

TIGER GOLD



Land Down Under

With 200 classmates, it was impossible to get to know all of them. Case in point: Roni Sumich.

I knew who he was but we never had any classes together and our paths never crossed.

But I do remember my first two conversations with him.

The first time I talked with him, I was working the Holy Cross Phonathon – that's when alumni gathered in the Huddle and manned a phone bank soliciting donations from former classmates.

One of the cards I had was for Roni and it listed him as living in Australia. Now I've never made a phone call to Australia before and saw this as my opportunity. I copied his contact information and called him from home.

We talked for a little bit but he probably had no idea who I was. One thing else I noticed: he was speaking with an Australian accent.

My second conversation was a few years ago when he visited me at work. Now keep in mind, I hadn't seen him in about 45 years.

His first words through the door were "Jeffrey, remember me?"

I replied "Wait, wait. Don't tell me!"

He told me anyway.

"I would have guessed it," I said

"How?"

"Because of the accent," I replied.



"What accent? You're the one with the accent!"

He has been back in the New Orleans area for about 30 years and it surprised me that he hadn't shaken that Australian accent he'd picked up while he was in the land down under.

The joke was on me. Australia: home of the kangaroo, koala, wallaby, quokka, and Roni Sumich.

"My Dad was from Croatia. He met and married my mom, a Croatian, in Perth, Australia. In 1962, he did a

world tour visiting his sister in the US whom he hadn't seen in 40 years. He thought there was a better opportunity for us in the United States. Eventually he bought property in Buras."

Roni lived a simple life on a farm in Swan Valley with his brothers and sister. It was a time and place where everyone in school knew each other. Plus there were a lot of neighbors of Croatian descent.

"We couldn't get away with anything because all the parents knew each other," he continued. "It was a rural area about nine miles from downtown Perth in Western Australia. You could lie in the middle of the road and not worry about getting hit. Now you can hardly cross it because of all the traffic."

His grammar school consisted of first through seventh grade with 120 students attending. There were three grades in one classroom taught by one teacher. He started high school in Australia where the school year followed the calendar year.

Coming to the United States in the summer of 1967, six weeks before the start of school, the family started over again in Buras, Louisiana.

“Buras was country town so it wasn’t a big change for me,” reflected Sumich. “But in the city, everything was different - - everybody talked funny and drove on the wrong side of the road. And baseball? What’s that . . . And football? Completely different. Nothing was the same that I was used to.”



Roni with his nephews Leni and Drew

Adjustment to life at Holy Cross was difficult. For his first day as a freshman on campus his older brother, who graduated Holy Cross in 1963, drove him to school telling him to catch the Trailways bus back to Buras.

That’s when he met fellow boarder Ron Blich, who told him where to catch the bus that would take him to the Trailways terminal.



“It was a real eye opener – a 180 degree turn from what I was used to. Every day was something brand new for me, whereas the other kids had already done it. I was away from family, didn’t know a soul. I hated being away from home with a passion. Senior year was more fun. Those years defined me later in life.”

Sumich said that Br. Donald Blauvelt, his dorm prefect, understood what he was going through and was truly a godsend. He still keeps in touch with Br. Donald, who is now in Austin in St Edward’s retirement home.

Hurricane Camille in 1969 presented new challenges as Buras suffered heavily from storm damage and the Sumich family lost everything. Just the front steps and the cinder blocks that house rested on were all that remained. He lived in Gentilly for a year before staying with relatives in Metairie.

Roni married Debbie Dupuy in 1973 and moved to Australia in 1976. They bought a piece of property in 1981 and planted a vineyard, selling the grapes roadside to the public and also to the City Market (similar to New Orleans' French Market).

They still own the vineyard.



Moving back to Metairie in 1991 after 16 years in Australia, Roni joined his brother's plaque business buying him out in 1995. Thus began his current business – Fast Plak.



“I rethought the business. The idea was to make it big and develop a volume of photo diplomas which we had not had before. I wanted to base it on three things: low price, fast production, and making it look like a million dollars. There was no playbook – we had to invent it as we went along. It took a year or 2 to figure it out.”



