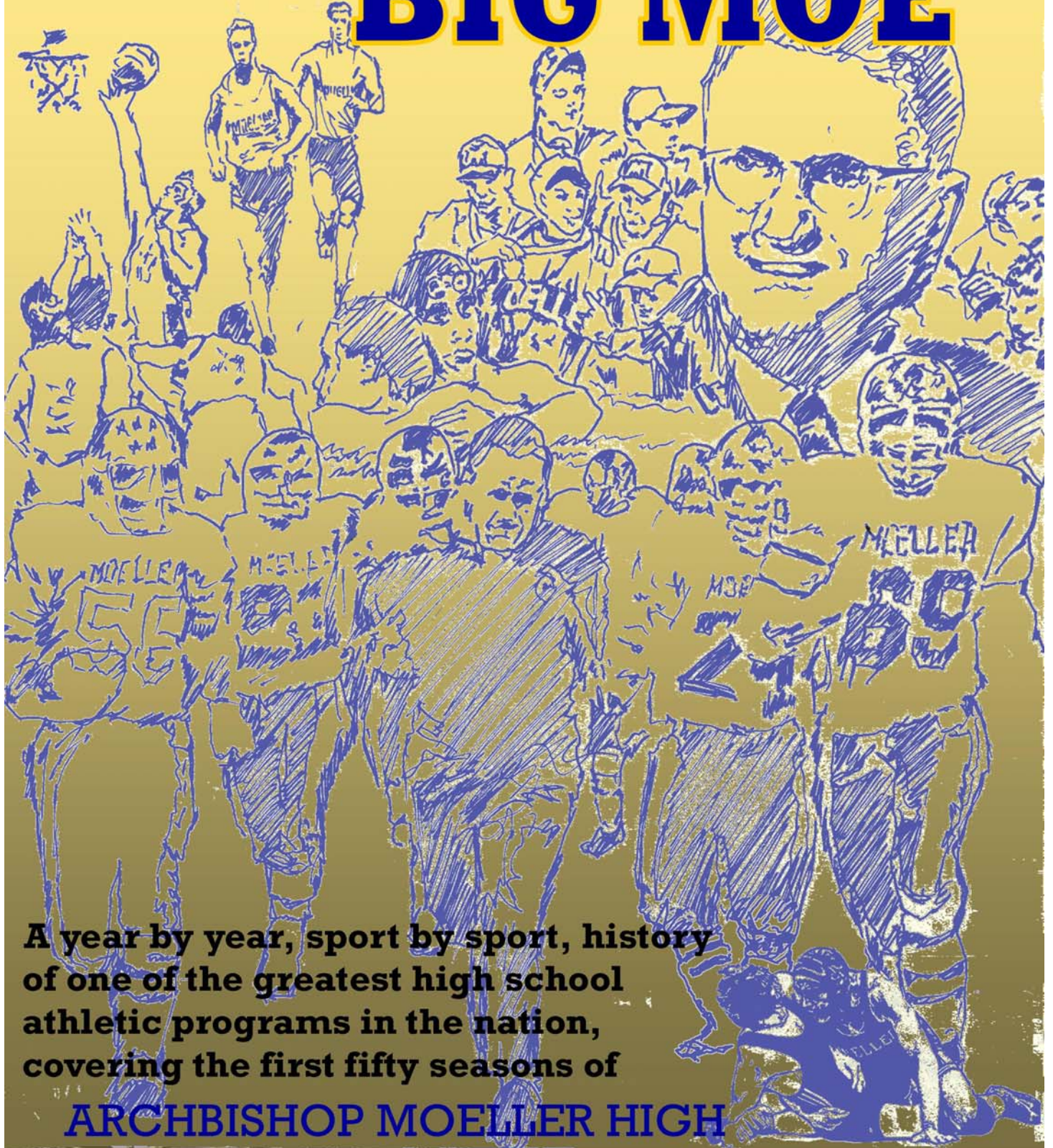


# WE ARE THE "BIG MOE"



**A year by year, sport by sport, history  
of one of the greatest high school  
athletic programs in the nation,  
covering the first fifty seasons of**

**ARCHBISHOP MOELLER HIGH**

Compiled by Mr. Dick Beerman

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SCHOOL***

*This book preview contains pages from the actual book highlighting specific seasons  
and programs. It is NOT the entire book. To order your copy of the complete book,  
visit <http://wearethebigmoe.org>*

## Chapter One

### The Foundation

As a very anxious group of approximately 190 young Freshmen entered the, as yet 'unfinished', building at 9001 Montgomery Rd that was to be *Archbishop Moeller High School* there was probably not a man among them who even ventured a thought as to just what the first fifty years of the school's history would be like.

Six members of the Society of Mary and two Catholic laymen joined forces with these young men to comprise the very first "Moeller Family". Two of these individuals, in particular, shared a vision for a special greatness for this fledgling institution. The tremendous organizational and leadership skills of Bro. Lawrence Eveslage SM, the first Principal, made him the 'right man' for the duties he had to fulfill. His 30 years of experience as a teacher and administrator provided him with the tools needed to assure that this school would have the absolute best foundation in all aspects. An astute judge of people, Bro. Larry's decision to hire Gerry Faust, a young man from Dayton, Ohio to start the Football program would prove to be a 'stroke of genius'.

The hiring of Gerry was based upon far more than the simple fact that Brother Larry had been friends with his dad, the legendary coach of Chaminade High School in Dayton, Ohio, since the early 1930's. Foremost, in Brother's mind was the fact that he had witnessed first hand (at Chaminade, Cathedral Latin, Purcell and St. Joseph) the impact of how a successful fall season on the football field carried over into a totally successful school year. He was determined that the school years at Archbishop Moeller High School would enjoy that advantage as well.

While there were many important decisions that Bro. Eveslage made during his tenure (1960-67) as the Principal of Moeller High School, it is quite possible that his hiring of Gerry Faust can be ranked as one of the very best. This man brought much more than just great dedication and coaching skills to this new school. He would prove to be unbelievably charismatic, an untiring ambassador, not only for his beloved sport of football, but for everything and everyone connected to Moeller High School. His natural, high energy personality even allowed him to become one of the area's most visible spoke-persons for the values of 'Catholic' education.

#### **Small steps to begin with:**

The primary objective of any educational facility is to provide a solid and diversified course of studies. As Brother assembled his small but mighty staff for this inaugural school year, he was very committed to fulfilling that goal.

The only two members of this initial group of educators, who were hired with the thought in mind that they would also provide the coaching skills to introduce the students to the sports of football and basketball at the high school level, were Gerry Faust and Bill Daily.

During the 1960-61 school year there is photograph evidence and personal recall that the sports of Golf, Tennis and Track were available to this freshman class. Bro. Richard Keyes served as the moderator for the Golf program. Unfortunately, the Athletic Department records contain only the results for the sports of football and basketball.

Mr. Bill Daily was assigned the responsibility of serving as the school's first Athletic Director. When Bill moved on to Xavier University after only one year, Bro. Larry called upon his good friend and fellow Marinist, Bro. Joseph Choquette, to assume the role of AD. Bro. Joe held the reins for three years. Beginning with the (1964-65) school year, Gerry Faust accepted the job, in addition to his duties as Head Football Coach.

This second edition of Moeller Varsity Football managed a fine (8-2-0) record. The Spartans of Roger Bacon once again got the best of the Crusaders. One week later the Panthers did as well.

The '64 season can probably be viewed as one in which the athletes 'got everything they could out of what they had'. This sentiment is supported by comparing their record to the following two Offensive records set that fall – Fewest TD Passes – 5 and Fewest First Downs in a Season – 103.

The accomplishments of two senior members of the team can be found in the '*Grid-Iron Guide*':

Dan Merkle had two (2) 100+ yard rushing performances, his best being  
157yds on 15 carries vs. Dayton Roth.

Ken Long was the first Crusader to be named to the All-Ohio Team.

### **1965-66**

Although the Varsity efforts of the first two seasons had produced a very impressive 17-3 record, there were not too many prognosticators, who ventured to predict that in only the third season of Varsity competition the Crusaders would finish "Undeclared, Untied" and ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State polls. But that is exactly what they did. Forty-eight (48) graduates can legitimately lay claim to having been a part in this special accomplishment.

The fact that this team was able to defeat both the Elder Panthers and the Spartans of Roger Bacon in route to capturing the school's *first* Varsity GCL Championship was 'the icing on the cake'.

The adage that 'you win championships with Defense' was certainly reflected in this team's achievements. The 10-0-0 record included five (5) shutouts. The opponents only scored 33 points. One final remarkable defensive stat that has only been duplicated one other time in the history of the program – the 1965 Defensive Unit *never* allowed a Touchdown by way of the Passing game.

Center Tom Backhus was selected as a Parade All-American and First Team All-Ohio.

Senior captain and Running Back Dave Wilcoxson became the first Moeller athlete to rush for over 1000yds for a Career – 1257 yds/229 carries/5.5 ypc.

### **1966-67**

One year later, forty-nine (49) athletes struggled to find consistency in their offense but still put together a 7-3 record. It was especially gratifying that their efforts brought a second consecutive GCL title.

Although this squad produced the 'Fewest Points Scored' in a regular season (162) and the 'Fewest Total Yards of Offense (2445)' in history, it also 'made its mark' in the record book with impressive defensive efforts in three separate achievements –

'Fewest Pass Completions Allowed' (29)    Fewest Passing Yards Allowed (335)  
and by repeating the achievement of the previous season by Allowing (0) Touchdown Passes.

Offensive Tackle Jack Harpring was named to the Parade All-American team. He was also a First Team All-Ohio selection.

Seasons such as this one are only possible if you have quality athletes. Three senior members of this team, in particular, played a major role with performances that put them in the record books:

Tom Santel – Career Scoring – 807 points – a total that for a short two years would be the best in school history.

Career Field Goals – 328

Career Free Throws – 151

Career Assists – 186 – still places him in Top-Five All-Time

Mike Daniel – Career Scoring – 550 points

Career Free Throws – 158

Career Rebounds – 295

Jim Gosink – Moeller’s first *really* ‘big’ man at 6’10”

Career Rebounds – 297

### **1968-69**

After such a fine season the year before and having graduated some very key contributors, it was expected that there might be a slight drop-off in the record. Coach’s ‘68-69’ dozen (12) managed to put together a fairly solid (12-6) regular season. Actually, the team started the year by winning eleven out of its first twelve contests. Four of those victories were by three points or less.

It would appear as though, they had ‘used up’ their luck. Over the last six games of the regular season, they lost five games. Four of the five losses were by four points or less.

That trend, unfortunately, carried over in the first State tournament game. A (60-58) loss to Roger Bacon, an opponent with whom they had split in their first two encounters.

Senior ‘Buddy’ Bell left a small, but lasting legacy, by converting (79) Free Throws in a Single Season.

### **1969-70**

The dedication and hard work that Coach Doerger and the Varsity athletes had been putting forth brought huge dividends in this season. After losing games (4 & 5) to Elder and Roger Bacon respectively, this team went on an eighteen (18) game winning streak. After fifty varsity seasons, this still remains the longest such streak in Moeller Basketball history.

Anytime a team is able to produce a ‘winning-streak’ of this magnitude, there is always a ‘key’ game or two along the way. That was certainly true in this one. In game six of the streak the ‘Men of Moeller’ hosted a powerhouse ball-club out of Dayton, Ohio – Roth HS.

For those fans, who literally packed the ‘old’ gym that winter’s evening this may still be ranked as one of the greatest single games in Moeller history. It became the ‘game that would not end’. It was played at an absolutely frantic pace from the opening tip-off. Finally, after three unbelievable overtimes, Roth blinked. Moeller was a (97-95) winner.

For Dayton Roth, the legendary Donny Smith poured in (37) points. His teammates Phil Lumpkin and Henry McBeth added (28) and (19) respectively. Seniors Al Eling (31), Mike Sylvester (26), Greg Sander (19), Mark Daniel (11) and Pete Schuebler (6) carried the load for Coach Doerger. Junior Steve Sylvester provided the other four (4) points.

A fittingly, interesting side-bar to this special remembrance is the fact that Don Smith and Mike Sylvester would be both teammates and roommates during their college basketball experience at the University of Dayton. Phil Lumpkin had an outstanding career at Miami University.

After completing a (16-2) regular season, which included the school's first Varsity **GCL Championship**. Mike Sylvester, who was completing his fourth season as a member of the Varsity, was named the "GCL – Player of the Year". Coach Doerger was the "Coach of the Year" honoree.

The Crusaders continued to roll on through the State playoffs. Five post-season wins earned them a District Championship and a berth in the Regional Semi-Finals. There they ran into a very balanced squad from Fairborn. After a hard fought contest, in which both teams essentially traded baskets throughout, the Skyhawks prevailed by a (68-65) margin.

This best-ever season, which came somewhat remarkably in *only* the seventh Varsity season of Moeller's existence, was accomplished with consistent and disciplined coaching, great team chemistry and outstanding talent. It was a total team effort that produced this (21) win season. This was a feat that would *not even be matched* by another Crusader basketball team until the 1998-99 squad produced the same total wins on its way to the school's first State title.

There were, of course, a few especially talented 'go-to' athletes who led the charge. Their legacies remain in the record books even today:

Mike Sylvester – the *only* athlete to ever play four years of Varsity Basketball.

