

May 17-May 31, 1970

By Tom Bodle

The second half of May arrived, our final stretch of time at St. Joseph High. Transitions had already taken place for student activities and the leadership of the class of '71 was taking command. Student leaders were inducted at the underclass awards program May 20th. Spring workouts for football had begun. The class of '70 was left to reflect on its four years and ponder the future. The Viking halls were our universe for four years. In times of great social unrest, changes in the Catholic Church, unimaginable advances in science and technology, and changes in teaching methodologies, St. Joe's provided a safe harbor for us to grow, express, learn and celebrate. We were about to set sail from that safe harbor into our future, into rough seas full of uncertainty, disruption and challenges.

The first half of May was troubled by tragic events at Kent State, in Augusta, Georgia, at Jackson State. Campuses across the country were scenes of demonstrations and unrest. Many colleges were forced to close their campuses early or suspend their schedules to quell the protests. By the end of May there were fewer disturbances, but still protests lingered. Ohio State University had suspended its spring term for two weeks on May 7th. Student activists greeted the return to classes with additional protests and demands. On May 19th, the Ohio National Guard was deployed on campus to protect property and control the demonstrations. Eventually, the university's administrators addressed issues with student leaders, keeping the protests in check. In New York City, a different type of demonstration occurred on May 20th. Showing that the Viet Nam War still deeply divided the nation, over 100,000 people marched in support of U.S. policy in southeast Asia. Simultaneously on May 20th, a New York subway train derailed causing a horrific crash. Two died and 70 were injured in one of the most tragic events of the year.

Sports continued to be a great diversion from the tensions existing in the country. Major league baseball celebrated with Hank Aaron



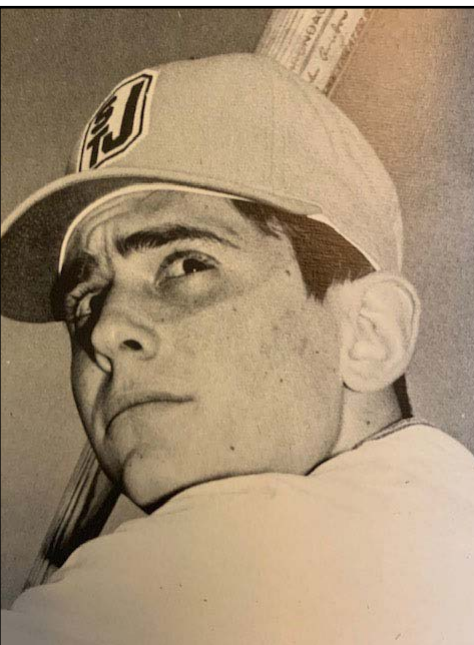


as he surpassed 3000 hits in his major league career. Also, in an appeal to create more interest for the All-Star game, voting was returned to the fans after years of being controlled by managers, coaches and players. The fans were rewarded in July with a classic, as the National League bowled over the American League in the 12th inning. The senior circuiters were victorious as Pete Rose of Cincinnati crashed into Indians catcher Ray Fosse to score the winning run. Professional basketball concluded play in the ABA. The Indiana Pacers, fueled by Roger Brown and Mel Daniels ousted the Los Angeles Stars in six games, 4-2. On Memorial Day, Al Unser won the honor of drinking the "cup of milk" racing to victory in 3 hours and 12 minutes at the Indianapolis 500.

As the month ended, Memorial Day was celebrated for the last time on the fixed date, May 30th. Memorial Day was actually several commemorations of the deaths of war time soldiers. Originally, states had set up their own dates after the Civil War to honor the dead. In 1868, May 30th became the keystone date. As World War I, World War II and Korean War casualties were added, most states had enacted tributes through parades and community events on May 30th. It was in early 1971 that the United States Congress created Memorial Day as a national holiday and designated the last Monday of May as the day to honor all military deceased.



On the St. Joe's campus the spring sports season was completed. The baseball team was disappointed in failing to achieve the final four as the Vikings had in 1969. Also, Padua was the toast of the Crown Conference and the St. Joe diamond men failed to take the league title. But the team had a right to be proud. Facing a tough schedule, they accomplished a 12-9 record. Bob Sakenes proved to be a versatile catalyst for the team. He posted a 5-1 record, led the team in strikeouts and batted .325. His numbers were impressive enough to attract the interest of the Kansas City Royals. Mickey Capello also had a noteworthy season on the mound. His .091 earned run average and 3-2 record was a nice complement to Sakenes. Doug Mervar was a solid first baseman and wielded a .289 batting average. Shortstop Fred Ribelli also batted .289 and he along with second baseman Mike Zontini proved to be a defensive bulwark in the middle of the infield. Ribelli and Zontini would attend an open tryout held by the Cleveland Indians and received a second look. Jay Zimmer, Rich Ivancic and Marty Murphy were other senior contributors. Three Viking tracksters participated in the Ohio Class AA championships on May 22-23. Ken Udovic represented the red and blue in the 880, Jim Stanley in the two-mile run and John Schmidt in the one-mile run. Schmidt was able to reach the finals. The three of them scored 9 team points, earning St. Joe 20th in the state.



Having two weeks left in the regular academic calendar, two publications were released to the pleasure of the students, the "Carpenter" and the "Viking." The "Carpenter" was the school's literary magazine.

Under moderator Mr. Bob Turoczy, Editor Bill Gabrenya orchestrated a 108 page collection of prose, poetry, art and photography. Thirty-one students were on the board. 102 contributions were printed and embedded into Viking lore. Mr. Tim Robertson, the first year moderator of the Viking, assembled a student yearbook staff under co-editors Jim Guy and Duane Soskey. Twenty-five staffers compiled a colorful tribute to the 1969-70 school year. The book's dedication was to principal Bro. Philip Aaron. Students spent their final days sharing memories with their classmates and signing portraits in the yearbook to leave an indelible mark of friendship created as Vikings.

May came to an end. All that remained of our Viking saga was several days of final exams and the climax of four years, graduation.