Roni and his dad at their roadside stand

The company bought used machinery, modifying and creating new attachments. The costs went down, the price of the product went down, but the profit margin remained the same. Fast Plak also diversified into other products, such as glass etching and sublimation printing on metal and cloth.

“The photo-diploma was an idea that caught on and brought us success. It keeps growing every year. I sell them all over the country.”

Along the way, Sumich was the president of Br. Martin’s Parents Club for two years – 2001 and 2002 - during the period when his sons were seniors. His wife Debbie was in charge of the parent volunteers needed to run school activities such as the school fair and auction. She also got various restaurants involved in providing food for the events.

“Trying to raise money is a hard sell if you just beg for it. We tried to make it fun. If they have fun, the money will flow. We gave away glass etched items to keep them interested.”

His thoughts on devoting two years of time to his son’s school:

“It was good for me and Debbie. We wanted to be there for our kids and it created a bond between parent and child by doing things with them. My parents never did that. Being European, they didn’t realize how things were done here.”



Son Brendon is an eye doctor with Caplan Eye Clinic as Chief surgeon. He attended the University of Georgia, LSU med school, and a year at Tufts Medical Center. He

specializes in corneal transplants and cataract surgery. He and his wife live in New Orleans.

Darren recently moved to Austin from Los Angeles. Having gone to the Savannah College of Art and Design, he does computer animation for movies and TV. He has two children: Winnie and Caroline.

Laura lives in New York. She went to Mt Carmel Academy, Marist College, and graduated from UNO in film studies and works in costuming. Among her projects were 12 Year A Slave (getting her name in the credits) and Deep Water Horizon. She also works on TV shows in New York.

And let's not forget their dog: Ozzie, an Australian Blue Heeler. After all, you can't have Australian family without an Australian dog!



The Sumich family

When Debbie Met Roni

I met Roni in July 1972. Roni worked a summer job at Cal-Ky Chevron where my dad worked.

My dad was talking with Roni about his 'Sumich' relatives and it turned out that my mom went to school with Roni's cousins who, like me, lived in lower Plaquemines Parish.

Dad invited Roni over and the rest is history. Roni was 18 and I was 17. We were married in September 1973 and moved to Perth Australia in February 1976.

We returned in June 1991 with three kids in tow: Brendon, Darren, and Laura

Debbie Dupuy Sumich



Debbie and Roni

The Plague Reunion, the Practice Reunion, and the Gold Reunion

As most of y'all know we originally planned to have our Holy Cross Class of 1971's 49 Yearh Un-Official Reunion Part 2 on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at Rocky and Carlo's Sicilian Room. That date was picked at during our 49 Year Part 1 reunion.

The 49 Year Part 1 reunion was held right after the word started getting out about the COVID-19 Pandemic, but before the lockdown. Naturally everyone figured the pandemic would be long over by October 2020. On Thursday, September 10, 2020 we tried to ask everyone if they thought we should cancel the 49th Part 2 Un-Official Reunion because of the Pandemic. Most everyone agreed that it was not a good idea to hold it as scheduled. On Sunday, September 13, 2020 we officially cancelled the 49 Year Part 2.

Naturally with this being the Holy Cross Class of 1971, several class members said they were going to Rocky and Carlo's on October 10, 2020 for a double unofficial reunion and invited anyone else that wanted to meet up. We spoke to Tommy and he was keeping the Sicilian Room open for anyone that wanted to attend. Then on Friday, October 09, 2020 we announced that the Semi-Cancelled Double Un-Official 49 Year Part 2 Reunion would still happen for those that wanted to attend.

Tommy did not feel comfortable setting up a buffet for us and we really did not know how many people would show up. This time everyone just told Tommy what we wanted to eat and we each got our own plate from the restaurant. Tommy also brought out a few servings of things like fried onion rings. Naturally he had the drinks in the cooler out for us too.

Unfortunately, we did not take any pictures this time either, but we did have about 25 attendees. People started arriving around 5:00 PM and it wound down around 9:00 PM.

