



LORAS COLLEGE™

History of Loras Basketball

1909-1914 St. Joseph College

1915-1919 Dubuque College

1920-1939 Columbia College

1940-2008 Loras College

The Early Years

The first college basketball game was played on January 12, 1909, against the Wizards. I assume that this was a semipro team from the city of Dubuque. During this first season, games were also played against teams from Epworth and Cedar Rapids. *The College Spokesman* of 1909 described this first game as follows: “Game was played on the College floor on the evening of January 12, 1909, before the team was thoroughly organized. The score shows our superiority over the visitors, but their speed and skill succeeded in keeping the score in dangerous territory. The final score was St. Joseph’s 38, Wizards 19.”

First Game Players

St. Joseph College

Murray
Darcey
Schneider
Kerwisk, captain
Clark

Wizards

Wareham
Huckels
Thimmesch
Glodin
Lies

David Rath coached St. Joseph’s from 1909 to 1914. We need to note that until the mid-twenties basketball did not begin until January, and the term “home court” was used to describe the site of these early games. I was unable to locate any pictures of this area, but assume that it was located near the east end of what is now Hoffmann Hall, and for years was St. Joseph’s Hall, Columbia, and Loras Academy.

Father Andy Creighton, class of 1925 and College faculty member from 1929-80, wrote a brief history of St. Joseph’s and Dubuque College in 1923 in which he noted that in 1907 the dining hall at St. Joseph’s was abandoned in favor of a commodious gymnasium in the new dormitory. I think one can assume that the teams of 1909-13 played in this area awaiting the construction of Bahl Hall in 1914. This building was to be known as the St. Joseph’s, Dubuque, Columbia, and Loras Academy Gym, and, following the opening of Wahlert High School, was generally referred to as the lower campus gym.

Following the end of the 1909 season, I found the following quote from the *Spokesman* of special interest: “Basketball at St. Joseph’s is in its infancy. If it be true that the child is father of the man, the husky infant among us bids fair, in a few years, to prove dangerous to the champions of the middle west.”

Games of special note in the early years were a victory over Iowa State Teachers by a score of 26 to 15 in 1911 and on January 20, 1912, a win over St. Ambrose, 24 to 18. The game was so described “The first game between these two historic rivals, in a well-played game, St. Joseph’s easily defeated St. Ambrose

on the home court.” In 1912 the Hawkeye College Conference was founded. Included were Iowa State Teachers College, Ellsworth, Upper Iowa, Central, Parsons, William Penn, Iowa Wesleyan, St. Ambrose, Buena Vista, and St. Joseph.

An historic event occurred on Monday, June 8, 1914, at the dedication of Loras Hall (now Keane) at the corner of Loras Boulevard and Alta Vista Street when it was announced: “In connection with the following, it will be interesting for our friends and the general public to know that henceforth our institution will be known as Dubuque College. The collegiate building will be known as Loras Hall and the high school as St. Joseph’s.” The first basketball coach at Dubuque College was Gus Dorais (Loras Hall of Fame, 1983), and he began the season at the “New Gymnasium,” called Bahl Hall, for two years. This historic facility (located at Henion Street and Loras Boulevard) was taken down in 1981.

Platteville Normal, 19; St. Joseph College, 37
Dubuque, January 10, 1915

“The first intercollegiate basketball game played in Bahl Hall was staged with Platteville Normal. To the rooters the gym proved a great improvement over the old one, while, owing to the comparative largeness of the floor, the work lacked some of the snap that was to be shown on the smaller court. The game, as shown by the score, went to St. Joseph College by a large margin, but it looked like anyone’s game until the last few minutes of play. During the first half, both teams showed excellent form, and at no time did either of the contestants seem to have the better of the other. First one, then the other would score, and when the whistle blew at the end of the first half, the score showed St. Joseph College to be in the lead by a margin of only one point, the score standing 14 to 13

“The beginning of the second half continued along the same lines, thus keeping the rooters in high tension. After the half had progressed for some time, St. Joseph College took a spurt and showed superiority over the Wisconsin quintet. From then on, the St. Joseph College squad held the Normal scoreless and dazzled them by their effective work. The work of Connell at forward and of Heuser at guard featured for St. Joseph College. Cretzmeyer, although not figuring in the scoring, played a good game at guard. Sutherland proved the most valuable man for Platteville.”

Dubuque College was to win its first Hawkeye championship on February 18, 1915, under Coach Dorais. *The Spokesman* in 1915 described the season of 1915, and the first conference championship as follows: “Our basketball season of 1915 was the most successful in the history of the College. It brought Dubuque the championship of the Hawkeye Conference. From the first game played against Platteville Normal, to the last, in which we won over Beloit, our quintet showed a gradual improvement that satisfied even the most exacting fan. They won every conference game, and took three of the five games played outside the conference. We doff hats to our champions and to Coach Dorais, who goaded them on to victory. Their record, we hope, will be remembered by their successors in the years to come.” (*The College Spokesman*, 1915)

Dubuque, 17; I.S.T.C., 15
February 18, 1915

“This game was to decide the Hawkeye championship and our team was right there. But the other team was right there too, and the right-thereness of two opposing teams, each ready to do or die, resulted in a spectacular fight. The game was not pretty to look at, but it was rather a thrill-producer—something like the waters that roll down at Lodore. There was tumbling and fumbling and dashing and crashing and splashing; almost anything but basket-shooting. For a while it seemed as if the players didn’t know what the baskets were for. The band played, the devout prayed, and finally the battle ended 17-15 in favor of Dubuque. This result was gratifying because it evened us with the Teachers, who at the grand opening of

our gymnasium last year carried off the honors; but especially because it clinched the conference championship for the Purple and Gold.”

In 1917 Gus Dorais’ squad had a record of 7-6 which included a 15-6 victory over St. Ambrose described as follows: “The court looked something like a gridiron score, so we consulted Captain Walter “Abe” Martin who said the resemblance was caused by a footballish mode of play. Both sides excelled in everything except basketball. Close guarding, random tossing, and aggressive tactics featured the game. Our tossers were so satisfied with the victory that for once not the ghost of an alibi has been forthcoming.” (*The College Spokesman*, 1915)

Dubuque lost the conference title in 1917, losing to State Teachers, 15-13. This defeat was helped by the fact that Dalton, the star guard proved himself too aggressive and left the game as was quoted “at the pressing invitation of the official.” The 1918 season marked the final year for Dorais, who enlisted in the army that year. His victories included wins over Creighton, St. Louis University, and State Teachers, along with losses to Creighton and Nebraska.

The period during World War I was filled with difficulties for college athletics. In 1919 Dubuque College announced that it would have a basketball team, and this came as a surprise to many of the followers of sports at the local institution. The 1920 team had victories over Loyola Chicago and DePaul, but lost to Notre Dame and Marquette. The transition in coaches from Dorais to Cretzmeyer was greatly assisted by Walter “Abe” Martin who came to Loras from Mason City and took complete charge of the team in certain periods in 1918, ’19, and ’20. He also coached football for one game in the 1918 season and for five games in 1919. *The College Spokesman* paid the following tribute to Martin: “He had been a member of the football, baseball, and basketball teams for five years and had established a record of participating in more contests than any other athlete who ever donned the Purple and Gold. He has served as a colonel of the Dubuque College regiment the past year, and his admirers are confident that he will more than make good in things military.

“Martin entered college in 1911 and made a desperate effort to qualify for the varsity in every branch of athletics his first year. He succeeded in landing a position on his class basketball team that season, and this was the beginning of an athletic career that is considered by many to be the most remarkable in the annals of the College.

“In 1913 Martin first acquired fame as a football player. He made such a capable pilot that fall that he filled the same position the following season. In 1915 he was shifted to halfback by Coach Dorais, and it was in this capacity that he accomplished his greatest grid feats. In 1916 he was a prominent member of the greatest backfield ever seen in this section of the country—such stars as Dalton, Cronin, McGuire and McDonald were his mates. Last fall he was ineligible for conference games, but he was a big factor in the splendid showing made by his team in the Creighton, Morningside and St. Viator combats.

“As a basketball forward he has never been excelled at the local institution. He was placed on the all-Hawkeye conference team three different seasons and many critics pronounced him worthy of an all-state position. In 1918 after Coach Dorais had enlisted for national service, Martin took complete charge of the team.

“He has played nearly every position on the baseball team but catcher. He surprised his most ardent supporters three years ago by qualifying as a varsity hurler, and his slants have been big factors in the whirlwind baseball aggregations turned out by Coach Cretzmeyer the past few years.

“The College has developed some classy athletes in the past, but the record of “Abe” Martin stands at the pinnacle of those bearing the label, ‘Made in Dubuque.’ He has won his place through hard work,

sacrifice and determination. He is one of the most reliable and conscientious workers that ever wore the Purple and Gold, and he has won the admiration of students and faculty alike by his exceptional qualities that stand for character and manhood.”

When Loras alums speak of great Dubuque/Columbia/Loras three-sport athletes, the name of the Most Reverend John Paul (1939), Jack Rohan (1951) and Wayne Knipschild (1948) are the main topics of conversation. I would suggest we begin to include the name of Walter “Abe” Martin of Dubuque College.

In April of 1920 the following announcement was made regarding Dubuque College: “Our name will henceforth be Columbia. The change of name comes as a result of a compromise between this college and the local Presbyterian college and seminary, which also claimed the name Dubuque college. Both schools agreed to a settlement by which each would drop the name in contention and take a new one. The name Columbia has the almost unanimous approval of the alumni and supporters of this institution. Our college is big and it is destined to a great future. Columbia is a fitting name for such a college; it is a big name with big significance. It connotes the ideals of church and country, no less than the ideals of our college, which has as its motto: *Pro Deo et Patria*—for God and Country.”

During the 1919-20 season, Coach Martin selected Noonan and Long, both lettermen, as the nucleus around which to build his team. Both were fast and clever, having played together the past three years. When I was attending Loras, my dad would talk about a great Dubuque athlete named Father Dorrance Noonan. I am ashamed to admit it took me over 50 years to research this topic. In one game, it was reported that Noonan’s shooting was not up to his usual standard. I am certain that this was biased reporting. Another report on a Dubuque victory stated that Noonan had been nothing short of phenomenal.

John Cretzmeyer coached the 1920-21 Hawkeye championship team, which included Noonan, Blake, Fischer, Long and Callahan. His teams of 1921 and 1922 had victories over DePaul and Loyola of Chicago.

Dr. Eddie Anderson took over Columbia basketball in 1923 and 1924, and football in 1922, 1923 and 1924. The 1922 football team was 7 and 0, one of two Columbia/Loras teams to have an undefeated season.

It was in this period that all future athletic teams at Columbia/Loras would come to be known as the “Duhawks.” This came about following a football game against the University of Detroit, when the *Detroit Free Press* referred to Columbia as the Duhawks. It is believed this came about because prior to the Detroit game, Columbia had upset the Coe College CoHawks, one of the power teams in the Midwest.

I noted that prior to this event, in the 1923 *Spokesman*, Father Bill Green, Loras history department 1930-52, wrote in support of a nickname for Columbia athletic teams. “Columbia may profit by the suggestion of Coe College, which a year ago offered prizes for a suitable nickname for their teams. After much publicity, the name ‘Kohawk’ was adopted on the suggestion of the faculty. This plan gained columns of publicity for Coe in newspapers throughout the Middle West.

“A nickname among colleges is not—cannot be—a term of opprobrium. Associations will soon add a glamour to the most unattractive title. The name of *piker* is one of the most uncomplimentary that could be bestowed on anyone today. Yet this name, ‘Piker,’ despite the unpleasant meaning which slang has attached to it, continues to be the semi-official term for the Washington University football team. Quite recently a movement was made to substitute a more complimentary name for this team, but the students voted to retain the old title of ‘Piker.’

“Columbia should have a nickname—a title which like the old praenomen or cognomen or whatever it was that was bestowed upon distinguished Romans—**will in time become identified with this College.**”

I checked with sports information at Washington University regarding the name “Piker” and was informed that their teams were known as “Pikers” during the period of 1905-07 but became the “Bears” in 1907.

Anderson would also coach the first game in the historic Loras College Fieldhouse on Alta Vista Street. This building was modeled after a structure at Loyola University in Chicago and hosted its first game, against Valparaiso, on February 21, 1925. The formal opening was held March 6, with a game against Notre Dame. I am quite sure that no one in attendance at the game on February 21 realized this would be the home of Duhawk basketball for 82 seasons plus four games.

The Lorian in 1925 described this game as follows: “The mob of spectators expected to see a fast game, and they were not disappointed. From the initial toss-up to the final gun, the two well-trained teams dashed up and down the great open spaces of the floor at a speed that would have soon exhausted men not in perfect condition. Sensational dribbling, passes, long and short, and flashy floor work that was impossible within the narrow confines of the Henion Street gymnasium were displayed by both teams.

“The students of 1925 were positive regarding the new gym. Joseph Walsh writes as follows, ‘I believe the new gymnasium will mark the beginning of a new era in Columbia’s winter sports. The new floor, which is one of the biggest and best in the conference, should give Columbia teams the opportunity for real practice, so long desired. Columbia followers need have no fear for the future. It is assured.’ Jack McKone says, ‘I think the new gymnasium will prove to be of great benefit to Columbia College, and especially to the students at Loras Hall (Keane) who will now have close at hand a clean, healthy place of recreation.’”

The first Duhawk basket in the Field House was scored by Bernie White, 1926 graduate. Father White was elected to the Loras College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1992. He was an outstanding athlete lettering in basketball, football, baseball and track during his years at Columbia.

Elmer Layden took over the Loras basketball and football teams in 1925-26 and 1926-27. He had victories over Valparaiso and DePaul during his terms as coach. I noted that the captain of his '26 football team was Gailen Thomas, who would later coach at Columbia/Loras Academy and Wahlert High School.

John Armstrong coached the Duhawks from 1927 through 1932. His best team was in 1928-29 when they compiled a record of 11-3. I took special note of a game played on January 13, 1928, when Valparaiso defeated Columbia. *The Lorian* gave the following evaluation: “In the greatest basketball game ever played on the hardwood court of the new gym, the Columbia Duhawks were defeated by Valparaiso University in an overtime period by the score of 26-23. From the opening whistle until ‘Eddie’ Brennan sank a beautiful goal as the gun barked, the game was like a continuous flash of lightning replete with thrills and sensational goals.”

Father Dan Coyne, a Loras legend, was a member of the Columbia/Loras faculty from 1925 until 1954. A member of the Loras Athletic Hall of Fame, his tenure involved teaching Latin, member of the physical education department, athletic director and basketball coach from 1933-39. Father Coyne was director of the Archdiocesan Basketball Tournament held in the Loras Fieldhouse from 1925 until 1957. Upon his death on April 20, 1959, the *Witness* paid him the following tribute: “His only priestly assignment was Loras College. It would be hard to find a Loras priest better known throughout the Midwest than Father

Dan Coyne. He was a great ambassador of good will. For nearly three decades, he traveled the length and breadth of the archdiocese, recruiting students and selling Loras College. He was 'Mr. Loras College' himself."

I did not know Father Coyne, but I heard many stories regarding him, from C. T. "Mike" O'Dowd, my brother Frank, Father Clarence Friedman, Msgr. Francis Friedl, Msgr. Tim Gannon and others. In his first game as coach, the team of Bill Boland, Mickey McDonald, Bill Leary, Greg Keegan, Mel Nicks, Bob Kieler and Russ Freeman lost to Iowa State Teachers 32-19 after falling behind 20-3 at the half. One needs to realize that some games during that time were played under difficult circumstances. As an example, in a 40 to 21 loss to Parsons, it was reported as follows: "The Duhawks' forwards found great difficulty playing on the small armory floor at Fairfield as their shots were often stopped in mid air by the low hanging beams."

The 1934-35 team marked the first time that all home games would be broadcast, as they were carried by WKBB, East Dubuque, Illinois. *The Lorian* reported on January 18, 1935: Columbia's fighting Duhawk quint lost a rough game to the Ambrose Saints 27-17 before 2500 frenzied spectators, the largest crowd to pack the local gym in several years." I was taken by the reported numbers in the Fieldhouse, the largest report was a crowd of 3,000 for an Ambrose game in 1937. I attended many games in the Fieldhouse and cannot accept the fact that you could crowd that many people into this facility; perhaps certain games were shown on a screen in the bowling alley. Please excuse a touch of "Irish" humor. The 1934-35 team finished 13-3, good for second place in the Iowa Conference and James McDonald was first team All-Conference and Ray Broderick second team honors.

The 1935-36 record of 12 and 8 represented an expanded schedule to 20 games which remained the norm until 1943 when twenty-plus games became a usual number. The captain of this team was Mel Nicks who went on to become a long-time member of the St. Norbert's coaching and teaching staff. He was also a close friend of C. T. O'Dowd, Loras legendary business manager, and, I might add, one of the finest Christians to ever enter Keane Hall.