When Mike left the program, he was the All-Time best in the following categories –  
Career Scoring – 898 points – it would be 1984, before Byron Larkin would raise that standard  
Career Field Goals – 366 - another mark that stood until Byron finished  
Career Rebounds – 670 – it would be 1994, before Bobby Brannen pulled down 683, Mike still ranks 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Career Free Throws – 166 – at the time only Ken Luhan (213) was ahead of him. Although, one  
year later, his younger brother Steve would finish with (171)

Single Season Field Goals – 161 – in this category only Tom Santel (176) had a better season in '67-68  
Al Eling –

Career Scoring – 523 points - in just 2+ years, Al produced the 7<sup>th</sup> best total up to that time.

Unfortunately, this would be Jerry Doerger's final season as the Crusader Head Coach. In his five seasons the Moeller basketball program produced an outstanding (71-34) record. This reflects a 'winning-percentage' of (.747). Coach Doerger's achievements are even more impressive, if you reflect upon the 'slow-start' of his first season. He never lost a non-league regular season game his last four years. The Crusaders were (16-0) outside the league. He managed to produce the school's first GCL Championship. He had been named GCL 'Coach of the Year'.

There were many other factors that entered into the picture, but the departure of Coach Doerger would prove to be a significant part of the fact that the Basketball program would struggle to re-establish itself to the level of the late '60s.

### **A snapshot of the decade:**

After seven (7) Varsity seasons:

The Juniors-only season of (1962-63) is not included:

The overall record was (83-61, .576), the GCL record stood at (51-53, 490)

There had been: (1) GCL Championship, (1) GCL – Player of the Year, (1) GCL Coach of the Year  
Moeller could claim (1) athlete, who had been an All-Ohio Selection and (1) All-American

The State Semi-Final game, which was played in the 'horseshoe' in Columbus, Ohio, resulted in a (20-10) loss to Warren Harding. The final outcome hinged on the fact that the Raiders received a favorable call, on a fourth-down and short attempt. Once they picked up that key first-down in the red zone, they were able to eventually score and put the game out of reach. For the second year in a row, the trip back to Moeller was a long one.

The (55-0) defeat of Dayton Chaminade in the sixth game was a significant milestone for the program. This was the 100<sup>th</sup> victory in school history. The fact that this was achieved in slightly less than 12 Varsity seasons was without precedent.

From a team perspective, the most noteworthy statistic is possibly the 3454 yards of Total Offense generated by this unit. Only the '63 squad put up bigger numbers.

As always, there are a number of individual performances that remain in the records. Defensive Lineman Jay Case was named to various All-American teams and was an All-Ohio selection. His teammates Mark Heidel, an Offensive Lineman, and Running Back Jeff Curry joined Jay on the All-Ohio team.

Jeff Curry – was a Career 1000 yd. Rusher – 1031 yards on 176 carries for an average of 5.8 ypc.

had (3) Games in which he rushed for 100+ yards, his best being 119 yards

Jim Givens – managed to gain 135 yards rushing in a single game

He will probably be best remembered for 'the game-winning' pass reception, in the final moments of a titanic battle with Elder in a game played in Riverfront Stadium.

This single play, in the final game of the season, dramatically changed the seasons of both schools.

Tim Moorman – the team's kicker had a fine career – 69 points on 54 of 57 Extra Points, 5 of 12 FGA

Tim Koegel – although Tim was only a sophomore, his performance, at the vital quarterback position, was the 'difference-maker' for this fall and for the two to follow.

His 12 Touchdown Passes, in this regular season, remains on the list of 'Top-Ten' Single Season performances to this day.

## **1975-1976**

While there may have been some lingering feelings of disappointment, regarding the back to back defeats in the State Semi-Final game of the previous two seasons, they probably only served to provide a re-enforced dedication and effort toward 'making this, *the year*'.

The regular season brought the third straight 'Undefeated, Untied' (10-0) record. There was the always hard-fought victory over the Vikings of Princeton by a (12-10) margin. A long trip to Cleveland, Ohio was not a very enjoyable one, until the Crusaders mounted a late comeback to pull out a (12-7) win over an upset-minded St. Joseph eleven.

The season ending honors had a familiar look – GCL Champions, City Champions, top honors in the Regional Harbin rankings. The team had qualified to the State Playoffs for a third time.

In this State Semi-Final contest, the opponent would be the Trojans of Findlay HS. The game would be played at Welcome Stadium in Dayton. The Crusaders had defeated Findlay in a regular season contest during the '74 season, by a slim (21-20) score. There would be no looking-ahead this time. These two heavyweights traded punches in a very close battle for three quarters. With the Trojans on the move for a go-ahead touchdown, senior linebacker John Bauer intercepted a potential TD pass and returned it 95 yards for a Moeller score. The final (28-16) victory broke the 'Semi-Final' jinx and sent the team on to the State Championship game.

The opponent in this game would be the Eagles of Lakewood St. Edward, a team that had finished with the #1 ranking in both the Associated Press and the United Press International final polls. This game took place in Akron University's Rubber Bowl on a cold, crisp November evening.

As expected, this battle see-sawed back and forth with outstanding plays on both sides. With the clock approaching the final two minutes of play and the score (14-12) in the Crusaders' favor, the Eagles managed to drive inside the Moeller (20) yard-line. On their next play from scrimmage, there was a fumble in the St. Ed's backfield. It was recovered by sophomore defensive standout Bob Crable. Although the Moe offense tried to 'run out the clock', the Eagle defense stiffened and with the help of using their final timeouts forced the Crusaders to punt from deep in their own territory. Given the score, the total execution of this play demanded perfection. The blocking was solid, the long-snap was quick and accurate, senior punter John Williams appeared to be oblivious to the pressure, as he pinned Ed's back deep in their own territory with a 'booming' 46 yarder. Since they had used all of their timeouts to have an opportunity to regain possession and were now facing a 'sky-high' Moeller defense, the St. Edward's fate was sealed. The Men of Moeller had captured the Ohio State Football Championship.

As you would expect, there are quite a few athletes from this senior class whose names appear in the Football record book.

Senior Linebacker John Bauer, and teammate Rob Wirthlin, a tough and efficient Offensive Lineman, were named to the All-Ohio Team.

John's name appears as well for – having two (2) 'Interceptions Returned for Touchdowns'.

Steve Givens – had five (5) games in which he rushed for 100+ yards or more, including one of 134

he was a Career 1000 yd. Rusher – 1502 yards on 300 carries for an average of 5.0 ypc

he scored the Most Points by Conversion in a Single Game – (6) vs. Purcell

Gary McNeal – posted four (4) 100+ yard games, his best being 131.

Jim Pierce – a smallish, but sure-handed receiver, had 47 receptions covering 540 yards for an average of 13.7 yards per catch, over the ten regular season games.

Career Scoring by Pass Receivers – 58 points – 9 TDs, 2/2Pt conversions

Tim Koegel – only a junior, again threw (12) TD passes to place his name on the –

Most TD passes in a Regular Season list for the second time.

## **1976-77**

Having broken through the mental barriers of the post-season, the previous fall, the challenge now was to raise the bar even higher, while maintaining consistency and focus at a very high level.

Fortunately, this squad possessed the talent, experience and leadership necessary to continue to 'build-upon' the programs' past successes. These qualities merited National recognition even in the pre-season, as the Joe Namath National Prep Sports Magazine listed the Crusaders as the #1 team in the nation. The publication also included an extensive article on third year quarterback, Tim Koegel.

For the fourth year in a row, Moeller High School enjoyed a perfect (10-0) regular season. This one being the sixth 'Undefeated, Untied' regular season mark in school history. A GCL Championship, another City Championship and a ranking of first in the Regional Harbin calculations (that determined the Southwest qualifier for the State Playoffs) only served to position this team for even greater honors.

The coaches and athletes were very excited, after the tenth game, when the above-mentioned accolades started to come in. But, their primary focus immediately became the first State Playoff game and the beginning of a chance to 'repeat'.

## **Soccer :**

. This sport was increasing in popularity throughout the State of Ohio during the '60s. By the decade of the '70s, there were quite a few schools offering it as a Varsity sport. It was introduced into the Moeller athletic program in the fall of (1973).

### **1973-74**

Fred Manegold, a Math teacher by day, accepted the challenge of coaching this brand-new program. He would 'catch lightning in a bottle' so to speak in this assignment. His first indication of the possibility that this could be a special team was the presence of a senior, Kevin Donovan. This young man, who was elected the first team captain, had been one of the driving-forces to have this sport introduced at Moeller. A second, totally unanticipated blessing came in the person of Jose' Portia an exchange student from Brazil, a country with a rich soccer tradition. This young man's skill level in the sport was exceptional.

In this very first year, the Varsity team of approximately (18) athletes put together an outstanding record of (9-1-1). This was also the first season in which the GCL league sponsored a championship in this sport. A (7-0-1) mark within that competition brought the additional distinction of being the 'first GCL Soccer Champion'.

The 'State Tournament' of this time was not yet sanctioned by the OHSAA. Its participants were 'invited' by the State Soccer Coaches Association. Despite the fine season enjoyed by the first-year Crusaders' program, the nod for the Southwest Ohio invitation went to a more-established and equally successful program from Centerville.

There are a few other 'firsts' that deserve mention in this book. A freshman, Tom Hertlein was a starter for this team and would remain so throughout his four year career. The Goal Differential (the difference between the Goals Scored and the Goals Allowed) was plus eighteen (18). It would be the fall season of (1988) before any Moeller team turned in a better mark than that. In fact over the sixteen year gap, there would only be one squad that even turned in a positive season differential.

### **1974-75**

The last paragraph above pretty much tells us everything we need to know about the results throughout the rest of this decade and most of the next. While the results were disappointing, the quality of the young men, who poured all of their energies into this sport, deserves recognition and praise.

Seniors Gerry Craven and Roger Huber served as the co-captains for the second Crusader team. They turned in some fine performances and were often aided by sophomores Tom Hertlein and Paul Trapp. A total of twenty-three (23) athletes were part of this Varsity squad. Every one of them displayed the high energy and excitement, the sport offered.

The reality of the numbers showed a (2-11) season and a (1-7) record in the GCL. They were (5<sup>th</sup> out of 5 teams) in the league battle. The Goal Differential of (-24) shows clearly that goal scoring was down and that the Defense fell short.

### **1975-76**

By this time the OHSAA had accepted Soccer as a sanctioned sport. This brought in the first 'official' State Championship.

Randy Pleiman and Ralph Zinnecker served as the co-captains for a twenty (20) man Varsity. Juniors Tom Hertlein and Paul Trapp continued their efforts and were honored by being selected as GCL All-Stars.

## **Wrestling:**

This program continued to show fairly consistent and steady improvement until about the middle of this decade. The school's string of 'winning' seasons stretched out to eight until the (1975-76) school year. Counting a (1-4) mark that year, there would only be three such seasons over the next twelve years.

John Parker would serve as the Head Wrestling Coach, until leaving at the end of (1975-76) to become an Assistant Football Coach on the college level at the University of Cincinnati. Longtime assistant and Moeller grad of the class of '65, Ted Hall was named to replace John.

### **1970-71**

Twenty-five (25) wrestlers made up Coach Parker's third Moeller team. Ted Hall assisted John and coached the Junior Varsity team. In its Dual matches, the Varsity posted a (5-2) record.

This Varsity scored (87) points in the GCL Championships on the way to a (3<sup>rd</sup> out of 6 teams) finish. Three Crusaders claimed GCL titles – Ted Cole (105), Bob Carraher (132) and Ken Hansen (175). Pat Seitz (185) and Steve Niehaus (Hwt) each placed second.

The team had a fairly successful run in the Invitational Meets, in which it was entered, particularly at Princeton (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and Indian Hill (1<sup>st</sup> for the second year in a row). This format was especially to the 'liking' of Ted Cole and Ken Hansen. Each of these young men won his respective weight class in all three Invitationals, in which they were entered. In fact at the prestigious U.C. Invitational (the precursor of what is now called the Southwest Ohio Coaches Classic), junior Ken Hansen was named the 'Most Outstanding Wrestler'.

The State Tournament process did not bring much in the way of team success, but there were some 'individual' bright spots. In the Sectional Meet, the Crusaders finished (7<sup>th</sup> in a 16 team) field. On the strength of capturing his (175) championship, Ken Hansen was a District Qualifier. Pat Seitz at (185) was the only teammate to join Ken. Ken's District placement advanced him to the State Wrestling Championships. He was only the third Moeller wrestler to achieve this honor. Ken would not waste this opportunity. He finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the 175 lb. championship to become the *First Moeller Wrestler to ever place in the State Meet*.

There were also a number of special achievements by the individual team members that were Moeller School records at that time:

Senior Ted Cole – Best-ever Single Season Record – (16-0)

Most Individual Weight Class Titles in a Single Season – 4

Junior Ken Hansen – actually did Ted one better, winning five (5) such titles

Junior Steve Niehaus – Quickest Pin in Moeller History – 16 seconds, in the GCL League Meet

### **1971-72**

This team put together a solid (7-3) record in its Dual matches. It would appear from other results that it may have lacked a little bit of the depth that a few previous squads had enjoyed. This observation is based upon the fact that the team placement in the larger Invitational Meets is slightly lower than its predecessors and there is less individual success noted. For the second time, Ted Hall continued to nurture a JV level within the program.