Practice Reunion: Everyone that attended wanted to have an Un-Official 50 Year Practice Reunion before the Official 50 Year Reunion in May 2021. I guess you cannot practice too much, and Saturday, March 06, 2021 was selected for our 50 Year Practice Reunion. We certainly won't have another chance to have our Official 50 Year Reunion, so we better practice and do it right.

Dan McGovern

Anniversaries

Bobby and Cheryl Dawson – 49 year

Dan and Camille Simpson – 49 year

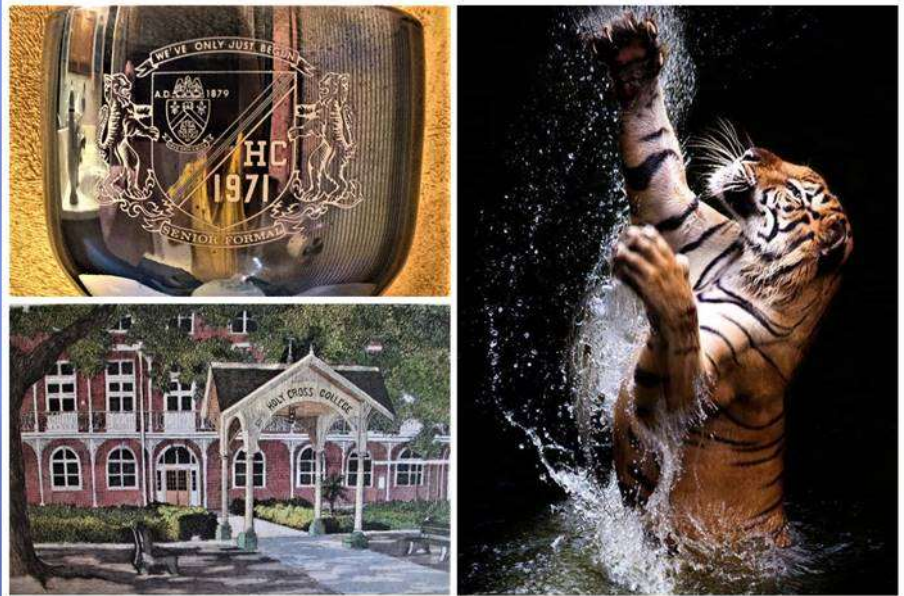
Rocky & Sherry Buras 48 year

Keith and Mignon Treuting - 47 year

Billy and Janice Arsenaux – 39 year (The Arsenaux's have also moved back to Slidell.)

50 Year Reunion

TIGER GOLD



Class of 1971 Fifty Year Reunion

Friday, 21 May 2021

The Graduates will meet at Holy Cross and the cost should be \$25.00 per person.

Optional Shirts available from Faux Pas

Shirts will be available in navy blue or white. Interlocking "HC" on front; "Class of '71" on sleeve. Any questions about the shirts, please contact John Tessitore (504) 616-4729.

The site to order Class of '71 shirts will open January 11 and close January 29.
<https://stores.inksoft.com/holycross>

Optional Hotel Rooms

There is a block of hotel rooms reserved at Copeland Towers. If anyone chooses to reserve a room or suite the block is available under Holy Cross School 50th Reunion. Suites are \$129.00 plus tax and rooms are \$95.00 plus tax. Phone number is (504) 888-9500.



Photo by Raajan Mehra

Dress Code:

Friday night is casual.

Saturday morning, which is when we receive our golden diploma, is coat/tie attire.

Saturday night is dressy casual. Sport coat for guys and cocktail dresses or pants for ladies.

The Spouses and Friends have the option of meeting at Rock'N'Bowl and the cost should be \$32 per person which will include draft beer, wine, fountain drinks and food. Time will be 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM. Dress is casual. All spouses or girlfriends are also welcome to bring friends if they choose. Checks will need to be payable to Shirley Tessitore. Deadline for payment will be Friday, 14 May 2021. If anyone has questions please call Shirley (504) 400-4729 or John (504) 616-4729.

