

## March 1-7, 1970

By Tom Bodle

The February flurry of activities at St. Joe would meld into a “March lamb” at the beginning to the month of March. With temperatures reaching into the low 50’s and a hint of precipitation, Vikings returned to classes in a rather melancholy mood. A basketball loss to Shaw dashed the hoop dreams of a run for the state championship. After weekends filled with highly anticipated sporting events, suddenly the buzz in the Viking halls turned to common conversations about classes, jobs, and the news of the day.

Perhaps students were listening to Simon and Garfunkel’s “Bridge Over Troubled Waters,” the number one song on the pop charts as they turned onto East 185th Street. Maybe they were thrilled that a new Beatles song “Let it Be” would be released, sharing the news as they walked in from the parking lot. A new movie premiered, “Airport.” It was based on the Arthur Haley disaster-novel. An allstar cast featuring Burt Lancaster, Dean Martin and Jacqueline Bisset starred in the film. Certainly making plans to see this blockbuster would replace the entertainment gap created with the end of basketball season.

Hallway chatter might include news items of interest to young Americans. Featured topics of the week included enactment of the “Nuclear Non-proliferation Agreement,” stemming concerns about atomic wars, and a Supreme Court decision which limited penalties for draft evasion within a five year period.

Sporting events of a national scope were filled with several milestones this week. Tim Woods won the men’s World Figure Skating championship, while Soviet bloc winners were dominating the other events. Bobby Orr, the Boston Bruins renowned player, surpassed 25 goals, an NHL record for a defenseman. The regular season of NCAA basketball had concluded. Ohio State completed their schedule at 17-7 but only 8-6 in the Big-10. All-Conference forward Dave Sorenson led the Buckeyes. Iowa, however, won the title and was the only Big-10 team to be invited to the NCAA tournament of 25. Jacksonville was the major college hoops story of the year. It’s





high powered offense led by Artis Gilmore was the talk of the nation. At the end of regular season, the Dolphins averaged over 100 points a game, the first time in major college history. Jacksonville was aiming high to displace UCLA as basketball champions.

Reflecting on the St. Joe basketball season, there was disappointment but much pride. The team posted an 18-3 record. It was rated number one in the area at the end of the regular season. A Crown Conference title was shared with Padua. Perhaps two of the best high school contests in 1970, the Padua and Shaw games, would live forever in the annals of sports lore in greater Cleveland. Much more in which to take pride was the participation of our senior classmates on the team. Don Blakely, Bob Bobrowski, Bill Centa, Tom Holmes and Tim McGrath played key roles in the success of the team. Jim Hill was an outstanding scorer, netting over 300 points during the season and earning him much interest from college programs.

Heading the list was not just our super star, but a super star for northern Ohio, Pat Lyons. Pat led the Cleveland area in scoring and was featured in several newspaper articles. Fifty-five colleges recruited Pat and with good reason. Pat set five school records (most points in a game 42, in a season 435, in a career 900, scoring average 24.2, rebounds 23.) It was truly an exciting and memorable basketball season.



The wrestlers also had much on which to hold their heads high. Their 8-2-2 season mark was the best in school history. Senior grapplers Mark Hummer, Bill Montana, Chester Koeth, Brian Swetlin, Bob Gillespie and Mike Brown participated in the success of the program. It was heavy-weight Jeff Meyers who was phenomenal. Jeff went undefeated at 12-0-1. Several exciting victories were secured by his wins as the last match of a contest. Unfortunately as the district finals were held during this week only four of our wrestlers had qualified. Meyers was the sole place holder but not high enough to make state.

Indoor track travelled to rival Euclid. Chuck Moore won the shot put, Hank Penko the high jump and John Schmidt the mile. The Panthers, however, were able to hold off the Vikings 50-46.

Two non varsity sports concluded their seasons. The ski team, an offshoot of St. Joe's Ski Club, participated in a ten school competition at Brandywine. This was the first of its kind. The team was led by captains Bob Biscup and Bill Gabrenya. The Bowling team participated in scholastic bowling competition throughout the winter. Senior captain Frank Brentar led the mostly underclass team. The inexperience kept the keglers from challenging for a title. Frank's 176 average was third on the team.



By week's end the "March lion" had showed up. A snow shower and temperatures in the low 30's greeted the two sold out crowds coming to witness "Funny Girl." A bit of bad weather could never discourage the Viking faithful from supporting the excellence located at East 185th and LakeShore.