

## TIGER GOLD

The Boys of Summer



"As players, in addition to improving and learning new baseball skills, we also acquired many life skills."

Walking into the ballpark, through the stands to the dugout area was definitely a time of immense pride. For us, as seniors, Mark Kalbacher, Donnie Maheu, Donnie Meyer, Raul Viera, Al Waguespack, and me, this was our time: the culmination of many years of practice, a goal attained, chosen to represent the Holy Cross varsity baseball team. I'm sure I can speak for all in saying it's something we are still proud of until this day!

On game day, the time would come to put on your uniform and make your way to the ballpark. I would compare putting on my uniform to getting dressed in a suit and tie for a wedding. I wanted to look good in my uniform, making sure it was clean and unwrinkled - the white sanitary socks put on first followed by the navy blue stirrup socks pulled up to a matching height. Then the white baseball pants, again the elastic bottoms pulled up to the same height.

Next was the three-quarter sleeved navy blue under jersey followed by the white sleeveless uniform shirt with the "Tigers" logo and number. These would be neatly tucked in the uniform pants secured by a navy blue elastic belt. The cap was navy blue with the HC emblem on the front.

As game time approached it was time to de-emphasize the suit and tie, put the pride aside and concentrate on the task at hand. When it was time to take the field for the first pitch, it was all about what we can do as players and as a team to win the game.

The varsity baseball coach was Jean Faust. I think he prepped at Nicholls High School, then went on to play outfield for Loyola. His first year as head coach of the baseball team was 1963, and I think he was still the head coach until the late seventies.

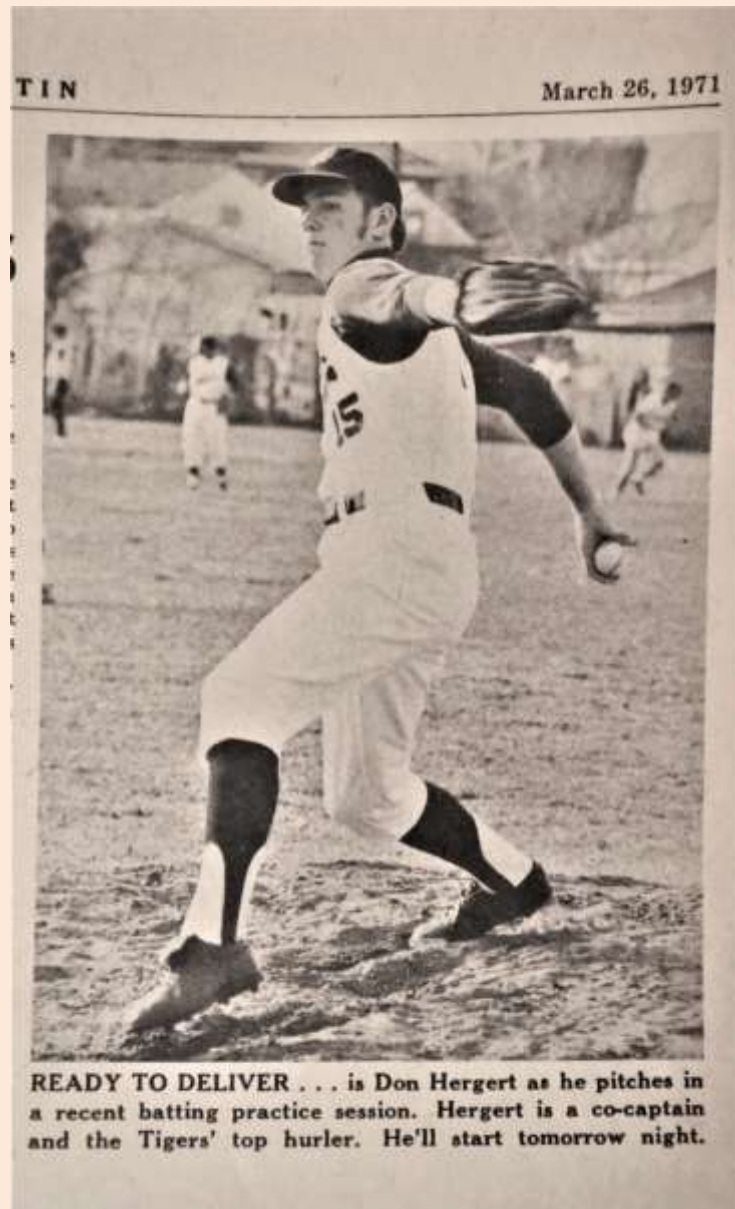
Coach Faust was a good coach – he had no assistant coaches, just Rick Perry as the team manager - and was respected by the other coaches in the league. He had us well prepared as a team. We worked a lot on what he called situations. The players would be set in the respective positions and Coach would be standing near home plate with a bat and ball.

He would call out the situation, for instance, man on first base one out. Then he would hit a ball to a certain part of the field and observe how everyone reacted. Did the right person back-up the fielder? Did the fielder throw to the proper base? Did the right person back-up the throw to the base? Did the cut-off man get in position properly?

There are many different situations that can present themselves in baseball, and every player will make physical errors. However the last thing you want to do is to commit a mental error resulting in giving the other team extra bases.

Some of my more memorable moments are being named co-captain along with Donnie Meyer, being named MVP in baseball in 1971, hitting my 1st career home run against Shaw and my 2nd against Rummel, both in 1st round victories. As starting pitcher in the season opener against St. Aug I struck-out 8 of the first 9 batters I faced and 13 total strikeouts in 6 innings before exiting the game leading 8-1.

My best outing in American Legion was on June 20 against a stout Br. Martin team (Sure Klean sponsored) when we shut them out 2-0.



In 1969, our sophomore year, the JV team under Coach McGoey had a 9-3 district record. Cor Jesu won the 1st round with a 5-1 record, we were 4-2. We won the 2nd round with a 5-1 record.

We met Cor Jesu for the district championship and lost to them 6-5.

I probably think about this game more than any of our varsity games. This one really hurt. I felt like I let the team down. The championship was there for the taking. It was a back and forth affair - 3-3, (CJ) 4-3, 4-4, (HC) 5-4, (CJ) 6-5.

This was my worst outing of the year. Although giving up only 3 hits (all singles) and 2 earned runs, I walked 9 batters, and we committed 6 errors. Obviously my control was off; however, Cor Jesu's 3 pitchers walked 10 batters. The home plate umpire was calling a very tight strike zone. If I remember correctly he was none other than the



*Donald Hergert*

legendary Firmin Simms of Bunny Friend Playground, where Donnie Meyer and I grew up playing ball. He could have cut me a few breaks on the strike zone, don't you think? But then again, he was a very religious man.

It would be remiss of me if I didn't give some much deserved mention of achievement by co-captain Donnie Meyer. He was one of the prep district leaders in batting (.356 batting average), and district leaders in RBI with 9. He was also chosen American Legion All-First District Team 3rd baseman, and was one of the RBI leaders with 14.

Gary Cannizaro, our talented junior shortstop, was also a prep district leader in batting, hitting for a .340 average. He was also chosen American Legion All-First District Team utility player after hitting for a .400 average.

As players, in addition to improving and learning new baseball skills, we also acquired many life skills. We learned the importance of hard work to achieve a common goal, time management, responsibility, accountability, self-discipline, patience, perseverance, self-respect, respect for others, how to handle pressure, confidence, leadership. These traits can't be measured in wins and losses. We didn't realize it at the time, but they would serve us well long after our playing days.

*Donald Hergert*



**“Taking the field in a Holy Cross uniform was a nearly indescribable experience.”**

Baseball and softball have always been a part of my life. From playing in the yard and learning to throw a knuckleball from my dad - to playing for Carolyn Park Playground, Holy Cross, and a lot of softball - and playing in the yard with my kids and coaching kid teams made up my baseball/softball life.

“Taking the field” for any those reasons was always special, fun, and exciting. Even the feel of steel cleats on the dirt was pretty neat.

My six years at Holy Cross rank high on my list of life experiences thanks to so many of the teachers and guys in our class. I still have and wear Holy Cross hats and shirts from time to time. Yeah, Holy Cross is still special. Taking the field in a Holy Cross uniform was a nearly indescribable experience.

I had some pretty good coaches at the playground level, but Coach Jean Faust really knew baseball. He taught us a lot of fundamentals and situations. And the phrase he said so many times - “If you walk him, he’ll score” - I reheard over and over playing, coaching, and just watching games. It was similar to Coach Seither’s “Expect the other guy to do something stupid” advice in Driver’s Ed. The things I learned from Coach Faust were passed on to my kids and the kids I coached.

One memory of Coach Faust is him buying us snowballs between games of a double header on a hot day in Chalmette. St. Bernard guys should remember Goody’s Snowballs across the street from the Chalmette baseball field. Buying my son Miles a snowball after he played there brought back memories.