In the GCL League Championships, the Crusaders finished (3<sup>rd</sup> out of 6 teams) with (56 ½) points. Joe Bauer (145) was the only Moeller weight class winner. His teammate Phil Janson (138) managed to place second.

The Sectional performance was very similar to past performances. The Crusaders were (6<sup>th</sup> out of 16 teams). They scored (34) points. Ken Hansen (175) was a Sectional champion for the third consecutive year. Joe Bauer (145) took 2<sup>nd</sup>, Steve Scherzinger (Hwt) was 4<sup>th</sup>. All three qualified to the District.

The single definitive piece of information available on this District competition is that Ken Hansen placed second and qualified to the State for the third consecutive season. Ken was the *first Crusader Wrestler* to ever achieve this honor.

Ken's third trip to Columbus was just slightly less rewarding than his second. He had to settle for a 6<sup>th</sup> place in his final season. It would be twenty (20) years later before another Moeller wrestler would be able to say that 'he was a back to back State placer'. The three (3) points Ken earned placed Moeller (52<sup>nd</sup> out of the 77 schools) that scored points.

As one would expect Ken Hansen left a tremendous legacy in this sport:

Over the course of his career (1968-72) – He set the school record for Most Pins – 28

He had the best Career Record – (78-22, .780)

Best Single Season Record – (31-3, .912) in 1970-71

Most Points Scored in a Single Season – 320 in 1970-71

He was the school's only 3X District & 3X State Qualifier

He was the school's only 2X State-Placer

### **1972-73**

A very positive step was taken within the program during this Wrestling season. Coaches Parker and Hall expanded the sport to all three competitive levels. They put in place a very ambitious schedule of matches for both a JV, as well as a freshman team. While credit goes to both men for this decision, the greater burden of the work went to coach Hall.

It would appear that there may have been a bit of an impact on the Varsity program due to the 'expanded' responsibilities on the staff. But overall it was worth it. The Varsity had a (4-4) outcome in its Dual matches. The GCL Meet resulted in the familiar (3<sup>rd</sup> in a 6 teams) field finish. The team-point's total was stronger than in '72 at (70 ½) points. This is an indication that the depth was there, because this was accomplished despite the fact, that there was 'no' individual Champion. This was the first time, since Moeller began its GCL participation in (1966), that the Crusaders had failed to win an 'Individual' title.

The team depth is also reflected in the success in both the Indian Hill and Glen Este Invitationals. In those two formats, the Crusaders finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively.

The post-season information tells us that in the Sectional the team was (4<sup>th</sup> out of 16 teams). We have no additional specifics on team score or possible District Qualifiers. There is no District information at all, except that there were no State Qualifiers.

A small highlight from the Dual Meet schedule was the (69-3) victory over the Milford Eagles. This was the 'Most Points ever scored in a Dual' in school history.

### **1973-74**

Coach Parker's sixth season at the helm was a very good one. The 'expansion' program of the previous season began to provide immediate returns. The Dual matches on the Varsity level produced a (6-1) record. After six impressive wins, including back to back close decisions over GCL rivals St. Xavier and Elder, the squad dropped its final match to the Oak Hills Highlanders. During this era the Oak Hills program was one of the stronger ones in the Southwest Ohio area.

Junior Andy Lauderback contributed a fine (7-1) record on the mound. He combined with Bill to claim (19) of the team's (24) wins in this best-ever season. There will be more on Andy later.

## **1971-72**

With the graduation of a three-year starting pitcher, who had produced the legacy that is noted above, it was a stretch for anyone to anticipate the accomplishments of the (1972) season. However, even 'on paper', there were significant plusses. There was a fine nucleus of experienced and talented athletes returning. These Varsity lettermen were being united with a great group of younger talent from the very successful JV team of the previous season. So when one attempted to assess the prospects, given all of these factors, it was reasonable to forecast, at least, another fine season.

The key to this group of athletes, becoming the first Archbishop Moeller team to capture a State Championship, can be found in a number of factors. Despite the loss of such a special talent as Bill Wesley to graduation, the (1972) staff would achieve this pinnacle with an unprecedented 'depth' of talented arms. There proved to be one or more on each grade level – senior Andy Lauderback, juniors Bob Gerhardstein and Mike Piening and maybe the most unlikely of them all – Freshman Bobby Bresnen. This young man, although lacking in experience, would prove to be the 'wild-card' in the mix.

The State Champions would not be found lacking in either Offense or Defense. Seniors Len Matuzsek and Mark Hoffman, along with juniors Denny Gramann and John Theis, each led the Crusaders in one or more offensive categories.

The final regular season record of (18-6) included a GCL mark of (7-3). This earned this squad a tie for the League title. It was the school's third title in the four years of Coach Cameron's tenure.

As the team opened play in the State Tournament, it began to show the ability to get a 'W' by whatever means necessary. In the first Sectional contest it put up thirteen (13) runs. Games two and three saw the pitching prowess take over with back to back shutouts. In the District Championship the Crusaders defeated the Spartans of Roger Bacon by a (6-4) count.

The Regional matchups boiled down to 'pitching and defense'. In those two games Coach Cameron's men bested Meadowdale and Chaminade (both out of the Dayton area) by identical (2-1) scores.

For the first time in the history of Archbishop Moeller High School, a Varsity team was headed to the State Championships in Columbus. As if winning six qualifying games had not been challenging enough, another very unique problem would face this team during its trip to Columbus. The team bus broke down. Without the benefits of carrying a cell phone, Coach was faced with the dilemma of getting this band of 'happy warriors' to Columbus. One by one the group waved down parent cars and prevailed upon them to take as many as they could on to the game. God was smiling on them. Everyone reached their destination safely and on time. It was now time to win a State Semi-Final game.

Senior Andy Lauderback, who had enjoyed a fine junior season with a (7-1) record, would bring his senior totals to an impressive (8-1) with a win in relief in the State Semi-final game against Toledo St. Francis. In that contest, Andy was relieving freshman Bobby Bresnen, after he had gone 5 1/3 innings. This game had begun on a high note, as lead-off hitter John Theis stroked a solo-homer. Denny Gramann drove in three runs with three hits in four at-bats. He pounded out a home run, a triple and a single to lead the offense. The Knights had battled back, however, and when Andy wiggled out of a jam in the bottom of the sixth the Crusaders began their last at bat trailing 5-4. Len Matuzsek took care with that with a two run shot to put the 'men of Moeller' on top to stay. The final read – MHS 6 – St.F. 5.

Junior Bob Gerhardstein took the mound for the Crusaders in the State Championship game against Findlay. The Trojans entered this game as the 'Defending State Champions'. Bob gave up only two earned runs in 5 2/3 innings versus the Trojans. Once again, Coach Cameron called upon Andy Lauderback, his most experienced arm to close out the last (1 1/3) innings. The final score read Moeller 10 – Findlay 5.

As the score indicates, the Crusader offense remained in 'high-gear' for this game as well. John Theis went four for four, Len Matuzsek added two hits and senior left-fielder Tom Bockhold tacked on two more as Moeller pounded out ten hits. The Trojan pitchers helped the Crusader cause by combining for seven bases on balls.

**Moeller High School had won the 1972 State Baseball Championship.**

Senior members of this special team, whose names may still be found in the Baseball records include: Len Matuzsek – after an outstanding two-sport (Baseball, Basketball) career at the University of Toledo, was signed by the Philadelphia Phillies

**Career:**

Doubles – 19 – (1971, 1972)

**Single Season:**

Plate Appearances – 121, 1972

Doubles – 11, 1972

RBI – 3, 1972

Thirty or more Hits in s Single Season – 32 , 1972

Mark Hoffman

Triples – 9 – (1971, 1972)

Triples – 7 – 1972 – **MHS All-Time Best**

Andy Lauderback

**Career:**

Ten or More Wins – 15-2 – (1971-72)

**Single Season:**

Six or More Wins – 8-1 – 1972, 7-1 – 1971

Won-Lost Record – 15-2 – (1971-72)

Won-Lost Record – 8-1 - 1972

**Team records set by this team:**

Most Triples in a Single Game – 4 – Utica, Michigan

Best Team ERA – 1.12 - !972 – **MHS All-Time Best**

**1972-73**

It did not take long in this '73 season for the team to realize that 'things would be different'. Over the first nine games of this spring Coach Cameron's squad struggled to post a (3-6) mark. The fact that four of those losses came at the hands of league opponents, only served to add a little to the pressure to the season.

It is a credit to the quality of the athletes and coaches involved that they 'regrouped' and produced a solid (9-4) record over the remainder of the regular season. A final tally of (5-7) in GCL play left the Crusaders in fifth place in the seven team league.

When the State Tournament got under way the defending Champions battled to three wins and a Sectional title before bowing out as District Runners-Up. The loss in the District Championship contest came at the hands of the Panthers of Elder HS (3-2). Coach Massa's team would go on to capture the (1973) State title, giving the GCL back to back Championships.

Senior John Theis carried the offensive load in nine of the ten stat categories. Mike Bresnan's seven stolen bases represented the lone exception.

The pitching staff was led by seniors Bob Gerhardstein and Mike Piening, whose legacies may be found below. Sophomore Bob Bresnan continued to produce outstanding results as well. These will be chronicled in the (1975) season.

## **Ice Hockey:**

With the assistance of Father Ted Tedesco, who would serve as the sport's moderator during its infancy, the sport of Ice Hockey was added to the athletic program of Archbishop Moeller High School in the (1982-83) school year. Moeller was the only high school to offer this sport in the Greater Cincinnati area for approximately the next ten to twelve years. As a result, it faced a significant challenge in the form of the traveling necessary to put together a meaningful schedule. There were high schools in the Oxford and Dayton areas that offered the sport of Hockey. However, it became a reality of the sport that 'road-trips' to Columbus, Cleveland, Toledo and Indianapolis were a regular part of any season.

The (1982-83) Crusader 'Pucksters' were coached by Yvon DesFosses and Frank Lemen. These men had three additional assistants. As the 'new kid on the block', it is understandable that this season was a struggle. The (6-15-1) record did, however, represent a tremendous amount of dedication and effort by the athletes, the coaching staff and the hard-working parents.

The next three years in the history of the young program - (1983-86) would find Ron Kissinger functioning as the Head Coach. Ron was assisted by his brothers Don and Kurt, Greg Johannes and Brent Barron. The cumulative totals showed (38-26-3). In the (1985-86) campaign the Crusaders captured the school's first-ever Southwest Ohio Hockey League title. A (7-1) finish brought them a tie for the Championship. When the responsibilities of his job became too demanding, Ron stepped down as the varsity Head Coach.

The final four seasons of the decade (1986-90) would see John Basalyga and Rob Lubanski put together a solid (66-40-5) overall ledger. This included outright league Championships in '87, '88, and '89. The fact that the program was able to 'string together' four consecutive titles in the first seven seasons of its existence was proof-positive, that it was on a solid foundation. A real high-point in the development of the Ice Hockey success came at the end of the (1988-89) season, when the team brought home the first State Playoff victory in its history.

### **1982-83**

The sport of Ice Hockey on the high school level made its first –ever appearance in the Greater Cincinnati area during the winter of (1982-83). Yvon DesFosses, a familiar name in the community as a result of his playing days with the Cincinnati Mohawks, assembled sixteen (16) anxious young men into the school's first varsity squad.

Senior Mike Watzek and junior Mike Antenucci were the team's first captains. A (5-16-1) season must be measured in its proper context, i.e. a first-year team competing against established programs. Despite their inexperience, the Crusaders did manage to win the 'Terry Weiland Memorial' tournament.

### **1983-84**

The second varsity version of Moeller Ice Hockey found Ron Kissinger as the new Head Coach. The fact, that the team now had some modest level of experience was offset by the subtle upgrading of the schedule to a higher quality level of opponents. As a result, this season produced an overall record that was virtually identical to that of the (1982-83) season. Ron's first team finished (5-15-1).

Senior Mike Antenucci received the honor of serving as the team captain for a second straight season for a team of eighteen (18) eager 'Men of Moeller'.

The seeding process for the State tournament and the difference between Southwest Ohio Hockey and the rest of the State was never more obvious, than in this season. In the very first round of the playoffs the Crusaders had to travel to Bowling Green, Ohio to face the #1 seed and eventual State Champions. A (15-2) loss indicates the significance of the opening sentence.

Seven athletes placed well enough in the District Championship to qualify to the State in thirteen (13) events. For juniors Paul Franer, Ralph Moher and Ed Anderson, this would be their third trip to Canton. They were determined to make the most of it. The addition of senior Mike Matanguihan, as the Breast-stoker on the 200 Medley Relay would prove to be the help this trio needed to realize their dream.

A Backstroke split of 24.69 seconds by Franer, was followed by a fine (28.02) seconds by Mike in the Breaststroke leg. Butterflyer Ralph Moher had a short lead as he entered the water ahead of St. Xavier's All-American Victor Lee. Ralph's split was (23.89) seconds. When Ed Anderson made the turn in the Freestyle and headed home, in an incredible split of (20.83) seconds, Moeller High School laid claim to a clocking of 1:37.429 and a State Title.

When these first place points were combined with Ed's (4<sup>th</sup>) and Paul's (12<sup>th</sup>) place finishes in the 50 yard Freestyle and Paul's (9<sup>th</sup>) place in the Backstroke, Coach Beerman and Chris Stires, his unsung fellow coach, joyfully celebrated the best State Championship performance in Moeller's history. The squad scored fifty (50) points. Moeller High School had placed (8<sup>th</sup>) out of the (61) schools that managed to score points.