Saturday 22 May 2021

The Official 50 year Reunion Party will be held at the Chateau Golf and Country Club and the cost should be \$77.00 per person and is inclusive open bar premium liquor and food. It will be a three-hour reception 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM. .

. <https://www.chateaugcc.com/>

A Moment of Silence

One of the more pleasant duties that Al Perry performed as Student Council Coordinator was to narrate the halftime shows during the Holy Cross segment of the halftime shows at the football games.

There was one narration in particular that Perry remembers above all others - the memorial to Butch Duhe.



Al Perry . . . the man behind the mic

To recap: Duhe was the Tigers' all-everything quarterback who went on to play for LSU. In 1970, he died of a brain aneurysm after an LSU scrimmage.

At the game following Duhe's death, Headmaster Br. Robert Hampton asked Perry to request that the crowd pause for a moment of silence in tribute for Duhe.

According to Perry, he went to the press box of Tad Gormley Stadium and after an introductory statement about the unexpected passing of Butch Duhe, announced:

"Please stand for a moment of silence for

HERMAN followed by two echoes: HERMAN . .
. herman

BUTCH followed by two echoes: BUTCH . . .butch

DUHE followed by two echoes: DUHE . . . duhe"

"After saying 'Herman', I heard the first echo coming back to the press box. I knew I had to

pause to say 'Butch' or the rest of his name would be trampled by the echo. The effect of the pause was to make the pronouncement more dramatic, albeit accidentally. You could practically hear a pin drop once I completed his name. When I finished, Br. Robert said 'Good job Mr. Perry. How did you do that?'"

Fifty years later, Perry discovered the science behind that echo in an old Times Picayune clipping. The football game was against the Abramson Commodores. . . . The Abramson side of the stadium was practically empty and the sound bounced back from the Commodores bare stands.

Perry also made the daily morning announcements over the school's PA system using the large microphone that sat on the credenza in Br. Robert's office.

Perry picks up the story:

"One day, Br. Robert had a visitor in the guest chair. Introductions were made and I seem to recall it was someone from the Provincial Office in Austin. Br. Robert handed me some papers saying "Good morning, Mr. Perry. Here are your announcements."

"I was caught off guard by the unexpected audience and was a little nervous, but I did the announcements almost flawlessly. When I had finished, Br. Robert said 'Job well done, Mr. Perry. Now turn on the microphone.' The guest chuckled under his breath; I turned on the microphone, and made the announcements again."

Duke Named "Legend of the Game"

Kenny Duke was honored at the Holy Cross-Jesuit game this past October at the 101st playing of the oldest rivalry in the state. He was recognized as a "Legend of the Game" as he was the first ever Butch Duhe Award winner at Holy Cross. The Butch Duhe Memorial Award is presented each year to the athlete who most exemplified the qualities of strength, leadership, and character.

Teammate comments:

"Kenny Duke was a dedicated and inspirational player. He ran like a gazelle." - - Ty Yokum, guard

"When GQ magazine designed their format for style, Kenny Duke was the model. Even the wind would stop blowing when he approached so as not to mess up his hair. Kenny was an excellent running back. If he got through the hole it was hard to catch him." - - Dennis Delaney, tackle

"Kenny Duke was elusive and quick." - - Mike Strohmeyer, end



Kenny Duke receiving the Butch Duhe Award from future HC head coach Barry Wilson

“Kenny was a tough competitor and a fast running back He never quit competing.” - - Mark Kalbacher, split end

“Kenny was a multi-talented player. Good size, good speed, and a hard working football player. There were several games where Kenny would carry the ball over 30 times. That's a lot of pounding on your body.” - - John Glorioso, quarterback

“Duke was a hard hitter.” - - Dan Simpson, tailback

“Kenny had a huge heart and showed on every play. He was one of those athletes that gave 110% no matter what he was asked to do. I remember once looking at his face in the huddle: He was showing exhaustion from running the ball several times in a row. I remember thinking we needed to get him a sub. The next play Kenny carried the ball for a long scoring run. He never quit.” - - Steve Ferrer, tackle

“Kenny Duke ran hard and would get you three or four yards. He always came ready to play.” - - Al Waguespack, defensive back

Kenny Duke highlight reel: <https://youtu.be/GDurpeti32Y>

First Snow Photo by Leslie Anticich



From the collection of Bobby Wahl

Duhe played game like he meant it

By JOE PLANAS

BATON ROUGE — Though he was graduated from my alma mater, Holy Cross, my association with Herman J. (Butch) Duhe was a limited one.