How special it was to be on the same team representing Holy Cross with guys like Bobby Hrapmann, Mike Chimento from '70: Donnie Meyer, Donald Herget, Raul Viera,



Mark Kalbacher, and Al Waguespack from our class: and Gary Cannizaro, Glenn DeBarbieris, Rocko Ruiz, and Ray Spicuzza from '72. Ray grew up 4 houses from me and we played many ball games in our yards.

One of my first playing opportunities was junior year. Coach Faust called me over and said, "Maheu, if Hrapmann gets on, go run for him." Of course, he did. I don't know who was more shocked, Bobby or me. I might have been the only one in any sport at Holy Cross to sub for Bobby or any of the Hrapmanns.

There were several highlights and high points in the '71 season. We started off pretty well, but the lack of pitching depth hampered us. Then, Don Hergert pulled a muscle in his chest and couldn't pitch. That really hurt us and we suffered some close losses.

One of those close losses was painful. Mr. Izzy Fisher called a catcher's balk on Ray with a Redemptorist runner on third; we lost 2-1. I have never seen that called before or since. Mr. Fisher umpired games at Carolyn Park, Holy Cross and even in softball leagues. The poor guy used to catch hell from the stands. But I was fortunate to get to know him - a very nice man.



**Donnie Maheu**

I always preferred playing in the day. And, even though Perry Roehm's outfield had St. Augustine grass and the dirt in the infield often resembled the sand at Pontchartrain Beach, it was my favorite place to play.

Playing and coaching were great times. Later playing softball with many Holy Cross guys was a lot of fun and very special to me. Showing a 9 year old how to catch a fly ball and then seeing the look on his face when he got the hang of it was priceless. Asking a 10 year old, "There was no signal. Why did you go?" and getting the answer "I don't know" was humorous.

It was all fun, but playing in the yard with my kids was tops. My daughter Kaitlin doing cartwheels around the bases and hitting ground balls to and throwing to Miles in the batting cage in the backyard was a joy. Hearing Miles ask, "Dad, do you want to go throw?" was awesome.

When Miles was finished playing, I told my wife Lynn, "You realize how long baseball has been part of me? Now it's over." I still get to throw some when Miles is around and go to games with Lynn, Kaitlin, and Miles. Sitting in the stands with a beer, a hot dog and a bag of peanuts is as great as eating at Rocky's.

*Donnie Maheu*

*Flight* . . . . .

*Photo by Mike Pearson*



"Donnie Meyer's throws from third to first were near arc-less laser strikes that would hit my glove at chest level and sting my hand like heck."

Bunny Friend playground in New Orleans was located halfway between the former locations of Holy Cross and St Aloysius high schools. Many of my young friends from Bunny Friend went on to play baseball for Holy Cross. My parents sent my brothers and me to St Aloysius.

I don't recall hearing anyone express any interest in going to Jesuit.

Bunny Friend teammates who later attended Holy Cross include Rene Bull, Craig Gorbach, Donald Hergert, Skip Jemison, and Donnie Meyer. All were good hitters and good defensive players.

By the time we were ten years old, core members of our Bunny Friend baseball team had been playing together for four years. We had confidence in the abilities of our teammates.

During one game when we were behind by a couple of runs, our coach calmly told a parent behind the dugout that "This team always finds a way to win". And sure enough - that inning our team got several hits in a row and scored enough runs to regain the lead. Then our team's pitching and fielding generated outs for the win.

At Bunny Friend, Donald Hergert was our skill player who did most of the pitching. He had a strong arm and good control. This was before little league used mechanical pitching machines. A 10 year old pitcher who could consistently get the ball over the plate and produce strikeouts was important to the team and important for the attention span of our supportive parents sitting in the bleachers.

Donnie Meyer played third base and he had a very strong arm as well. Donnie's throws from third to first were near arc-less laser strikes that would hit my glove at chest level and sting my hand like heck. Thankfully, I rarely had to cover first base.

Craig Gorbach and Skip Jemison were both rock solid catchers. Rene Bull was a consistent hitter and reliable both as a second baseman and in the outfield.



Since we were then so young, we didn't appreciate the many hours of labor our parents (the WW II generation) invested in their children's baseball activities. The City provided the land, but it was the parents in that blue collar neighborhood who converted Bunny Friend's bare acreage into a top notch athletic facility.



Bunny Friend playground had two baseball diamonds and high intensity night lighting strong enough for players to catch fly balls in deep center field. To celebrate home runs, Bunny Friend also had a sound enhanced flashing scoreboard like the one in the then new Houston Astrodome (but on a somewhat smaller scale). Our parents installed the fences, manned the concession stand, smoothed the infields, and chalked the baselines. When a ten year old stepped into the batter's box during a Bunny Friend night game, it felt like playing in the Major Leagues.

4 pm baseball practice at Bunny Friend was a staple of our daily life. St Mary of the Angels grammar school let out at 3 pm, and a 4 pm practice allowed enough time to walk home from school, change into our dungarees with rolled up cuffs, and ride our bikes to the playground. Most of our bikes had the latest banana seats and angel wing handlebars

After practice we might go to the Ellis drugstore, adjacent to Bunny Friend on Desire St, for a 16 oz returnable glass bottle of Coke and maybe add some Sweet Tarts to the bottle, which removed the carbonated fizz. Cold uncarbonated Coca-Cola is something only a thirsty ten year old could love.

Swarms of giant mosquitoes were a huge issue in 1960's New Orleans. We would often come home at night covered in massive welts from so many mosquito bites. To combat the problem, City mosquito control trucks would slowly travel each street loudly spewing a heavy cloud of white smoke laden with pesticides to kill the mosquitoes.

Baseball games were halted until the smoke cleared. As ten year olds, we would ride our bicycles in the slow moving truck's thick white smoke, oblivious to the pesticide. Laughing while riding in the reduced visibility behind the truck, we were happy to be temporarily safe from the giant mosquitoes until a parent saw us and made us stop.

A current friend who helped develop that mosquito control program later said those trucks carried WW II surplus smoke generators used by Navy destroyers to create giant smoke screens to protect American troops during amphibious landings.

Old Bunny Friend baseball team photographs that survived Hurricane Betsy serve as reminders of our volunteer Coaches who were so patient teaching us baseball fundamentals. Many of our Coaches had grown up when baseball was The National Pastime. Their heroes were Ty Cobb, Bob Feller, Lou Gehrig, Ted Williams, and the starting lineup of the New York Yankees. Our volunteer baseball Coaches were true students of the game.

For example, Coach Oliver Bayard was a fireman with two sons who played at Bunny Friend. Coach Bayard started coaching us when we were 7 year olds. At the beginning of every batting practice over the years, Coach Bayard always required that we bunt a



few balls in order to help develop our hand-eye coordination and because he knew the strategic importance of a well-timed bunt. Defensively, our coaches taught us to back up throws to the bases and to be ready for an unexpected overthrow.



Bottom row, seated: Steve Glaviano, Louis Chaisson, Buddy Gunlag  
Middle row, kneeling: Rene Bull, John Costa, Donald Hergert  
Third Row, standing: Donnie Meyer, Skip Jemison, Al Chartier, Johnny Fisher  
Fourth Row, standing: parent Vincent Glaviano Jr, (standing in for unavailable Coach Johnny Meyer and Coach Oliver Bayard)

Thanks to one of our local business sponsors, Messina Drayage, our ten year old team was given heavy wool pin-striped uniforms just like those worn by the New York Yankees. None of us understood what a 'drayage' was, but we did understand Mr. Messina's generosity. While they looked great, those wool uniforms sure were hot and scratchy in the summer.

Beneath his uniform shirt, catcher Skip Jemison wore an upscale Ban-Lon shirt with a soft collar to protect his neck from chafing, much like WW I fighter pilots who wore silk scarves to protect their necks.

Coach Johnny Meyer, the older brother of Donnie Meyer, was our head coach when our 10 year old baseball team won the NORD City Championship. Regardless of the score, Coach Johnny Meyer was unflappable. He remains the coolest cat I ever met. His trademark greeting was a big smile and a cheerful "Where yuh-at, floater!" (pronounced Flow-Dah').

The baseball fundamentals taught by our Bunny Friend Coaches served us well when playing for that City Championship. For example in the late innings of one tight game, the other team bunted with a runner on second. The throw to first was high and beyond the reach of our leaping first baseman. Seeing the ball sail over our first baseman's head, the other team's third base coach began wildly jumping up and down with his right arm spinning like a windmill in a hurricane, excitedly waving his runner in to home plate.

However when the batter had squared around to bunt, our right fielder repositioned to the right field line to back up the throw to the first baseman. Our right fielder caught the overthrown ball on the first hop and made the throw to catcher Skip Jemison, who easily tagged the runner out at home plate.

Our volunteer Bunny Friend Coaches gave us the foundation of fundamentals so responsible for our baseball success.

*Steve Glaviano '71*

*St Aloysius/Brother Martin High School*

"The next pitch, I hit the ball off the wall and Cannizaro ran in to tie the game."

When I took the field, I loved it; it was fantastic. You could hear the noise in the stands but you didn't really pay attention to it. I was totally zoned out when I was playing.

