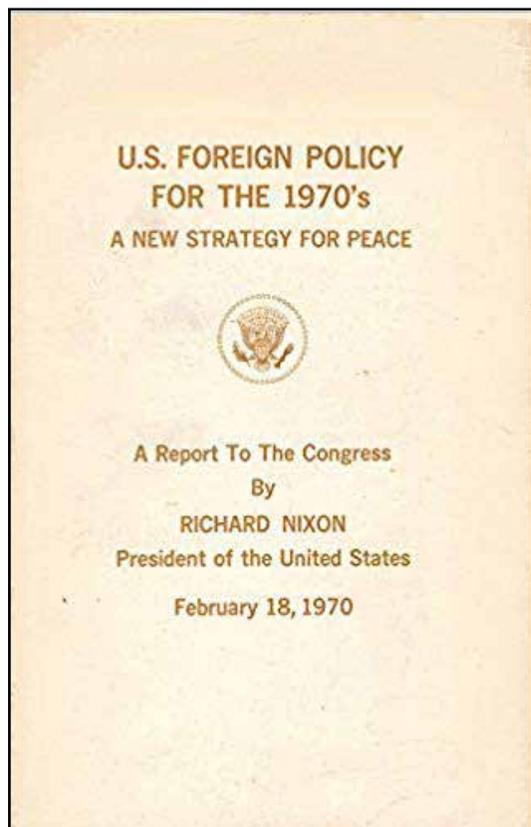


February 15-21, 1970

By Tom Bodle

Mid February, 1970 arrived with the return of two divisive issues to the national spotlight. During the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, violent protests erupted. Prominent activists, including Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin and Tom Hayden challenged local authorities and subsequently were arrested. Indictments were set upon the leadership of these protests (known as the “Chicago 7”) for conspiracy and inciting to riot. The defendants claimed their first amendment rights to assembly and free speech had been violated. The trial was very contentious. Protests interrupted many of the sessions. Multiple contempt citations were issued to the defendants. The trial lasted for months. On February 18th, all of the defendants were acquitted of the conspiracy charges. Five were found guilty of crossing the state line to incite a riot, but two years later these were reversed. Also, the separate trials for contempt found the accused guilty. However none of these resulted in sentencing. One of the most publicized and divisive trials in modern America melted away into history.

The second major issue was the United States involvement in the Vietnam War. Richard Nixon, since his inauguration as president in January of 1969, had sought to change the tactical and logistical approach for our involvement in a war that was becoming more and more unpopular. In the summer of 1969, Nixon presented a roadmap for Vietnam and future such entanglements called “Vietnamization.” The concept would give the involved ally training, resources and a safety net to allow them to take on the burden of their own defense. This concept was formally presented to Congress on February 18th. It was referred to as “The Nixon Doctrine” and became an integral part of Nixon’s foreign policy.





In the world of sports this week, Joe Frazier maintained the heavy-weight boxing championship with a TKO over challenger Jimmy Ellis. Art Schenk won gold at the World Skating Championships. Detroit Tiger pitcher Denny McClain, who had been the 1968 Cy Young Award winner, was suspended by Major League Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn for bookmaking.



Mid February in high school basketball meant “February Fever.” Scholastic hoops fans revved up for the Ohio High School Athletic Association’s yearly tournament. The OHSAA had two divisions for which they crowned a state champion. The small schools were in class A. The large schools class AA. Bracketing required at least eight victories to achieve the title. Sectionals held the first several rounds of contests. St. Joe was assigned to the Class AA Eastlake North Sectional-District and was the defending 1969 District champion. In 1970, Eastlake was one of the more formidable sectionals in the state. Five of the top fifteen teams in northeast Ohio were bracketed at North. Our Viking hoopers were voted the number one seed, and deservedly so. Coach Bob Straub’s squad was number one in northeast Ohio. They averaged an impressive 72 points per game. Pat Lyons was one of the premier players in the state, sporting a 25 point per game average along with 14 rebounds to complement his scoring. Jim Hill proved himself to be one of the areas best players as well, contributing 15 points per game. Led by these two and with additional talented athletes, St. Joe hoped to make another deep run in the tournament. The Viking faithful were excited for the second season to begin. Tickets for game one quickly sold out for a Tuesday encounter with Wickliffe. The cheering section jammed their way into North’s gym and were raucous throughout. The basketball team proved sloppy on this night. 33 turnovers and a 34 for 88 shooting performance were met with stern visual and oral responses from Coach Straub. It was the relentless crashing of the boards that allowed the poor offensive performance to transcend into a blowout victory. St. Joe outrebounded the Blue Devils 62-37. This persistence led to many second and third chance baskets. Enthusiastically the cheering section cried out “one down, eight to go” as Wickliffe was defeated in step one, 79-46.



In a basketball of another sort, the intramural committee concluded its Club and Activity tournament this week. Eight groups participated. The Service Club and Booster Club earned their way to the finals. Both organizations were highly active in the school and had a large number of members. The Service Club provided the set up and clean up for assemblies, rallies, concerts and dances. They sold refreshments at dances, concerts and plays. The Booster Club, moderated by Mr. John Tigie and under the moniker “Tiguers,” ushered plays, concerts and graduation. They sold spirit badges and seat cushions. They sponsored the booster busses for away athletic contests as well as ushered home football games. Both organizations were friendly rivals as to their functions, but highly competitive on the intramural scene. The Clubs finale was no different. In a very competitive contest the Service Club outlasted the “Tiguers” 48-42 to win the crown.





A transitory seasonal interscholastic sport began this week, indoor track. The Viking thinclads were captained by Ward Hill and Greg Lieb. The opening contest was hosted by Cleveland John F. Kennedy. The Eagles had too much speed for the Vikings and took advantage of their indoor track to win 50-37. Ending the week, the Junior Council on World Affairs travelled to Washington D.C. for a model United Nations. The Viking team represented Pakistan in the event, proving themselves worthy competitors from northeast Ohio.

No February blahs in the halls of St. Joe this winter!! Activities abounded with still more to come in the week ahead.