## **1981-82**

There was a great deal of anticipation and excitement surrounding this season. The 'class of 1982' had successfully raised the level of performance of the Moeller Swimming and Diving program during its first three years and expectations were high that it would raise the bar even higher in its final campaign. Coaches Beerman and Stires were joined on the staff by 1981 graduate Dan Eddingfield, who would work with the three returning divers. There would be a total of twenty-seven (27) swimmers as well.

The schedule was designed to provide as many high quality Dual Meets as possible. The team, led by captains Scott Barlow, Greg Dyson and Ralph Moher, was up to the challenge. It turned in a fine (12-3) mark for the season. The three losses were to the #1, #2 and #5 ranked teams in the State.

In addition to this excellent performance in dual competition, the Crusaders placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 6 teams in the very selective Mariemont Invitational. It was also ranked #7 in the State in the NISCA power ranking system used by the Ohio Swim Coaches Association.

The GCL Championship meet would provide the first forum for this team to leave its special legacy. It not only finished 2<sup>nd</sup> out of the 6 teams competing, it recorded the highest point total ever by any GCL Runner-Up in history with 267 points. The 200 yd. Medley Relay of Paul Franer, Scott Barlow, Ralph Moher and Ed Anderson not only won this event, they set a new GCL record. Paul won the 100 yard Backstroke. Ed won both the 50 and 100 yard Freestyle setting new GCL records in both events. Ed was named the "GCL – Swimmer of the Year" for this performance. He would be the first of seven (7) Moeller Swimmers to be so honored in this decade.

The 'post-season' got underway in solid fashion as the Crusaders placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of a (17) team field. The Medley Relay set a Sectional meet record as it placed first. Junior Jeff Seikmann replaced Scott Barlow in the Breaststroke leg, as Coach Beerman sought to maximize Scott Barlow's individual stroke talents for possibly more team points. A total of eight (8) athletes advanced to the District in nineteen (19) events.

The District Meet, the second and most critical step in the State qualifying process, proved to be a historical one for this team. It captured the first District Runner-Up trophy in school history. The Medley Relay and Ed Anderson in the 50 yard Free were crowned as Champions. Seven (7) athletes qualified to the State Meet in twelve (12) events.

At C.T. Branin Natatorium in Canton, this Moeller team would score 44 points. This would place the Crusaders 10<sup>th</sup> out of the 69 schools that scored points. The 200 yard Medley Relay fell just short of defending its 1981 championship as it finished third. Ed Anderson ended his career in style as he took second in the 50 Free in a time of (21.30) seconds and was eighth in the 100 Breaststroke in a (1:01.14) clocking.

As this wonderful season came to a close, the 'Class of 1982' swimmers could proudly boast that they held every school record on the Moeller board.

### **1982-83**

The loss of the six graduating seniors made this a particularly challenging season for the program. In addition, because of additional teaching and family responsibilities, Dick Beerman asked to be released from any full-time involvement as the Head Coach. Interestingly, both the Swimming and Diving coaching duties were entrusted to two former Sycamore athletes, Jim Bloebaum and Jack Phipps.

While the number of freshmen (6) served to balance out the number of seniors lost to graduation, there was a drop-off of twelve (12) swimmers and three (3) divers from the previous season. As a result, coach Bloebaum had a line-up of fifteen (15) swimmers and coach Phipps had just two (2) divers to work with. It is a credit to the athletes and coaches that, despite a (6-8) record in their very difficult Dual meets, this team posted some outstanding performances in the GCL, Sectional and District meets.

In the GCL Championships the Crusaders placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 6 teams with a total of 238 points. The swimmers produced (213) points worth of this total. The two divers managed to finish second and third respectively and thus added an additional (25) points.

The team had an equally successful Sectional performance placing 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 13 participants. In a tribute to their talents and efforts five (5) swimmers and two (2) divers qualified to the District in seventeen (17) events.

The District meet is always the most challenging venue of any season. In the Southwest Ohio area, this meet indicates dramatically which programs have the highest level of talent. All seven (7) of the Moeller qualifiers performed in admirable fashion. As a team they produced thirty-seven (37) points. This was enough to place 11<sup>th</sup> out of the 24 schools that earned team points. Only the 400 yard Freestyle Relay of (senior-Matt Foley, sophomore-Tom Griga, freshman-Todd Hoffman and senior-Jeff Siekman) earned a trip to Canton for the State Championship.

### **1983-84**

This campaign would find the athletic administration opting for a return to 'in-house' coaches. Dave Kaple, a new teacher who was young and single, was asked to serve as the Head Coach. Chris Stires, who had assisted Dick Beerman for two seasons, was talked into helping Dave as much as his time would allow. Dick, himself, agreed to try to do likewise. Rich Zinnecker, a former diver and a graduate of the class of 1981 was hired to coach the divers. The hoped for end-result was to have the communication between the athletes and the coaches improve.

This decision was prove to be an extremely wise and productive one. The team roster expanded to the more traditional numbers of seventeen (17) swimmers and four (4) divers.

Captains Jim Belmont (S) and Steve Voellmecke (D) led the team to a respectable (6-6) dual record. In the GCL Championships the team eked out a second place finish in the six team battle. The point total reflects just how close the league race was. The (172) point team total included only one first place finish. Sophomore Tom Griga won the 50 yard Freestyle.

## 1987-1988

The twenty-man varsity squad put together by coaches Cameron and Smith in the spring of '88 would begin a string of six consecutive twenty-win seasons that would include two State Championships. The weather conditions cooperated to the point that this team managed to play thirty-one games. The final overall record was (21-10). For the second year in a row, the Crusader nine placed a disappointing third in the GCL with a (6-4) mark.

The explanation for the team's ten losses may be found in two 'telling' stats. First, four were by one run. The second and most 'damning' fact is that this team still holds the school record for 'Most Errors in a Single Season – 89 in 31 games.

Junior Mike Olexa, a young man in his third varsity season, was clearly the offensive leader of the team. The youth and 'limited' experience of the team is evidenced by the fact that four other underclassmen shared the leader-board with Mike – Junior Kevin Harpring and three sophomores – David Bell, Brad Hindersman and Adam Hyzdu. The lone senior listed among the hitting leaders was three-year starter Rick Bennett.

The pitching statistical leaders included seniors Jon Borman and Rick Bennett, who both had team-best performances in four apiece. Junior Brian Hindersman had four 'Complete Games', while fellow junior Eric Henry produced the best ERA (1.55).

The infusion of young athletes into this particular varsity produced the corollary effect that the only two seniors whose legacies remain with us today are Rick Bennett and Jon Borman

Rick Bennett – Most RBIs in a Single Season – 31, 1987, 10<sup>th</sup> best All-Time

Thirty or more Hits in a Single Season – 34, 1988

Pitching: No Hitter versus Elder – 1988

One Hundred or more Strikeouts in a Career – 140, (1986, 1987, 1988)

Ten or more Career Wins – (11-7), (1986, 1987, 1988)

Most Appearances in a Career – 27, (1986, 1987, 1988), tied for 4<sup>th</sup> best All-Time

Jon Borman – Six or more Wins in a Single Season – (6-1), 1988

Most Appearances in a Single Season – 11, 1988, tied for 10<sup>th</sup> best All-Time

## 1988-1989

While it is possible that Mike and Paul were quietly optimistic about the prospects for the 1989 season, they approached the year with the same work ethic and step by step challenges as they had previously. They worked extremely hard to improve the defense, given the ignominious record set the previous season.

After the worst start possible, a sequence that left the team staring at a (1-3) record that included three straight 'blowout' losses, the Crusaders crushed Roger Bacon (23-7). Following a (9-3) loss to Lakota, the 'humbled' Moeller nine had a very-unexpected (2-4) record.

The team and the coaches maintained their poise. A solid (8-1) win, over a good Milford team, kicked-off an impressive eleven game win-streak. Although there were two more losses in the final seven regular season contests, the 'Men of Moeller' were playing very solid baseball, as they entered the State playoffs with an (18-6) record. They had crafted an impressive (9-1) record in the GCL and claimed the school's and coach Cameron's eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) title in twenty-one (21) seasons.

During the eight contests that would constitute the 'road to the State Championship', the team played excellent baseball. It demonstrated clearly just what a total quality baseball streak requires. They played great defense, capitalized on timely-hitting, hit with power, put tremendous pressure on the opponents' defense, benefited from outstanding pitching performances. All of these components were critical since they faced eight top programs that were all considered sound baseball teams.

After pounding out twelve runs in both the State Semi-finals and Finals, Moeller High School could proudly claim its second State Title in Baseball. This championship and their final (26-6) overall record earned the ranking of #5 in the Nation.

There were four 'Team Records' set by this talented collection of athletes that remain on the books even today.

Most Runs Scored in a Single Game – 23, versus Roger Bacon, 1989

Most Home Runs in a Single Game – 7, 1989 Yes!!, Elder – in an 'ugly' (20-12) win.

Most Doubles in a Single Season – 73, 1989

Most Home Runs in a Single Season – 32, 1989

In a tribute to the 'depth of offensive talent' on this team six different starters have left their mark in the record book. The offensive parade was led by senior Mike Olexa, a very rare four year varsity starter. Senior Kevin Harpring, a young man who was 'a little more under the radar' than Mike, would prove to be a huge difference-maker as did fellow senior Brian Hindersman. Juniors David Bell, Brad Hindersman and Adam Hyzdu may also be found to be major players in this success story.

A team typically does not win a Championship without a special pitching staff. The experience and leadership of Brian Hindersman, a senior who had been 'battled-tested' during his two previous varsity seasons, proved to be just what was needed. Two other senior hurlers played huge roles in this achievement. Both Chris Wesley and Joe Tanner 'raised their games' far beyond the normal transition from a junior to a senior season. The ultimate 'wild-card' may have been junior Jeff Belle. This young man had never lost a game in a Moeller uniform. He would in fact, never lose a game until his last appearance in the 1990 season.

A championship team is made up of championship, record-setting performers. The 1989 legacies are among the school's best.

Kevin Harpring – Most At-Bats in a Single Season – 128, 1989, tied for 1<sup>st</sup> best All-Time

Thirty or more Hits in a Single Season – 32, 1988

– 34, 1989

Brian Hindersman – Thirty or more Hits in a Single Season – 37, 1987

– 32, 1989

Pitching – Most Appearances in a Single Season – 11, 1989, tied for the 10<sup>th</sup> best All-Time

Complete Games in a Single Season – 8, 1989, tied for the 4<sup>th</sup> best All-Time

Innings Pitched in a Single season – 68.3, 1989, 7<sup>th</sup> most All-Time

Most Starts in a Career – 24, (1987, 1988, 1989), tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> best All-Time

Most Complete Games in a Career – 16, (1987, 1988, 1989), tied for 5<sup>th</sup> best All-Time

One Hundred or more Strikeouts in a Career – 117, (1987, 1988, 1989)

Most Appearances in a Career – 27, (1987, 1988, 1989), tied for 4<sup>th</sup> best All-Time

Most Innings Pitched in a Career – 150, (1987, 1988, 1989), 6<sup>th</sup> best All-Time



## **1998-99**

For the third fall in a row, the coaching staff would essentially consist of Jerry Kombrinck, assisted by Mike Brewer. Captains Mike Klatte, Joe Morse and Scott Oberrecht provided fine leadership for their twenty-three (23) teammates.

Championships in both the Princeton and Hamilton Invitational established the team as one of the better programs in the City.

Junior Kenny Dunbar turned in a 'Top-Seven' performance in the league Championship to pace the squad to an (85) point team-total and the all too familiar fourth place finish. Ken earned First Team All GCL All-Star status.

The District Championship brought a change in the team's position of finish. Unfortunately, it was in the wrong direction. It placed sixth in an eleven team battle. Kenny Dunbar did manage to become the tenth 'individual runner' to reach the Regional.

One additional moment of positive closure to this season may be found in the fact that junior Kenny Dunbar was chosen as a member of the All-City team. This was the fourteenth time a Moeller student-athlete had been so honored.

## **1999-00**

When Mike Brewer's schedule would no longer permit him to serve as Coach Kombrinck's assistant, Jerry was blessed to be joined by Dr. Brian Adams and Paul Dawson. Senior captains Kenny Dunbar and Pat Sullivan were 'the right men, at the right time' to lead this varsity team both in a physical as well as a mental sense. A total of twenty-five (25) athletes made up the three levels.

The team's performance in six Invitationals gave strong indication that this team had something special, as they finished in the 'Top-Three' in all six.

As always the GCL Championships served as a reality check. The Varsity ledger was identical to that of the fall of 1998 – 4<sup>th</sup> place and 85 points. Senior Ken Dunbar and sophomore Brent van Orsdel were Second Team All GCL selections.

As the team prepared itself for the always challenging District Championships, the combination of the coaches, the captains and the talent of this group all meshed perfectly. The result was third place with (102) points and the chance to be the fourth 'team' to move on to the Regional. Captains Dunbar and Sullivan finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> respectively to lead the Crusader charge.

This trip to Troy, Ohio would prove to be very, very special. An outstanding 'team-effort' produced (155) points and the necessary 4<sup>th</sup> place finish to qualify on to the State Championship. This would be the first time that an Archbishop Moeller High School Cross-Country team would appear in Columbus.