One of the first mentions of John "Doc" Kammer appears in a 1935 publication as follows: "Anyone wishing to learn the finer points of handball, see 'Doc' Kammer. He professes to be a master of the game and is very generous with his instructions."

On December 4, 1936, Columbia defeated UW-Platteville 32-20. It needs to be noted that this was the first game played by Columbia during which a center jump was not held after each score. Dr. James A. Naismith, the founder of basketball, was not pleased with the rule change as reported from the Basketball Hall of Fame. "While Naismith and fundamentally sound play are synonymous, he did have at least one position that would be considered radical and might surprise some of the current purists. Today's players would be shocked to know that for the first 45 years of the game, play was stopped after every basket and there was a jump ball at center court. That rule was eliminated in 1936 to speed up the game and increase scoring.

"'Personally, I feel that the center jump is to basketball what the kickoff is to football,' Naismith wrote, 'to award the ball to a team after a goal is scored takes away much of the thrill that is present in an opening play.' Naismith, the ultimate purist was not pleased."

The 1938-39 season marked the final year as coach for Father Dan Coyne, as they finished the season 14-6. The highlight of this season was a trip to the NAIA tourney in Kansas City, the first of six to be made by Loras teams. Eighty-five hundred fans crowded into the Kansas City auditorium to see last year's champion, Warrensburg State of Missouri, defeat the Duhawks 20-16. I suspect it was not any

consolation to Loras that they held an 11-10 lead at half-time. The leading scorer for Loras was Johnny Paul.

Johnny Paul, from La Crosse, Wisconsin, went on to study for the priesthood. He spent his final years as the Most Reverend John Paul, bishop of the diocese of La Crosse. He was a member of the Hall of Fame class in 1983. Bishop Paul was outstanding in basketball, football and baseball; and I noted he was also pictured with the 1939 track squad. He would have to be counted as one of the top four or five greatest athletes ever to attend this institution.

In the fall of 1939, the Loras administration gave some consideration to changing the Loras name "Duhawks" to the "Lions." The reaction to this proposal was interesting. Gus Kerndt, ('41) contributed the following to *The Lorian*. "It would be a grievous and serious error if we at Loras College discarded the name of 'Duhawks' for the trite and obsolete moniker, the 'Lions.' To most of us here, the present nickname of our athletic teams is as traditional as Doc Kammer's homespun philosophy, Father Rowan's derby, and our grid rivalry with Luther.

"'Duhawks' is distinctive and appropriate; 'Lions' is worn-out, stale and hackneyed. The latter name is used by innumerable colleges and high schools. We are all familiar with the Columbia University Lions, the Nittany Lions, and a hundred and one other Lions. On the other hand, there is only one team which answers to the name of 'Duhawks' and that is the Lorasmen.

"If it's all the same to you folks, I'll take my Lions, Wildcats, and Tigers in the zoo where they belong."

Edward Cagney, also of the class of '41, had a different view: "In the past few weeks the eyes of the school have been focused upon the all-important decision of changing the name of the Loras college varsity team from the Duhawks to a new and more appropriate name, the Loras 'Lions.'

"No doubt many of the old guard will feel that changing the name of the 'Duhawks' to the proposed name of the 'Lions' will shatter much of the old tradition which has been so ably preserved by those same members. However, tradition cannot be the chief factor in the making of important changes or decisions.

"Next year, the football team will play their first home game in the new Loras Stadium which is now under construction. What would be more appropriate than to start the 1940 season in the new stadium with a new appellation for the team? So fellows, let's have a vote on this issue and let's vote for the new proposed name, the 'LIONS.'"

Following the publication of these letters in *The Lorian*, I could not locate any additional discussion regarding this topic. It would appear that the administration in Keane Hall made what I would consider a "wise" decision, namely, that certain issues are not worth the battle.

Len Winter came to Loras as football coach in 1936 and took over basketball from Father Coyne in 1939. His 1939-40 team went 14 and 6 and made the second trip to the NAIA in Kansas City. Len came to Loras from Central College where he had spent 12 years and won three Iowa Conference basketball championships.

His first basketball victory was a 34-31 win over St. Thomas. Among the starters in that game were Derouin, Severa, Bahning, and Voelker. Babe Derouin was named a first team Iowa Conference player in 1940, and during his athletic career coached at St. Ambrose Academy in Davenport. I got to know Babe at that point as one of his players was my nephew, Karl Noonan.

Loras lost the first game in Kansas City to Winfield, Kansas, the defending champions, 36-30. Co-captains Derouin and Severa stood out for Loras. Joe Severa scored 223 points during his career at Loras. The 1940-41 season resulted in a 10-10 record. John McKay was the top scorer; other team members were John Joyce, Marty McFadden, Fred Bahning and John Corcoran.

Mickey Marty played his first game for Loras in the fall of 1940. A preview of his greatness came in the second game against Arkansas State when it was reported "the amazing Mickey Marty dropped in nine buckets and a charity toss for 19 points during a 51-38 win."

Part II The Era of Vince Dowd 1941-1959

In 1941, Vince Dowd, at the age of 28, became the coach of the Loras Duhawks. He held this position for 18 years in what could be described as the glory years of Loras basketball. Vince began his career at O'Dea High School in Seattle, Washington, where his team won 55 straight games. He came to O'Dea after graduation from Santa Clara University. He followed his time at O'Dea as head coach at Leo High School in Chicago. His 1937 Leo team won the National Catholic Basketball Tourney held at Loyola University in Chicago.

Loras opened the '41 season with six straight wins, the first coming over St. Thomas 39-27. Captain John McKay was the leading scorer with 14 points; he was to leave Loras after his junior year to enter the Naval Academy finishing fifth in his class. Other members of this team were Bob Lorge, Jim Corcoran, Fred Bahning, Jack Joyce and Jim Farrell. Dowd's first loss was to St. Ambrose 35-34. The 1941-42 team finished with a record of 15 and 5, including a victory over St. Louis University. This team finished with five straight wins, the final two over St. Norbert and St. Ambrose. The 1942-43 team opened with season with six straight wins, including two victories over Iowa State Teachers. This team finished the season 10-7 and included players such as Jack Joyce, Tom Tierney, John Lewis, Joe Flad, Jim Farrell, Bill Doherty, Ed Sadowski, Jack Dunne and Jake Kunnert.

The 1943-44 season marked the beginning of a period which was to become the finest in the history of Loras basketball. I was fortunate to attend many of these games as a high school and college student. In those days, the crowds arrived at 4:00 p.m. to gain the best seats in the Fieldhouse. Stories are still told regarding certain games in this era. The 1943-44 team completed the season 17-5 and won the Iowa conference with a record of 10-0. Loras greats Dave Wareham, Dick Lynch, Bill Pender, George McNally and Paul Proctor were important contributors to this team. The Duhawks defeated St. Ambrose three times and also posted a win over Drake. I recall that two transfer students from St. Ambrose, John Sweeney and Bob Wittee, joined the Loras team. This was caused by the fact that a Navy program at St. Ambrose took over certain buildings, resulting in the transfer of a number of pre-cleric students to Loras for a brief period.

The 1944-45 team finished the season 19-8, winning the Iowa Conference and claiming victories over Drake and New Mexico. They opened the season with five straight wins, but during a Christmas trip, lost to Notre Dame, Indiana State, Murray State and Valparaiso. This team included Dave Wareham, Dick Lynch, Wayne Knipschild, Don "Rocky" Sullivan and Cuzzie Ottavi. Mickey Marty was discharged from service on Christmas Day and joined the Duhawks for spring '45. Marty had played for the San Diego marine base team, which won 55 straight contests. He would go on to become the player considered by many to be the greatest in the history of Loras basketball. He was named a Converse All-American, also a second-team Chuck Taylor (*Des Moines Register*) All-American, ahead of Murray Weir, University of Iowa, and Dwight Eddleman of Illinois. Despite the loss of Dave Wareham to the armed forces, the 1945-46 team won the Iowa Conference. John Moran, Wayne Knipschild, Mickey Marty, Steve Slattery, Cuzzie Ottavi and Dick Lynch were a part of this team. It should also be noted that George McNally and Paul Proctor returned from service to play an important role. Loras was invited to the NAIC tourney in Kansas City, defeating Panzer, New Jersey, in the first round before losing to Southern Illinois 58-55 in round two. Southern Illinois would go on to win the title.

The 1946-47 team won 21 out of its first 22 games, losing only to Fort Sheridan, a team they would defeat 62-46 in the final game of the season. The starting lineup for this great team was Mickey Marty and Dave Wareham at the forwards, Steve Slattery at center, and Don Sullivan and Dick Lynch at guard. During the season victories were recorded over Detroit, North Dakota, South Dakota State, Mexico

University, and two over state rival St. Ambrose. This team also had valuable contributions from John Moran, Bill Pender, Paul Proctor, Jack Joyce, Wayne Knipschild, John Tierney, Jim Pattee, and George Vinton. Loras completed the season with a 71 to 63 loss to Mankato State at the NCIC in Kansas City. Marty scored 31 points and Slattery 11 in this game. This marked the final game for Lynch, Moran, Joyce and Gene Kutsch. Father Gene Kutsch was a squad member for three years and spent 13 years at Loras as dean of men and math and religion teacher, and, I am proud to say, was a colleague of mine in Keane Hall for those years.

“Many people would agree that the greatest men’s game ever played in the Fieldhouse was the 61-57 victory over St. Mary’s of California on December 20, 1946. The score was of great significance because the night before St. Mary’s had lost to the University of Iowa 44-41. The *Telegraph Herald* described the actions as follows: ‘The Dubuque basketball fans who packed every nook and cranny of the Loras Fieldhouse got their money’s worth as Loras and St. Mary’s battled through a game which had everything—including two overtime periods, arguments, fights, and even a stopped clock before the Duhawks pulled out a chilling 61-57 victory which left a majority of the spectators limp.’ I still recall the vicinity of my seat for this historic game. It was only proper that Mickey Marty, the great Loras All-American, would lead the Duhawks with 27 points.” This team would win all 18 home contests, but did suffer a tough overtime road loss at Luther, 50-48. Marty was forced to leave the game with several stitches following a collision with Wareham while going for a loose ball. I understand this game was a hot topic in the Loras bookstore for several days, with most of the conversation centered around the officials.

The Lorian in 1947 announced the following as the starting five for the 1947-48 season: Proctor and Marty at forward, Slattery center, and Wareham and McCabe at guard. I visited with Jim McCabe about his start as a freshman and was informed that it only came about because of an early season injury to Don Sullivan. McCabe would go on to score 1772 points during his great career at Loras. He was named a Helm’s All-American and also All-Iowa Conference for 1949-50 and ’50-’51. I am also proud to say he was named senior class president for the great graduating class of 1951.

This team compiled a record of 20 and 8, winning the Midland Conference, and completed an impressive eastern swing during the Christmas season with wins over St. Joseph’s, Indiana; Detroit; Iona, New York; and Albright College, Pennsylvania. You begin to see the names of future Loras greats appearing in the scorebook, as McCabe, Moskal, Skraby and Ternes played in a large number of games. This team did suffer a 52-51 loss to Kirksville in the Fieldhouse, which was the first home loss in 28 games.

The 1949-50 team went 22-9, with a starting unit of McCabe, Skraby, Ternes, Moskal and Rohan. They also had important play from Enderlin, Garvey, and Vinton. During this season the Iowa Conference and Midland Conference determined that they would play doubleheaders which meant the same team on Friday and Saturday. Loras scored two victories over St. Joseph’s, Simpson, St. Mary’s, Westmar and St. Ambrose in these contests. I must admit that between the Fieldhouse and Saturday classes, it was very difficult to keep up with one’s studies. An important victory was scored over Western Illinois 79-73, in which McCabe scored 24 and Rohan 21. McCabe also scored 46 points in a game against Upper Iowa, at that point an Iowa Conference scoring record. Loras won the Northern Division of the Iowa Conference with a 93-68 victory over Parsons. It was reported that following that game the Parsons coach was asked about his All-Iowa Conference team and he responded ‘the starting five at Loras.’” This great season ended with a trip to Baltimore for the National Catholic Tourney, defeating St. Francis, Pennsylvania, in the first round, losing to Siena, New York, in the second round, and defeating Iona for the consolation title. The victory over St. Francis included 23 points by McCabe and 12 by Rohan. Anyone who was a student at Loras during this period can recall listening to the word picture of these games by KDTH legend, Gerald “Red” McAleece.

The 1950-51 team won the Iowa and Midland Conference titles and was the final year for one of the most memorable starting fives, namely, McCabe, Skraby, Ternes, Rohan and Moskal. This team finished the season with a record of 22-9, including three victories over St. Ambrose and a road decision over Western Illinois 59-49, their first defeat in 38 consecutive games on their home court. In that game, McCabe scored 17 and Skraby added 16. Vince Stankewitz, Les Teeling and Bob Lutgen began to gain playing time during this season. The Iowa Conference championship game was played at Coe College and went to the Duhawks over St. Ambrose, 71-49. Jim McCabe was named the No. 1 player in the conference, and Rohan, Ternes and Moskal made All-Iowa Conference. Loras was again invited to the National Catholic Tourney only to lose in the first round to St. Francis 65-54. Stankewitz was the leading scorer with 18, followed by McCabe and Rohan with 15 each. Loras was hurt by the fact that Rohan and Ternes fouled out.

The 1951-52 season was a difficult one for Coach Dowd, as his team went 6-20. Steve Slattery was completing his career, and Bob Lutgen, Leo Schlueter, Les Teeling, Tom Rogan, Lou Diaz and Doug Venne began to appear in the lineup. *The Lorian* was not used to covering teams with below average records and were a little upset when they stated this team was "floundering in the midst of a dismal season." They did not have to wait long for improvement because the 1952-53 team responded with a record of 17-11. The starting lineup included Mike Wormley, Bob Lutgen, Leo Schlueter, Les Teeling and Bob Kowalsky. They defeated St. Ambrose in the Iowa Conference playoff but lost to Ambrose in the District NAIA. This team had two victories over Luther and defeated Wartburg 100-97 in one of the highest scoring games in Loras history. Les Teeling was named to the All-Iowa Conference team, an honor he would receive again in '54.

The 1953-54 team went 15 and 8, with Wormley, Schlueter, Teeling, Lutgen, Lang and Gilbert seeing most of the action. The Jayvee team was under the direction of Coach Jean Schneider, and I note that Dick Wright was listed as the Jayvee ace and Cy Potts and Joe Ottavi were called the new one-two punch from Loras Academy. This team defeated Western Illinois, Iowa Teachers and Lewis, but lost twice to Ambrose. (I have a tendency to check those scores.) One needs to be impressed by the balanced scoring of this team, namely, Les Teeling (383), Ed Lang (329), Leo Schuster (243), Bob Gilbert (253), and Mike Wormley (137).

The top six players during the 1954-55 season, going 11-15, were Joe Ottavi, Ed McMahon, Dick Wright, Captain Ed Lang, Fred May and Cy Potts. They had a difficult start, losing five out of the first six, but were able to rebound with a victory over Iowa Teachers, one over St. Ambrose (Potts 20) and two over Wartburg with Wright scoring 26 in one game, before losing to Ambrose in the final game of the season. The final scoring totals were: Ed Lang (445), Joe Ottavi (351), Dick Wright (311), Cy Potts (303) and Fred May (286). Ed Lang was named to the All-Catholic Midwest team and completed his career with 1,027 points. This was the final year of participation in the Iowa Conference.

The 1955-56 team started out losing four out of five but was able to rebound with a 12-12 season. Fred May, Dick Wright, Cy Potts, Ed McMahon and Joe Ottavi would see most of the action, joined by Al Carew, a transfer student from Iowa State Teachers. I did notice within the freshman ranks the name of Robert B. Pommerich from St. Mary's Spring Academy, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. I was not able to locate any high scoring games for Bob. He is currently a professor emeritus in accounting and handles the scorebook at all home basketball games. In a 91-85 loss to Rockhurst, Fred May hit 15-of-16 free throws while scoring 33 points. This beat the old Loras record of free throws in one game held by McCabe and Lang at 13. At the completion of this season, May was number one in small colleges with a free throw percentage of .879 according to official NCAA tabulations.

Five seniors opened the season with the 1956-57 squad, namely, Cy Potts, Dick Wright, Fred May, Ed McMahon and Joe Ottavi. Jim Kenney, Bill Rhomberg and Joe McGowan were also expected to see

plenty of action. In the opening game of the 1956-57 season, Loras defeated Iowa State Teachers 77-66 with freshman Jack Frasco scoring 18 points. Frasco would go on to score 1798 points in 95 games, which is still the all-time Loras record. He is without a doubt one of the all-time Duhawk greats; and as I review the next three years, you will notice several mentions of his name. During this time, my brother Frank and I were on the clock and scorebook in the Fieldhouse, and five minutes into each game Frank would ask me for my opinion on how many Frasco would score. My prediction never matched the scorebook! After losing four out of the first five games, this team came back to finish 11-14. Dick Wright scored 439 to lead the team, followed by Frasco with 392 and Cy Potts 275. Wright completed his senior year with a four-year total of 1,098.