Coach Faust taught the fundamentals. A typical practice with him would start out by warming up throwing the ball starting close and then moving further apart. Then we'd take the infield and go over various situations. Next was batting practice – we'd each get 5 swings.

My coach for Junior Varsity baseball was Walter Novak until he got drafted into the Army. He played in the outfield for the St Louis Cardinals organization before he came to Holy Cross. He knew everything about baseball: how to pitch, throw, slide and other techniques. He also worked on stance and swing. Novak also coached in the summer Babe Ruth league. When he left Joey McGoey took over.



In the 9th grade, I was running to 3rd base and had to slide. I over slid the base and got tagged out. The next day at practice, everybody had to learn how to slide. Novak connected with the players.



*Walter Novak and Jean Faust*

On that Junior Varsity team Don Hergert pitched almost every game and we went 9-3. Hergert and I played sports together at Bunny Friend since we were 7 years old and were co-captains of the 1971 Tiger team.

In my junior year, we were playing Br. Martin and Ricky Gibbs was their pitcher. Gary Cannizaro was on base. Ricky threw the ball; I took a swing and crushed my fingers against the ball. The next pitch, I hit the ball off the wall and Cannizaro ran in to tie the game.

I had no feeling in my fingers and my hand was swollen. Ricky's dad was a veterinarian, so he x-rayed it and said there was nothing broken. I had to sit out 3

games. Some years later, I had to get the hand x-rayed and the doctor asked "Have you broken your fingers before?" Turned out that 2 or 3 fingers had been broken.

When the ball is hit, you judge by the 'crack' if the ball is going to go long or short. When I was a senior there was one time that I misjudged the crack and thought the ball was going deeper than it really did. I went deep into the outfield and I glanced back and Gary Cannizaro ran under me and caught it at 3rd base.

We started practice about three weeks before the season and played one scrimmage – against Ecole Classique. We could only play 15 games during the regular season. Nowadays they play 50 games.

And we didn't do any weight training. It was 'taboo' to touch weights. They thought your muscles would be too tight and you wouldn't loosen up enough to play ball. Now all they do it work out.

Aluminum bats changed the game. The players today can hit the ball 50 to 75 feet further



*Donnie Meyer*



because the ball comes off the bat that much harder. They have so many more home runs and their batting average has increased 50 to 75 points.

I started playing baseball on the 7 year old team at Bunny Friend playground. I used to live at that park. It was also a 'feeder' park for Holy Cross. I played with HC greats Sal Serio '69 and Andy Ravaglia '69. Two other notable players were Henry Quick, who went on to play for Vince Lombardi's Washington Redskins and baseballer Rusty Staub.

*Donnie Meyer*

## Unofficial Reunion

Our 49 year Part 2 unofficial reunion is set for Saturday, October 10 at Rocky and Carlo's.

Although the date is solid, the event itself will be subject to C-19 restrictions (if any) in place at that time.



"I think the loss was so devastating to Aloysius that they closed the school down."



This team had a special bond. We went out on the practice field every day and worked hard and we had fun.

At that time, the State Championship was just reinstated. In 1969, they reinstated it with the format of a single team from each district – the district winner going to the state playoffs in single elimination. So winning the 1st round in the district was pretty important. We got off to a great start. I think we were 7-1 and won the first round. We just never gave up.

The 2nd round we had some injuries. Chuck Knowles' back flared up and he couldn't pitch at all. I had a bad knee. I was on thin ice right there. I was just fortunate enough that my knee held on for the whole

year. We lost 4 games in the 2nd round.

Aloysius came out in the 2nd round as the district winner and they put up a battle, but we came up and scored 5 runs in the bottom of the 7th inning to tie it and went an extra inning to win it 8-7. To me, that was a great win. I think it was the greatest win in Holy Cross history in baseball.

I think the loss was so devastating to Aloysius that they closed the school down.

And going on to the state playoffs and beating Chalmette was so sweet.

*Andy Ravaglia '69*

**Surprise**

**Photo by Mike Pearson**





## CHALKBOARD

*Breaking News:* Rene Bull was named second best camper at the 1960 Holy Cross summer camp.



Bill and Christine Pedoux welcomed a new granddaughter: Eloise



## Anniversaries

Steve and Claudia Schulz: 44 year

Robyn and Billie Kay Miller: 15 year

Phil Kessling and Rhonda: Todoroff 12 year

Ty and Cindy Yokum: 2 year

Dan and Anelle McGovern 32 year  
(Photo is from their 30 year anniversary.)



Gary Vinturella and Shelli Bourgeois celebrated their 22 year anniversary





Gary and Toni Ritzmann welcomed a new granddaughter: Emma



Bill Pedeaux got his wings 43 years ago. He says "The time has 'flown' by."



Bobby Dawson's grandson will graduate from high school in 2021 – 50 years after Bobby did.

Gary Ritzmann captured this photo of Bill Pedeaux's B52s overflying the city.



## Bobby's Wall

Here's a photo by Peggy Campiere of the Monument to the music venue The Warehouse. Bobby Wahl has been working on this project – from start to finish - for over six years. It sits on the corner of Race and Tchoupitoulas, not far from the site of the Warehouse.



## '71 Season Recap

**"Being a relatively young and inexperienced team, it probably was unrealistic to think we could be a championship contender."**

As far as spring training, there wasn't any. To my recollection, we would receive word that baseball practice would begin on such and such day in February to prepare for district play which began in mid-March. We played two rounds of eight games each, with the second round ending in early May. The winner of each round would then play for the district championship.

Assessing the team in retrospect, only 6 of our 19 players were seniors, and Kalbacher, Meyer, and I were the only 3 who had prior varsity experience. We had no experience at catcher, no experienced outfielders, and as Coach Faust stated at the time as the biggest problem was only 1 pitcher with any varsity experience. It was common knowledge that for a team to contend it needed at least 2 reliable starting pitchers.

We started district play March 16 on a high note beating St. Aug 10-1. We lost the next game to Redemptorist 4-0. We then beat Jesuit 7-3, followed by losses to Bro. Martin 6-0 and DeLaSalle 7-2. We finished the 1st round with a respectable 5-3 record after posting consecutive wins over Shaw 5-2, Chalmette 4-2, and Rummel 4-0.

On April 15 we got the 2nd round started right with a 6-5 win over St. Aug, giving us an overall 6-3 record and 4 straight wins. Unfortunately that would be our last victory as we went on a 7-game losing streak to close out the 2nd round with a terrible 1-7 record, losing to Redemptorist 2-1, Jesuit 4-0, Bro. Martin 6-5, DeLaSalle 7-1, Shaw 3-1, Chalmette 3-2, and Rummel 6-1. The result was a disappointing 6-10 season record.

Being a relatively young and inexperienced team, it probably was unrealistic to think we could be a championship contender, but we could have won more games than we did.

Reliable pitching proved to be our biggest problem, especially when I pulled a chest muscle early in the 2nd round, limiting my effectiveness. Our lack of hitting was also a major factor as Donnie Meyer and Gary Cannizaro, who both averaged in the .340-.350 range, were our only good hitters. After them there was a big drop-off. In 6 of our 7 losses in the second round we scored a total of 6 runs. It's hard to win games that way. And of course lady luck always plays her part.

In our loss to Chalmette we were ahead 2-1, then gave up 2 unearned runs in the 6th to lose 3-2. Against Bro. Martin the score was tied 3-3 after 7 innings. We scored 2 runs in the top of the 8th but the Crusaders scored 3 in the bottom half on a 2-run triple, with



the man on 3rd later scoring the winning run on an error. If those 2 endings weren't bad enough, wait until you hear this one.



Against Redemptorist we're leading 1-0 going into the bottom of the 7th. With one out and a man on 2nd base, a ground ball hit to the second baseman goes through his legs allowing the tying run to score. So onto the 8th inning we go. We don't score, so now Redemptorist is at bat with 2 outs and the batter hits a triple and the winning run is on 3rd base. Okay, but there are 2 outs. Coach Faust orders an intentional walk on the next batter. I don't exactly remember the reason why.

Anyway on the third pitchout pitch, the home-plate umpire decides to call a balk on the catcher for leaving his box behind home plate before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. The runner on 3rd base is awarded home plate – game over! How bizarre is that, and to make that call in such a critical situation without as much as a gentle warning to the catcher. Unbelievable!!! Did I say that many different situations can present themselves in baseball? So there's my case for saying we could have won more games and that lady luck plays her part.

As was the norm, we did go on to play in the American Legion League that summer from May 30 through July 18. We played under the name Saucer Marine, the team's sponsor. We posted a very respectable 13-6-1 record.

*Donald Hergert*



## Managers Use After-School Time to Aid Athletes

By Artie Kirsch

*Holy Cross Bulletin (excerpted)*

12/13/71

Sports Manager: The man behind the scenes who does most of the work, but gets none of the glory.

That's how the five HC students who devote their extra time and effort to helping the athletes and coaches of the school's athletic teams can be described.