In tribute to this unique achievement, even though the Crusaders placed (10<sup>th</sup> out of 16 Teams with 216 points), we will list each member and their place of finish – Kenny Dunbar (17<sup>th</sup>), Brent van Orsdel (35<sup>th</sup>), Pat Sullivan (46<sup>th</sup>), Zak Lewis (56<sup>th</sup>), Kevin Schwarz (61<sup>st</sup>), Brad Neumann (69<sup>th</sup>) and Mike Goddard (102<sup>nd</sup>).

Kenny Dunbar and Brent van Orsdel were both named to the All-City team.

## 1991-92

The Dual Meet record for this six (6) member Varsity squad was a fairly pedestrian (8-6). In recognition of what they had already contributed to the success of the program and in anticipation of what they would contribute, Coach Bohne' named three juniors to serve as team captains. Mike Cassity, Mike Stark and Tom Yost would more than justify this decision. A (4-2) mark in its Dual matches versus the three other GCL South schools placed the Varsity in position for a second-place finish in the league. A so-so total of (347) strokes in the GCL Tournament meant the Crusaders had to settle for third. The first evidence of the coach's wisdom in the selection of the captains may be found in the fact that all three young men were named as GCL All Stars.

Shortly thereafter, came yet a second affirmation of their contribution to the success of this team. As the State Tournament began the 'Men of Moeller' claimed the first Sectional Championship in the school's history. The team placed (1<sup>st</sup> out of 15 Teams) in an excellent (306) strokes performance.

This second Bohne'-coached team to move on to the District, could not sustain its level of success from the first-round of tournament action, as it finished (9<sup>th</sup> out of 12 Teams) in this meet.

## 1992-93

The fall of 1992 '*would be a break-through season*'. This season would not only take the program to the next level, it would serve as a template that would allow all future Moeller teams to 'never look back'.

Another six (6) member Varsity squad would once again benefit from the leadership of the same trio of captains as the previous season. This unit put together an outstanding (12-2) record in its Dual meets.

It would be this Varsity's achievements in the GCL and the post-season that would justify the headline above. A (5-1) record in its six GCL duals meant that the league Championship would be decided by the Tournament. Although the Crusaders' 316 strokes-performance resulted in a second-place overall placement in the league, this would initiate a run of (second/first place) GCL titles and Tournament titles that continues to this day. Senior Andy Dunlap joined with classmates Cassity, Stark and Yost in receiving GCL All Star honors. Coach Bohne' was named 'Coach of the Year' for the third time in six years.

The team would carry the momentum of this season right through to the State Championships. Mike Cassity stepped up as the team leader in the Sectional Championship. He was the Co-Medalist in this venue. For the second year in a row the team claimed the Championship. This time their team total of (303) strokes placed them (1<sup>st</sup> out of 14 Teams).

The experience gained from the previous season served everyone well as they moved ahead this time. Another mile-stone was realized, as the team claimed the school's *first-ever District Runner-Up trophy*. A fine 312 strokes performance over a very challenging course versus a twelve (12) team field qualified these Crusaders to the State Meet.

For only the third time in history a 'Golf team' from Archbishop Moeller had qualified to the State Championship. While this team's sixth-place finish would only place it in a tie with the first team (1970-71) to appear in this competition, it did post the best-ever Moeller team total with only (658) strokes.

This total over the 36-hole event resulted from two (329/329) rounds. The five men involved were seniors Mike Cassity (77/80), Andy Dunlap (86/80), Mike Stark (83/85), Tom Yost (85/79) and sophomore Todd Kahle (83/85).

The record pages continue to reflect a few achievements from this season:  
Most Goals in a Single Game – (11) versus Mt. Healthy in the first-round of the Sectional  
Most Tournament Games in a Single Season – (4) – tied in 1994, 1996  
David Necessary – at the time only a sophomore – Most Assist in a Single Game – (4)

Dave was the team-leader in ‘Assists’ for the fall Of 1992 - (9)

The immediate future of the program may be found in the accomplishments of a freshman, who would be a four-year Varsity starter:

Greg Ruebusch was the team-leader in both ‘Goals Scored’ – (11) and ‘Points Scored’ – (28).

### **1993-94**

The increased level of talent, that was available in the program, was reflected in the fact that this Varsity consisted of (21) athletes. There are no ‘overnight’ success stories in this sport. Success is only achieved by a long-term development of the ‘individual’ skills of each athlete and the creation of an instinctive ‘team chemistry’. Thus, the Varsity’s overall record of (10-7-2) may not indicate to some just how solid a foundation Coach Hurley and his assistants were building.

The second line above is always, ‘most true’, as it applies to performance within the Greater Catholic League. Each league game is a ‘war’, year-in and year-out. The Crusaders battled to a (5-5-2) tally in this all-important part of their schedule. This resulted in a (2<sup>nd</sup> out of 4 Teams) product. Senior captain Mike Glendon and ‘super-soph’ Greg Ruebusch were selected as GCL All Stars. Co-Captain Brian Albright was Moeller High School’s GCL Academic All Star. He was also only the second Moeller Soccer player to be honored as a State of Ohio Academic All Star.

In stark contrast to past history, this team continued to build on the success of last fall as they won the Sectional Championship for a second year in a row. A District Semi-final match with Lakota was not decided until a goal in ‘Sudden-Death Overtime’ by the Firebirds earned them a (2-1) decision.

The ‘Ruebusch brothers’ left the most significant legacies of this fall campaign. Senior Ryan Ruebusch, a hard-charging athlete, led the team in ‘Goals’ with (10). Sophomore brother Greg, continued the brilliant performance of his freshman-season, leading the team in both the ‘Assists’ (9) and ‘Points’ (27) categories. Further evidence, of the consensus of opinion, on the talent of this young athlete may be seen in the first of three consecutive selections as a member of the All City Team.

### **1994-95      *The Most Outstanding Season in the History of the Moeller Soccer Program***

It is not possible to pay sufficient tribute to the performances of the (21) athletes, Coach Randy Hurley, his assistant Steve Brown and the members and coaching staffs of both the JV and Frosh teams. The achievements realized throughout the program, were outstanding in every way.

A quick-glance at the ‘all-telling’ Goal Differential stat provides an instant barometer of the success of the Varsity team in the fall of 1994. This team provided an incredible amount of offensive power, as it scored (60) Goals over (20) games. Possibly even more impressive, is the statistic reflecting its defensive prowess. The chemistry and talents on this side of the ball yielded only a mere (14) Goals by the opponents. The final ‘Goal Differential’ of (46) remains the best in the history of the program. This mark is only seriously challenged by the 1995 team.

A regular season record of (15-0-1) brings with it a myriad of special recognition. This is the only ‘Undefeated’ regular season ever. This team was named as the ‘City Champion’. It was ranked as the #3 team in the final State Soccer poll.

At this point in the history of Archbishop Moeller High School Soccer, only the members of this Varsity team may proudly claim to have been the **'Undefeated and Untied' Champions of the GCL**. Their (9-0-0) season brought GCL All Star recognition to (8) athletes – Brendon Bonham, Matt Bourgraf, Jim Frondorf, Adam Lux, Roby Lymangrover, Brian Miller, Dave Necessary and Greg Ruebusch. Junior Greg Ruebusch was named the 'GCL Player of the Year'. Senior Matt Daggy was both a GCL Academic All Star and an All Ohio Academic All Star. Deservedly, Randy Hurley was named as 'Coach of the Year'. An additional, and very unique, honor for Randy came when he was selected as the 'Ohio Coach of the Year for Parochial High Schools'.

Two opening victories in the State Playoffs brought a third consecutive Sectional title and a berth in the District Semi-final round. There the Crusaders gained a measure of revenge with a solid (2-0) win over their nemesis, the Lakota Firebirds. This victory meant a second consecutive appearance in the District Championship. Once again, the "Men of Moe" had to be content with a Runner-Up trophy as they dropped a well played game to the Centerville Elks by a (2-0) margin.

Post-season honors for this team and its athletes poured in from every direction for their performances on and off the field. Matt Bourgraf, Adam Lux, Brian Miller and Greg Ruebusch were named as Southwest Ohio All District All Stars. Brendon Bonham, Matt Bourgraf, Matt Daggy, Adam Deyo, Jason Hurley, Adam Lux, Roger Pryor and Greg Ruebusch were named as Academic All Stars by that same group. Brian Miller played in the East/West All Star game. The All City Teams included Matt Bourgraf, Adam Lux, Brian Miller and Greg Ruebusch.

Team 'individual' leaders for this season were: Brian Miller, Greg Ruebusch – who tied for both the 'Most Goals' (12), 'Most Points' (30) David Necessary – led the team in 'Assists' (9)

Team Records set over this fall that remain with us today include:  
Highest Goals/Game Average – **(3.0)** Most Goals Scored in a Single Season **(60)**  
Best Winning Percentage in a Season – **(.969)** regular, **(1.000)** GCL, **(.925)** overall  
Most Wins in a Season – **(15)** regular, **(18)** overall Most Cons. Wins w/o Loss – **(19)**

## **1995-96**

For the first time in the history of the Soccer program, the fall of 1995 saw a continued feeling of high energy and enthusiasm throughout all levels. Although the Varsity had, as always, lost some very talented athletes to graduation, there would be an outstanding nucleus of talent returning to this nineteen man team

In support of this statement, we will once again call upon the 'tried and trusted' standard of 'Goal Differential'. Over the course of a nineteen (19) game season this squad scored (57) Goals, while only allowing (15) by their opponents. The 'Goals Scored' (57) and the final 'Goal Differential' (+42) are the second best in the history of the program. The overall season record very closely parallels that of the previous season as the team posted a (14-3-2) mark.

The challenge of entering this campaign as the 'Undefeated and Untied' 1994 GCL Champion meant that the team was going to 'get everyone's best-shot', especially within the league itself. Despite this fact, the team and coaches pulled together to ring up a second straight Championship. This came on the strength of a (6-2-1) performance. There were once again eight (8) athletes named as GCL All Stars. Senior Greg Ruebusch, who was receiving this honor for a third time, led the list. He was also dubbed as the 'GCL Player of the Year' for a second time. Seniors Matt Bourgraf, Jim Frondorf, Adam Lux and Roby Lymangrover enjoyed their second year as GCL All Stars. Adam Deyo, Matt Lyons and Ryan Wellbrock completed the Moeller GCL All Star roster. Coach Hurley was the 'GCL Coach of the Year'.

The most important by-product of this competition came in the form of Moeller's fifth GCL Championship in six years. The battle-tested 'Men of Moeller' posted a (9-3) season. Seniors Eric Fischer and Matt Rooks were both GCL All Stars. Juniors Jeremy Duncan and Mike Monserez were both selected to the team for a second year in a row as well. Mike was given the added distinction of being named as a 'Co-Player of the Year' in the league. Coach Kremer received his fourth 'Coach of the Year' honor in six years. Of even greater significance to Carl and all future recipients of this honor is the fact that, this would be recognized as the 'Dick Berning – Coach of the Year' award in honor of the legendary St. Xavier High School Coach.

Overall this Varsity had a (18-4) record. It won its first thirteen games, lost by one in an upset to McNicholas, then won three more to begin its season.

In what was becoming an 'all too familiar' scenario, the season ended abruptly in the second – round of the Playoffs with an eleven-point loss to, you guessed it, the Withrow Tigers.

Senior Matt Rooks, a young man who would later return as a teacher and coach at his alma-mater, managed to etch his name in the same list as the Bell brothers – Three Point Field Goals 53, (1996-98) – this places him as thirteenth best of All Time.

### **1998-99**

Since the Varsity had captured five GCL Championships over the last six seasons and was returning nine seniors from the (1997-98) squad, the expectations for this year were high. This senior class had been 'Undefeated' in their freshman season. They had hung together with a great chemistry. They had battled together through their sophomore and junior years and had gained mental toughness and experience. It appeared that everything was aligned to make a run at a sixth GCL title.

After traveling to Illinois and posting a solid win in week one, the Crusaders returned home where they dropped a three-point decision to Jerry Doerger's McNicholas Rockets. They re-grouped to post wins over Elder, Aiken and Purcell Marian before heading to Charleston, South Carolina over the Christmas break.

The Varsity staff had chosen this particular tournament because they felt the chance to play against 'Nationally ranked' teams would prove beneficial to the development of their own. When the team returned to Cincinnati after defeating North Charleston, S.C. and dropping two games versus 'Nationally ranked' St. Patrick HS – Elizabeth, N.J. and Simon Gratz – Philadelphia, Pa. with a (5-3) record there may have been some concerns. Although the two losses in Charleston had only been by seven and six points respectively, the team had not shown much composure under pressure.

It did not help that in their first game back they lost the first of what would be two games to St. Xavier by four points. After an impressive win over the Lancers of LaSalle, they were ambushed by the Alter Knights by seven points (84-77).

So eleven games into what was expected to be a banner year, the team was (6-5). Even more damaging was a (3-3) record in the GCL, at the half-way mark in the schedule. It was definitely time for a 'gut-check'. In a remarkably calm and deliberate manner, these players and their coaches began to quietly turn this season around. They won eight of their final nine 'regular' season games to finish (14-6). The only loss came at the hands of St. Xavier by a margin of (76-51) to end any hopes of a third straight GCL Championship.