I cannot leave the 56-57 season without a few comments about Dick Wright. He was the first director of admissions at Loras, and I got to know him very well during those years. He was not only an outstanding basketball and baseball player during his college years, but he was also one of the finest "Duhawks" I have ever known. I will always remember Dick Wright for the following: In one year we had a certain freshman who was having academic problems, and Dick would come to Keane Hall each night to assist him with homework, etc. This was way beyond the normal duties expected from the director of admissions. I still recall how many of us were really happy to see this student receive a 3.000 his final semester senior year. Please understand this was years before grade inflation.

The 1957-58 team with Jim Kenney, Jack Frasco, Gene Potts, Bill Rhomberg, Ray Kosinski, Bob Wilhite and Pat Kapsch finished 11-12. The highlight of this season was a four-game winning streak over Iowa Teachers, St. Norbert's, Winona State and Knox, and two victories over St. Ambrose. Team scoring for '57-'58 was Frasco (413), Rhomberg (295), Kenney (241), Wilhite (232), G. Potts (199) and Kapsch (162).

The 1958-59 season marked the final one for Loras legendary coach, Vince Dowd. This team would be led by Frasco, Naughton, Rhomberg, Wilhite, Kapsch, G. Potts and B. Roth. They opened the season with a 73-52 win over St. Mary's, Minnesota, with Frasco scoring 22, G. Potts 17 and Rhomberg 15. *The Lorian* did a great job of covering basketball with such quotes as follows: "Loras Tommy Hawks the tommies of St. Paul 88-59 behind 25 by Frasco and 25 points from Bob Naughton." John Kunkel writing in the January 14 *Lorian* paid the following tribute to '58-'59 basketball: "The sudden rise to prominence of the Duhawk basketball squad this season has focused a great deal of attention on several players. Jack Frasco's battle with the 1000 point mark, Gene Potts and his scoring binges, Bob Wilhite's driving shots, Bill Rhomberg's rebounding, and Bob Naughton's emergence as a front line performer all have been noted by Loras fans. "BUT THE MAN I feel is most responsible for the continued success of the Duhawks is the man who has maneuvered his team to develop the depth necessary to keep a winning streak going even with the absence of a regular for three games. Careful attention to detailed scouting reports along with clever use of his bench by Coach Vince Dowd has kept the purple and gold machine functioning smoothly. To this 17 year veteran of the Loras athletic staff must go a great deal of credit for the victories recorded thus far in the campaign." This team would win 14 out of the first 16 games and play in the NCAA Small College Division Tourney held in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, only to lose to Hope College of Holland, Michigan, and Wabash College, Indiana).

I am proud to say that I knew Coach Dowd very well. I met two Loras Legends during my first week as a freshman in 1947. Coach Dowd was the instructor of my required class in physical education. I also met Doc Kammer the same day, as I stayed around to shoot some baskets in my **street shoes**, and, as I was leaving through the front door of the Fieldhouse, Doc proclaimed "Noonan, just because you have a brother on the faculty does not make you better than any other student." Doc and I became very good friends during our many common years at Loras. I cannot express my admiration enough for Vince Dowd; I am proud to have known this man. My wife and I still talk about the fact that his daughter Mary

Lou was our first babysitter. In fact, her first night was marked by the fact that Vince dropped her off at my brother Frank's house by mistake, much to the distress of Frank's teenage sons.

Part III
Jim Smarjesse 1959-62
Bob Zahren 1962-65
Gerry Potts 1965-69
Jim Berry 1969-73
Tom Reardon 1973-74

Jim Smarjesse became head coach in 1959-60. He arrived at Loras from Spalding Institute in Peoria, Illinois, where he had compiled a record of 79 wins and 34 losses. His team captured had third place in the Illinois state finals. He also coached baseball to 40 wins and 34 losses during his tenure at Spalding. His first Loras team compiled a record of 4 wins and 18 losses, in what was the start of three difficult years. I was close enough to the basketball program to “feel the pain” along with Coach Smarjesse.

The roster for this team included Jack Frasco, who would become the all-time leading scorer in the history of Loras basketball, along with Bob Roth, Bob Naughton, Joe McGowan, Tom Dedin, Tom Skram, Wayne Ressler, Dick Treon and Gene Carmody. This was a season of difficult losses, the most noteworthy a six overtime loss to Lewis College by the score of 81-79. I do not believe that any other Loras team played a game of this length. The sixth overtime was a sudden death agreement by both coaches that the scorer of the first basket would be declared the winner. Frasco scored 34 points and captured 18 rebounds during this contest. The final game of the season on February 26, 1960, was an historic one in the history of Loras basketball and was so described by Tom Lehnis in *The Lorian*: “How ironic can one basketball game get? On February 26, the Loras College Duhawks closed one of their poorest seasons in many years, winning only four games, while losing 18. Yet, on the same night, Jack Frasco, senior from Peoria, Illinois, ended his career as the greatest scorer in the history of Loras College basketball, by pouring in 30 points in the Duhawks 72-70 loss to Quincy College.

“Accompanied by a swinging jazz band, and a spirited group of ‘rabble-rousers,’ the spirit of the near-capacity crowd was at its best. The main reason was that they were all pulling for Jack Frasco to break the records which were within his reach that night.

“And Jack did not disappoint them. Before the night was over, the Duhawk star had broken five records, including the four-year scoring record of 1,772 points, set by Jim McCabe in 1951. Besides establishing the new record at 1798 points, Jack sank 12 free throws, to set the record at 426, erasing McCabe’s record of 418. Also, his 30 points brought his season average to 23.7, bettering McCabe’s 22.9. He also set the field goal record at 682, which shattered McCabe’s high of 667. He also established a shooting percentage record, by hitting .473 this year. This record is new, since no previous record has been kept.”

The 1960-61 season ended with a record of 4 and 16. The victories came over UW-Platteville, UW-Milwaukee, St. Mary’s and UW-La Crosse. The majority of the playing time was shared by Dick Treon, Gene Carmody, Jim Mellick, John Willenborg, Jim Goetzinger and Jack Jurewicz, along with freshmen Ron Van DeVelde, Jim Neppl, Mike McGrath and Tom Bryant. Jim Mellick was named the most valuable player. Jim Neppl appeared in nine varsity games as a freshman and had a 16.7 scoring average. His best effort was a 31 point total against UW-La Crosse.

The 1961-62 team ended the season with a record of 4 and 18, and included a 16-game losing streak. Jim Neppl scored 309 points as a sophomore and was named most valuable player. John Willenborg scored 304 points. I recall the final home game of this season which was an 83-81 victory over IIT, a tourney-bound team and one that had beaten Loras 74-49 in a previous game. This game was delayed several minutes by a wet floor caused by a leaky roof. Many of us can recall problems of this nature. Freshman

Dennis Haerle scored 23 points and Ron Van DeVelde tallied 20. Kunnert and Haerle did an outstanding job of rebounding.

I think that it is only fair to report that following the loss of Iowa Conference status in 1954, it was necessary for Loras to expand its schedule to include, in my opinion, **please note my opinion**, teams of a more competitive nature. Everyone who reads this material should understand that I knew all of the coaches beginning with Vince Dowd and many of the students who represented Loras on the basketball court. I would have loved to report that every Loras team was well above the .500 level, but this was not the case. Brother Frank would remind me on the scorebook that my problem was that during my high school and college days (1943-51), Loras lost very few games and I needed to adjust my thinking.

Bob Zahren took over in 1962-63 and completed the season with a record of 7-16. During this season Loras played four home games at Wahlert High School. This team included Jim Goetzinger, Jack Higgins, Fred Kunnert, Denny Haerle, Denny Marshall, Mike McGrath, Jim Nepl, Ron Van DeVelde, John Willenborg, Dave Willenborg, Jerry Klimisch and Bill Cameron. Loras scored victories over State College of Iowa, UW-Platteville and UW-La Crosse, a game in which Klimisch scored 17 points and Haerle, J. Willenborg, and Higgins all scored in double figures. Dick Wright, a member of the Loras Athletics Hall of Fame (baseball and basketball) joined the Loras staff as freshman basketball coach.

The 1963-64 season was Zahren's finest with a record of 14-11. After losing the first two games of the season, they went on to win seven out of the next eight. One of the key victories of the season was a 75-74 decision over Luther. In this game Denny Haerle scored the winning basket in the last four seconds. In a 88-68 victory over St. Ambrose, Haerle scored 30 points and collected 15 rebounds. The 1964-65 team had a record of 8-15, losing 14 out of the first 17. They did rebound to win five out of the last six. Loras participated in a holiday tourney at St. Ambrose, losing to Carthage in the opening round, but defeating the host team in the consolation final. Laddie Sula was named to the all-tourney team. The final scoring totals for this year's team were as follows: Denny Haerle (363), Laddie Sula (319), Terry Conlon (190), Joe Hajec (108), Rex Hester (214), Charley Riney (156), Jeff Gadiant (123), and Chuck Von Feldt (65). Both Haerle and Sula are members of the 1000 Point Club.

Gerry Potts became the Loras coach after four games of the 1965-66 season. This team would go 10-16 for the season, but was badly hurt by an injury to Jerry Klimisch in the opening game of the season. Zahren would go 1 and 3 in the first four games. His last victory was 94-66 over Dominican. Terry Conlon and Joe Hajec each scored 25 points. Potts was named coach on December 10, 1965. Laddie Sula, Terry Conlon, Rex Hester, Charley Riney, Jeff Gadiant and Joe Hajec were junior lettermen, joined by Tom Gindorff, Chuck Von Feldt, Doug Shinkunas and Tom Derouin. Potts, a Loras graduate and assistant coach since '63, would claim victories over Luther and UW-Milwaukee, along with an overtime win over St. Norbert's, among others during his first season. The 1966-67 season was Potts' best year, going 16-10, with two wins over St. Ambrose and advancing to the NAIA playoff against Wartburg. During the freshman game in 1966, Tommy Jackson made his first impact on Loras basketball, scoring 18 points. Tony Delgado, the former star player from Lewis College, joined the program as assistant coach and, after several tryouts, made the faculty intramural team. Sula, Von Feldt, Hajec, Hester, Gadiant, Rhodes, Gindorff and Jackson made valuable contributions during this excellent season.

Some of the highlights of the 1966-67 season included breaking a long winless streak against Lewis with a 102-88 victory. In this game Jackson scored 25 points, Hajec 22 and Sula 20. *The Lorian* described an important victory over St. Ambrose as follows: "In the Senior High Gym, backed by two bass drums, three sets of cymbals, and duck call, and the largest crowd of the season (3500), the Duhawks outclassed the Bees 99-79." Joe Hajec scored 25 points and Tommy Jackson 21 in this contest. In the final two games of the season, Loras would lose both games to Wartburg in the NAIA playoffs, the first 84-76, played at Senior High School, and the second 78-64, played at Waverly. Joe Hajec, who was also an

outstanding track star, would complete his career at Loras with 1070 points and Laddie Sula, current professor of economics, 1175. An important win of this season was a 78-77 win over Quincy to win the first Midland Conference title. The '67 *Purgold* described this as follows: "Loras never trailed, jumping to a 4-0 lead with baskets by Hajec and Sula, and continuing to the end with Hajec, Gadiant and Jackson combining for 9 points in just more than one minute to put the game in the winners column."

The 1967-68 team included Tommy Jackson, Chuck Von Feldt, Tom Gindorff, Doug Shinkunas, Greg Rhodes, Mike Walsh, Pat Lillis, Howie Mabry and Denny Stovall. In a tough 85-82 loss to St. Ambrose, Chuck Von Feldt, who would score 1184 career points, scored 16 points. He also collected 15 rebounds. Tommy Jackson, who would go on to score 1619 career points and claim 1103 rebounds in his great career, scored 21 in this game. In the final game of this 10-15 season, Von Feldt would score 48 points against Briar Cliff in a 113-87 victory. I recall this game very well as it was played on a Sunday afternoon before a packed house in the Fieldhouse. Bob Freund, writing in *The Lorian*, paid the following tribute to Chuck Von Feldt: "The key word in basketball has got to be 'drive.' It takes drive to play forty running minutes of a fast ball game; it takes drive to score a basket through three six-and-a-half-foot men. "Through four years of college basketball, senior forward Chuck Von Feldt has proved that he has that necessary quality of drive. A look at his record is more than sufficient to illustrate this.

"Earlier this year, the Loras co-captain was picked the fourth-best basketball player among the nation's small colleges. Also, in a half-time ceremony at the Loras-Lewis game, he was presented with a trophy that initiated him into the Loras 1000 Point Club. Since that game, Chuck has netted 187 more points to take his place as Loras' fourth-highest all-time scorer. His total pointage is 1187 in 87 career games.

"According to Von Feldt, 'The most important aspect of a good ball player is a proper attitude toward the sport. Of course, experience plays a big part also, but the basic ingredient is the player's attitude.' The Loras forward held down the center post on the Pacelli High School team in Austin, Minnesota, for four years, rounding out the vital attitude with experience. In his senior year there, he was voted an all-regional, all-state, and all-American player."

On February 7, 1968, Loras lost to the University of Dubuque 89-83. This was the first basketball game played between these two institutions. This was very strange when one considers that they played their first football game in 1909. I visited with Gerry Potts about this game, and he indicated that he had brought up the subject to Monsignor Driscoll, Loras president, and he did not say no, so the game was scheduled. Here are some comments by Hal Lagerstrom, *Telegraph Herald* sports editor, regarding this historic game.

"The University of Dubuque and Loras met on a basketball court for the first time in history Wednesday night at Senior High, and anyone responsible for keeping such a spectacle under wraps for 10, these many years, should be ashamed of himself. In one of the finest games seen on local hardwood in many seasons, Coach Jon Davison's University of Dubuque team shot a blistering 64 per cent from the floor in the first half and went on to an 89-83 victory. 'It was without a doubt one of our finest efforts of the season,' Davison said after the game. 'It had to be, partly because we were playing without John Smith and partly because Loras is a fine basketball team.'

"Davison credited the victory to good overall team defense, aggressive floor play and some fine individual performances. And, of course, to a brisk 56 per cent shooting effort as the Spartans poured in 37 of 66 shots." In paying special tribute to Loras star Chuck Von Feldt, Lagerstrom went on to report "But, despite relentless pressure from the entire UD defense, which was geared to keeping the ball away from him, von Feldt managed a game-high 31 points—hitting on 13 of 15 shots from the field in a superlative individual effort. 'I still maintain he's one of the finest players around,' said Davison. 'We have more respect for him than any other player we'll face all season.' Loras also got a good effort from

6-7 Tom Jackson, who sank 10 of 19 from the field and finished with 23 points, but Pat Lillis was the only other Duhawk in double figures and he had but 10.

“‘We lost the game in a four-minute segment of the first half,’ said Loras coach Gerry Potts. ‘We had them down 8-2 and the next thing we knew they were ahead, 18-11, and shooting like crazy. This was a tough one to lose, but it was a heckuva start for what should be a fine series.’ Loras never regained the lead after that four-minute surge by the Spartans, and were three times behind by 17 points—the last at 47:30, before avoiding a complete first half disaster with nine straight points by Coughlin, Jackson and Gindorff.”

The 1968-69 year was Coach Potts’ final year as the Duhawks went 12-15. This team included Tommy Jackson, Pat Lillis, Steve Coughlin, Doug Shinkunas, Jim Alston, Bob Pescitelli, Reg Carter and Al Grivetti. Three notable freshmen from Wahlert joined the team, namely, John Buri, Dan Breitbach and Vic Helling. They would defeat St. Ambrose at home, but lose on the road and also participated in a Chicago Christmas tourney, posting victories over Clark and Lewis before losing to Lane by three points. The University of Dubuque defeated Loras in the second game of this series, 83-77, but Loras scored two late season wins over Lewis and Augustana. Tommy Jackson would be named to the All-District NAIA team, and Pat Lillis earned honorable mention.

Jim Berry took over the Loras program in 1969, along with other changes in the Fieldhouse, namely, John Coe as athletic director and Ron Mescall as assistant basketball coach. Jim Berry was a graduate of Creighton University where he played three years on the basketball and baseball teams. He captained the “Blue Jays” in basketball during his junior and senior years, led the team in scoring and was voted the team’s most valuable player. (*The Lorian*, September 1969)

Coach Berry’s first team included Tommy Jackson, Denny Stovall, Dan Breitbach, John Buri, Steve Coughlin, Pat Lillis, Reggie Carter, Steve Hanig, Mark Miller, Al Grivetti, Vic Helling and Harry Suda. Loras went 7-17 during Berry’s first year, winning four out of the first five, but at one point of the season losing 13 out of 14, including two each to the University of Dubuque and St. Ambrose. The high scorers for Loras during this season were Stovall (348), Jackson (308) and Lillis (280).