Bobby Gremillion, Walther Diamond, John Rousset, Ricky Perry and Chris Wolfe all have undertaken this unglorified position on their own accord being rewarded with an involvement in HC sports which they could not have received as participants.

Perry is the only baseball manager and carries all the accompanying responsibilities alone.

Perry explains how he came to be baseball manager. "I was asked way back in 7th grade if I wanted to be a manager of the baseball team and right away I liked the idea."



## Bernadine Marie Campisi Wahl

*(Bobby Wahl's mother Bernadine Marie Campisi Wahl passed away on 12 April 2020. Please keep Bobby and his family in your thoughts and prayers.)*

The last few days have been filled with phone calls and personal messages from friends and family alike. I can't begin to tell you how heartwarming it is to hear them speak so fondly of my mother. She went by three names "Aunt Bern" - "Ms. Bernie" - and for the last 40 years affectionately known to all as "Nana".

She seems to have become everyone's adoptive mother/grandmother and I loved sharing her. Nana gave the most precious thing in life - her time. Whoever asked how to cook or sew something be prepared to get the full answer.

Who was this person - who was Bernadine Campisi Wahl.

She was the seven-year-old little girl along with her five-year-old sister who had their names pinned on them and placed on a train to B'ham, AL. Sent off to live with their grandmother after their mother, a 24 year old had died from an illness. They were all alone.

Both were passed amongst family members to be raised. Eventually as a young teen they came back home to New Orleans to live with their mother's younger sister to learn to cook, clean and sew so they could take care of their father.

My mom lived a hard young life growing up. She once told me that she couldn't wait to get married so she could cook for my dad.

After 54 years of marriage she lost her husband, my dad in '03. She was left alone again.

She was one to never complain.

Even after losing everything to Katrina while living in Chalmette, she always took the hand dealt her and moved forward with a positive attitude. Never a tear, at least not in front of me. She picked up every penny she saw. Always saying I found another penny today, your dad is thinking of me.

When we were small children my mother drove us to school. After the '70's, for the most part my dad drove her everywhere.

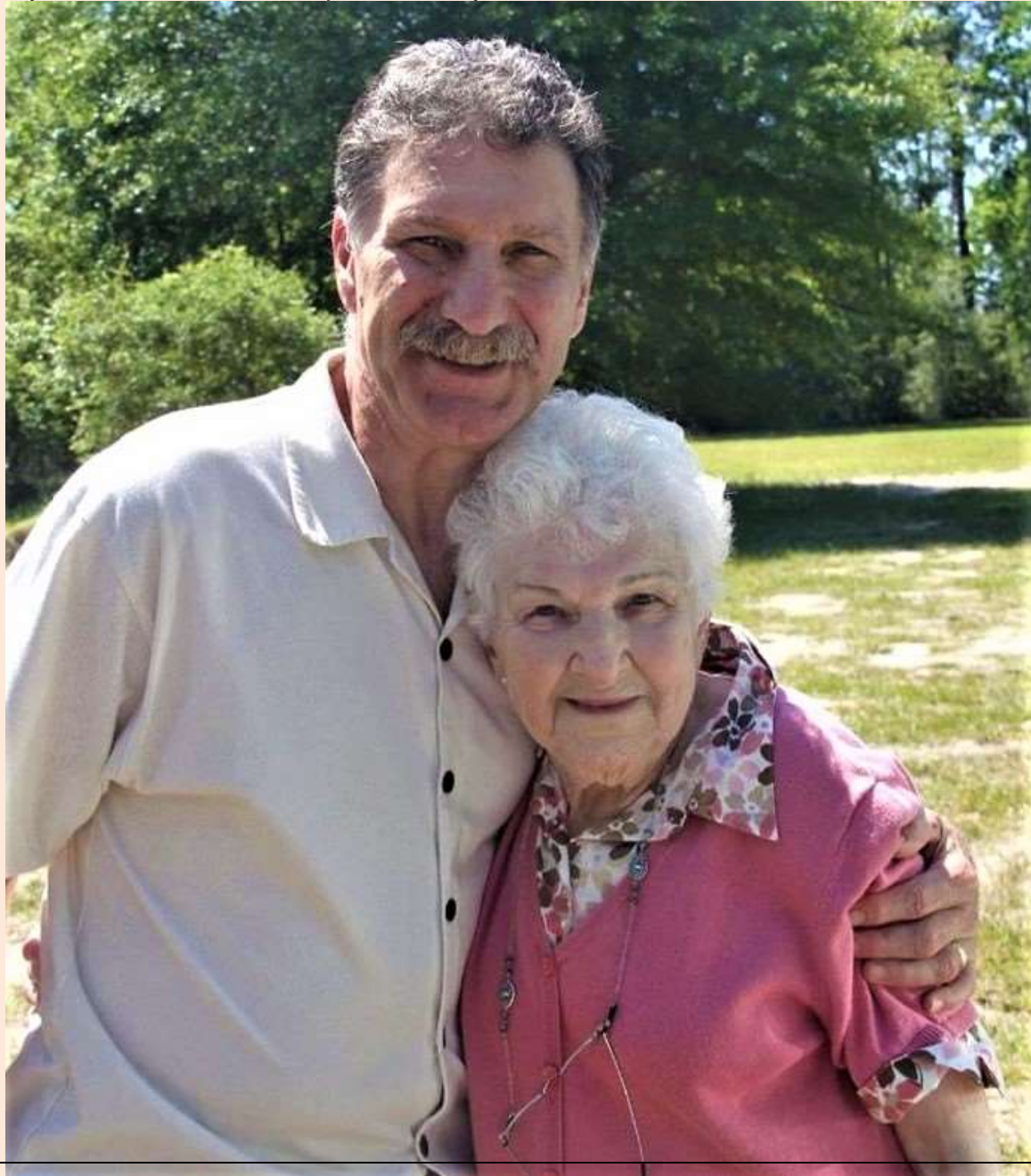
At the age of 74 my mother drove the interstate highway for the first time in her life when she came to live on the Northshore after the Storm. We would all laugh watching my mother drive. She became shorter with age and she seemed to have shrunk to like 4 1/2 feet! If you got behind her when driving it looked like the car was driving itself - you could not see her head above the head rest.



She loved her sports and had the TV set up to record every LSU, Saints, and Pelicans game.

Being her only son my sisters called me 'the king' because mom always spoiled me with her cooking. Whatever I asked for she would make like that night or the next day! St. Joseph's Day was always a special occasion in our family. For decades she worked with her cousins on their alters, hosting her own in the 60's. It was my favorite 'cooking' day! For as long as I can remember she had her own mini-altar. I waited all year to taste her St Joseph suca (gravy) a recipe at least a 100 years old.

Everyone bragged about my mother's cooking. She even made her own shells when making her cannolis! To me her cucidatas (fig cakes/cookies) were better than Brocato's. If there was something I told her I liked she would try and try till she got it right - like her homemade Torroncino ice cream. Nothing was ever too much to ask of my mom - she wanted to please everyone who knew her.





It was her sewing that made her stand out too. Everything had to be perfect. There was a children's specialty shop across from Jackson Square in the Pontalba building that would want anything and everything that my mother made - she was that talented.

Everything from those hands were made with love. Even friends of Melissa got personalized garments for their babies; my mother never asked for money she did it out of the kindness of her heart freely and completely.

Nana had many friends old and young who wanted to learn from her. For years she taught lessons at local fabrics/sewing shops after they saw her creations. She would stay longer after the lessons to make sure you picked up on what she was teaching again always giving up her time.

I have many fond memories of my mother and a lot of them are humorous. I just wanted to share a few of them for those who never knew her.

In her final 2 weeks she was alone again, just like the child on that train. We were not permitted to see her. All we could do was FaceTime and let her know how much we loved her and how much she meant to us. But the hardest part was not being able to hold or hug her in the last days. Never let an opportunity go by when you can tell those closest to you how much you care.

They will not let us have more than 10 of us at her funeral. I have more than that in my immediate family alone. Even after death she appears to be once again alone. Knowing this, knowing my mom she would say - It's Ok - I'm Ok .

That would be my mom - a wonderful and beautiful person that never let life get her down. There won't be a day that goes by that something doesn't remind me of you. I will love you and miss you Forever.

Father McKenzie

Writing the words of a sermon that no one will hear.

No one comes near .

Died in the church and was buried along with her name,  
nobody came.

Ah, look at all the lonely people.

You're not alone... you're not alone, Anymore.

*Bobby Wahl*

"I felt a sense of pride in wearing a Holy Cross uniform even though they were hot as hell being made of wool."

Playing baseball was a lot of fun over the years. I started Holy cross in the 7th grade and started playing baseball on the Junior Varsity in the 8th grade. Walter Novak was the coach.

I was fortunate to have some really good coaches coming up, like Firmin Simms in the Babe Ruth league. Coach Faust coached straight up out of the baseball book.

We'd have a couple of weeks of formal practice and then start the season. In the early spring we'd use rubberized balls in the cold and rain.