As the State Tournament got underway there was at least the presence of ‘MOE-mentum’ on the side of Coach Kremer’s men. An impressive thirty-point victory in round one, advanced the team to the Sectional Final at Miami University’s Millet Hall. The opponent would be the St. Xavier Bombers, the GCL league Champion. In a battle that began with the opening tip-off and never subsided until the final buzzer the Crusaders gained a measure of revenge with a (55-53) win. More importantly, they advanced to the District Finals at the University of Dayton.

In this contest, Moeller found itself trailing the Vandalia Butler Aviators by eleven points with less than three minutes remaining. Carl inserted senior Dan Eigel into the game. It was Dan’s first action of the game, but he made the most of it. He connected on two deep three-point shots from the corner. This breathed new life into the team. They all, found a new energy level. The end result was a miraculous three point victory. Moeller was heading to its third Regional Final Four in the school’s history.

The Regional Semi-Final opponent would be the Troy Trojans. Coach Kremer was very familiar with this opponent, having grown up in the Troy area. His mother and father still reside in Troy. Moeller played a very disciplined and efficient game, as they eliminated Troy by a (61-53) score. This set up a Saturday evening final against Beaver Creek High School. To say that these two teams were evenly matched is an understatement. This was one of those contests in which the fan began to feel with each passing moment that ‘this was going down to the last shot’. In a way, that is exactly what happened. Fortunately, Moeller had possession for the final shot. The last attempt was made ‘as time was running out’, when it rimmed-out sophomore Matt Sylvester was in perfect position to tip it in. After the officials took a second to compare opinions, they ruled in favor of Moeller. For the first time ever, a Basketball team was heading to the State Final Four.

Given the events that had transpired throughout the course of the State Playoffs, there was a strong feeling that ‘Moe-mentum’ was on the side of the men from Montgomery. It had to be, because even with the heroics that had occurred the representative of the Southwest District was a decided under-dog in the Final-Four field. In the Friday evening State Semi-Final contest, the opponent was a heavily favored Mansfield Senior team. A team-effort, that displayed outstanding defense and disciplined shot selection, saw Moeller emerge as the victor by a (49-43) margin. Senior guard Jeremy Duncan led the scoring with fifteen points. His fellow senior and running-mate at guard Mike Monserez had thirteen points. Finally, maybe the biggest difference-maker by this point in the season, sophomore Matt Sylvester had thirteen also. Twenty-four hours later, coaches Kremer and Sussli and the rest of the staff had to be prepared to face the #1 ranked-team in the State, Shaker Heights.

The Raiders came into the State Championship game averaging almost 79 points per game. They had lost only once, in a National Tournament, to a team from New Jersey. The question of possible success came down to ‘can Moeller defend these athletes well enough and score enough points’ to win. The answer would be yes on both accounts. Shaker Heights learned ‘early-on’ that they were going to have to earn every point they would get this evening. Through outstanding team-work and chemistry the Crusaders managed a (33-24) lead at the end of the first half. Although they managed to extend that to (49-36) by the end of the third quarter, everyone in the new Schoettenstein Center believed the Raiders had it in them to ‘make a desperation run’. By the mid-point of the final quarter they had cut the lead down to five. Senior Captain Mike Monserez calmly drilled a three-pointer from the deep corner to serve notice that this game and **this State Championship belonged to the Moeller ‘Fighting Crusaders’**.

The final score read Moeller (67), Shaker Heights (62). In an outstanding and balanced offensive effort four players turned in double-figure performances. Senior Brad Hutzel and sophomore Matt Sylvester led the way with (16) each, while the senior guard duo of Duncan and Monserez each had thirteen. Sophomores Chris Welsch with (6) and Scott Byrnes with (3) rounded out the scoring. Scott's three points came at a most critical time. When Mike Monserez fouled out near the end of the game, Scott became his replacement. As one might anticipate, he became a target for fouls. He made Shaker 'pay the price' as he calmly nailed three of four shots.

A curious fact : When Moeller High School won the 1999 State Championship in Basketball, it was the third time in seven years that a member of the Greater Catholic League of Cincinnati had accomplished this feat. It was also the third time that the State Champion had not been the GCL Champion. By way of review: when Elder won in 1993 they had finished second in the league, Even more interesting, is the fact that when LaSalle took the title in 1996, they had finished last out of four teams. As noted above, this Crusaders' title followed a second place finish. It would not be until the St. Xavier Bombers won the league's fourth State title in eight seasons in 2000 that this cycle was broken. They had entered tournament action as the GCL Champion. This raises the question 'Is it harder to win the GCL than it is to become the State Champion'?

The post-season honors garnered by this team were numerous:

Mike Monserez – All City, All Southwest District, All State. He was named as the 'Player of the Year' on the All City Team. He was selected as the MVP of the State Final Four, as well as a member of the All Tournament Team.

Brad Hutzel – All City, All Southwest District, member of the All Tournament Team

Matt Sylvester – All City, All Southwest District, member of the All Tournament Team

Chris Welsch – All City, member of the All Tournament Team

Head Coach Carl Kremer – All City 'Coach of the Year'.

The senior guard duo of Jeremy Duncan and Mike Monserez, both of whom had been three-year starters, left impressive legacies in the record books.

Mike Monserez – Career Scoring – 922 points, (1996-99) – this ranks him 6<sup>th</sup> All Time

Career Field Goals – 278 (155+123) – this ranks him 14<sup>th</sup> All Time

Career Free Throws – 243 – this ranks him 4<sup>th</sup> All Time

Career Assists – 434 – **is the All Time leader, by an impressive 195 Assists**

Career Three-Pointers – 123 – **is the All Time leader, by 22 Three's**

Single Season Field Goals – 158 (89+69), 1998-99 – this ties him for 14<sup>th</sup> All Time

Single Season Free Throws – 129, 1998-99 – this ranks him 4<sup>th</sup> All Time

Jeremy Duncan – Career Scoring – 827 points, (1996-99) – this ranks him 10<sup>th</sup> All Time

Career Field Goals – 308 (237+71) – this ranks him 10<sup>th</sup> All Time

Career Free Throws – 140 – this ranks him 20<sup>th</sup> All Time

Career Three-Pointers – 71 – this ranks him 7<sup>th</sup> All Time

Single Season Free Throws – 82, 1997-98 – this ranks him 21<sup>st</sup> All Time

There were also major changes in the performances and levels of success for both the 'Team' and 'Individuals' throughout the State Tournament process.

In Sectional action, there were ninety-five (95) District qualifiers. Over one third of that total, thirty-three (33), advanced as Sectional Champions. Two young men won their weight-class all four years, while three others won three titles each. There were six (6) 'Team' Sectional Championships.

The challenge of attaining 'Team' success at the District Championships proved to be quite elusive. After placing in the 'top-five' four times in the first nine years, the Crusaders finally walked-away with the 'Team' title in (1999-00). There were eleven (11) District Champions. During this decade there were thirty-two (32) State qualifiers. One athlete achieved this honor four times. Three others were three-time state qualifiers.

In an impressive testimony to their level of talent and preparation, fourteen (14) of the (32) qualifiers placed, that is finished in the 'Top-Eight' in the State Championships. This included four (4) State Champions and five (5) State Runners-Up.

A review of just the 'Top-Ten' positions, in a selection of some of the most important categories in the records book gives a great indication of the level of talent of the athletes of the '90s.

Most Career Wins – Tom Zinkan 132 (2<sup>nd</sup>), Bobby Lyons 129 (4<sup>th</sup>), Joe Zinkan 122 (7<sup>th</sup>),  
Josh Janson 116 (10<sup>th</sup>)

Best Single Season 'Winning-Percentage' (20 or more wins) – Tom Zinkan 33-0, 1.000, (1<sup>st</sup>),  
39-1, 0.975, (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
Scott Ostholthoff 37-1, 0.974 (3<sup>rd</sup>),  
Joe Zinkan 32-1, 0.970, (4<sup>th</sup>),  
Brian Zinkan 20-1, 0.952, (5<sup>th</sup>).  
Bobby Lyons 38-2, 0.950, (6<sup>th</sup>),  
Josh Janson 37-2, 0.949, (7<sup>th</sup>)

Total Pins in a Career – Tom Zinkan 77 (3<sup>rd</sup>), Josh Janson 77 (3<sup>rd</sup>), Scott Ostholthoff 75 (5<sup>th</sup>),  
Bobby Lyons 67 (6<sup>th</sup>)

Take-Downs in a Career – Tom Zinkan 527 (1<sup>st</sup>), Joe Zinkan 506 (3<sup>rd</sup>), Brian Zinkan 449 (4<sup>th</sup>),  
Bobby Lyons 434 (5<sup>th</sup>), Josh Janson 342 (8<sup>th</sup>)

Team Points in a Career – Tom Zinkan 794.5 (1<sup>st</sup>), Josh Janson 739.5 (4<sup>th</sup>), Bobby Lyons 725 (5<sup>th</sup>),  
Scott Ostholthoff 684 (8<sup>th</sup>), Joe Zinkan 635.5 (9<sup>th</sup>)

## 1990-91

As he began his sixth season as the Head of the Wrestling program, Coach Gaier was beginning to realize some significant dividends from the efforts and planning of his previous five seasons. On the Varsity level, he was assisted by Dave Kaple, Kevin O'Connor and Jon Rice '89.

As was pointed out above, the Varsity had a break-through season in its GCL performance. After twenty-seven (27) years of membership, a Moeller Varsity team climbed to a second-place finish in this most prestigious league competition. Juniors Scott Ostholthoff (189) and Clint Whalen (152), along with sophomore Tom Zinkan (135) led the way as they each won their weight-class. As a result each was named as a GCL All Star. For Scott, this was his second consecutive title. He was extended the added honor of being named the 'GCL Wrestler of the Year'. Coach Gaier was 'GCL Coach of the Year'.

When the State Tournament action began at the Sectional level, the team placed (4<sup>th</sup> in a 12 team field). Six athletes placed in the 'top-four'. This qualified them to the District Meet. Scott Ostholthoff, once again, claimed his second consecutive (189). title. Also advancing were, John Gatto (119), Tom Zinkan (130), Clint Whalen (152), Rob Pflanz (171) and Guy Olinger (Hwt).

In the District Championships, three of the wrestlers placed. This was only the second time in history that three athletes qualified to the State Championships. The Jeff Gaier coached-team of (1987-88) was the only previous squad to accomplish this. The Moeller reps in Columbus would be Scott, Clint and Tom. In the overall team-standings in District action, Moeller placed (9<sup>th</sup> out of the 41 Teams) that did score points.

It is quite probable that during the trip to Columbus, the conversations in the Moeller van were positive and fairly confident. These three young men were legitimately three of the most qualified competitors to represent the school in many years. There had only been seventeen (17) wrestlers, who had earned this honor previously. There had only been four times that a Moeller wrestler had placed in this meet (1-5<sup>th</sup>, 3-6<sup>th</sup>). The last State-Placer had been in 1976.

**Sophomore Tom Zinkan (130) would etch his name into the storied history of Archbishop Moeller Athletics as the ‘First Crusader Wrestler to win a State Championship’.**

Tom’s overall record for this season was (33-5). He would actually improve upon that mark in both his junior and senior seasons. As a team the ‘Men of Moeller’ finished (16<sup>th</sup> out of the 73 teams) that actually scored points. The team’s placement and the point total of (25.5) were the best in history.

The team’s performances, in the major Invitationals it entered, were additional reflections of the improvement in the program. There were team championships in both the Coaches’ Classic and the Milford Invitational. The championship in the Coaches’ meet was in the ‘B’ Division. This would be the final season the Crusaders would be placed in the category. Although the team finished (13<sup>th</sup> out of 23 teams) in the Ohio All Catholic Invitational, Scott was the (189) Champion and Tom placed fourth.

## **1991-92**

This season was a very encouraging one. The achievements, in almost all areas, were in a most positive direction. There was very little change in the coaching staff. Dave Reiring, an English teacher and staff member accepted the role of serving as the Head Coach on the freshman-level. This helped to free Dave Kaple to devote his time to the Junior Varsity only.

In the GCL Varsity Championships, Moeller matched its best ever finish, as the team repeated its second-place performance of the previous season. The team’s point total was elevated to (168) points. This improvement was due in great part to four athletes being crowned GCL Champions. Juniors Matt Herring (119) and Tom Zinkan (145) were joined on the ‘winners’ podium by seniors Clint Whalen and Scott Ostholthoff. This performance brought Scott his third GCL title. For Tom and Clint, it was their second each.

In the Sectional Championships, Coach Gaier’s men placed (2<sup>nd</sup> in the 12 team) field with a school best ever total of 179 points. For only the second time in history, three Crusaders were Sectional Champions – Tom Zinkan (145), Clint Whalen (160) and Scott Ostholthoff (189). For both Tom and Scott, this was their third Sectional title. Their team-mates followed the lead of these three Champions, as a record-setting nine wrestlers advanced to the District Meet. The six additional qualifiers were (in order of weight-class) – Matt Herring (119), John Gatto (130), D.J. Hartman (135), Brian Reichert (152), Raph Tincher (171) and Guy Olinger (Hwt).

The trend of ‘best-ever’ efforts continued at the District. There the team placed (4<sup>th</sup> out of 38 teams) scoring 76 points. The fourth-place and the (76) points were both ‘new’ standards for the program. Tom and Scott both won their respective weight-classes. Clint Whalen, once again, qualified to Columbus.