Tommy Jackson would end his outstanding career at Loras with 1,619 points. On February 18, 1969, Jackson was honored as the only junior to ever reach the 1000 Point Club. John Duffy reported this event in *The Lorian*. “Tommy Jackson, captain, leading scorer and rebounder of this year’s Duhawks, achieved a milestone in his basketball career when he scored his 1000th college point against St. Thomas, Jan. 4. He is the only junior in Loras history to do so. At halftime of the Central game, Feb. 18, Tommy Jackson Night, he was presented with the basketball he used in scoring his 1000th point signed by all of his teammates, a trophy from the student body and a standing ovation from the crowd which included his mother. For Tommy it was a highlight in a basketball career that began when he first picked up a basketball at 8 years of age. He laughs when he recalls his first encounter with competition. ‘It was in the alley,’ he remembers, ‘where we played peach basket. We cut the bottom out of a wooden bushel basket and hung it up on a pole.’ Tommy stops laughing and is wholly serious when he says, ‘I’ve been throwing the ball around a long time. It’s really become a part of me.’ He came to Loras at 6’2” with ‘no idea I’d play varsity ball.’ He played three games of freshman ball, moved up to the varsity, whose record was 2-4 before midway in the season, and sat out two games on the bench before getting his first varsity chance in a game against Westmar. Tommy remembers the game well because it was a determining factor in getting a bid to the finals, and he helped to win it. He tells the story quickly and excitedly, fast break style. ‘Rex Hester was going for the basket for a lay-up and I was following to pick up the rebound. Rex lost his balance, threw the ball behind him up into the air, and I put it in for the two that we needed.’

“After that he started the rest of the season, 23 games, averaging 10.8 a game. ‘I had to adjust to 40 minutes of play and new patterns, but I felt good that I was just a freshman on the varsity,’ he recalls. That year he made all-conference second team.”

The 1970-71 season was a real turnaround as the Duhawks would go 18-7. The roster included veterans Lillis, Coughlin, Grivetti, Buri, Breitbach and Miller, joined by transfer Verlan Larmore, and freshmen John Gruber, Jim Kelly, Gary Schenkelberg and Lyle Galliard.

They opened the season with a 86-71 victory over Upper Iowa with Schenkelberg scoring 19 points and Larmore and Lillis 16 each. Jim Kelly came into this game with Upper Iowa leading 55-54 and Loras would go on to outscore UI 20-6. A December 15 victory over Platteville included 23 by Pat Lillis, putting him in the 1000 Point Club. Just prior to Christmas, Loras would defeat the University of Dubuque 89-82 for their first victory in this series. Loras was led by 27 points from Larmore, 16 from Lillis, 13 from Miller, and 11 from Buri. The University of Dubuque had five players in double figures, Redmond, Melloy, Beckman, West and Foley. *The Lorian* would give credit to the play of Mark Miller. “In the first 10 minutes Miller enjoyed his finest shooting and rebounding of the year as he utilized his height to full advantage at both ends of the court.”

Bill O’Neill, reporting for the TH, wrote the following regarding this first victory for Loras over UD. “‘It was a nice Christmas present for the boys on the squad, and they deserved it,’ coach Jim Berry said after his Loras College Duhawks defeated the University of Dubuque, 89-82, in the Senior High gym Wednesday night. ‘The kids wanted this one badly because we have never beaten Dubuque before,’ Berry added, ‘and they all did a fine job.’

“In the tightest game of the brief history of the series, the Duhawks held the lead nine times, Dubuque 11 times, and the contest was tied on 16 occasions. ‘Peckham certainly played one of his finest games ever,’ coach Jon Davison of the University said, ‘but unfortunately one man can’t do it alone.’ ‘Loras deserves credit for the victory. They have a fine ball club, and they took advantages of every opportunity. We had a lot of opportunities, but didn’t take advantage of them,’ Davison said. ‘When we ran off 10 points in a row, we could have taken command, but we missed on one-and-one free throw situations, and had a few turnovers that hurt.’ Berry didn’t single out any individual for special praise, saying only ‘all the kids played a fine game.’”

On a holiday southern trip they would defeat Georgia Southern, but lose to Armstrong State and Augusta. I blamed the Armstrong loss on Doc Kammer and the Augusta defeat on Vince Coyle, both of whom made the trip. In an 86-73 victory over Northern Iowa, Lillis scored 26 and Breitbach 20. In a 87-81 win over St. Norbert’s, Larmore would score 30. Freshman Jim Kelly scored 26 points in a 82-77 win over Lewis. An 86-77 victory over St. Ambrose clinched the Midland Conference title and was so reported by Lloyd Koelker in the March 9, 1971 *Lorian*: “The Loras College Duhawks gave perhaps their finest offensive showing of the season in Davenport on Feb. 27 as they shot 60% over St. Ambrose. The score was 86-77 as the Duhawks swept the 1971 series from Ambrose, retained the Victory Bell, went 9-1 in the Midlands Conference and headed for the NAIA playoffs. A good Duhawk crowd, led by those who had dribbled a basketball eighty miles, saw their team gain the lead quickly, and survive challenges midway through each half. Dan Breitbach led the Duhawks with 21 points, Pat Lillis had 19, Mark Miller 15, and Jim Kelly and Verlan Larmore had 13 each.” Loras would go on to postseason play in the NAIA Iowa playoffs, defeating Iowa Wesleyan 84-78 in a game played at Cornell College, but were denied a trip to Kansas City with a 81-66 loss to Wartburg.

Pat Lillis graduated in 1971, after an excellent career, scoring 1291 points. He would go on to complete medical school at the University of Iowa. He has been a loyal and supportive alumnus for several years. This young man from Williamsburg, Iowa, has left his mark on Loras College.

The 1971-72 season would open with an outstanding list of returning players: Breitbach, Buri, Miller, Larmore, Gruber, Schenkelberg, Kelly, Galliard, along with sophomores Dan Schlader, Harry Suda and Dan Corken. The newcomers included freshman Mike Weeber and two transfers, Tom Schockemoehl and Bob Anderson.

On a southern trip, Loras defeated Rollins College 95-87 (Kelly 27, Miller 20, Breitbach 19 and Buri 14) before losing to Florida Southern and Stetson. They lost at Ambrose 92-86, but won at home, 99-80, with Breitbach scoring 21, Larmore 16, Buri 15, and Kelly 14. They also won over the University of Dubuque 78-71.

Loras opened its NAIA bid with an exciting overtime 68-67 win over Wartburg. I had the opportunity to witness this game and have always felt it was one of the Duhawks greatest victories. This is caused, somewhat, by the fact that I knew the members of this team very well, and let me say, this was one of the finest groups of young men ever to represent Loras College. Hal Lagerstrom, writing for the T.H. described the play in the overtime as follows: “Kelly, who came off the bench midway through the first half in his super-sub role to ignite the Duhawks offense, then came up with the three-point play with 1:21 to go and Wartburg never caught up. Kelly was high scorer for the Duhawks with 18 points, Buri netted 16 in addition to his outstanding defensive effort, Breitbach hit 14 and Larmore 10—including the two free throws that put the Knights away for the season with an 13-5 record. Waldstein’s 19 points paced Wartburg; Stewart had 16 after getting only one first half free throw and Platte hit 15 before fouling out with 1:21 left in the overtime—on the play that Kelly turned into the big three-pointer. Loras was out-rebounded, 40-30, but Coach Jim Berry lavished praise on his front line of Larmore, Miller, Schockemoehl and Kelly. ‘A lot of people have been saying we didn’t have much of a front line, but we showed them tonight,’ he said in the wildly enthusiastic Loras dressing room.”

Following the victory over Wartburg, Loras found itself on the road to Storm Lake, Iowa, to play Northwestern from Orange City for an NAIA bid. I rode the fan bus to this game, and one of the others on the bus remarked, “I can’t believe we are riding over six hours to find a so-called ‘neutral court’ in Iowa.” This would result in a 61-59 loss, in what I could only describe as “heart-breaking.” It was well described by Bill O’Neill in the T.H.: “The basketball season ended here Tuesday night for Loras College with a heartbreaking 61-59 loss to Northwestern College in the District 15 NAIA playoff finals.

“Coach Jim Berry’s Duhawks made a gallant comeback after trailing at halftime, 35-24, to make it a close game for the last 14 minutes. Northwestern saw its lead cut to 42-35 in the first six minutes of the second half and three straight goals by Mark Miller, Verlan Larmore and John Buri for Loras made it 42-41. The Duhawks fell behind 45-41, before Dan Breitbach cased a pair of free throws and a basket to pull Loras into a 45-45 tie, only the third time the game was deadlocked. The score was tied again at 47 before Dave Albers’ free throw shot Northwestern out in front again before the Duhawks gained their only lead of the night, 49-48, on Breitbach’s driving basket with 9:05 remaining in the game. The game was tied twice more before sophomore sensation Jim Woudstra’s field goal put Northwestern in front for good, 56-54, with 4:40 left. In the meantime, however, Loras had lost its two big men on fouls. Mark Miller (6-7) went to the sidelines with 6:45 showing on the clock, and Tom Schockemoehl went out on personals with 6:17 to go. Despite this lack of height, the Duhawks may have pulled out a win except for a couple of the many questionable calls by the officials. Behind 58-57 with 1:33 left, Breitbach drove in for what appeared to be the go-ahead basket only to have a charging foul called before the shot.

“As a result of the ensuing dispute over the call, Loras was assessed a technical foul and Albers canned the free throw for a 59-57 lead. The foul also sent Breitbach to the sidelines with five and after a free throw by Roger Estes gave Northwestern a 60-57 advantage, John Buri raced in for a two-pointer to pull the Duhawks within one at 60-59. Roger Kempers of Northwestern was fouled intentionally with nine

seconds left, and made his only free throw of the night after seven earlier misses. Loras quickly worked the ball into Kelly, who raced down the floor, brushed a Northwestern player, and was called for a charging foul that again upset the Duhawks as time ran out.”

Following this season, Dan Breitbach was named All-Conference, All-District and honorable mention All-American. He was also selected as the best senior collegiate basketball player in the state of Iowa. Verlan Larmore, Mark Miller and John Buri also received conference and district awards. In September of 1972, Mike Cassaday, writing in *The Lorian*, paid a special tribute to John Buri and Dan Breitbach.

“On campus last year it was general opinion that the Loras College basketball team had the best backcourt in the State of Iowa. The two men who comprised this, John Buri and Dan Breitbach, have graduated now, but let’s take a brief look at what they did to insure the validity of my first statement. John Buri, a little 5’ 10” Wahlert High School product, was a steady performer all four years at Loras. What he lacked in size, he definitely made up in hustle. He was a determined leader as reflected by his being chosen co-captain of the team his last two years.

“His senior year, John hit a fantastic 58.3% of his shots from the field. This figure became much more impressive when you consider that most of his shots came from around 20 feet out. While doing this, he also found time to achieve a 3.84 grade point average. This all led to a \$1000 NCAA postgraduate scholarship. Earlier this month, John became only the third Duhawk scholar-athlete to qualify for this high honor in the school’s history. When you consider that there were just five of these scholarships awarded to all of the college division basketball players in the United States, you start to realize just what an honor he has received. Dan Breitbach at 6’0” was one of the quickest guards in Loras history. He came of age in his junior and senior years as he led the team in scoring both years and twice was named to the All-Conference first team. A fine defensive player, he was also a real leader. His senior year he joined the 1000 point club, becoming the 5th player in the history of the school to do so. This same year he was named the best senior collegiate basketball player in Iowa. Considering he was judged along the universities (Iowa, Iowa State, and UNI), this was indeed quite an honor. He topped this off by being named to the All-District team and receiving Honorable Mention All-American recognition. Both of these players will be dearly missed this season, but you can bet they won’t be forgotten.”

The 1972-73 season would open without Breitbach, Buri, Larmore and Miller, and the word on the hill was that this would be a rebuilding year. This was not the case as this team would go 16 and 10, to again move into the NAIA playoff picture. They would lose the first three games before defeating the University of Dubuque 72-71, with Kelly, Galliard, Suda and Shockemoehl in double figures. At one point in the season, they won six in a row before losing to Western Illinois. Some of the season highlights were as follows: Holiday Tourney at U.D. defeating Gustavus Adolphus 73-55; Kelly 20 points, losing to Platteville, Weeber 17 points, 10 rebounds; a difficult loss at Quincy 57-55; Kelly 24 and Weeber 14; defeated Platteville 89-71: Kelly 29, Gruber 12, Weeber 20, Suda 16 and freshman Greg Gibney 6

The end of the year presented Loras with a very unusual problem as they were forced to play two games on the same night: a playoff game against St. Ambrose and a conference game with St. Norbert’s. This situation, along with the final game of the season, was well described in *The Lorian*: “A strange and unique predicament faced the Loras College basketball team on Wednesday, February 28. It was scheduled to play St. Norbert for the outright conference championship but it was also to appear at Augustana College in Rock Island for a NAIA playoff game against St. Ambrose. Since the team was already guaranteed of at least a tie for the conference championship, the cagers decided the NAIA was the game they wanted. Thus, our so-called second team was sent to St. Norbert and our first team to Augustana. The first team played brilliantly, completely outclassing a good St. Ambrose quintet. Consistently, the Duhawks ripped the Bee’s trapping defense for easy layups. Most of this was the result

of some nifty driving and passing by Jim Kelly as he ended the night with 16 assists. However, the big difference was the Duhawks ability to put the ball in the hoop. Loras hit a sizzling 66.7% from the field for the game!

“Leading this deadly accurate assault was Greg Gibney with 25 points. He was followed by Jim Kelly (24 pts.), Bob Wagner (16), Harry Suda (9), Gary Schenkelberg (9), John Gruber (8) and Mike Weeber (8). The victory was sweet revenge for a 90-76 licking absorbed by the Duhawks earlier in the season. It also enabled them to meet Parsons for a berth in the four team NAIA District 15 playoff. Regarding the second team, their fate was not as fortunate. They were beaten by St. Norbert 109-93, but it must be remembered that they were without a player bigger than 6’5” and that for some of the team members, it marked the first varsity action of the season. Bob Anderson led the Duhawks in scoring with 23 points. Others with double figures were Lyle Galliard (21), Scott Peterson (15) and Mike Jones (13). The result of this loss was a tie with St. Ambrose for the conference championship. The game against Parsons, which was played on March 2 at Cornell College, was as gloomy for the Duhawks as was the foggy weather that blanketed Iowa on that night. Trailing at the half, the Duhawks mounted a second half surge that brought them from more than 10 points down to a tie at the end of regulation time. The first overtime ended in the same manner, but a tip-in at the buzzer ending the second overtime spelled an end to any hopes for a Duhawk appearance in Kansas City. It also meant the end of a highly successful 72-73 season.”

Tom Reardon became the Loras coach for 1973-74 as Jim Berry left for the head job at the University of Northern Iowa. Reardon had been the assistant coach in '72-'73, and his place was taken by Dan Corken, a '73 graduate. The roster for this team included Kelly, Gruber, Schenkelberg, Wagner, Gibney, Galliard, Anderson, Schlader, Mike Thissen and Mike Jones. They won their first four games, including 109-90 over Westmar, in which Kelly scored 30, Gibney 21, Weeber 15 and Wagner 16.

The 14 and 10 record included two wins over the University of Dubuque and a split with St. Ambrose. In the NAIA playoffs they defeated Dordt College, 90-64, with Kelly scoring 19, Gibney 18 and Wagner 16, before losing to William Penn 86-55 in the final game for seniors Kelly, Galliard, Anderson, Schenkelberg and Gruber. Jim Kelly scored 20 points in this game to finish his career with 1717. Jim Kelly and Greg Gibney would be named to the All-Midland Conference team.

If I were to list the ten greatest players, which I won't, from 1944-2009, I know that Jim Kelly would be on such a list. Lynn Foth, writing in *The Lorian*, described Kelly as follows: “Although Jim Kelly was not blessed with an outstanding shot, his swirling, whirling, twisting, unbelievable glass work on drives to the hoop will **live in the memories of fans** and numerous opponents who were befuddled by the manner Mr. Kelly sped by.” I am one of the fans with those memories. His scoring total of 1717 points places him third on the all-time list.

Part IV
Bob Mullen 1974-81 (9 games '82)
Doug Smith 1982-84 (final 20 games '82)
Mike Jaskulski 1984-88

The 1974-75 season would open with Bob Mullen (B.S., M.S. from Northern Illinois) as head coach and athletic director. He had held the same position at Galena High School. Barry Beckmann, 1970 graduate of Buena Vista, was named assistant coach. Mullen's first victory was a 93-85 win over Northeastern Illinois State. In this game, Greg Gibney scored 33, Bob Wagner 25, Mike Thissen 15 and Randy Skemp 10. His first loss was to Loyola University of Chicago, 94-77, with Gibney scoring 24, Wagner 15, Thissen 15 and Skemp 10.