I remember a game we played against a Henry Rando coached Jesuit team. Their best pitcher was a left-handed one named Sherman Andre. I'd been batting left-handed all day and then switched to right handed. It surprised them and I hit the second pitch off the wall. We had 2 men on base, both scored, and we won the game.

In the state championship in the 1969 game in Baton Rouge I was a sophomore. There was no double elimination: it was win or die. We stayed in the dorm in old Tiger Stadium and had to win 4 games.



*Who's on first . . .*



*Mark Kalbacher*

The Championship game was something special. We were playing against Chalmette and Andy Ravaglia and Mike Chimento lived in Chalmette. Chimento knocked in the winning run for us. I learned a lot playing ball with Andy Ravaglia who was also a 1st baseman. He helped me out a lot with my game.

Senior year, I had hurt my knee playing football and I was still rehabbing while playing baseball. Years later I found out that I had torn my ACL.



Growing up I always knew I was going to Holy Cross and play ball there. I felt a sense of pride in wearing a Holy Cross uniform even though they were hot as hell being made of wool.

*Mark Kalbacher*

***The Gathering . . . . . Photo by Mike Strohmeier***





**"We beat Cabrini for the city championship and Bobby Hrapmann was on that team."**

I knew Coach Faust was from Bunny Friend. If my memory serves me right I believe at one time he lived right across street from the park. And when I moved out of the 9th ward to Arabi, Coach Faust's parents moved next door to me. So I saw him a lot there and at Holy Cross.

I played on the 10 year old team at Bunny Friend with Donnie Meyer and Donald Hergert. It was a lot of fun because we won a lot. In fact, we won the NORD city championship that year.

A couple things I remember is that Donnie's older brother was one of our coaches. He was always getting on Donnie and it made him a better player. Of course Donald Hergert was our pitching stud.

For the championship game I remember how big the field was at Kirsch Rooney. Steve Glaviano (St Aloysius/Br Martin '71) hit a line-drive home run for us that wasn't very high off the ground. It landed past the mid-point between the left fielder and the center fielder and rolled a mile to the fence.



**YOUNG CHAMPIONS**—These are **Bunny Friend** Playground winners of the 10-year-old citywide NORD Playground League championship. From left, first row: Don Hergert, Al Char-tier, Louie Chanson, Steve Glaviano. Second row: Johnny Fisher, Rene Bull, Don Meyer, Jon Costa. Third row: Coach John Mayer, Skip Jemison, coach Steve Costa, Buddy Gonlag and coach O. Bayard.

We beat Cabrini for the city championship and Bobby Hrapmann was on that team. I knew Bobby because our dads were good friends. My dad was always working, but he used to come to our games. I'd look over and see him drinking a beer. They sold beer at the kid's concession stand!

That was last year I played for Bunny Friend. However I did come back for several years to play in the annual Bunny Friend Tournament with my team from Arabi.

I coached my son's baseball team and my daughter's softball team when they were little. Everything I learned about baseball, I learned at Bunny Friend. I wasn't a coach whose team won a lot, but we always had fun.

My brother John '69 was on a Bunny Friend team coached by Firmin Simms.

*Rene Bull*

## Who's Who?

In this photo from the collection of Donnie Maheu, there are four members from class of '71 and one from '72. Answer at bottom of the page.



## Coach Jean Faust



Jean Faust, a former Bunny Friend All-American league and Babe Ruth coach, will graduate from Loyola in June and would like very much to enter the coaching profession. Any school in the city or state looking for a coach can contact Jean at Loyola university.

*March 28, 1969*

HC Picked as Preseason Favorite to Win District 5

Coach Faust does not feel the pressure is particularly bothering his team. "If you have to be picked any place, it might as well be first," he said.

*April 25, 1969*

Coach Jean Faust attributes the Bengals strong showing to team pride. "The biggest factor is confidence. Untried people found out what they could do. They started hitting and found out how much fun it was."

*May 23, 1969*

The Fighting Tiger of Holy Cross knocked off all three opponents in last weekend's playoff to bring home the coveted state crown, rounding out the year's athletic program in fine fashion.

### **Hof, Faust Are 5-AAA Picks**

Principals and coaches of the eight District 5-AAA schools met Monday night at St. Aloysius High School to name chairmen for the 1966 baseball and track committees, and to complete other business taken up at their previous meeting.

The track coaches voted Willie Hof of Holy Cross to serve as chairman of their committee for the upcoming season, and the baseball coaches named Jean Faust of Holy Cross to serve as chairman of this committee for the spring cinder campaigns.



## The Hergert Brothers

There were six boys in the Hergert family (and 1 girl - Holy Angels '72). All six boys graduated from Holy Cross.

From left to right: Mike '68, Donald '71, Kenny '80, Eddie '82, Gary '74, and Henry '76



Mike went to HC for 8th grade, so he started in the fall of '63. Eddie graduated in the spring of '82.

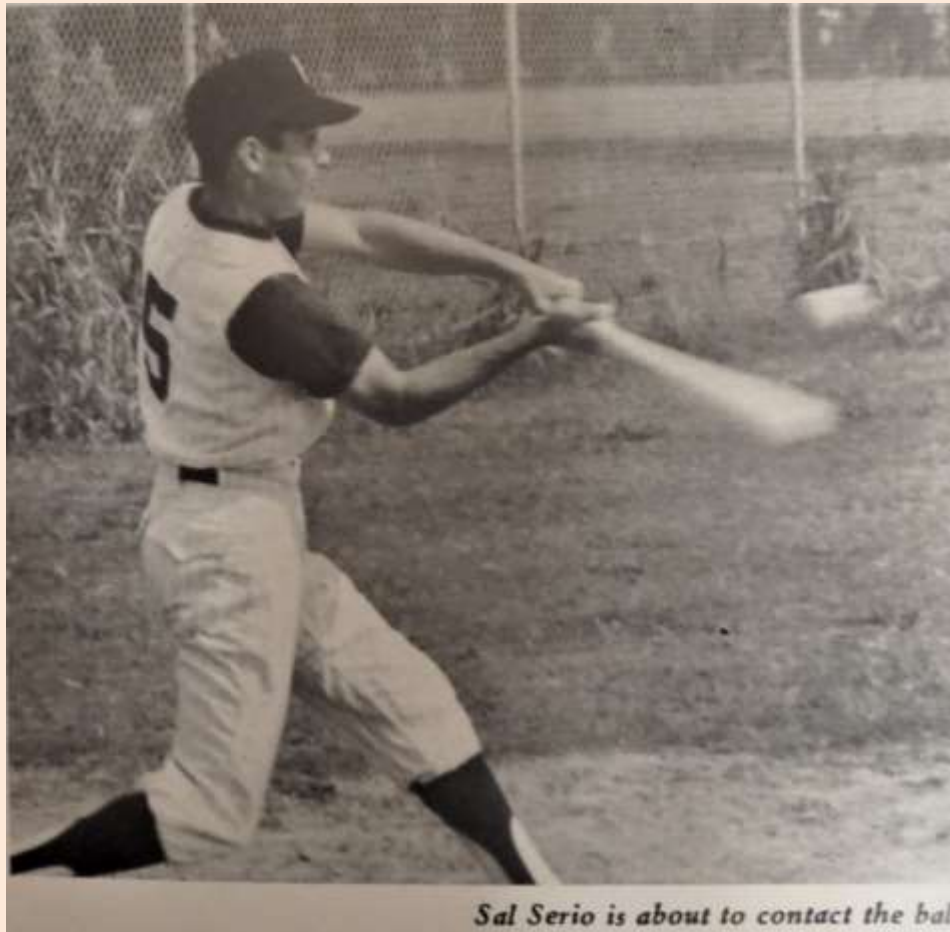
For a period of 19 consecutive years there was at least one Hergert attending Holy Cross.

That might rank them second to the seven Odinet boys who attended 23 consecutive years from 1969 to 1991.

***The Kiss . . . . . Photo by Mike Pearson***



"What made us special was that we were all friends. There were no prima donnas on this team."



There was nobody who stood out and said: "It's all about me."

It was all about the team and I think that's what made the team special.

If you asked why did the team get picked, I think that's the main reason – because we all got along.

*Sal Serio*  
'69

## Tigers Trip Owls, Take State

*'69 Tiger Yearbook*

The Fighting Tigers of Holy Cross knocked off all three opponents in last weekend's playoff to bring home the coveted state crown, rounding out this year's athletic program in fine fashion.



The Tigers ousted 'fellow Orleanians' Chalmette in the final game of the playoffs 4-1 behind the fine mound work of Chuck Knowles, who recovered from a back injury, and a key triple off the bat of Mike Chimento, who drove in the winning runs.

The "Super Cats" of Coach Jean Faust romped over Bogalusa in the first round game 10-0 behind the one hit pitching of Dickie Gautreaux and Glenn Meyers, and the torrid hitting of Chuck Knowles who went 4 for 4.