### 1990-91

The ten young men selected by coach Traxler in this first spring of the nineties turned in a workmen-like (10-8) record. They had a (4-1) mark in the GCL, as they finished second out of six schools. Senior Brett Hammond, the #2 Singles-player, was recognized for his efforts by being named as a Second Team All GCL performer.

Brett and his fellow senior Corey Dziech joined forces as a Doubles Team entry in the Sectional. Their third place finish qualified them to advance on to the District Meet.

### 1991-92

A ten-man team worked fine in '91, so it was tried once again in '92. It actually produced a little better record in this spring, as the Crusaders finished (12-8). They placed second in the GCL with a (4-2) performance. By this spring, the league had evolved into two separate divisions. Moeller was a part of what was now a four-team – GCL South. Tim Novak and Tyler Hardin received Honorable Mention All League for their 'Singles' play as did the 'Doubles' unit of Ryan Geers/Brian Huston.

The Varsity was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the final Greater Cincinnati Coaches Association poll. It also placed eighth in the GCTCA tournament.

### 1992-93

Eight players were chosen to carry the fortunes of Moeller High School forward in the spring of '93. This eighth season for Coach Traxler reflected the consistency that would characterize each of his years as the head of the program. The overall record of (12-9), included a modest (3-3) performance in the GCL matches. This was sufficient to claim a tie for second-place.

Two 'Singles' players and one 'Doubles' team received Honorable Mention recognition from both the Greater Catholic League and the Greater Cincinnati Tennis Coaches' Association. Senior Tyler Hardin and freshman Dave Black were the 'Singles' players honored. Junior Jeff Munafo and sophomore David Necessary combined for the honor for their 'Doubles' play.

Coach Traxler was selected as the 'Co-Coach of the League' in the GCL. The GCTCA presented him with their 'Distinguished Coach' award.

This Crusader squad was ranked tenth in the final 'City Coaches' poll. It placed fifth in the GCTCA Tournament as well.

### 1993-94

This would be the season in which the tennis program would '*realize the highest level of achievement*' in the history of its existence. 'Trax' opted for a ten man team for the spring of '93. These young men battled to a very good (12-8) final record. Their (4-2) performance in league action earned them second place in the GCL.

Both 'Doubles' were honored as 'Second Team GCL All Stars. Seniors Brian Huston/John McPhillips and Senior Jeff Munafo and junior Dave Necessary were the 'honored' athletes. This spring, Dave Traxler won his second 'GCL – Coach of the Year' award.

When the State Tournament got underway, the 'Doubles' team of Jeff Munafo/Dave Necessary began their march into history. In the Sectional, this duo matched the **second-place** finish of Jim Tressler of the 1981 season to advance on to the District.

It would be in the District Tournament that they would '*make history*'. By finishing in fourth-place, Jeff and Dave qualified to the State Tournament. No Moeller Tennis player/s before or since has ever achieved this goal.

may recall were the source of shame earlier in the decade, the 'Moe-Men' scored in three different venues – freshman Mike Munoz was second in the Shot-Put, sophomore Drew Walter finished fourth in the Pole-Vault, while junior Matt Edwards placed sixth in the Discus.

These performances yielded a grand total of twenty-nine and one-half (29½) points. This earned Moeller a third-place finish out of the thirty-five (35) teams that managed to score points. Ryan, Dante, Drew and Michael moved on to the State Championships in Columbus, Ohio.

At the State meet, it is even more difficult to score points. This very young group of men from Moeller discovered this first-hand. It took a 'new' Moeller High School record leap of (6'7") for Ryan to place fifth in the High Jump. The youngest of the Crusader contingent, freshman Michael Munoz, picked up one team point for his sixth place in the Shot-Put. The combined three points earned by this duo, placed the name of Moeller in forty-second place out of the fifty-nine teams that scored points.

For their efforts, Michael received First Team All-City honors, while Dante, Drew and Ryan were given Honorable Mention.

The 1997 team enjoyed great success in the six (6) Invitationals, in which it competed. It claimed two Championships, two Runner-Ups, and two third-place finishes.

This spring saw five 'new' school records set. Mention has been made already of Ryan's new mark in the High Jump. Drew Walter literally 'raised the bar' in the Pole-Vault to (13'6") for a new sophomore standard. Mike Munoz posted new freshman records in two events. The new record for the Shot-Put is (55'¾"). The standard for the Discus is now (131'3"). Kenny Dunbar improved the frosh mile record to (4:39).

## **1997-98**

A turnout of fifty-three athletes in the spring of '98 was one indication of change in a positive direction. An even more encouraging fact was the return of all four 'State qualifiers'. Forrest Brandt, who had served as a volunteer assistant one year earlier, returned to a more 'full-time' role. J.B. Lind (MHS '93) came on board to work with the 'weight-men'. One additional member of this coaching staff would be Kari Vaughn, an English teacher. Kari came to play much more than simply an 'administrative' role for this team.

In one of the most competitive GCL Championships ever, this team had to settle for its third consecutive third-place finish with sixty-seven (67) points. This total fell only one (1) point short of second-place and a mere five (5) points out of first. Leading this effort with outstanding performances were seniors Ryan Fitzpatric and Dante' Murray, along with junior Drew Walter. All three athletes were First Team All GCL All Stars. Not only did they win their event/s, all *three* established new *GCL records*. Ryan won the High Jump with an incredible leap of (**6'10"**). Dante won both the 100 meter and the 200 meter Dash. His time of (**10.5 seconds**) in the 100 set a new GCL record. Drew completed this historic feat with a height of (**14'7"**) in the Pole Vault. In further recognition of their achievements, all three young men were named as the 'GCL – Co-Athletes of the Year'. For Dante' Murray, this was the **third** year in a row that he received this tribute. Only one other Moeller Track athlete, Kevin Arthur (MHS '83), has ever received this unique honor.

Although Coach Kombrinck's charges would capture six first-places and set *two District records*, they would see their attempt for a third straight District Championship, fall short. A strong ninety-two (92) point performance was only enough to allow the Crusaders to finish third in a sixteen (16) team field. In all nine (9) athletes qualified on to the Regional. They were:

Dante' Murray – first – 100 meter Dash, 200 meter Dash; third – (4 X 100 meter Relay)

Willis Edwards, Dan Ryan, Josh Martin – third – (4 X 100 meter Relay)

Kenny Dunbar – third – 1600 meter Run

Matt Edwards – first – Shot-Put, Discus

Michael Munoz – second – Shot-Put, Discus

Ryan Fitzpatric – first – High Jump, *new District Record* with a leap of (6'10½")

Drew Walter – first – Pole Vault, *new District Record* with a height of (14'8")

Although there was one less qualifier than there had been the year before, the level of placement in the District meet and the fact that these were all experienced performers served as a tremendous confidence-builder as this team headed to Dayton for the Regional Championship. This confidence would prove to be 'well-founded', as the 'Men of Moeller' were crowned as the **1998 Regional Champions**. Senior Ryan Fitzpatric led the way to this historic accomplishment. For the third straight time, he not only 'won' the High Jump, he also set a new meet record in the event. This time, it was a *new Regional Record* of (6'11¼"). Junior Drew Walter won the first of two Regional Pole Vault titles. Dante' Murray placed first in the 200 meter Dash. He finished second in the 100, as well. Matt Edwards and Mike Munoz both struggled in the Shot-Put picking up only two points with a fifth-place. They bounced back in the Discus, as Matt finished third and Michael in fourth-place.

One week, after enjoying one of the best moments in Moeller Track history, five young men and their coaches had to deal with the reality of 'being shut-out' in the State Championships. It was extremely unfortunate, for all of the competitors, that the 'critical' first two hours of action took place in a *driving-rainstorm*. One indication of the impact of this storm on the competition can be seen in the fact that only five (5) of the sixteen (16) High Jumpers managed to clear 'opening' height. One can only imagine the disappointment for senior Ryan Fitzpatric, the finest performer in the school's history, to have been one of those eleven, who came up short. Fellow senior Dante' Murray experienced similar frustration. He had won every 200 meter Dash throughout the entire season, until the State Semi-Finals.

The *greatest season* in the history of the track program had ended. It had left an outstanding legacy of accomplishments. During the Sycamore 'Gold Baton' Relays, which the team won, Matt Edwards' (162'3") and Michael Munoz's (168'7") throws in the Discus for a 'combined' distance of (330'10") set a *new State Record*. Three new school records were set over the course of the season – Ryan's Regional mark in the High Jump, Dante's GCL time in the 100 meter Dash and Drew's Regional height in the Pole Vault. Ryan was, fittingly named, to the All-City First Team. Honorable Mention honors were extended to Dante (100, 200), Matt (Discus, Shot), Michael (Discus, Shot) and Drew (Pole Vault). It deserves to be mentioned that probably all four of the Honorable Mention selectees should have been extended at least First/ Second Honors. The tradition is to place the highest 'State Placers', in order of their achievement.

## 1998-99

This spring, the Track program once again consisted of only forty-two (42) athletes spread over all three levels. Greg Neumann (MHS '90), who had been a good high-school Pole-Vaulter during his 'Moeller' days joined the Jerry's staff.

## **Volleyball:**

The athletic administration of Archbishop Moeller High School stayed true to its policy of continuing to provide the students with as many athletic opportunities as possible, as long as the quality was of the highest possible level. Therefore in the spring of 1995, the sport of Volleyball was introduced for the first time. The decision to do this, was in response to the persistent requests of three seniors, who would be elected as the first team captains of the new sport, Brian Cullen, Nik Nahrup and Joe Quinn. Brian and Joe had both been four-year members of the Basketball program. They had enjoyed that experience, but they were intrigued by the possibility of being 'pioneers' in this fairly new sport for high-school 'Boys'.

If you are going to sponsor a program, particularly a new one, you must be certain to assemble a solid coaching staff of dedicated and knowledgeable individuals to insure a reasonable chance of success. This was done by great care and attention. The first staff would be headed up by Tom Brinkman, a current member of the faculty. Tom would be assisted by Janet Jaeger (who had led the girls of MND to a State Championship), Dan Meyer and Amy Wittrock.

During the first four years of the program's existence only a Varsity and a Junior Varsity team were offered. In the spring of 1999, a freshman team was added.

Tom's first-ever team produced a modest, but winning record of (12-11). This was quite an accomplishment, when one takes into account that most of the opponents were teams of significantly more experience. Even including this first season, Tom's six teams of this decade yielded some impressive statistics:

Overall Record – (138-37) .789, Regular Season Record – (119-33) .783, GCL Record – (46-9) .836, Non League Record – (73-24) .753, State Playoff Record – (19-4) .826.

In both the 1997, 1998 seasons, Moeller was the GCL, District, Regional and State Champion. The respective records for those two years were (32-3) and (27-1). The GCL 'Player of the Year' in 1997 was Greg Ulland of Moeller and in 1998 it was Todd Fitz. 'Coach of the Year' honors were received both years as well. In 1997, Tom generously arranged to have that honor go to Dan Meyer. In 1998, he was the honoree.

In 1998, the sport presented its first Southwest Ohio Regional All Star Team. Todd Fitz and Greg Silber were named to the 'First Team'. Todd was the region's first ever 'Player of the Year'. He would later be chosen as the 'Ohio – Player of the Year'. In all seven (7) Crusaders received All State honors in the first six (6) seasons of the sport's existence. Two 'Gregs' – Ulland in 1997 and Silber in 1998 were named as the State tournament 'Most Valuable Player'. After winning his second State title in 1998, Coach Brinkman received the 'Coach's Achievement Award'. As stunning as the success of these first six years was, there would be even greater things ahead.

### **1994-95**

Coach Tom Brinkman, working in close connection with Janet Jaeger (an experienced and highly successful coach of the program at Mount Notre Dame), began the Moeller program with a total of twenty-three (23) athletes. He decided to keep twelve (12) players on this first Varsity team.

With 'an eye to the future', Tom's Varsity consisted of three (3) seniors – Brian Cullen, Nik Nahrup and Joe Quinn. All three would serve as captains. There would be only a single junior, seven (7) sophomores and one (1) freshman.

The first opponent in the history of Moeller Volleyball was an established program, the Warriors of Lebanon, Ohio. Later on in this spring, Lebanon would be crowned the State Champion in the sport of Volleyball. Senior captain Brian Cullen will forever hold the distinction 'of having scored the first point ever for the Crusaders'. This would not happen until the second game of the match. It would also be the 'only' point scored as the Warriors defeated Moe (15-0), (15-1). Fortunately, the team did not have to wait long to capture its first victory. This came in its second contest versus Vandalia Butler.

While Moeller competed against Elder, McNicholas, Purcell Marian, Roger Bacon and St. Xavier, there would be no 'formal' GCL league until the following spring. In what would be a harbinger of 'things to come', Moeller did manage a record of (7-3) against this list of opponents. Two of those losses came at the hands of St. Xavier. The third was to Elder. The overall season record of (12-11) would include a third loss to the Bombers in the first round of the State playoffs.

Captain Joe Quinn would be the first of what would be many Moeller Volleyball players to be honored by selection to the All Ohio team. Joe received 'Honorable Mention' in the spring of '95.