This was a real season of streaks, winning four in a row, then losing four in a row and winning five straight before losing the final five of the season. This includes two losses to St. Ambrose and one to the University of Dubuque. In the 16th game of the season, a 77-74 victory over Iowa Wesleyan, Greg Gibney would score 23 points, putting him in the 1000 Point Club. He would finish his career with 1710 points. I believe that if Greg would have played with the three-point shot, his total would have been well above 1800. He was not only an excellent basketball player, but is also one of the finest young men I have had the pleasure of knowing. This was also the final year for Mike Weeber who ranks high on the leading rebound list at Loras, along with being an outstanding baseball player for the Duhawks. Mike also shared his talents by pitching the "Bernard Indians" to several excellent wins in semipro baseball. He made a great contribution to the NCBT by arranging the game officials for many years.

The 1975-76 team included Kevin Foley, Randy Gibbs, Randy Skemp, Bob Wagner, Greg Gibney, Keith Daniel, Mike Thissen, Mike Meyer, Gerry Eggers, Ron Norman and Jeff Vorwald. They ended with a record of 12-17, including a loss to U.D. and a split with St. Ambrose. In a 73-70 victory over the University of Northern Iowa, Gibney scored 28 and Wagner 13. During play in the Augustana tourney, the Duhawks defeated the host team before losing to Olivet Nazarene 76-72 in the finals. Gibney and Wagner won all-tourney honors. On his way to a career total of 1396 points, Bob Wagner totaled 42 in a 82-81 loss to Iowa Wesleyan. In a 103-78 victory over Lewis University, Gibney scored 21 and Wagner 38. Following this game Coach Mullen also cited Meyer and Vorwald for their good play. In a victory over Lakeland, Mike Meyer was credited with 14 assists on his way to becoming Loras' all-time leader in this category.

The 1976-77 roster included Mike Meyer, Jeff Howard, Tim Granzow, Randy Skemp, Gerry Eggers, Dave Schnefke, John Trifone, Kevin Foley, Jeff Vorwald, Greg Jury, Mike Friedlein, Bill Finn and Bill Luensmann. They went 13-16, losing five out of the first six and dropping three out of four during a southern trip, the only victory a 79-68 win over Georgia Southern. In a 96-77 victory over St. Norbert's, Granzow scored 23 and Skemp 20. In a 108-25 victory over Coe, Granzow scored 19 and Howard 24. Mike Meyer and Tim Granzow made the NAIA All-District team and Jeff Howard was named honorable mention. The final game of the '77 season was a 88-86 loss to St. Ambrose.

The 1977-78 team would go 24-8, the best record since the 1951 team of Vince Dowd. Six seniors, namely, Mike Friedlein, Dave Schnefke, Jeff Howard, Tim Granzow, Randy Skemp and Gerry Eggers, were a part of this team. It was the best year for Coach Mullen as they won eight in a row, also eleven out of the final thirteen. A 73-62 loss to Briar Cliff cost this team a trip to the NAIA tourney in Kansas City. In a 80-65 win over Lewis, Granzow scored 19, and Howard scored 30 points in a 95-80 win over the University of Dubuque. Kurt Denner, in his first game as a freshman, scored 18 during a 96-45 win over Mt. Mercy. On the way to a 74-72 victory over St. Ambrose, Howard totaled 20 points and scored 1029 points in two seasons, a record that has not been broken. Steve Jirak paid special tribute to this team in

The Lorian as follows: “One of the finest basketball teams in Loras history ended their season with a 73-62 defeat against Briar Cliff last Wednesday. The closely contested ballgame involved a District 15 championship as well as the right to go to the N.A.I.A. national tournament in Kansas City this week. Although the Duhawks didn’t advance in tournament play, their season finale came on the road, at the hands of a nationally ranked opponent. Briar Cliff was ranked 19th in N.A.I.A. ratings going into the contest. Loras earned a berth in the championship game when they knocked off Graceland College in first round action at Dubuque Senior High School last Monday. This year’s team featured a team that averaged 80.2 points on offense and limited their opponents to an average of 68.3 points on defense. Junior Greg Jury, sophomore Terry Callahan, and newcomers Jeff Carter, Kurt Denner and Curtis Evans also helped to bolster the Duhawk attack.

“Howard led Loras in scoring with a 21.0 average, while Eggers paced his teammates in the rebounding department with an average of 6.1 per game. Besides garnering top scoring honors for Loras, Howard was also named to the District 15 first team by the coaches in the district. Eggers and Skemp were honorable mention selections. Howard and Skemp joined an elite group when they scored their 1,000th career point this season. Skemp finished his four years of play with 1,128 in 112 games. Loras finished the season with a 24-8 record. Highlights of the season were victories over Briar Cliff, St. Ambrose and Luther. The Duhawks also captured the title in the Dan Donovan Tournament hosted by the University of Dubuque.”

The 1978-79 team would go 22-12 with a roster that included the following: Terry Callahan, Bill Finn, Jeff Carter, Greg Jury, Curtis Evans, Bill May, Dick Mertens, Dave Cox, Bart Gibney, Bill Luensmann, Neal Trainor, Kurt Denner and John Schafer. Loras, with two returning starters, Callahan and Carter, and lettermen Jury, Finn and Denner, would end the season winning nine out of eleven, but would again be denied a trip to Kansas City by losing to Briar Cliff.

For the third year the Duhawks won the Dan Donovan tourney at the U.D., defeating Carroll College 67-64, with Jury scoring 14, along with six rebounds and five assists. They had defeated Platteville 85-75 in the opening round. In a 89-84 victory over St. Ambrose, Jeff Carter scored 24 and had 13 rebounds. Mike Heffern, writing in *The Lorian*, paid the following tribute to the ’78-’79 team: “If the 1978-79 Loras basketball team was supposed to be in what Head Coach Bob Mullen last November called ‘a rebuilding year,’ then now that the season has culminated, it can be said with little opposition that they are quite evidently ‘rebuilt.’ For the second year in a row the Loras cagers have surpassed the twenty game victory plateau and gone on to play in post season tourney play. This year’s club acquired a record of 24-12, which entitled them to the NAIA playoffs where they first beat Marycrest College 84-73 and then were conquered by Briar Cliff 78-68. As a footnote to the Duhawks final game, Briar Cliff (of Sioux City, Ia.) were in turn defeated by Drury College of Springville, Mo., who then went on to become the 1978-79 NAIA champions. The Drury victory over Briar Cliff was deemed ‘the most spectacular basketball of the entire tournament,’ by *College Sports Illustrated*.

“The season was highlighted by the outstanding play of several key individuals, including sophomore center Kurt Denner, who led the team in scoring with a prominent 14.7 per game average having 499 points on the season. Denner was runner-up in the rebounding department to Jeff Carter, who had a 9.1 per game average and 299 total rebounds on the year. Carter and Bill May were a close second and third on the year in scoring with 398 and 393 points respectively. A glance at the assists column and one name stands clear, as Terry Callahan closed out the season with remarkable 259 passes-to-be-points, giving him a career total of 378.

“Coach Bob Mullen said of the ’78-’79 season that ‘it was my most pleasurable at Loras. We went into games not expecting to win,’ he stated, and added that ‘our hustle and bench depth is what made this team.’”

The 1979-80 team won twelve out of their final thirteen games, go to the NAIA tourney and post the first Loras win in this event since 1945-46. Terry Callahan, Bill May, Jeff Carter, Curtis Evans, Bill Finn, Neal Trainor, Dick Mertens and George Lynch were all an important part of this NAIA team. One of the main victories of this season was an overtime decision over Briar Cliff before 3000 people at the Five Flags. This was a special day as it paid tribute to the great Loras All-American Mickey Marty. Kurt Denner scored the final six points for the Duhawks. A 113-81 victory over St. Ambrose marked the 100th career win for Coach Mullen. In this game Carter scored 25, Evans 19, May 16 and Callahan 14.

The Iowa playoff game to represent District 15 in Kansas City was held at the Five Flags and the Duhawks defeated Grandview 93-70. Curtis Evans would lead Loras with 29, followed by Jeff Carter with 21 and John Curtis 17. This victory would send five seniors, namely, Callahan, Carter, Trainor, Finn and May to Kansas City to complete their Loras career. The first game in the NAIA resulted in a last second victory, 72-70, on a shot by Terry Callahan. Loras led by ten points at half-time, but failed to score in the first eight minutes of the second half. Curtis Evans and Jeff Carter each scored 21 points in this historic win.

Loras dropped the second round game to Clarion State College (PA) 79-71; the Duhawks trailed at half-time 43-29 but came back to lead 64-63 on a free throw and basket by Curtis Evans but could not hold the advantage. Jeff Carter, who needed 24 points to reach 1000 for his career, finished with 13. John Curtis led the Duhawks with 18, followed by Denner 16 and Evans 13. Curtis also had 17 rebounds.

The last full-time season for Coach Mullen was 1980-81 and the Duhawks went 15-16. The only senior on this team was Kurt Denner. He was joined by juniors John Curtis, George Lynch, and Dick Mertens, along with Roy Humphrey, Paul Kacynski, Jim Hayes, Bill Hogan, Tom Meany, Tom Connolly, and Doug Goodmann, and freshmen Dwayne Spraglin, Van Bakke, Troy Cicero, Andy Kotlarz and Jeff Hermsen. Loras played ten home games at the Five Flags Center as part of a special arrangement because the College had provided the basketball court for this establishment. They won the first three games of the season before losing to Evansville, but did score a 68-60 win over the University of Dubuque with Denner scoring 26 and Van Bakke 15 before losing twice to Western Illinois. In the first game Denner scored 28 and Curtis 14, and in the second, Curtis, Cicero and Hermsen each scored 14. Grandview ended their chances of going to Kansas City with a victory over the Duhawks, a game in which Denner had 22, Mertens 18 and Curtis 13. Kurt Denner and John Curtis would be named All-District. Denner, who would score 1710 points during his great career, would receive special tribute in *The Lorian* from an unknown writer prior to the '80-'81 season.

“Loras College Center Kurt Denner will be a member of the 11-man squad chosen to represent the United States in Jones Cup Competition in Yugoslavia early in October. The 6’ 9”, 225-pound native of Fort Madison, Iowa, has sparked the Duhawks to back-to-back season records of 24-12, while winning All-District 15 and NAIA All-American Honorable Mention honors in the process. As a freshman Denner appeared in 19 games, scored 31 points and grabbed 37 rebounds. This was in sharp contrast to his sophomore year when he played in 34 games, scored 499 points and hauled down 220 rebounds. This past season he again played in 34 games, but he scored 527 points and brought down 272 rebounds. His scoring ability made him a member of the prestigious ‘Thousand Point Club’ at Loras as a junior and has fans wondering if he will be the all-time Duhawk scoring leader.

“The current school scoring record is 1,798 points, set by Jack Frasco from 1955-1960. Many people feel that if Kurt continues to improve and stays free of injuries, that he will hold the all-time scoring record when the 1980-81 basketball season concludes. Denner currently has scored 1,057 points, but his value to the team is impossible to evaluate in terms of a 15-point per game scoring average and an 8 rebound-per-

game capacity. His leadership, ball handling, and ability to hit from any place on the court makes him the man that opponents generally double up on, giving other players an opportunity to score.”

One of the most unusual games in Loras basketball history occurred in February of '81 when Loras defeated St. Ambrose 28-19. One hears a great deal about low scoring games in the early years, but we should note that Loras played Ambrose twice in 1913-14, one game going to the Purple and Gold 40-11 and one to the Bees 40-33. Bill O'Neill, one of the best Chicago Cub fans ever, covered this game with the following headline: DUHAWKS TAKE STING OUT OF BEES, SOLVE SLOW-DOWN TACTICS. Part of his T.H. game story went as follows:

“Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. That was the boast of one-time world heavyweight boxing champion Mohammed Ali—and Wednesday night it appeared Coach Leo Kilfoy of St. Ambrose thought the same about his basketball team. For the better part of 40 minutes whenever they had the ball they floated like butterflies, but the sting wasn't there and the Loras College Duhawks patiently went about the business of posting a 29-18 victory over the stingless Bees at the Five Flags. ‘They tried the same thing down there, so there was no reason to expect they wouldn't do it again,’ Loras Coach Bob Mullen said. ‘Our kids learned something when Marycrest slowed down on us and we got too far behind to catch up. Tonight we were mentally ready. We didn't make a mistake until 1:29 left in the game, and then we made a few.’ Loras led 25-18, with 31 seconds left, but Cicero marched to the free throw line over the final seconds often enough to cash four straight charity tosses to account for the final 11-point margin. Denner was the only Loras player in double figures hitting on six of his eight attempts for 12 points, while Sottos finished with five of seven shots for 10 points to lead the Bees.”

The 1981-82 season resulted in a split season for coaching, as Bob Mullen went 3-6 in the first nine games before Doug Smith finished the season going 10-10. Mullen left to become athletic director at the University of Southern Colorado. His assistant coach and Loras head baseball coach, Doug Smith, took over the Duhawks. Prior to coming to Loras, Smith had been the head coach at Iowa Wesleyan. Dan Corken was named as assistant to Smith. Coach Mullen's final victory was over Northeast Missouri State.

The members of this team were Gene Smith, Troy Cicero, Dwayne Spraglin, George Lynch, Curtis Evans, John O'Brien, Sly Bush, Steve Kramer, Jim Griffin, John Curtis, Andy Kotlarz, Dick Mertens, Rob Rudakas, Van Bakke, Rodney Roach, Jeff Hermsen and Doug Goodmann. The biggest win of this season was a double overtime win over St. Ambrose 111-109 so described by Bill O'Neill:

“Dick Mertens went in for a layup with 1:33 on the clock Saturday night to give Loras a 109-109 tie with St. Ambrose and with 23 seconds remaining he did a repeat performance for a 111-109 lead. And, as the Bees were looking to send the game into overtime, Curtis Evans stole the ball with two seconds left to ice the victory for the Duhawks. ‘It was another close one, but we came out on top this time,’ Coach Doug Smith said. ‘We knew they were tough and our guys had a pretty rough go this week. Next season our schedule will be different—no 19 road games to play.’ Smith started his five seniors in the season's final game—regular starters Curtis Evans, John Curtis and Captain Mertens along with reserves George Lynch and Doug Goodmann. The quintet build a 23-12 lead before he inserted five sophomores and before the half, tossed in a freshman and junior. The various combinations built a 40-25 lead at intermission.

“The visitors didn't manage to forge in front until Matt Connell sank a pair of free throws for a 91-89 lead with 7:53 left, and from that point the Bees owned a 4-point lead three times—the last at 101-97 with 5:57 left. Smith then brought back his season long starters as a unit and they cut the deficit to 105-103 before David Symkowski shot St. Ambrose back in front, 107-103. Then the veterans went to work for Loras. Evans canned two from outside for a 107-107 tie and Dean Runyan retaliated for the Bees to set up Mertens' game-winning heroics. It was fitting that the Duhawks should bow out on a winning note

after having played three games in three nights and a total of five this week. This was one of the reasons Smith platooned his units. 'We had some good sophomores in there and we have the best freshman player we've ever had in Rob Rudakas,' Smith said. 'He'll fit right in with the group.' Mertens finished with 24 points to lead Loras while Evans had 23, Bakke 17 and Curtis 12. Curtis finished his career with 1,456 points (seventh on the all-time list) and Evans with 1,063 (18th). The Bees (17-13) made it close by sinking 43 free throws compared with seven for Loras, who finished 11-16."

The 1982-83 season was one of the greatest in Loras basketball history. The Duhawks would win a school record 29 games, go on to Kansas City and win two games in the NAIA Tourney, the best ever for a Loras team. The members of this team, coached by Doug Smith, assisted by Mike Jaskulski, were: Troy Cicero, Jeff Valentine, Jeff Hermsen, Van Bakke, Rob Rudakas, Sly Bush, Dwayne Spraglin, Mike Arnold, Andy Kotlarz, Scott Eisenbarth and Don Albert. Loras won 14 out of the first 15, including two over the University of Dubuque and UW-Platteville. The only loss was to UW-Eau Claire. They won 13 out of 15 to end the season, one being over St. Ambrose for the third time that year. Jeff Valentine scored 16 points per game to lead the team while Jeff Hermsen finished with 13 and six rebounds per game.

The road to Kansas City began with a hard fought 76-71 overtime victory over Westmar. Bill O'Neill, long-time *Telegraph Herald* sports writer, covered this road to K.C. and his story included the following:

"Loras had to battle every inch of the way Wednesday night, but the Duhawks won the right to represent District 15 in the NAIA National tournament at Kansas City with a 76-71 overtime victory over Westmar College in UD's McCormick gym. The victory was the 27th against five losses for the Duhawks. Loras led most of the first half and by the midpoint of the period gained a 21-5 lead on a Troy Cicero basket. When Cicero and Jeff Valentine put together back-to-back field goals, the lead spread to 29-22 with 6:10 remaining. Loras seemed to have it all together at the outset of the final period when Dwayne Spraglin, Cicero, Jeff Hermsen and Bakke all contributed points to pull the Duhawks out to a 48-39 lead less than five minutes into the half. Hermsen finished with 21 points to lead Loras' balanced offense and Spraglin added 17. Valentine, who became the 11th player in school history to score more than 500 points in a season in the win over Marycrest, chipped in with 13 and Cicero 10. Valentine upped his season total to 530."