The second game proved to be more of the same as the fired-up Bengals set aside Woodlawn 6-0 behind Bobby Hrapmann's fine two hit effort and the bat support of Andy Ravaglia.

The Tigers received a ticket to the state finals and also won the district title by slipping past the St. Aloysius Crusaders 8-7 in twelve innings at Kirsch-Rooney. The winning pitcher in relief for the Tigers was Dickie Gautreaux, who also knocked in the winning run.

**"A left handed pitcher who could throw strikes looked appealing and it got me on the team."**

I went out for the junior varsity baseball team with all of my prior baseball experience playing first base. As I was a left handed thrower, I was limited to outfield, first base and pitcher.



*Darek Guichard #4*

At the tryouts Mark Kalbacher was also going out for first base and was a better hitter than me.

As I had a little experience as a relief pitcher – although not very successful - at the playground level, I decided to try out for pitcher.

In the tryouts, you were just throwing to the catcher without a batter being in the box. I threw more strikes than balls. So during warmup or tryouts a left handed pitcher

who could throw strikes looked appealing and it got me on the team.

Unfortunately my inability to throw many strikes with a batter at the plate proved troublesome. I dressed out for all the games but did not get my uniform dirty. I had a fear of hitting the batter.

As a little kid playing T-ball, I got plunked in the stomach by the ball and it hurt. I was terrified of getting hit, so I didn't want to hit anyone with the ball when I was pitching. So subconsciously I threw away from the batter. When you put a batter in there I'd throw kind of wild. I walked a lot of players.

So after the season I went out for the summer league team sponsored by Holy Cross with the same problems. Coach Novak got in the batter's box and said "Don't worry about hitting me." I seemed to get more confidence, but it wasn't enough to make that team and my baseball career ended with that.

*Darek Guichard*



Aaron Guichard '24

"I can't wait to be part of the team that brings back a state title to Holy Cross."

For as long as I can remember I wanted to be two things more than anything in this world: a Holy Cross man and a baseball player.

When you combine the two and I get to play in the same uniform as my grandpa, dad, and brother, alongside my Holy Cross brothers - life doesn't get any better.

I love hearing past stories about HC and they mean more when they are so personal.  
I can't wait to be part of the team that brings back a state title to Holy Cross

*Aaron Guichard '24*

"I think it's cool we all will play for Holy Cross."

Being an HC legacy has always been special.

Playing baseball for Holy Cross is the most special because it is something that all of my family really love.

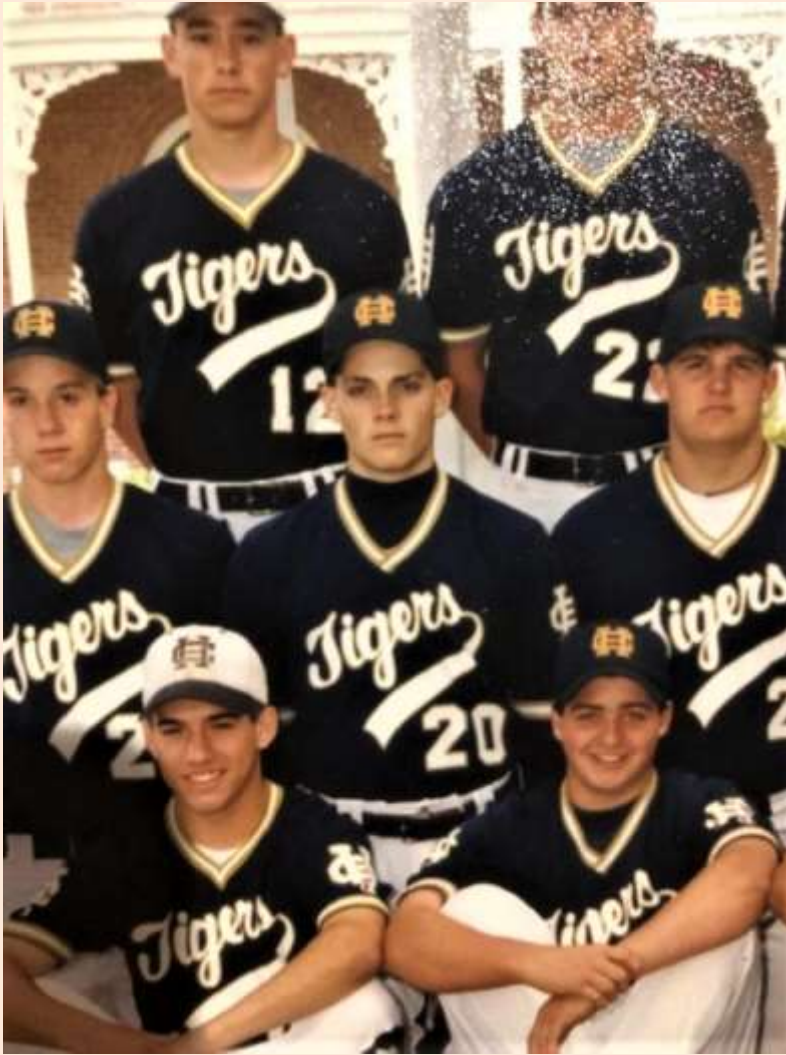
It is our all-time favorite family sport and I think it's cool we all will play for Holy Cross.

*Jacob Guichard '26*



*Jacob Guichard '26*





"It gives me great pride to watch Aaron and Jacob represent Holy Cross on the baseball field."

Baseball was my favorite sport growing up. I had the opportunity to play at Holy Cross my freshman and sophomore year.

I wasn't good enough to continue playing at school, but that didn't stop my love for the game.

I like to think that I have passed that same passion for the game to my boys. We make family trips to MLB parks nearly every summer. The boys seem to love the game as much as I do.

It gives me great pride to watch Aaron and Jacob represent Holy Cross on the baseball field. They work hard, hustle, and give it their all while playing. I look forward to watching them through high school and helping bring a state championship back to Holy Cross." (Scott is #20)

*Scott Guichard '95*

*The Dragon* . . . . .

*Photo by Mike Pearson*



## Kathleen Moore Dawson Simmons

Bobby Dawson's mother passed away on June 3, 2020 at the age of 85 Years.

Former wife of Claude V. Dawson (Deceased) and Roy Simmons (Deceased). Mother of Bobby Dawson (Cheryl) and Terry Dawson (Debbie). Grandmother of Bobby Dawson, Jr., Michael Dawson (Donna), Benjamin Dawson (Leslie), Terry Dawson Jr. (Jennifer), Kristen Dawson Wenzler, John Paul Dawson (Nicola). Great-Grandmother of Brody Dawson, Caleb Dawson, Amelia Dawson, Ashlynn Wenzler, Nancy Wenzler, Max Dawson, Racheal Dawson. Special relationship with Chasity Moody and Shelbie Becnel.



## Holy Cross Park - - 1922

Photo of the Holy Cross baseball team playing a game in 1922 at Holy Cross Park. The walled-off baseball park was located between Dauphine and Burgundy St. The ballpark was moved in the 1930's to the Burgundy and N. Rampart St. field location as a baseball park and a football practice field.





1922 Baseball Team



# 100 Years Later - - on Paris Avenue









## 1942 Baseball Champs

(from the collection of Al Perry)

The younster sitting on the ground is Jerry 'First Down, Saints' Romig '46.



NEW ORLEANS PREP BASEBALL CHAMPIONS, 1942  
*In front:* Jerry Romig, student manager. *First row:* Jack Van Dervort, Jerry Domilise, Freddie Morris, Ray Dunn, Captain, Robert Garsand  
*Second row:* Jim Lewis, Ted Mace, Robert diBeneditto, Johnny McManus, Pete Catalano. *Standing in back:* Bill Howard, Benny Winters, Dick Callahan, Coach George Digby, Leo Lyncker, Johnny Rucker, Leroy Chollet.

## SPORTS of the QUARTER . . . . .

### Holy Cross Again Takes Prep Baseball Championship

Sunday, May 16, Pelican Stadium. The Holy Cross baseball team came through again to win its second consecutive city Prep Baseball Championship when they defeated the Jays from Jesuits before a record-smashing prep baseball crowd of 3132! The Tigers also came through the nine-game series without dropping a game. Since the state tournament was called off, the Tigers were unable to contend for that laurel. Coach George Digby led his team on for two championships in his two years as baseball mentor for Holy Cross. Dick Callahan, certainly by far the best hurler in the city prep league, was slightly off the beam in this last game of the season. But Dick was still good enough, even when wobbly, to walk only nine while striking out ten and allowing the Jays only four in the whole game.

The Tigers picked up their six runs in the first two innings. In the first inning Catalano walked; Freddie Morris followed up with a sharp single to center field where Bert Leaveau not only let the ball roll through him but his wild throw

home gave the Tigers their first run. McManus and Dunn made things hot for the Jays with two successive singles; Bernie Winters walked, another single by Leo Lynker and a couple of Jesuit errors ran up the total to four runs. In the second frame, two Tiger men got on base with walks; Dunn then walloped out a single to the erring Jays to equal another two runs scored by Morris and McManus.