One incident, however, sticks in my mind concerning the personable LSU quarterback, who died of ruptured blood vessels in the brain last week at the student infirmary on campus.

It was following a freshman game, a game in which Duhe, the energetic and hustling quarterback, had excelled. We were in the locker room talking to frosh coach Mel Didier about fellows such as Duhe, Allen Shorey and a few others. Duhe had made some fine runs in the game and had connected on a few passes that brought good yardage.

Bursting with energy — even after a performance that normally makes most athletes weary — Duhe was making the rounds, slapping encouragement on the backs of players such as Shorey, Ken Kavanaugh, Al Coffee, and others. One would have thought Duhe was one of those third-stringers who never gets into the game instead of the footballer who had sparkled in every way.

WHEN BUTCH DUHE rolled out, it wasn't just a roll-out. The HC Tiger seemed to exhibit an enthusiasm and fervor unequalled by other teammates. He made you think that football was everything to him, even his life.

Butch's movements were pronounced, easily distinguishable motions that told of his concern and love for the game he played. He ran and passed in a way that automatically made him your quarterback, the fellow you would most easily identify with.

Even in his last scrimmage where he completed a 20- and a 30-yard pass, made a couple of gains and probably took some heavy blows in being thrown for a loss or two, Duhe was electric, according to colleague Bernell Ballard who watched Butch perform on that heated Saturday.

I didn't know Butch Duhe as well as I would have liked to know him.

And even though a doctor and a coroner say otherwise, I feel football over the years might have contributed to or aggravated Butch's condition. If you have a headache and butt your head against the wall, it rarely helps.

WHEN YOU HAVE a history of headaches, and you take the punishment a quarterback must take, that rarely enhances the state of the headaches or the condition causing them. It almost embarrasses logic to conclude that Duhe's death was "not football related."

Duhe, as a quarterback and even more as a person, was an inspiration to many people, including a sports writer who didn't get to talk to him very often . . .



JOE PLANAS

Four Score for Tigers

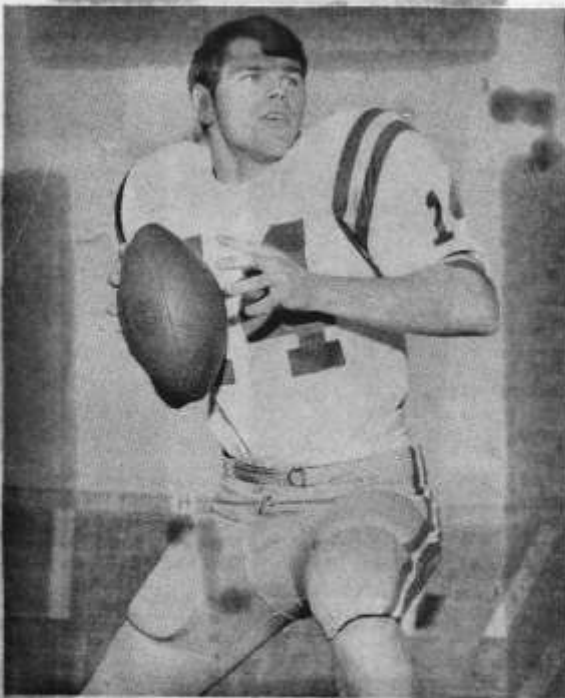
Halftime Ceremony Dedicated to Butch Duhe

The talent-laden Holy Cross Tigers bolted to a 13-0 first quarter lead and coasted to a 20-0 win over the Abramson Commodores Thursday night at Tad Gormley Stadium.