Loras opened the first round in Kansas City with a 85-78 victory over William Carey College. Jeff Valentine led three Loras players in double figures with 23 points, followed by Hermsen 15 and Cicero 12. One of the all-time great Loras victories would occur the following night as Loras defeated Salem (W.Va.) 67-65. Bill O'Neill reported the following from K.C.: "Loras College came up with another school first Wednesday night as the Duhawks advanced to the quarterfinals of the NAIA national basketball tournament with a 67-65 win over Salem (W. Va.) College. It was the first time in six trips that Loras was able to post two wins in the national meet. Coach Doug Smith's Duhawks displayed all the poise of a winning team as they rallied from a 13-point deficit in the last 12 minutes to pull out the win. Once again the bench proved its value as Rob Rudakas sank two free throws to ignite the spark and Sly Bush swished the net with the winning basket with five seconds left in the game. 'I was going to get the ball to Troy (Cicero),' Bush explained after the game. 'But the guy guarding me sagged back on me so I saw the chance to penetrate, and put the ball up.'

"The Duhawks (28-5) led only twice, at 2-0 and 14-2, until the game winner, and were down 51-38 with 12:10 left in the game when Rudakas started the comeback. The Duhawks outscored the Tigers 10-2 to pull within four on Jeff Hermsen's follow-up of a missed shot that made it 53-49 with 8:47 on the clock. Cicero and Hermsen wrapped field goals around one by Legette before Andy Williams hit an eight-foot jumper from the left side for a 63-55 advantage with 5:43 remaining, and Daryl Pearson connected with a pair of free throws for Salem.

“Jeff Valentine narrowed the deficit with a free throw and Cicero followed with a driving layup and was fouled by Bryson on the play. He added the free throw and the Duhawks were down 65-59. Andy Kotlarz hit a ten-foot jumper and Cicero again went in for a layup to make it 65-63. Salem again called time, and when play resumed, 7-0 Ron Moore was fouled by Hermsen and had a chance to give the Tigers an eight point lead. However, Moore, a 45 percent shooter from the line, missed both attempts and Hermsen drove for a layup and the tying basket with 1:52 remaining. After a missed shot by Legette, the Duhawks got the rebound at 1:18, took time out, then ran the clock down to 14 seconds before taking another timeout to set the stage for Bush’s winning two pointer.”

This outstanding season would end with a 74-71 loss to Fort Hays, Kansas, at Kemper Arena. Loras trailed by as much as 15 points in the second half and was never able to catch up although they got to 45-41. Hermsen paced Loras with 21 and Spraglin followed with 14. Smith had no complaints over the Duhawks play as he reported to O’Neill following the game: ““We outscored them from the field 31-25, and out-rebounded them 23-22, but their play forced us into a lot of foul traps, and they responded with 24 points from the line.””

On July 1, 1982, Dr. Kevin White would become director of athletics at Loras. Dr. White, now the director of athletics at Duke University, would bring about a major change in Loras basketball as the NCBT (National Catholic Basketball Tournament) became a “highlight” in the next 14 seasons. The first National Catholic Invitational Tournament (NCIT) was held in 1949 hosted by Regis College. As I have reported in earlier sections, Loras participated in this event until it ceased to exist in 1952.

Jane Specht, long-time member of the athletic staff who took over the NCBT in 1991, wrote a research paper regarding the development of the NCBT at Loras in which she stated the following: “The tournament was revived by Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, under the direction of Dr. Kevin White.

“Plans to resurrect the National Catholic Basketball Tournament began in December 1982. The original mission of the National Catholic Basketball Tournament was to promote Catholic higher education and small Catholic college basketball. This remains the mission today. The mission statement was adopted by the key organizers and, after numerous meetings, the NCBT became a reality in January 1984.

““The brand of competition, due to the kinds of institutions represented, is one of scholar-athlete, not big time win-at-all-costs athletics,’ states Dr. Kevin White, Loras College Director of Athletics, in his initial invitation letter to Anheuser-Busch, Coors, Miller, and Huber brewing companies inviting them to underwrite the tournament sponsorship. Response from the beer companies was encouraging, however, only Anheuser-Busch, Inc., of St. Louis, Missouri, took on the challenge of financial sponsorship (White, Letter to Brewers). Once the sponsorship was accepted by Anheuser-Busch, the committee of organizers met and drew up a budget to submit to Anheuser-Busch. A total budget of \$19,050.00 was drafted and Anheuser-Busch generously gave a sum of \$18,500.00. The balance would be made up by the ticket and souvenir sales.

“Dr. White wrote to all small Catholic colleges belonging to the NAIA or NCAA at the Division II or III level, about 200-220 schools. The goal was to fill a field of sixteen men’s and sixteen women’s teams. The response was overwhelming, as over seventy-six teams answered with an affirmative. From the responses, a desired field of 32 teams (16 men’s and 16 women’s) was attained.

“A committee made up of executive director Dr. Kevin White, Ms. Janice Leiser, Mr. Francis ‘Chip’ Murray, Mr. Roger Klosterman and Mr. Ron Kirchoff developed a team of chairpersons who would be responsible for the operations of the entire tournament. The committees included Sites/Facilities, Hospitality/Ceremony, Finance, Programs, Marketing/Promotions, Concessions, Seeding, Officials, Publicity, All-American Selection, and Host/Sponsor (1984 NCBT program). An advisory board of local

and national names was organized for the purpose of advice and ability to make connections with national name brand sponsors such as manufacturers of balls and shoes. This board provided an impressive input in the renewed tournament.

“The 1984 NCBT was the first tournament of its size to field both men’s and women’s teams. The format was a men’s tournament to be held January 5-8, 1984, and a separate women’s tournament to be held January 12-15, 1984. Each team participating was guaranteed a dollar amount to assist them in their expenses. In addition, a team of sponsors from the community of Dubuque was developed to supply meals for each team. The development of this ‘sponsor’ program was an added attractions and proved, as the tournament grew, to be very popular among the participants.”

The 1983-84 team would complete the season with a record of 20-10. Among the players on this team were Jeff Valentine, Andy Kotlarz, Rob Rudakas, Jeff Hermsen and Van Bakke, along with Troy Cicero who would score his 1000th point with a free throw in a victory over St. Ambrose. In a victory over Briar Cliff, Valentine scored 19, Cicero 13 and Hermsen 16. During a 67-61 win over Coe, Valentine scored 19, Cicero 17 and Hermsen 11. Jeff Valentine, a transfer from the University of Nebraska, scored 983 points and secured 374 rebounds in two years and was selected as a unanimous first team All-District selection. Hermsen, Bakke and Cicero received honorable mention.

The first NCBT was held January 5-8 and included teams from fourteen states and the District of Columbia. Loras defeated Rosary and Cabrini in the first two games before falling to St. Xavier and Belmont Abbey. In the victory over Rosary Valentine scored 23 and Bakke 9. They followed this win with a win over Cabrini, with Hermsen scoring 14 and Valentine 22. In a 64-61 loss to St. Xavier, Valentine scored 20 and Hermsen 14. In the Belmont Abbey loss, Valentine and Kotlarz each scored 13 to lead the Duhawks. This marked the final year for West Dubuque product Jeff Hermsen who completed his outstanding career at Loras with 1165 points.

Loras lost the final game of the season to Mt. Mercy, 50-48, and, following that game, Doug Smith resigned his Loras position to become head coach at Mt. Marty College in South Dakota. Mike Jaskulski was appointed head coach and Steve Krafcsin assistant.

The 1984-85 team would complete the season with a record of 19-10, winning eight out of the final ten. Veterans Valentine, Rudakas, Eisenbarth, Dick Breitbach and Rovanseck were joined by junior college transfers Curly “Boo” Johnson and Keith Sindberg, along with freshman Kevin Heilers. Following graduation, Boo Johnson would go on to play for the Harlem Globetrotters and also to serve in an administrative role. In the 1985 NCBT wins were recorded over Viterbo and Mercy College, followed by losses to Christian Brothers and Belmont Abbey. In a mid-season 74-69 victory over Luther Sindberg scored 20 and Rudakas 15. Loras qualified for the NAIA District playoffs defeating Mount Mercy in the opening round 68-57, with Rudakas scoring 20 points, Sindberg 17, and Breitbach and Eisenbarth 10 each, before losing to Marycrest in the finals 76-67 with Sindberg scoring 20, Rovanseck 16 and Breitbach 15.

The 1985-86 team would return starters Eisenbarth, Johnson, Sindberg, Breitbach and Rovanseck, along with help from Kevin Heilers and Chip Moore. They won eleven out of twelve games during mid season with the lone loss being to Ambrose, 77-73. They defeated the Bees, 75-52, in a game played at the Fieldhouse late in the season. During the NCBT they defeated Notre Dame of California 55-51, Sindberg scoring 16 and Rovanseck 14. They also defeated Christian Brothers, with Breitbach scoring 12 and Sindberg 13, before losing to Belmont Abbey, 38-37, with Rovanseck scoring 12. The final game of the ’86 tourney was a 55-43 loss to Cabrini. Dick Breitbach would leave Loras after his junior year to complete his studies at Iowa State. I was proud to see this former Duhawk play in a Big Eight tourney game against the Missouri Tigers in Kansas City.

The 1986-87 season marked the return of Loras to the Iowa Conference and the three-point goal was introduced to Duhawk basketball. This team would include Chip Moore, Willie Brown, Shane Ripley, Doug Wagemester, Bob Derouin, Greg Rovanseck, Dave Daniel, Randy Busiel, Kevin Heilers and Rick Creger. The first year in the Iowa Conference resulted in an overall record of 11-15, including 5-11 in the conference. Coach Jaskulski's team scored a victory over Simpson with Derouin scoring 18 and Daniel 18, and over Luther, with Derouin scoring 28 and Daniel 20.

Dick Vitale gave the keynote address for the NCBT and this inspired the Duhawks to victories over St. Mary's (Michigan) and St. Xavier with Derouin and Rovanseck leading the scoring for the Duhawks. They would lose the final two games of the NCBT to St. Thomas Aquinas and Cabrini, a game in which Daniel, Rovanseck and Creger would each score 18 and Derouin 16. This tourney marked a remarkable scoring effort for Bob Derouin. The product of Hempstead High School and transfer from Wisconsin LaCrosse scored 100 points. If one looks back to 1940, you will find that Herman "Babe" Derouin, Bob's father, was an All-Iowa Conference player for Loras.

The 1987-88 season would be the final one for coach Mike Jaskulski. He was joined on the bench by assistant Brad Soderberg who came to Loras from Fort Hayes State (Kansas). Team members included Mike Breitbach, Chris Jans, Willie Brown, Pat Svoboda, Shane Ripley, Doug Wagemester, Dan Allen, Todd Squires, Dave Daniel, Rich Creger and Kevin Heilers. The Duhawks would have a season record of 15-11, including 9-7 in the Iowa Conference. One of their main early season victories was over St. Ambrose. Following is a part of the description as presented by Hal Lagerstrom in the T.H.: "Loras fine-tuned its outside shooting in the second half Wednesday to hand arch-rival St. Ambrose a 68-56 setback in a college basketball game at the Five Flags Center. The Duhawks, who improved to 3-1, shot only 39 percent in the first half but took a 31-26 intermission lead on the strength of solid defense, still led by five early in the second half when Willie Brown and Dan Allen connected on back-to-back three-point baskets. That swelled the Loras lead to 49-38 and the Duhawks threatened to make it a runaway a bit later in the period when 6-foot-7 forward Dave Daniel scored three straight baskets and Shane Ripley canned a 17-footer in an 8-0 burst. That widened the gap to 58-40 with a little less than eight minutes remaining."

Two important victories were scored over Buena Vista and Wartburg late in the season. In the Buena Vista victory Dan Allen scored 16 and Willie Brown 10. Dave Daniel scored 22 in the victory over Wartburg.

Joe B. Hall, former head coach of Kentucky, visited the NCBT as a member of the national broadcasting crew. Loras opened the NCBT with a hard fought 68-63 victory over Rosary College. Mike Breitbach made four of five free throws late in the game to insure this victory. His late game action was so described by Jon Tibbetts in the T.H.: "After fouling out with 44 seconds left Thursday night, Loras College's Dan Allen had a few words for freshman teammate Mike Breitbach, his replacement. 'I grabbed Mike and told him to take control of the game and win it for us,' Allen said. Loras led Rosary College by two points at the time. Breitbach made four of five free throws in the final 38 seconds to help lift Loras to a 68-63 victory in an NCBT first-round game at the Loras Fieldhouse. 'He was just trying to give me a little confidence since it was my first pressure game,' said Breitbach of Allen, who scored a team-high 18 points before fouling out. 'That just helped break the ice a little bit.'"

The Duhawks would defeat Siena Heights in round two with Daniel scoring 19 and Allen 12, before losing to St. Francis 56-49 in the semifinals. They would come back to beat Christian Brothers 54-51 in the consolation finals as Daniel, named to the All-NCBT team, scored 16. Christophe Santamaria paid tribute to the '87-'88 team with the following *Lorian* article: "Defensively ranked 2nd, ranked 5th in free throw shooting in the NCAA DIII, leading the Iowa Conference in these categories, stirring the NCAA

and IAC record keepers are some of the many accomplishments achieved by Mike Jaskulski's men's basketball team.

“Despite a 3rd place finish, a 9-7 mark (15-11 overall), coach Jaskulski did not hesitate to qualify the season as a ‘remarkable turnout.’ But he added that ‘by no means are the coaches or players satisfied. Better and bigger things are ahead for this basketball team.’ This year’s squad was really young, which explains a lot of inconsistency. In the top eight players five were sophomores. Leading the group were seniors David Daniel, Kevin Heilers and Willie Brown. Jaskulski’s comments: ‘Daniel, named to the first team All Conference, was the top scorer and rebounder throughout the year. He was the one we looked to at critical times. Heilers anchored our defense. He is now in the top 15 of the Loras all-time rebounder’s list. All year long Brown was the catalyst on defense. He set the tone for pressure on the front.’”

Part V
Brad Soderberg 1988-1992
John Lembezeder 1993-1999
Chad Walthall 2000-2006
Greg Gorton 2007-present

Brad Soderberg took over Loras basketball to begin the 1988 season, along with assistant coaches Jay Dull and Brian Remsburg. His first Duhawk team listed Willie Brown, Chris Jans, Shane Ripley, Pat Svoboda, Mike Breitbach, Adam Rapp, Dan Allen, David Daniel, Gary Heilers, Doug Wagemester, Todd Squires and Dan Shannon. They won nine out of ten games at one point, including Iowa Conference wins over the University of Dubuque, William Penn, Upper Iowa, Simpson and Wartburg.

The NCBT welcomed Senator Bill Bradley as a special guest as the Duhawks would defeat Caldwell in their first game with Dan Allen scoring 15, only to lose the second game to Viterbo, Wagemester 14, Daniel 12 and Creger 11.

Willie Brown and Dave Daniel were the only seniors on this team and Christine Reichert, writing in *The Lorian*, welcomed Daniels to the 1000 Point Club: "In 1909 with the beginning of basketball at Loras College, teams only scored over three hundred points for an entire season. Over the years things did change. It was not until the 1930s that it was common for teams to score over 500 points in a season, and not until 1941 that Loras had its first team break the 1,000 mark. It was not until the end of Jim McCabe's four-year career in 1951 that Loras had its first member of the 1000 Point Club, with 1,772 points.

"In the eighty year history of Loras College basketball, only twenty-five men have reached over 1,000 points in their careers. Dave Daniel, a senior basketball player for Loras College, will leave Loras as a member of a group that few players will ever join. Dave Daniel only played basketball at Loras for three years, but in those three years he scored 1,076 points. These points not only placed him in the top twenty-five, but also ranked him 20th overall in Loras basketball history.

"In addition to scoring over 1,000 points, Daniel was also placed among the top in scoring for a single season, percentage for scoring in a single season and career rebounding. Daniel's yearly point averages have entered him into the top 75 scorers since 1941-42. In 1986-87, Daniel averaged 12.8 points per game, ranking him 70th; and last season, he averaged 17.8 points per game, ranking him 18th. Daniel entered into the top 75 for most points scored in a single season since 1941-42. He found his spot at number 27 with 465 points which he scored during his 1987-88 season at Loras. With his career rebounds, Daniel is placed at number 16 in Loras history. We are proud to welcome Dave as a member of this elite group and wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors."

The 1989 team went 14-11 with a conference record of 11-5. This squad included Mike Collins, Chris Jans, Mark Franzen, Kevin Miller, Mike Breitbach, Shane Ripley, Dan Allen, Brad Morrow, Doug Wagemester, Keith Snelson, Gary Heilers, Rick Creger, Mitch Doyle, Dan Shannon and Tom Mulcrone. Coach Soderberg's team would lose an overtime game to the University of Dubuque, but later in the season scored a 74-57 victory over U.D. with Creger scoring 19 points. Rick Creger would score 1092 points during his excellent career at Loras to earn his place in the 1000 Point Club. He lead this team with a 16.7 scoring average along with over six rebounds per game. Dan Allen completed his senior year with 82 career three-point goals and Doug Wagemester 438 career rebounds.