Twice the spectators were given thrills by excellent double plays from McManus to Morris to Howard. In fact, the whole Tiger infield turned in an exceptional record each inning.

The Jays were fairly handed their one run, scored when Callahan walked a man with the bases loaded. The run was a costly one for Smiling Dick's record, for it broke his record of 38 2-3 scoreless innings!

And thus ended the 1943 baseball prep season, with the Tigers taking their second prep crown in two years, and their first undefeated city prep crown in the history of Tiger competition.



## Tiger Talk by Mike Christiansen

\* \* \*

Winning has become a part of the way of life at Holy Cross, and Tiger baseball Coach Jean Faust is a big reason why.

Coach Faust began his career in sports at Nicholls High School where he played shortstop and center-fielder for three years. He then went on to play for four years and was named the outstanding player of the year in 1958 when he attended Loyola University on a baseball scholarship.

Coming to Holy Cross in 1960 he began his long line of successful seasons by becoming an assistant football coach where he remained until 1963 when he became both head basketball and head baseball coach, only to win the district championship in both sports.

**Continuing this fine record, Coach Faust guided his Holy Cross based American Legion Team to the division championship in 1968 and finished as district runners-up in 1967 and 1968.**

To top off what has been a brilliant career thus far Mr. Faust's Holy Cross Tiger baseball team brought home the state championship in 1969 and earned for him the honor of being named the Outstanding High School Coach in the district, city, and state.



# Tigers Tackle Legion Teams After Catholic Season Play

By MILTON GONZALES

With a successful district season behind them, Holy Cross' varsity players are preparing for summer play in the American Legion baseball summer program. For the sixth consecutive year, Saucer Marine will sponsor the Tigers. Play is tentatively scheduled to begin May 31.

This year's team will have the same nucleus as the 5-AAA varsity squad, but according to Coach Jean Faust, will probably also include Sal Serio and Chuck Knowles. Both were mainstays on last year's district and state championship team. They are enrolled at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, but they meet the age requirements necessary to be eligible.

Coach Faust is very optimistic about the team's chances this summer, especially with the addition of Knowles and Serio.

"Chuck should help us very much," said Coach Faust, "but he hasn't pitched much this year so we can't count on him as a pitcher. I'm not sure exactly where Serio will play, but he is capable of playing anywhere in the infield or outfield," continued the Tiger mentor.

The squad will boast a strong pitching staff of Bobby Hrapmann,

Steve Riemer, Don Hergert, and possibly Knowles. Hergert, who was used sparingly in district play, will see much more action this summer, according to Faust.

"Unlike some schools," said Coach Faust, "we use the legion program as part of our school program. Hergert will definitely start every week so that we can give him experience."

Top performances are expected from Fred Smith, Mike Chimento, and Hrapmann. Smith led the Tiger hitters in district competition with a .333 average. Hrapmann sported a .315 mark, while Chimento finished at .273. Besides their fine stick work, all played outstanding ball, said Faust.

The Bengals closed their District 5-AAA season with a 4-1 win over Redemptorist May 6. Don Hergert got the win, throwing seven innings of one hit ball in relief of Bob Hrapmann. Fred Smith

delivered a double in the seventh to break a 1-1 tie. This win pushed the Tigers record to 9-5 in District 5-AAA play. Ironically, this was the best overall record in the league, but the Tigers couldn't manage to put it all together in either of the two rounds.

Martin took advantage of poor HC defense in taking a 13-3 decision, May 5. Steve Riemer suffered the mound defeat although only 3 of the 13 runs scored off him were earned.

Meanwhile, Coach Fred Metzinger is getting his Babe Ruth Tigers ready for their summer campaign. Play began last Saturday with Holy Cross and Brother Martin's B team game shortened to 2-1/3 innings because of rain. The Tigers were leading 3-0. Play will be rescheduled. Last Sunday, the Tigers and Martin's C team played to a 3-3 tie. The Tigers also won 4 practice games and lost none.

# Tigers Competitors



By Louis DiVincenti

Although there are many problems occurring on this year's baseball team, Coach Jean Faust has never been known to put out a really poor team. These problems include no experienced outfielders or catchers, and only one pitcher with any varsity experience.

However, this pitcher is one of the Tigers' bright spots. Senior co-captain Donald Hergert warrants recognition as one of District 6-AAAA's finest hurlers. He had only one win in district last year but this is the only game where "the Herg" really saw action. He did have a few saves and had a 5-1 American Legion record. Hergert was the only HC pitcher to beat Jesuit and also did a reputable job on second base.

Senior Donnie Meyer, the other co-captain, is the Tigers' sure-handed third baseman who committed only two errors in district all last season. Combine this with a .387 batting average, and it is easy to see why Meyer was named to the All-City Legion team.

Junior Gary Cannizaro, a fine prospect as a sophomore, should fill the shortstop position very admirably. Mark Kalbacher gained valuable experience last year at first base, and even though he wasn't a top hitter, Kalbacher did come through in clutch situations.

With an injury free season and a little bit of luck, the Tigers could easily regain their 1969 district and state title.



# Mark Kalbacher and Bobby Hrapmann in Little League World Series

## First Game Set Today

### Lom Poc Is Opposition in World Series

(Special to The Times-Plymouth)  
**KLAMATH FALLS, Ore.** — **NORD-Maison Blanche**, seeking an unprecedented fourth straight championship, faces Lom Poc, Calif., here Saturday at 10:30 p. m. (CDT) in its opening game of the 1968 Babe Ruth World Series.

This classic, matching the finest 13-15-year-old baseball players in the nation, starts with Klamath Falls taking on Wellington, Kan., in the opener at 8:30 p. m.

Four games are scheduled Sunday: Ontario, Ore., meets Manchester, N. H.; Penn Grove, N. J., plays Louisville, Ky.; Charlotte, N. C., battles the Klamath Falls-Wellington winner, and the opening night losers also meet.

If NORD can win Saturday, they will not see action again until Tuesday in this double elimination tournament.

Coach Firmin Simms was undecided on his starting hurler, but it will probably come from either Bobby Hrapmann or Tony Beaulieu.

In 15 tournament games to date, Hrapmann leads the staff with a 4-0 record. The righthander has fanned 35 in 24 innings and given up only two earned runs. Southpaw Beaulieu is 3-0, striking out 37 in 20 innings and giving up one earned run.

Remainder of the starters include Gerald Ciesi behind the plate, Mark Kalbacher at first, Bruce Civella on second, either Hrapmann or Gary Johnson at short, Lionel Gele at third, with Ted Hebbler, John Alesich and Randy Hamilton in the outfield.

NORD and Stamford, Conn., are currently tied for most World Series championships, three each. The Stamford victories came in the first three years of Babe Ruth ball before it had spread nationwide.



**PROBABLE STARTER**—Pitcher-infielder Bobby Hrapmann is the possible starting pitcher for NORD-Maison Blanche in the first round of the Babe Ruth World Series in Klamath Falls, Ore., Saturday. The NORD squad will be seeking an unprecedented fourth straight Babe Ruth series title.

## McLain Captures Victory No. 25

Continued from Page 1

with two out was stroked to left-center off loser Tom Phoenix, 13-11.

The Twins added two more in the seventh on Rich Reese's double, Oliva's third single, an error and a fielder's choice.

Oliva's three hits gave him the league batting lead at .307 as Rod Carew went 9-for-3 and dropped to .302.

Kaat, 9-9, yielded two runs in the sixth. Paul Blair singled and Frank Robinson doubled, then a

Johnson c	4 1 2 9	Arzac c	4 0 0
Hansen 1b	3 0 0 0	Alvin 2b	3 0 0
Ware 2b	2 1 1 2	Warrily 2b	3 0 0
Barry of	3 0 1 0	Keller 3b	3 0 0
Bruffard cf	3 0 1 0	Helsas of	0 1 0
Wagner 2b	3 0 0 1	Green of	1 0 0
Flower 3b	1 0 0 0	McDowell of	1 0 0
Loeber of	0 0 0 0	Jewell of	1 0 0
Vogner of	1 0 0 0	Norman of	1 0 0
Ward of	1 0 1 0	Solman of	1 0 0
Williams of	1 0 1 2	Palmer of	0 0 0
Williams of	0 0 0 0	Spencer of	0 0 0

Runs	42 3 7	Runs	42 4 1
One out when winning run scored	1	One out when winning run scored	1
Chicago	6 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Chicago	6 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Cleveland	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Cleveland	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
St. Louis	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	St. Louis	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Los Angeles	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Los Angeles	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
San Francisco	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	San Francisco	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Philadelphia	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Philadelphia	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Pittsburgh	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Pittsburgh	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Washington	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Washington	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Atlanta	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Atlanta	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
San Diego	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	San Diego	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
San Jose	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	San Jose	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0



## Bunny Friends in NORD Title Win

Bunny Friend in the 10-year division and Lake Terrace Esso in the 11-year bracket won city championships Saturday in the double elimination NORD Playground League playoffs at Muny and Roehm Park.