### **1995-96**

Season number two saw coaches Brinkman and Meyer assemble a young, but experienced twelve (12) man Varsity. Tim Pennekamp would be the 'lone' senior. There were eight (8) juniors, two (2) sophomores and one (1) freshman. The schedule was expanded to thirty-six (36) matches. Including a three-match run in the State Playoffs, the final tally would be (25-11).

This was the first year in which there would be a GCL Championship. A total of seven (7) schools participated. The honor of being the league's first champion would go the 'Panthers' of Elder. The 'Moe-Men' finished in a tie for second-place with a record of (9-3). Captain Tim Pennekamp made First Team All GCL. Juniors Jason Gerwel and Greg Ulland received Second Team honors.

After experiencing a 'one and out' introduction to the State Playoffs the previous season, The Crusaders were hoping for better things this spring. They realized those dreams, as they eliminated two (#3) seeds, Elder and Dublin Coffman, on their way to the Regional Final. They stumbled on this final step to the State Final Four, losing to Toledo Catholic Central.

Tim Pennekamp's efforts were recognized on the State level. He was named as a Third Team All Ohio selection.

### **1996-97**

If anyone had stepped forward and predicted that the Volleyball team of Archbishop Moeller High School would win a State Championship in only the third season of its existence, they more than likely would have been considered to be at the very least 'wishful thinkers'. The fact is that is exactly what the fourteen (14) young men did. Leading the way were five (5) seniors, all of whom were in their third season of Varsity experience. They had been joined by nine (9) juniors. Two (2) had been Varsity team members the previous spring. The other seven (7) had been key pieces in the (21-1) Junior Varsity. Coaches Brinkman and Meyer were 'not looking ahead', but they definitely 'liked the hand they had been dealt'.

Year two of the GCL Championships ended with the Crusaders of Moeller posting a perfect (11-0) mark to claim the title of Champions. Senior captains Clint McCabe and Greg Ulland were named as First Team GCL All Stars. Senior captain Jason Gerwel, along with juniors Joe

## Chapter Five

### Ten more ‘Outstanding’ years

Dan Ledford would serve as the Principal of his alma-mater for three more years. Upon his departure in June of 2003, he would be succeeded by Blane Collison. Blane assumed the leadership of Archbishop Moeller High School, after serving as the principal of one of its near-by ‘feeder’ schools – St. Vincent Ferrer.

Thus, a total of seven men would guide this dynamic institution through its first fifty years. It is somewhat reflective of the changes within the Catholic church in general, that after five ‘religious’ had lead the school through the first thirty-one and a half years, that responsibility would be placed in the hands of two laymen over the final eighteen and a half school-years.

With the exception of the duties of the Assistant Principal in charge of Academics, the remainder of the Administrative Team was ‘rock-solid’ in its stability. The Academic leadership was handled by Bro. John Habjan SM for four (4) years, then by Mike Rakel MHS ’70 for four (4) more and finally by Chris Wright for the final two (2) years of the decade. Carl Kremer continued to serve as the Dean of Students throughout the decade. By the end of the (2009-10) school-year, he had served in this capacity for eighteen and a half years. The Athletic Department was also in the capable and experienced hands of another eighteen and a half year veteran in the person of Barry Borman MHS ’64. For this proud member of the school’s first graduating class, there would only be five years of the school’s first fifty during which he was not in the building on a day by day basis. The level of experience of the final two administrators would actually lead the list. Bill Balbach MHS ’72 would end this decade with twenty-two (22) years of service to his alma-mater, as the school’s Treasurer. Bro. Bob Flaherty SM, who would celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his vows as a Marinist in April of 2010, completed his thirty-eighth year as the Head of the Guidance Department. One additional special note on the service of Bro. Bob lies in the fact, that forty-seven (47) of his fifty (50) years have been devoted to the ‘Men of Moeller’.

It is not by chance that this decade would see the many and varied accomplishments of this special school continue to grow almost exponentially. The dynamic and stable leadership of the men listed above, coupled with a stable and committed faculty and staff made this an almost certain reality.

The first fifty years would definitely prove to be ‘Golden’.

### At Archbishop Moeller High School “Tradition never graduates, it only grows stronger”

As unbelievable as it seems, the final ten years of the ‘first fifty’ in the history of Moeller High School produced achievements that continued to enhance the reputation of this already outstanding institution.

Building upon the momentum established in the previous decade, the Crusader athletic teams of this decade produced the following ‘outstanding’ results.

Eight Team State Championships – Baseball (2) – ’04, ’09, Basketball (2) – ’03, ’07,  
Volleyball (4) – ’04, ’05, ’07, ’09

Eight Individual State Champions – Swimming/Diving (3) – ’07, ’09-2,  
Wrestling (5) – ’00, ’01, ’03, ’07-2

Eight Team State Runners-Up – Basketball (1) – ’10, Golf (2) – ’04, ’09, Volleyball (2) – ’03, ’06,  
Wrestling (3) – ’00, ’01, ’07

Two Individual State Runners-Up – Track (1) – ’05, Wrestling (1) – ’04

Six Team State Final Four Appearances – Baseball (2) – ’00, ’08, Basketball (1) – ’05,  
Ice Hockey (1) – ’05, Lacrosse (2) – ’06, ’07

They were eliminated in the District Final once again, by an identical score of (4-3), at the hands of league champion Talawanda. ‘Moe’ did not go down without a fight. This battle was not decided until the end of two overtimes.

Juniors Greg Allen and Mitchell Hardin were First Team All League honorees. Andrew Chaney and Cody Duncan were Second Team selections.

Senior Andrew Chaney joined Nick, as the duo produced both the best Senior Season and Career numbers in the class of ‘04.

Single Season Leaders – Andrew Chaney – Goals – 16, Assists – 16, Points – 30

Nick Manibusan – Goals – 14, Assists – 10, Points – 24

Career Leaders – Andrew Chaney – Freshman – Goals – 0, Assists – 1, Points – 1

Sophomore – Goals – 8, Assists – 17, Points – 25

Junior – Goals – 13, Assists – 12, Points – 25

Senior – Goals – 16, Assist -14, Points – 30

Career (‘01, ‘02, ‘03, ‘04) 37 44 81

Nick Manibusan – Junior – Goals 1, Assist – 3, Points – 4

Senior – Goals – 14, Assists – 10, Points – 24

Career (‘03, ‘04) 15 13 28

## 2004-05

It appears as though the ‘hockey-gods’ look very favorably upon ‘new’ coaches. This thought is offered since Mike Reeder’s first season as the Head Coach would very closely parallel the program’s first season under Andy in (1996-97). The final record of (27-7-2) came within a single victory of tying the team record for ‘Most Wins in a Season’. An appearance in the ‘Frozen Four’ as a State Semi-Finalist, was a first-ever for the Moeller program.

The ‘05 team was the champion of both the SWOHSHL regular season and the tournament. It won the Worthington Kilbourne Memorial Tournament. It won the GCL Christmas Tournament. In mid-January, it defeated Toledo St. John, Toledo Central Catholic and Elyria Catholic to capture the Toledo Catholic Invitational.

Assisting Mike in this highly successful season were Chris Chalifoux, Yvon DesFosses, Mary Ann Huffman, Greg Macksood and Buddy Payne. Serving as the team’s captains were Greg Allen, Victor Courtemanche, Cody Duncan and John Lewis.

This quartet provided some of the best Single Season and Career Scoring in the history of the program. Senior Goalie Mitch Hardin would also be leaving behind a personal legacy that was ‘unrivaled’.

Greg Allen and John Lewis produced numbers in their senior season that were ‘mirror-images’ of one another.

Single Season Leaders – Greg Allen – Goals – 16, Assists – 20, Points – 36

John Lewis – Goals – 20, Assists – 16, Points – 36

Career Leaders – Greg Allen – Freshman – Goals – 6, Assists – 19, Points – 25

Sophomore – Goals – 23, Assists – 27, Points – 50

Junior – Goals – 37, Assists – 25, Points – 62

Senior – Goals – 16, Assists – 20, Points – 36

Career (‘02, ‘03, ‘04, ‘05) 82 91 173

Victor Courtemanche – Freshman – Goals – 12, Assists – 8, Points – 20			
Sophomore – Goals – 23, Assists – 19, Points – 42			
Junior – Goals – 15, Assists – 13, Points – 28			
Senior – Goals – 12, Assists – 4, Points – 16			
Career ('02, '03, '04, '05)	62	44	106
John Lewis – Freshman – Goals – 10, Assists – 16, Points – 26			
Sophomore – Goals – 14, Assists – 14, Points – 28			
Junior – Goals – 9, Assists – 10, Points – 19			
Senior – Goals – 20, Assists – 16, Points – 36			
Career ('02, '03, '04, '05)	53	56	109

Mitch Hardin, who had been possibly the finest 'Goal-Tender' in the history of Moeller Ice Hockey, had been 'in the nets' for one hundred nineteen (119) games over his four year varsity career. In thirty-one (31), or more than one-fourth (1/4) of those contests, he shut-out the opponent. A breakdown of his performances on a season by season basis reflects the consistency of his efforts.

Season	Games	Goals Against	Goals-Average	Shutouts
Freshman	22	25	1.1	9
Sophomore	38	69	1.8	7
Junior	29	62	2.2	6
Senior	30	48	1.6	9
Career	119	204	1.7	31

## 2005-06

Season number two of the 'Mike Reeder' era served as a harbinger of the element of consistency that would characterize this program over the last five years of the decade. This would be in evidence in the make-up of the varsity staff and also in the final records for each of these seasons.

Chris Chalifoux, Yvon DesFosses, Mary Ann Huffman and Buddy Payne assisted in the production of an overall record of (24-5) season.

The five team captains, Dan Chalifoux, Joe Chalifoux, Eric Korst, Matt MacDowell and Mark Prampero, did their part, as they led their teammates to a second straight SWOHSHL Championship with a (10-1) tally. This was the tenth title for Moeller High School.

The (2005-06) Moeller 'Ice-Men' wasted no time in setting the tone for success in this season. They won their first twenty (20) games before sustaining a (4-0) shut-out at the hands of Mother Teresa High School of Ontario, Canada. This is the longest winning streak in history.

The loss to Mother Teresa was the beginning of a three game losing streak. The Crusaders lost their next game, on Canadian soil, to John Paul II High School of Ontario by a margin of (7-4). A return to the 'States' did not provide an immediate cure to their woes, as they were overwhelmed by Oxford Talawanda (6-1).

Fortunately, the 'Blue and Gold' regrouped to post impressive wins over Sycamore, St. Xavier and Alter to nail down the league title.

Senior Eric Korst was a First Team All League selection. Freshman Nate Han and sophomore Jon Korst received Honorable Mention recognition.

Over the course of the season, this team won three tournaments posting (4-0) records in each. In order of appearance, these venues were the Columbus St. Charles Thanksgiving Day Tourney, the Landon Ramirez Memorial Tournament and the GCL Christmas Tourney.

Senior Joe Busam and junior captain James Rogan were both selected as Second Team All Ohio All Stars.

When one takes notice of the fact that six (6) out the seven (7) Midwest All Stars were underclassmen and is supplied with the additional fact that twenty-two (22) of this twenty-seven (27) - man roster will be returning in the spring of 2011, they may be very hopeful that better days are ahead.

## **Rugby:**

The sport of Rugby made its appearance as a part of the Archbishop Moeller Athletic program in the spring of 2009. It is very possible that there is no other sport in the entire athletic program that has been more 'enjoyed' by its participants. Although it is an extremely physical sport and requires a high level of speed and conditioning, the players really seem to enjoy every minute of the action.

Despite the fact that it has only been 'on the scene' for two seasons, it has generated such success and popularity that this attempt is made to document its brief history.

### **2008-09**

Rugby, like its fellow spring sport of Lacrosse, was brought into the fold of Moeller athletics due to the interest and support of a 'parent'. In this case, Charlie Blum, whose twin sons were sophomore football players, hooked-up with a staff-member, Doug Rosfeld, who thought the idea had considerable merit as well. After some discussions, they presented the concept to Athletic Director Barry Borman. Barry provided them with all of the basic guidelines necessary to 'get the ball, rolling'.

The interest level of the students proved to be even greater than might have been expected. Thus, this sport became the sixth available in the spring season for the Moeller student/athletes.

As amazing as the development of this sport had been, its success story 'on the field' was even more so.

Despite the fact that the team played six regular season games against 'established' Club teams, it battled its way to an 'undefeated' tally of (6-0). After capturing its first two wins over Club teams from Dayton and St. Xavier HS by scores of (15-13) and (12-10), this young and inexperienced squad actual put together three shut-outs in its last four games.

The Crusaders were entered into a Southwest Ohio Tournament. In that event, they defeated Walnut Hills, a veteran program, for the second time. Finally, in the second round of this tourney, they dropped their first contest of the spring to Dayton (3-0).

The final action of the season took place in a round-robin State Tournament. Loss #2 to a team from the Westerville Area would be the only time all year that the 'Men of Moeller' would be soundly defeated. They lost this game by a score of (22-0). In typical Moeller fashion, these young men ended their inaugural campaign in style. They shut-out Dayton, the same team that had handed them their first-ever loss, by a (19-0) margin and Bishop Watterson HS by a count of (6-0).

### **2009-10**

An unbelievable final season record of (17-0) in this second season would be capped-off by winning the State Championship. The improvement over the previous season was in evidence throughout the entire spring. Both the athletes and their coaches had developed a remarkable command of the subtleties of the sport.