifth place in the conference. St. Thomas won the title with a 6-1 record.

Schmit again excelled in hitting Todd Watson, successor to Dave Arnold, and Mike Messerschmidt, end, and Larry Novakoske, half-back. Brad Eustice continued his steady pounding of the line, while the elusive running of John Laliberte (125-pounder, brother of scat-back Bill, who used to exasperate would-be tacklers by not being there when they sought to wrap their arms around him), added variety to the Johnnie attack.

Stand-outs in the line were Nick Lynch, Greg Miller, Mike Sanders, Lyle Mathiasen, and Jim Fergle. Jerry Haugen, current baseball and assistant football coach at St. John's, together with Bill Manthey, put up a formidable pass defense, and intercepted a total of 11 passes during the season (as compared with three interceptions against St. John's). One player whose contribution counted in the clutches was Horace "Bubba" Small, whose name appeared in the line-up followed by a "K" for "Kicker." Small used his toe in all departments—kick-offs, points after touchdowns, and field goals, and had both good distance and accuracy.

— 1974 —

Although St. John's opened the 1974 season with a 46-14 rout of the University of Minnesota-Morris, in which Marty Cella ran wild and Kozlak hit Watson with passes all afternoon, the Jays dropped two games—to Duluth and Concordia—to end up with a 5-2 record in the conference, and 7-2 overall. However, this was still good enough for a tie with Concordia for first place.

The season was marked by the continuation of the brilliant ball-carrying of Marty Cella, who in 1972 had established the record for the highest season yardage up to that time (937 yards), a mark which was soon erased by Jim Roeder (986) and Tim Schmitz (964) in 1975, and again by Schmitz (still a junior in college) with a whopping 1,475 in 1976.

Cella's rushing was backed up by the brilliant passing of Mike Kozlak and the equally brilliant pass receiving of Todd Watson and Mike Messerschmidt. Kozlak established a record this year with 81 completions and a total of 1,322 yards, marks which have not been equalled or surpassed since. This, however, did not represent the highest percentage of completions (53.1), which was achieved by Paul Schmit in 1973 and surpassed by Jeff Norman in 1976 (56.4). Next

highest in total yards by passing was Tom Kafka in 1970 (938), followed by Jeff Norman in 1976 (913). In helping to establish some of the records, Todd Watson established a new high of 42 pass receptions and a total of 634 yards for the season. This surpassed Dave Arnold, his coach, in number, but not in yardage (664 for Arnold versus 634 for Watson). Arnold also surpassed his understudy in total number of pass receptions during his career, 1969-72, with 118 vs. 80, and in yardage, 2,038 vs. 1,311. These Arnold marks are still unequalled.

Another bit of unexpected help came from Brad Eustice who revived a skill of his high school days, and did the punting for the Jays. In the UM-Morris game, his kicks averaged 39 yards.

In the closing minutes of the last game of the season against Augsburg (won by St. John's 21-7), it was announced over the public address system that St. Olaf, which had left the Midwest Conference to return to the MIAC after a 25-year absence, had defeated Duluth 7-0, thereby throwing St. John's into a tie with Concordia for first place. St. John's had welcomed St. Olaf into the conference earlier with a 51-21 thrashing, so the Northfield school's response was an example of turning the other cheek.

Stand-outs on defense were Jerry Haugen, Peter Cheeley, and Jim Spaniol, who made passing by opposing teams a hazardous practice by snaring 23 interceptions. Others who served as massive obstructions to opposing teams were Nick Lynch, linebacker; John Herkenhoff, defensive end; Kurt Wachtler and Greg Miller, the last the present head coach of wrestling and the assistant football coach at SJU. Starring also were end Terry Sexton (son of Jim, who was a tackle on Gagliardi's first championship team in 1954, also an end), and Joe Wentzell, tackle. The names of Jim Roeder and Tim Schmitz began to appear in game write-ups, even though the former was only a sophomore transfer and the latter only a freshman. By the end of the season they had amassed 278 and 250 yards, respectively.

Another new name began to appear in the write-ups—that of Jeff Norman, who began early in the season to add points to the score by his unerring kicks for points after touchdowns and sometimes from farther out. The words "Norman Kick" began to replace that of "Small Kick."

All conference selections were Todd Watson and Mike Messerschmidt, ends; John Herkenhoff, offensive guard; Greg Miller, defensive tackle; and Nick Lynch, linebacker.