The Tigers, the pick of many to capture the tough District 6-AAAA crown this year, combined a powerful ground game and a hard-hitting defense into the victory.

Holy Cross dedicated its halftime show to the memory of Herman "Butch" Duhe, a 1967 graduate of Holy Cross, who passed away unexpectedly Tuesday while taking part in LSU pre-season football drills in Baton Rouge.

Four players figured in the Tiger scoring. Don Schwander,



TIGER QUARTERBACK BUTCH DUHE, former Holy Cross High All-State football player, passed away last week. He lettered for four years under John Kalbacher at Holy Cross. He was 21 years old.

STATISTICS

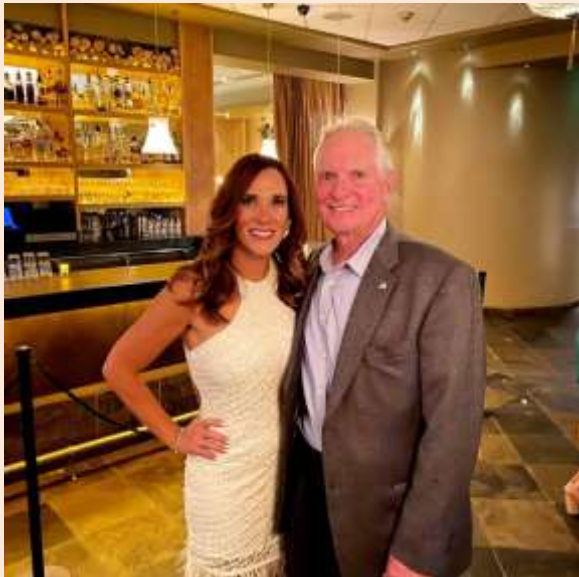
	Abramson	Holy Cross
First downs	7	19
Yards gained rushing ...	75	221
Yards gained passing ...	24	79
Total offense	99	300
Passes attempted	7	12
Passes completed	3	7
Passes had intercepted ..	1	0
Punts	5	1
Punt average	37.2	36
Yards penalized	0	65
Fumbles lost	1	2

Glenn Herbert and Charles Spitale each scored a touchdown, while Dave Falgoust added two of three from placement.

Fathers of the Bride



Vernon Crespino with his daughter
Ashley



Mark Kalbacher with his daughter
Kristin

Missing in Action Bracelets

"POW/MIA bracelets were initially introduced in the late 1960's by a now-defunct organization, Voices in Vital America (VIVA). The purpose of the bracelets was, and is, to increase public awareness about the plight of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War." - - pow-miafamilies.org

There had been discussions in the AFJROTC program about the POW/MIA bracelets, but it certainly caught on once Brother Robert became involved. Apparently he had also heard about the program in 1970 and called us into his office to "suggest" that we participate.

We set up booths to sell the bracelets, primarily the copper style, and it went well. We stressed that it was a humanitarian effort and avoided any political discussion. Brother Robert was pleased with the results and again "suggested" we contact other high schools in the area to see if they would like to participate.

We ended up going to Cabrini, Holy Angels, and Mount Carmel. We may have gone to other schools but for some reason these were the ones that remain imbedded in my memory. I wonder why?

Regardless, we were received enthusiastically by the administrations and the students!



Lt Col Farnell, Humberto Brocato, and Bob Wallace

I remember at Holy Cross if a female walked on campus it was a show stopper, and we were met with the same response at the girl's schools. I remember one particular principal taking me into her office and asking that I announce our program over the school's PA. Thought that was pretty cool!

Brother Robert was the driving force behind the program and his enthusiasm motivated and carried the rest of us to do the best in honor of our POW's.

The participants that I remember included Bernie Gemelli, Larry Folse, Bill Pedeaux, and Charlie Calogero. I also remember being interviewed by the school newspaper.

Humberto Brocato

ROTC Sponsors Letter Writing, Seeks To Show Student Concern

By Peter Scamardo

Holy Cross Bulletin

December 11, 1970

While other people protest the war in Viet Nam, students at Holy Cross will show their concern as the AFJROTC is sponsoring a letter writing campaign to North Vietnamese leaders.