The 1990 NCBT would welcome Loras graduate Tom Miller, current attorney general for the State of Iowa, along with Tom Harkin, Iowa U.S. senator, as special guests. Loras defeated St. Mary's of Michigan 53-51 in the opening round with Creger scoring 19, followed by a 62-57 victory over

Siena Heights, Jans 19 and Creger 15. The Duhawks would lose the third game to Viterbo 59-56 with Creger scoring 20 and Wagemester 19.

The 1990-91 Duhawks included incoming freshmen Roger Teeling, Dave Willock, Kevin Schermerhorn, Michael Ortiz, Steven Tinch, Jamie Conrad, Jermaine Harris and Joe Carter. They compiled a season record of 17-8, including 11-5 in the Iowa Conference, winning ten out of the final thirteen games. Victories included wins over Simpson and Wartburg, and two over Luther. A highlight of the season was Chris Jans scoring his 1000th point during a win over Buena Vista. Jans would score 1206 during his career. Mark Chandler described his efforts in a *Lorian* story: "Scoring 1,000 points in a college basketball career is a feat that is accomplished only by a few. Senior Chris Jans is now one of those proud few.

"Jans scored his 1,000th career point in the second half of last Friday's game against Buena Vista. This was a true milestone for Jans, who is a team leader both on and off the court. Freshman Joe Carter has a very high opinion of his teammate, noting his skills as a team leader. 'Chris knows the system better than anyone else I know,' said Carter. 'He has nothing negative to say, everything is always phrased in a positive attitude.' This positive attitude Jans has reflects on each and every one of his teammates and also the head basketball coach, Brad Soderberg.

"Soderberg doesn't like to think about how many points Jans has scored, only how many points he will score the next game. 'Each player has a different role on the team,' Soderberg explained. 'Jans' role is to score points!' One might wonder what makes Chris Jans so competitive and good on the basketball court. Coach Soderberg had a response for that question, saying '(Jans) loves pressure.' This is one element that makes Jans so much better than the rest of the competition."

In a January 12 victory over Central, 103 to 96, Chris Jans scored 49 points, connecting for ten three-point shots which was a conference record at that time. I remember this game well, as I attended with my son-in-law with the purpose of showing him the Duhawk three-point artist. I believe Chris missed his first couple of attempts, but I informed my son-in-law that Chris would warm up and we were not disappointed.

Loras opened the NCBT with a 94-77 victory over Rosary with Jans scoring 20 and Snelson 20. They followed with a 82-67 win over St. Rose, Jans 27 and Collins and Snelson each 17. The following night Loras would lose a three-overtime game to Xavier 96-92. I believe that I attended every NCBT game played by the Loras men's and women's teams and this was, without a doubt, one of the toughest losses. Brad Soderberg so described it in a *Telegraph Herald* story written by Craig Reber.

"Loras College men's coach Brad Soderberg probably won't forget Saturday's triple overtime loss to Xavier University in the National Catholic Basketball Tournament semifinals. The 1,752 fans who watched the game probably won't forget it either. The Duhawks fell 96-92 to a Gold Rush team that pushed Viterbo to two overtimes before losing 87-84 in Sunday's finals. In all, there were 55 personal fouls called (seven players fouled out including three Duhawks) and 76 free throws shot. Just when you thought it was time to turn the lights off and go home, a player from either side made a big play. 'As far as effort, excitement, turns in events and plays that could have turned the game around and plays that turned the game around, from that standpoint it was an incredible game,' said Soderberg. It was the Duhawks' seventh trip to the semifinals. Loras has never played in the championship game.

"We have stacked up man for man with opponents who in my estimation had more talent and when it gets down to a triple overtime or a game as close as it was, I can't question anything that happened. A made free throw here, a tip-in there, all that would have put us in the finals,' Soderberg said. 'I think it's just a game that we lost by a close margin in a triple overtime period.' Soderberg said the team was

down, 'as down as I've ever seen them this year,' after the loss. The Duhawks don't have much time to think about it, though. They return to the Iowa Conference wars Thursday to host city rival University of Dubuque."

The 1991-92 team would go 16-10, with a record of 10-6 in the Iowa Conference. They defeated the University of Dubuque twice and, in a loss to Simpson, Joe Carter scored 26 points. In a 98-71 victory over the University of Dubuque, Snelson led Loras with 26 and Mike Ortiz totaled 25 with seven out of nine three-point shots. In my view the best victory of this season was an NCBT second-round 69-62 victory over St. Ambrose. These historic rivals played their first game in 1912-13, a 24-18 victory by St. Joseph's (Loras) College. They have played 141 games through the years, with Loras winning 83. I may have missed a result, which I doubt, but I believe these two teams have not played each other since this NCBT game. I was on the seeding committee at this time and we were hoping for a Loras-Ambrose matchup in the second round. The game was well described by Scott Wingert in the *Telegraph Herald*:

"Every time an obstacle awaited Loras, the answer came up three. The Duhawks turned to an old friend, the three-point shot, to help defeat St. Ambrose, 69-62, Thursday in the quarterfinals of the National Catholic Basketball Tournament before 1,069 fans at Loras Fieldhouse. The victory clinched Loras' eighth trip in nine years to the NCBT semifinals. The Duhawks will face St. Xavier University, a 51-46 winner over top-seeded and two-time defending champion Viterbo College, at Five Flags Center Saturday night. Loras made 12 of 23 shots from beyond the three-point arc, including six in seven tries by 5-foot-9 senior guard Mike Collins. '(The 3-pointer) is still a big part of our offense,' said Collins, whose most critical jumper was a 23-footer from the left wing that, coupled with a free throw, gave Loras a rare four-point play and a 61-53 lead with 3:38 remaining." Loras would go on in the NCBT to defeat St. Xavier 71-60, with Joe Carter scoring 26, to reach the finals for the first time, only to lose to St. Mary's 67-53, Collins scoring 14.

Brad Soderberg's final year at Loras would result in an overall record of 15-9, 10-6 in the Iowa Conference. This team included Jason Randl, Chris Payne, Mike Fitzgerald, Roger Teeling, Peter Moris, Michael Ortiz, Jamie Conrad, Steven Tinch, Nick Jensen, Keith Snelson, Tom Mulcrone, Jermaine Harris, Joe Carter and Kevin Schermerhorn. Some of the highlights of this season were a victory over Luther with Ortiz scoring 16, an overtime win over Simpson with Chris Payne scoring 19, and 19 points by Joe Carter in a victory over Upper Iowa.

The NCBT opened with a win over St. Scholastica, Snelson scoring 27, followed by a loss to Illinois Benedictine, and a victory over Rockhurst in the consolation round. Keith Snelson would end his excellent career with 1287 points.

Following the final game of the 1993 NCBT, senior Peter Moris received a Bill Bradley Scholastic All-American Award. I found it very difficult to cover 100 years of Loras basketball without a lot of numbers regarding points, rebounds, assists, etc. I would like to pay a special tribute to the hundreds of Loras players who probably didn't find their names mentioned. They traveled by train, station wagon, car, bus, etc., came back early from vacations for practice, got up for an 8:00 a.m. class, and appeared in very few games. The best way to describe these individuals is to say they probably always sat closer to the water supply than to the coach. I am going to select PETER MORIS as captain of the hundred-years men's reserve team. He appeared in a total of 25 games, went three for fifteen shooting and two for eleven three-point attempts. During his senior year, he won the Rechenmacher Scholarship for Creativity and was a finalist for the Faculty-Staff and St. Thomas Moore Senior Awards.

John Lembedezer was named Loras coach in 1993. John came to Loras after being an assistant at South Dakota State where he had received his M.A. in 1990. His assistants were Angres Thorpe and Aaron Griess. His first squad included Anthony Bea, Roger Teeling, Kevin Schermerhorn, Jason Randl,

Michael Ortiz, Jamie Conrad, Paul Brenegan, Nick Jensen, Sean Doherty, Tom Kettmann, Joe Carter and Mike Lambe who went on to score 1322 points in his college career. The 1993-94 team opened the season winning seven out of their first eight. Those victories included an 83-74 win over Aurora with Lambe scoring 27; a 73-61 win over Luther, Lambe with 24, and the University of Dubuque, 78-71, with 24 points from Paul Brenegan. Their season record was 17-8, 10-6 in the Iowa Conference, and Mike Lambe was named to the All-Conference team.

In the 1994 NCBT they opened with victories over Illinois Benedictine, Lambe 21, and Siena Heights, Brenegan 23. They played their way into the final game with an 85-75 victory over St. Joseph's Maine, before losing in the finals to St. Thomas Aquinas despite 24 points from Paul Brenegan.

The 1994-95 team started with three returning starters, Mike Lambe, Paul Brenegan and Kevin Schermerhorn. Jason Randl and Mike Fitzgerald would see plenty of action along with John Wiese, Sean Doherty, Tom Kettmann, Brad Havertape and Lamar Hall. Dennis Geraghty joined the Duhawks as an assistant coach. This team would go 15-10 in the season and 8 and 8 in the Iowa Conference. They won seven out of eight to open the season, including three in the NCBT, with victories over St. Scholastica, Lambe and Schermerhorn each with 22; Edgewood, Lambe 20, and Cabrini 81-76, with Mike Lambe scoring 38 points. Mike would score 104 points during the tourney and be named most valuable player. For the second year Loras would lose the final game, this time to Viterbo as described in *The Lorian* by the sports information office: "The Viterbo College men earned their third NCBT title and the Mt. Mercy women won their second consecutive crown at the 1995 National Catholic Basketball Tournament.

"Viterbo downed Loras 83-74 in the final game to become only the second men's team to win three NCBT championships adding the 1995 crown to titles won in 1990 and '91. The Duhawks made their second straight appearance in the finals but fell short of the title in spite of a Most Valuable Player performance by senior Mike Lambe (26 ppg)."

During the 1994-95 season Loras split with the University of Dubuque, losing 58-53 with Lambe scoring 22 and winning 95-74, Lambe 38 and Mike Fitzgerald 14. They had a win over Luther on a last second shot by Jason Randl, and a late three-point shot by Brad Havertape gave the Duhawks a 60-58 win over Upper Iowa. In the victory over Luther Mike Lambe joined the 1000 Point Club, so described by Mary Soltis in *The Lorian*: "There were 15 minutes remaining in the second half. It was the January 21 away game at Luther College. Senior center Mike Lambe connected on a jumper and became the newest addition to the Loras 1000 Point Club. Lambe is the 31st member, ranking 11th in NCAA scoring average.

"'It was a good feeling,' states Lambe, 'few reach that goal and it's nice to get recognized.' Mike's mom, Audrey Lambe, student life secretary, believes Mike's greatest accomplishments are 'first and foremost completing his education...athletically, he surpassed all my expectations.' Lambe transferred to Loras before his junior year from the University of Dubuque. 'Transferring for him was a huge adjustment because at that time he had planned on finishing college at UD. He worked with the coaching staff his first year here, and Coach Lem was a big factor, in helping Mike adjust to Loras,' said Mrs. Lambe."

The 1995-96 Duhawks opened the season with Tom Kettmann as the only returning starter. Jason Randl and Anthony Bea, along with transfer Jason Driscoll and freshman Jeremy Lukavsky, would play important roles. They compiled a record of 14-11, going 9-7 in the Iowa Conference. Loras opened the season with a 74-68 victory over Lake Forest with Driscoll scoring 25. One of their biggest Iowa Conference wins was an 83 to 82 overtime win over Central; Loras trailed by 24 points at one time but came back to win behind 29 points by Randl and 20 by Driscoll.

The NCBT would see Loras advancing to the final game with wins over Cardinal Stritch, Randl 21 and Bea 17, and over Viterbo with Randl scoring 15. Loras claimed an exciting 66-65 victory over Cabrini in

the semifinal with Kettmann scoring 20 and freshman Jeremy Lukavsky scoring two free throws with two seconds remaining. The final game resulted in a 53-52 loss to St. Xavier; in a strange ending Lukavsky was unable to connect at the free throw line with three seconds remaining in this game.

The 1996-97 team completed the season with a record of 11-13, including 8-8 in the Iowa Conference. The following players made large contributions during this season: Jeremy Lukavsky, Anthony Bea, Nick Buri, Jason Driscoll, Leon Costello, Tom Kettmann, Ben Kulczewski and Mark Mason.

In the Iowa Conference Loras won twice over the University of Dubuque but lost to Upper Iowa 48-45, a game in which Tom Kettmann would score 12 points and secure 13 rebounds. In a 76-68 overtime loss to William Penn, Buri and Lukavsky each scored 16. In January '97 the NCBT would stage its final 32-game tournament, going to 16 games to open the 1997-98 season. In the opening round of the January NCBT, Loras defeated Rosary, Lukavsky and Bea each scoring 16, and won over Caldwell with 20 points from Driscoll. The semifinal game loss to St. Xavier was very controversial as Loras led 72-69 with 1.2 seconds remaining, but somehow Nance from Xavier failed to receive the inbound pass, let it roll up his back, but still scored a three-point goal to send the game into overtime during which St. Xavier prevailed 82-76. Jason Driscoll finished the season with a 24 points per game average.

Coach Lembezeder welcomed back three starters for the 1997-98 Duhawks—two-time All-Conference player Jason Driscoll along with Jeremy Lukavsky and Leon Costello. Nick Buri, Ben Kulczewski and Brian Oswald were also scheduled to see a great deal of action. Loras split two games with the University of Dubuque, losing the first game with Lukavsky scoring 19, and winning the second, Driscoll scoring 27.

The November 1997 sixteen-team NCBT resulted in a first round victory over the University of Dallas, Driscoll 20 and Wilson 15; a second round overtime loss to St. Norbert's, Driscoll, 21, and a third place win over Xavier 67-62 with Driscoll scoring 24. Jeff Bersch summed up the Duhawks' efforts with the following report in *The Lorian*: "It took an overtime loss to keep the Duhawks out of their fourth National Catholic Basketball Tournament championship game, but the Loras men bounced back to finish in third place. Loras was led throughout the tournament by senior standout Jason Driscoll, who was named to his second straight All-NCBT Tournament team.

"Driscoll let the Duhawks averaging 21.6 points a game and also pulled down 16 rebounds. Freshman Michael Wilson also contributed to the Duhawk effort putting in 50 points in the three games. 'Stat-wise both Driscoll and Wilson had the biggest contributions and that will probably be the case most of the year,' head coach John Lembezeder said. 'But we had other big contributions, especially off the bench, and it wasn't always the same person.'

"Mark Maxson came off the bench in the Xavier game scoring seven points and pulling down two rebounds. Freshmen Terry Rukas and Lon Heinkel also gave the Duhawks much needed depth off the bench. Rukas scored nine points and had 18 rebounds and Heinkel had 13 points and eight rebounds in the tournament."

Jason Driscoll would end his excellent career at Loras with several outstanding efforts in the 1997-98 season, including six out of eight three-point shots during a 95-83 win over Central, and in the final game of the season he scored 52 points against Coe, connecting on 16 out of 24 shots. He was one of the Loras greats, scoring 1533 total points in his career.

The 1998-99 team would go 10-15 with an 8-12 record in the Iowa Conference. Coach Lembezeder would welcome the following main prospects for this team: Nick Buri, Mike Wilson, Lon Heinkel, Kelly Lefevour, Mario Golden, and Nate Kiewiet, and transfers Larry Moore and Alex Wonio. They opened the season with an NCBT victory over Edgewood on a shot by Mike Wilson with 1.2 seconds remaining.

Wilson would score 21 to lead the Duhawks. They would lose the second round game to St. Norbert's and also the consolation game to Xavier.

The most difficult conference loss for this team was a three-overtime game to Wartburg 95-93. In this contest Moore scored 34 and Wilson 31. They split with the University of Dubuque, winning 70-60 and losing 56-55. They scored a 72-66 victory over Cornell with Buri scoring 16.

The 1999-2000 season resulted in a record of 8-16, going 5-15 in the conference. Coach Lembezeder depended upon the following during this season: Robbie Stran, Alex Wonio, Larry Moore, Mario Golden, Carlos Agnello, Mike Wilson, Lon Heinkel, Kelly Lefevour and Brian Feldott.

They opened the season with NCBT victories over St. Norbert's and Edgewood with Mike Wilson and Carlos Agnello leading the scoring, but they lost the final game of this eight-team tourney to Siena Heights 70-54 with Mike Wilson scoring 21. Iowa Conference victories included two over the University of Dubuque and one each over Central, Upper Iowa and Cornell. This was to be the final year for Coach Lembezeder as he left to enter private business in Dubuque and was replaced by Chad Walthall in May of 2000.