Don Hergert hurled a three-hitter, Buddy Gonlag batted in two runs with two singles and a triple and Lou Chanson batted in two with a triple and single as Bunny Friend defeated Jax Stallings Playground, 5-2. It was the second consecutive win for Bunny Friend over Jax as they came out of the loser's bracket to take the title.

## Hergert Hurls No-Hitter in 'B'

Don Hergert of Holy Cross opened the NORD "B" Prep season in spectacular style by no-hitting St. Augustine 9-0 Wednesday at Roehm Park.

Cor Jesu and Jesuit clash in the lone Thursday game at Kirsch-Rooney Stadium at 4 p.m.

Gary Cannizaro led Holy Cross at the plate by driving in three runs with two singles. Hergert fanned four in his gem. Starter Terry Coleman took the loss.

One of the loop's top hitters could well be Mark Kalbacher, who will be at first base for the Tigers. Coach Walter Novak also has talented hurlers in Gary Cannizaro and Don Hergert and a hard-hitting third baseman in Donnie Meyers.

## Kerry Curley Wins Title

Mark Kalbacher slammed a homer and single and batted in two runs as Kerry Curley won the title in the 13-year-old Digby division of the NORD Playground League with an 11-3 victory over Lakeland Terrace Thursday at Digby Playground.

## Hergert Hurls Tigers to Win

Don Hergert pitched a four-hitter and Skippy Jamieson had three singles as Holy Cross stopped Redemptorist 7-0 in the NORD "B" Prep League Tuesday at Roehm Park.

# KERRY CURLEY IS VICTOR, 6-2

## Mark Kalbacher Slaps Grand Slam

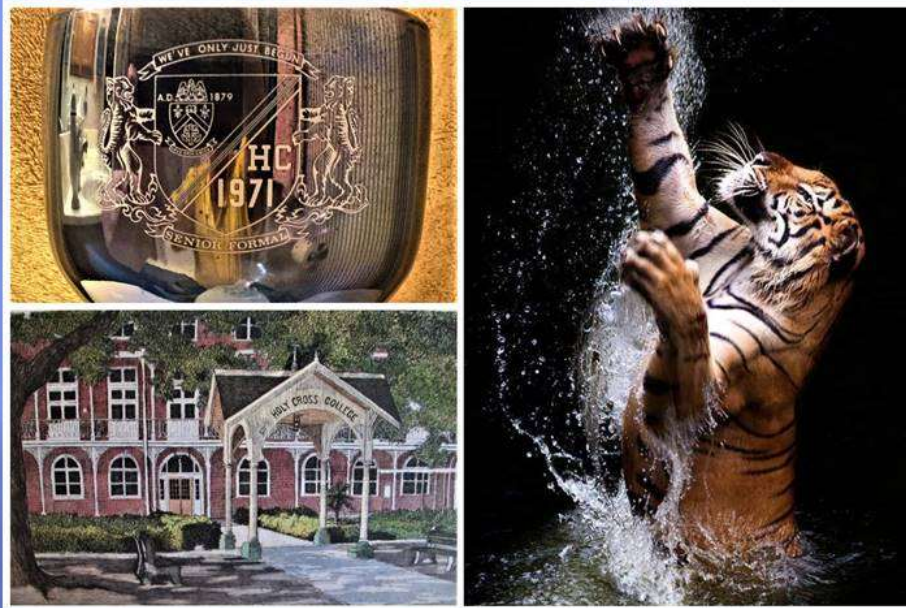
Mark Kalbacher hit a grand slam home run in the top of the sixth inning to give Kerry Curley Jax a 6-2 decision over Frank Matthews Tuesday at Harris Playground in the 11-year-old division of the NORD Boosters Playground baseball league. The outcome of the game left the two teams tied with Cavaliers Shell for first place in the loop.



*"Maybe flexing my muscles will strike some fear into the heart of that pitcher."  
—Larry Gaudet*

50 year reunion: May 21 & 22, 2021

## TIGER GOLD



Class of 1971 Fifty Year Reunion

## Legendary Local Youth Coach Firmin Simms Passes Away at 91

May 9, 2020

By Ken Trahan

*crescentcitysports.com*

Legendary New Orleans baseball and basketball coach Firmin Simms has passed away at home of natural causes Saturday morning at his home in the Lakefront area near the University of New Orleans.



A graduate of Holy Cross High School, Simms was 91.

Simms, who was inducted into the Allstate Sugar Bowl Greater New Orleans Sports Hall of Fame in 1986, spent 35 years (1955-90) with the New Orleans Recreation Department as a volunteer coach at Bunny Friend Playground in the Ninth Ward.

Simms was also inducted into the Babe Ruth National Hall of Fame and he was named Mr. Louisiana Basketball by the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches in 2007. Simms was also named National Amateur Baseball Coach of the Year in 1999.

Simms began as a volunteer coach and ascended to the top of the latter in two sports. Simms was a highly decorated Babe Ruth League coach, guiding his New Orleans-based teams to five World Series championships.

While Simms was known for his baseball exploits, he was equally as accomplished in basketball, coaching area teams to 10 national titles on the Bidy level. Simms eventually earned the title of national director of Bidy basketball.

In 2016, Simms helped create a partnership between Bidy Basketball and the New Orleans Pelicans.

In his 40 years of coaching, Simms guided his New Orleans Bidy teams to 17 national championships. He also won the one and only World Bidy Championship in Scranton, Pa. in 1968.

Simms founded the New Orleans/St. Raphael Bidy program in 1985, along with the late Mosignor Aleman of St. Raphael Church. The organization started with four teams and 30 participants and grew to 60 teams and over 600 boys and girls.

In all sports combined, Simms' guided teams to well over 50 district and state championships.

The late Louis "Rags" Scheuermann was close to Simms and they are perhaps the two most significant people in youth baseball in the New Orleans area in the 20th century with their experiences at the New Orleans Recreation Department, with the Babe Ruth program, with the Jefferson Parish Recreation Department (West Bank) and, in the case of Scheuermann, with the All-American League national team and at the college level at Loyola and Delgado as well.

Joe Scheuermann is the son of Rags and succeeded his father as the head coach at Delgado.

"Firmin followed my father in the Babe Ruth program and what he accomplished there was phenomenal," Scheuermann said. "He touched a lot of young people's life. His mark on baseball in the city is pretty evident. You cannot talk to a baseball person that

did not play for him. His legacy will live for a long time. There are coaches at every level that he coached. He was a pioneer with Bidy basketball and was equally successful. He was special.”

Simms’ son, Jerry, says his father’s vocation was a love affair for life.



“Dad was actually at St. Cecilia before going to coach at Bunny Friend,” Jerry said. “He got involved in coaching at the age of 17 and he let up. He was around St. Cecilia and Bunny Friend for so long. He grew up on Pauline Street, not too far from Holy Cross. He played basketball and was competitive. He did not like to lose. He loved using sports as a vehicle to teach young men in a spiritual way and with life’s lessons. So many people tell me such fine things about my dad.”

Bruce Civello had the rare distinction of playing both basketball and baseball for Simms.

“I played on the Bidy All-Star team that lost the national championship in 1967 but went on to win the world championship that year,” Civello said. He was more aggressive as a basketball coach and was more cerebral as a baseball coach.”

Civello recalls the glory days of his baseball experience with Simms.

“We won the Babe Ruth championship in 1968, the last of four straight national titles Firmin won,” Civello said. “He was really a good man. He was great for everybody. Life was so much different in those days. Everyone loved him. It was a truly great experience playing for him. No one in the city gave more to kids than he did. I learned life’s lessons from him.”

Doug Moreau started in 1973 at the ripe young age of 10 as the public address announcer for Simms’ Babe Ruth teams.

Doug’s brothers, Darryl (basketball) and David (baseball), each played for Simms. Darryl went on to star at De La Salle and Tulane while David starred at De La Salle and has served as athletic director at Jesuit for many years now.

“I served as the announcer and then added scorekeeping duties when I turned 12 for a 15-year old league,” Moreau said. “I’ve been announcing ever since. Firmin is the one who gave me the chance to get started. He was like a second father. I think a lot of people would say the same thing. Think about how many people he coached that played high school, college and even pro ball. He coached Rusty Staub, Will Clark, Kerry Kittles and D.J. Augustin, to name a few.”

A devout Catholic man of faith who regularly shared gospel messages with his pupils, Simms is survived by his current wife, Jackie, along with four daughters and his son. Simms' first wife, Mary Elaine, passed away several years ago.

**Who's Who: Glen DeBarbieries '72, John Glorioso, John Hauck, Donnie Maheu, and Donnie Meyer.**

The Holy Cross Class of 1971 Web Page can be found at:

<https://hubhobbyshop.com/holy-cross-new-orleans/>

The Holy Cross Class of 1971 You Tube Channel can be found at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqN2\\_US\\_UeWLPJT8N7dpTyA/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqN2_US_UeWLPJT8N7dpTyA/videos?view_as=subscriber)