According to Cadet Lt. Col. Humberto Brocato, cadet commander, "This is neither a political nor a military issue. It is an issue of human decency and common suffering."

Brocato said that these letters will be formally sent to Xuan Thug, minister to the delegation of the Republic of North Vietnam, and will contain four main points.

These points are a plea for treatment of all American Prisoners of War humanely under the provision of the Geneva Convention, to publish a list of all American prisoners, to provide information about those known to be dead, sick, or seriously wounded, and to allow a free flow of mail.

Tables will be set up in front of the lower school building to allow students to sign the letters.

Br. Robert Hampton, principal, said "I think it is a good idea. It already has had some good results, because apparently pressure of this kind is working."

"For the first time the wives are receiving mail from their prisoner-husbands and are sending packages to them," he continued.

"This is a good way," said Br. Robert "of showing to other schools how pressure of this kind works. We hope they will in turn try sending more letters to North Vietnamese leaders. Even protesters will be strongly in favor of the campaign."

Sea Cruise . . . Charlie Vanek with his grandchildren



John Fiorito was in Panama City Beach FL for the Ironman Triathlon cheering for his son Nick

Friday Night Lights: *Glenn Herbert*

Glenn Herbert was a 2018 inductee into the Holy Cross High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Teammate comments:

“Glenn transcended the color barrier. On the opening kickoff vs St Aug in '70, his tackle set the pace for entire game. He planted his helmet in the guy's chest, lifted him 3 feet in the air and plowed him into the ground. There was a collective 'ooooooooo' heard throughout the stadium. Talk about fired up! - - Ty Yokum, guard

“Glenn Herbert was a very quiet person. Every day he came to work hard and did his job with a smile.” - - Danny Simpson, tailback

“He was a very nice guy. He was always kind to his teammates. Sometimes I felt he was very shy and so I didn't get to know him very well as a person. But he was hard nose fullback in football. If we needed a few yards Glenn was the man to do it. And many times we needed him to do just that.” - - Dennis Delaney, tackle

“Glenn Herbert had tree trunk legs. His low center of gravity made him explosive and hard to take down.” - - Mike Strohmeyer, defensive end

“Glenn was fast and he could break the long run.” - - Al Waguespack

“Glenn was a quiet, unassuming, powerful fullback. In our offense, the fullback was responsible for the success of most plays. Since we won 8 straight games, Glenn was doing a great job!” - - John Glorioso, quarterback

“He was a quiet guy, but you knew he was always ready to play hard.” - - Mark Kalbacher, split end

“Glenn was a great team mate. He came to Holy Cross and took my place as fullback on offense. I was a bit jealous when it happened, but also knew my future was as a



lineman. From that point on Glenn was the starter at fullback and I started on defense at tackle. Glenn wasn't a big talker on the field. He let his pads do the talking and they were popping. I'm sure the opposing teams would talk trash on the field but Glenn never seemed to get distracted except during the St Aug game. I remember thinking that St. Aug would regret the things they said to Glenn because we were all his brothers and would fight alongside him. We destroyed St Aug that game." - - Steve Ferrer, tackle

Glenn Herbert highlight reel: <https://youtu.be/w6CTfoMcq3o>

The Tiger King

Excitement is one word you could use to describe Louis Reuther's venture into Thailand in September 2019, but he used slightly different ones.

"I lost my mind and went into a tiger sanctuary," he said. "Standing next to a medium size one, they come up to my waist, the large variety are about 2-4 inches taller on all four legs."



The Tiger Park in Pattaya has three different levels of tigers that you can get into the cage with to take photos and pet. The Baby level is about the size of a cat. The medium stand at hip level, and the Large – well, they just look hungry.

Reuther chose to try his luck with the baby and medium size.

"When I walked into the enclosure there were four medium size tigers lounging

around staring at me. There were two more to my right. . One of the two trainers called out to one and it jumped up on a tale."

Reuther was instructed to go behind the tiger to have his photo taken with it. And under no circumstance should you try to run!