Chad Walthall took over the Loras program in 2000-01. He received his B.A. degree from Concordia College and his M.S. from St. Cloud State. His last position prior to the Loras appointment was assistant coach at Eastern Michigan University. His assistant coaches included Greg Heiar and Dennis Geraghty, along with Brad Vanden Boogaard. The 2001 team finished with a record of 12-13, including 11-9 in the Iowa Conference. The Duhawks would start the season without Mike Wilson and Larry Moore from the previous season. Walthall's returning team included Carlos Agnello, Kelly Lefevour, Lon Heinkel, Terrence Oxendine and Brian Feldott, along with transfers Joel Cornilsen and Chris Workman.

They opened the season with an NCBT win over St. Scholastica, followed by losses to Benedictine and Mt. Mercy. The biggest Iowa Conference win was a 91-85 victory over Wartburg, a game in which Loras lost a 28-point lead only to come back in overtime to win. Workman scored 25 and Heinkel 17 in this contest. They defeated Simpson with Heinkel scoring 18 and they also won two games over the University of Dubuque.

Walthall's second season at Loras resulted in an overall record of 15-12, going 11-7 in the Iowa Conference. This team included Travis Williams, Robbie Stran, Bobby Stineman, Brian Feldott, Chris Workman, Matt Uthoff, John Gilbert, Chris Kilburg, Joel Cornilsen and Jeff Ludovissy.

The conference season included a win over Upper Iowa, Cornilsen 29; over the University of Dubuque, Williams 22, and over Central with Ludovissy scoring 21. They suffered a 76-74 loss to Coe as Uthoff scored 19. This was the final year for the NCBT and Loras opened with a victory over Edgewood but then lost to Benedictine and Cabrini. In the two losses Workman led Loras in scoring with 17 and 23 points.

The NCBT tourney deserves an entire review, but I would like to present a few comments about this event, based upon a review of the 18 programs published over the years. We need to point first to the three directors who deserve much of the credit, namely, Dr. Kevin White who started this tourney, followed by Jan Leiser and Jane Specht. If one takes the time to review any of the outstanding programs prepared by the athletic department and sports information over the 18 years, you realize the scope of this operation. I noted in one publication that over 70 different sponsors in the city of Dubuque had placed ads in this program. I did not count the other 17 but am sure the number was just as great.

I spent 40 years at Loras and never experienced any event which had as much community, faculty and staff support. This was mostly due to the efforts of the three directors. To quote from one of the yearly programs “The NCBT is more than just a basketball tournament. The NCBT has been as much about people as it has been about basketball. Over 600 corporate and individual sponsors have generously donated time and resources to make each of the tournaments a roaring success. As for basketball the NCBT has offered over 10,000 participants a chance to visit Dubuque and has given the city some great basketball moments.”

During the 18 years of this event, the following Loras players were named to the All-Tournament team:

Carlos Agnello—1999	David Daniel—1988	Mike Lambe—1995
Dick Breitbach—1986	Bob Derouin—1987	Jason Randl—1996
Paul Brenegan—1994 and 1995	Jason Driscoll—1997	Greg Rovansek—1986 and 1987
Joe Carter—1994	January and November	Keith Snelson—1993
Mike Collins—1992	Chris Jans—1991	Jeff Valentine—1984
Rick Creger—1990	Tom Kettmann—1996	Mike Wilson—1999

Coach of the Year—NCBT

Brad Soderberg—1992

Most Valuable Player—NCBT

Mike Lambe—1995

The 2002-03 team had a record of 17-10, including 11-7 in the Iowa Conference. They were led by Jeff Ludovissy, Travis Williams, Brian Feldott, Matt Uthoff, Joel Cornilsen, Dwayne Penn, Pete Silvestri and Mats Nordin. They opened the season with victories over Robert Morris and Fontbonne University with Ludovissy scoring 18 in each game, and DePauw, as Stineman totaled 17. Iowa Conference wins included two over the University of Dubuque, one in which Matt Uthoff scored 32 points and also a victory over Buena Vista in which Williams scored 18. Joel Cornilsen had an outstanding year in rebounding, including 17 in one game. The Duhawks qualified for the Iowa conference tourney, defeating Simpson in the first round with 19 from Jeff Ludovissy, but losing to Buena Vista in round two, with 21 points from Stineman and 12 rebounds from Nordin.

The 2003-04 team went 16-10 including 9-7 in the Iowa Conference. They won important non-conference games over Clarke College with Scottie Braden scoring 17 and Wisconsin-Platteville with 15 from Greg King. In conference play they defeated Wartburg with 15 from Matt Murray and Coe on 20 points from Ludovissy. They lost at Simpson despite 29 Ludovissy points. The Duhawks won five straight games at the end of the season before losing to Coe 68-64 in the first round of the Iowa Conference tourney, despite 22 points and 12 rebounds from Dwayne Penn.

The 2004-05 season brought about the best Iowa Conference record since Loras rejoined the league, namely 12-4 with an overall record of 18-8. The Duhawks were led by Jeff Ludovissy, J. R. Redovan, Greg King, Jimmy Ernst, Matt Murray, Pete Silvestri and Kyle White. The non-conference season included a 78-73 loss to Clarke with Ludovissy scoring 18 and also a loss to Redlands University of California 151-147 although Ludovissy scored 26. They defeated Mt. Mercy with Ludovissy again leading the scoring with 29 points. At one point they would win five straight conference games including one over Simpson, Ernst scoring 24, and Central with 23 from King. Later in the season they defeated the University of Dubuque with White scoring 22 before losing to Luther in the Iowa Conference tourney 79-74 in overtime despite 28 by Ludovissy.

The 2005-06 team would go 17-9 during the season including 10-6 in the Iowa Conference. The highlight of this season was an 11-game winning streak, beginning with a win over Aurora College, Luke Slater scoring 20, and ending with a victory over Cornell with Slater again leading the scoring with 16. Important contributions during this season were also received from Greg King, Bobby Stineman, Kyle

White, Scottie Braden, Brian Centella and Jake Oeth. During a victory over Luther, King scored 22 and in one over Central Braden had 22. The Duhawks again qualified for the conference tourney only to lose to Simpson 78-68 despite 16 from Kyle White.

The 2006-07 season was truly an historic one for Loras basketball as they would win the Iowa Conference with a record of 15-1 and go on to become the first team to represent Loras in the Division III tourney. The team centered around Brian Centella, Kyle White, Luke Slater, Ricky Kolze and Jake Oeth, along with reserve Scottie Braden. This took me back to my college days of 1947-51 and Rohan, Moskal, Ternes, Skraby and McCabe. **This was truly a team** and I am happy to have watched them play. This season also marked the final game in the Loras College Fieldhouse, played on a bad winter night. I was able to attend only because of help from a fellow St. Columbkille parishioner. As I watched this game, I could only recount the hundreds of games I have had the pleasure of watching in this historic place.

The final game and the league title was described by Clete Campbell in the *Telegraph Herald*. Part of the game story was as follows: “One sequence symbolized the persistence of Loras College in its championship season. Kyle White took a hard forearm hack to the face and regrouped with one shake of his head. Blurry-eyed, White still located Luke Slater driving to the hoop and fed him a bounce pass that Slater turned into a running layup that further insured the Duhawks’ lead with three minutes left in Saturday night’s Iowa Conference Tournament championship game. White’s play exemplified Loras’ relentless attitude Saturday night: They’d come too far to let up now.

“After years of IIAC Tourney letdowns, near-misses heartbreaks, the Duhawks learned how to dance Saturday night. They outshot, outhustled and outplayed five-time defending IIAC Tourney champion Buena Vista for 40 minutes in a commanding 77-62 victory that earned Loras its first NCAA Division III Tournament berth. It was a storybook finish to the Duhawks’ best season since their NAIA heydays of the 1980s.

“After the game, Loras students stormed the court and mobbed coach Chad Walthall in bear hugs, and Duhawk players cut down the nets, with senior guard Scottie Braden cutting the final threads, in likely the final game in Loras Fieldhouse history. ‘We’ve been due (to go to the tourney for a while),’ junior forward Kyle White said. ‘I’m glad to be part of it.’ Loras (20-6) will find out its first-round tourney opponent destination Monday morning.

“‘I’m proud of them for a lot of things, but the biggest thing I’m proud of them for is the way they’ve handled success,’ said Walthall, whose balance-driven club lacks a scorer ranked among the league’s top ten. ‘I’ve been in this thing (coaching) for 18 years in Divisions I, II and III. This team is the most humble group by far that I’ve ever coached. They treated every game like the last one didn’t matter. That’s why we’re at this moment.’

“Loras won with its typical script: offensive balance. Guard Ricky Kolze swished a game-high 23 points, including four 3-pointers and Slater added 18 points as Loras put four players in double figures. Brian Centella added 15 points and White turned in 13. ‘That’s the trademark of our team. We’re so balanced we can count on a different guy every night stepping up for us,’ Kolze said.”

It was only proper that the final Fieldhouse game would result in an Iowa Conference tourney championship victory for the Loras College Duhawks.

This remarkable season would end with an overtime 85-82 loss to St. John’s, Collegeville, Minnesota. This was a difficult loss as St. John’s scored the winning goal in the final seconds. Ricky Kolze led Loras with 23 points and Luke Slater secured eight rebounds. Clete Campbell writing in the T.H. described the final shot. “Tyler Westman burned a bitter memory and a fatal dagger into the heart of Loras College

Thursday night with a shot of brilliance. The St. John's senior guard buried a game-winning contested 25-foot fade-away 3-pointer with 2.4 seconds left in overtime to lift the Johnnies to a thrilling 85-82 NCAA Division III first-round victory at Sexton Arena in Collegeville, Minnesota. 'It was kind of a broken play,' Westman said. 'I launched it up and it went in.'

"Duhawks guard Ricky Kolze's game-tying 3-point attempt at the OT buzzer fell short, ending the best Loras season in 23 years. Westman was a human fireworks show for St. John's. He hit six treys—shooting 6 for 11 from the arc—while dropping a game-high 31 points. Westman's game-winner was a dream killer for Loras, which had fought its way back from an 18-point first-half deficit. 'It was just an unbelievable shot,' Duhawks coach Chad Walthall said. 'My goodness gracious. What are you going to do in that situation?'"

Prior to the 2007-08 season, Chad Walthall would leave Loras to become an assistant at the University of Iowa. Greg Gorton, who had been an assistant at Loras since 2003-04, was named head coach. Greg graduated from St. Thomas in 1991 with a degree in mathematics and was a member of the St. Thomas coaching staff for eight years before coming to Loras. His first year at Loras resulted in a 22-7 record, going 13-3 in the Iowa Conference, winning the Conference tourney and going to the Division III tourney. The Duhawks were led by the starting five of Jake Oeth, Luke Slater, Kyle White, Ricky Kolze and Brian Centella. Other members of this squad included Matt Seaquist, Alex Brant, Jason Abbuhl, Reggie Rowe, Pat Conrad, Kyle Sperfslage and Travis Wills.

Loras opened the season in the new Athletic and Wellness Center and, on this historic night, would lose to Clarke 84-71 in what was the 500th win for Clarke College coach Jon Davison. Clete Campbell described this game in the *Telegraph Herald*. The following is a partial description of this game: "For Clarke College coach Jon Davison, his 500 career wins are nothing but a number. But No. 500's sentimental value is priceless.

"On one of the most historic nights in Loras College basketball history, Davison's unconscious-shooting Crusaders stole the show and crashed the party at the opening of Loras' dazzling new \$16 million Athletic and Wellness Center. DeMonte Bynum rained in a game-high 26 points and dealt nine assists, and Clarke shot a lights-out 92 percent over the first 11 minutes on their way to an 84-71 upset of the defending Iowa Conference champions Friday night. 'This was the perfect script for 500 for Coach,' Bynum said.

"Clarke forward Josh Bellaire was the first in line to wrap his coach in a congratulatory bear hug for his 500th career victory on the floor after the game. 'We wanted this bad,' said Clarke junior forward Demarvis Russell, who had 19 points on 7-of-9 shooting. The low-key Davison, who announced before the season that his 39th year of collegiate coaching would be his last, was more excited about the head-turning upset of a Duhawks team ranked No. 8 in one preseason national NCAA Division III poll meant for his program. 'It's not 500 so much,' Davison said. 'But the win tonight in a new gym against the Iowa Conference champion...that's what that win means.'"

The second game in the Wellness Center resulted in a loss to Wheaton College 69-62, a team they would meet again in the Division III nationals. Loras went 13-3 during the Iowa Conference schedule. The three losses were two to Buena Vista and one to Simpson. At one point during the Iowa Conference schedule, they won nine in a row, including one over the U.D. with 17 points from Centella and over Wartburg with White scoring 22. In the Conference tourney, the Duhawks defeated Coe with 24 from White, and won the tourney title with a 77-69 victory at Buena Vista, 21 points from Jake Oeth. This victory would send Loras to the Division III tourney.

In the first round of the Division III tourney, Loras scored one of the greatest wins in Duhawks history when they defeated No. 2-ranked UW-Whitewater behind a last second three-point shot by Kyle White. I

have followed Loras basketball since 1945, and this has to rank as one of the five best wins of all time. The following night Loras would lose for the second time in the season to Wheaton College. Luke Pattarozzi described these two thrilling games in a March 13, 2008, edition of *The Lorian*.

“Loras luck ran out in the second round of the NCAA Division III National Tournament when the Duhawks were ousted by Wheaton College in a 76-73 thriller last Saturday night at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, but not before pulling off one of the biggest upsets in school history and in the nation the night before.

“Last Friday night, in front of a near sold-out crowd in Kachel Gymnasium, the Duhawks (22-7) shocked all of Division III when they eliminated No. 2-ranked and Final Four hopeful UW-Whitewater (24-5) in a 71-70 win on the Warhawks’ home floor. Down by two with 15 seconds remaining, instead of going for the tie, senior Kyle White pulled up from 25 feet and, with a hand in his face, nailed a shot to put the Duhawks up by one. ‘Well, coach called a timeout two plays before and drew up some plans for certain situations,’ White said. ‘He told us if we got a stop, to run an isolation with me at the point, and if I can set my feet to just stroke it. So that’s what I did. I would have to say that was the biggest shot I have hit in my career.’

“Whitewater had two open looks in the final few seconds to win it, but couldn’t convert before time expired. It sent the Duhawk faithful into a frenzy as they rushed the court, while the home crowd remained stunned. ‘You prepare yourself your whole life for games like that,’ Head Coach Greg Gorton said. ‘It was a game of strategy, one of those games where you try to keep four possessions ahead of the game. I felt it was important to go for a three-point shot, and (Kyle) made it. It was a great game and one that will forever be one of the most fun games I’ve ever been a part of.’

“White carried Loras to victory in arguably his most dominating performance, scoring a career-high 33 points on 12-of-16 from the field and 3-of-4 from three-point range. He also finished with a team-high six rebounds. Both teams finished the game shooting well above 50 percent. The Duhawks played a near-flawless second half of basketball, shooting 64 percent while turning the ball over just twice. Juniors Brian Centella and Ricky Kolze also finished in double figures with 14 and 11 points respectively.

“The momentum carried over in the form of a 10-point lead and two separate nine-point leads for the Duhawks in Saturday night’s rematch with Wheaton. Both teams met in the Athletics and Wellness Center on November 20, where the Thunder scored a 69-62 win. Thunder struck again at the hands of All-American Kent Raymond’s game-high 36 points.

“Up by nine with six minutes left, the game seemed to be in hand for the Duhawks. Then, in less than a four-minute span, Wheaton connected on six straight baskets, including four in a row from downtown, to cap a 16-0 run and propel them to a seven-point lead. Loras managed to get it within three points with nine seconds left and a chance to tie. However, two fairly decent looks fell short and so did the Duhawks chances of making it to the Sweet 16 for the first time in school history.”

The loss to Wheaton brought to a close the great careers of seniors Kyle White and Luke Slater. These two young men made major contributions to the Iowa Conference Championship in 2006-07 and the Conference tourney victory in 2007-08. White was conference M.V.P. in his junior and senior years and a two-year Iowa Conference first team selection. He scored 1419 points and collected 695 rebounds during his career. Slater, a first-team Iowa Conference player in 2006-07 and 2007-08, totaled 1076 points and recorded 501 rebounds, as he helped the Duhawks complete two remarkable seasons. As I went through the one hundred years of basketball, I was driven by the fact that I knew this would end on a very positive note. When the next person begins his or her review of the next 100 years of Loras

basketball, he or she can start with a review of White, Slater, Oeth, Centella and Kolze. They were a pleasure to watch.

From the first game in 1909 to the Wheaton loss in March of 2008, St. Joseph's, Dubuque, Columbia and Loras men's basketball played 2,148 games, winning 1,218 and losing 930. Following the 1909 season I found the following quote from *The Spokesman* of special interest: "Basketball at St. Joseph's is in its infancy. If it be true that the child is father of the man, the husky infant among us bids fair, in a few years, to prove dangerous to the champions of the Middle west."

HOW TRUE!