— 1975 —

With a promising though still unproven backfield (John called 1975 a rebuilding year), and Todd Watson still on hand ready to continue his phenomenal pass snatching career with throws from the new quarterback, Jeff Norman, the Jays looked hopefully for a good season. The offensive line was strong, but with some untried replacements on the defense, all of which was balanced by a strong pass defense, the prospects for 1975 were promising. Championship expectations (if any) received a rude jolt when UM-Morris, whom the Jays had flattened 46-6 in 1974, squeaked by with a score of 8-6. It should be mentioned that this team was vastly improved over that of the preceding year, and went on again to win the title of the Northern Inter-collegiate Conference (NIC) and repeated in 1976.

However, the Johnnies went to work the following Monday and won all the rest of their games except for a tie with St. Olaf, which occurred in the closing minutes of that game. Another cliff-hanger was the game with Duluth. St. John's was behind until the fourth quarter, when Norman unleashed a bomb to Todd Watson, who scampered for the winning touchdown. Score: St. John's 13, Duluth 10. That game gave the team the confidence that they needed to go all the way—which they did. St. John's ended up 6-0-1 in the conference, and 8-1-1 overall. All the other teams in the conference had lost at least one game, so the Johnnies improved over their tie for the championship in 1974. It was Gagliardi's tenth MIAC title in 23 years.

After getting back into the groove, the 1975 team performed like veterans, amassing a total of 3,278 yards from scrimmage, or 327.8 per game, while the defense yielded a stingy 1,381 yards and intercepted 18 passes. Jeff Norman gave a preview of what was to come in the following year when he came close to matching Jim Lehman's 1955 record of 109 points by scoring a total of 98.

A bonus to the team this year was an invitation to substitute for an opponent which failed to show up at Whitworth College, Spokane, Washington. On a muddy field the Johnnies pulled out a 7-3 victory to remain undefeated for the season.

Again this season's victories were, as in 1962 and 1963, such all-out team efforts that it is impossible to single out any particular individuals for special mention. The quality of the manpower, and Gagliardi's genius in developing it, can be gathered from the number of those who were chosen all-conference: Todd Watson, offensive end for the third time; Tim Schmitz, fullback; Jim Roeder, halfback, and John Herkenhoff, guard, for the second time; Joe Wentzell, defensive tackle, for the second time; and Jerry Haugen, defensive back.

— 1976 —

Gagliardi's strategy is to take each game, one at a time. But in concentrating on each game as it came along, he not only piloted St. John's to four straight titles, but also led them to a level of performance that won national recognition. Not only was 1976 a season of matchless football, but it also culminated in a game for the national title of NCAA Division III (colleges which do not grant athletic scholarships). The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) invited St. John's to the Alonzo Stagg Bowl game in Phenix City, Alabama, on December 4, 1976. For thrills, suspense, and clutch plays the game rivaled the memorable Camellia Bowl game of 1963. The opponent was Towson State (Maryland).

Graduation had taken a heavy toll of the championship squad of 1975. Gone were defensive backs Hank Foehrenbacher and Jerry Haugen, who were sadly missed in the title game with Towson State. Gone, too, were middle guard Terry Hartman, tackle Paul Osberg, defensive end and guard John Herkenhoff, and veteran record-breaking pass receiver Todd Watson. But able replacements were waiting in the wings or, more properly, on the bench, and they soon demonstrated their right to be counted as members of the Big Red.

As in 1975, St. John's first opponent was NIC champion UM-Morris and, as in 1975, they proved to be the toughest—at least judging from the score. The Johnnies dominated the first half with a 37-yard scoring run by Jeff Norman, a 27-yard scoring pass from Norman to Scott Edstrom, halfback, and a 47-yard field goal by Norman. Both points after touchdown attempts were blocked. But the indomitable Morris rallied in the second half to tie the score 15-15—the only blemish on the Johnnie record that season. Incidentally, Morris was also undefeated in the NIC.

St. John's next rolled over Hamline 59-28, but was severely tested in squeaking by St. Thomas 14-11 on the Tommie field. The Johnnies built up to a 14-3 lead in the first half and held on to sink the Tommies for the third straight year. It was in this game that the line, both offensive and defensive, showed its power, with the defense turning back thrusts of the Tommies time after time. Names like Dave Grovum, center; Steve Glocke, Dan Dorgan, and John Kessler, guards; John Ringle and Bob Brigham, tackles; tight end Mike Grant; Joe Wentzell, defensive tackle; Tom Young, defensive back; one-man-gang Ernie England, middle guard; Mark Griffin, linebacker; Terry Sexton, defensive end; and Terry Geraghty, defensive back; were heard time and again over the public address system and were featured in game write-ups.