“I felt uncomfortable and spent less than 10 minutes in the enclosure. I was ready to leave, but the trainer said, ‘You need more pictures . . . ‘Lay down next to him.’ I was pretty apprehensive about getting eaten.”

“The trainer tried to reassure me saying ‘As long as we feed them, you’ll be fine’. . . I probably looked like a filet or rump roast to them!!!

There are over 200 tigers at the park. They were raised by the trainers since birth.

While he was in the Bangkok area, Reuther also visited a huge temple that housed 1,000 Buddhist statues, all of which were covered with gold leaf. The site is patrolled by the army and is closed to visitors because of previous theft of the gold off of the statues.

At the island referred to as Dr. No Island, the location of a James Bond movie and part of the Phi Phi archipelago, guests transferred from a boat to a pirogue-type craft to go inside a mountain cave at low tide.

“We had to leave before high tide or else we couldn’t get out. The people were super friendly at Kata Beach.”

The Thai town of Kanchanaburi was also visited. This was the site where the Bridge Over the River Kawi was filmed. He also saw the military cemetery where the Allied prisoners-of-war who died during the construction of the bridge and railway are buried.



The tiger adventure was not Reuther’s first encounter with animals that would like to eat you. A few years earlier, he went gator hunting with his nephew. He said they set out six lines in the swamp in the area between Myrtle Grove and Venice.

“The day after we set out the lines, we found a gator on each one. They were less than 500 yards apart. Three days later we got a 10-footer.”

The gator he’s holding in the photo is about 7 feet long.

Took a little trip
down the Mighty Mississipp
to catch a bunch of fish

Mike Strohmeier with his grandsons:
Cruz Gomez HC'28, 5th grade and
Haven Gomez HC '31, 2nd grade



Cruz Gomez HC28



Haven Gomez HC31

Fish Photo by Mike Strohmeier



Anthony Laciura '69, was honored with the Louis Prima Arts & Entertainment Award from the Louisiana American Italian Sports Hall of Fame. His induction at their Gala honored & celebrated national and local Italian Americans in the sports, entertainment, medical, and civic fields. In addition to his singing career and acting, Anthony also directs opera. Laciura can be seen regularly on Netflix. Most recently, he plays the role of Leonard in Netflix's original "Like Father" opposite Kelsey Grammer and Kristen Bell.

Holy Cross Baseball Alumni Dinner . . . from Belinda Bonds Guichard

Holy Cross Baseball Alumni Dinner

We are asking all former Holy Cross baseball players to come join Head Baseball Coach Andy Cannizaro for an evening to discuss the great things that are happening in the baseball program. Coach Cannizaro is returning a senior laden squad and is looking to add a new chapter to the Holy Cross Baseball record books. It's an exciting time to be a part of Holy Cross Baseball.

The program is finalizing major field renovations, fixing the lights and adding new fencing. Please join us and help us continue the proud tradition of Holy Cross Baseball.

When: Thursday January 21st

Where: Rizzuto's Ristorante

Cost: \$200.00 (all proceeds go to the baseball program)

3 course meal, entry into Holy Cross Baseball raffle and 5 flex baseball tickets (can be used for any game)*

***provided we are not COVID restricted**

Please contact: Lance Licciardi (504)-261-7832 or

Todd Canatella (504)-401-2910

STATE CHAMPIONS (2): 1944, 1969

STATE RUNNERS-UP (2): 1987, 2012

STATE TOURNAMENT (9): 1987, 1988, 1990, 1994, 1996, 2011, 2012, 2017, 2018

STATE PLAYOFFS (37): 1910, 1919, 1922, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1953, 1969, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019

Terry McGaha '70 was a faculty member at Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, CA. He was at the Archdiocese's Christian Service Mass. He dedicated 40 or so years to Catholic education, most of them at Holy Cross schools, with the last 14 at Notre Dame. He is recently retired and lives in Ponchatoula.

Friday Night Lights: *Mike Strohmeier #89*

"When he hit you, you never forgot him." - - - Ty Yokum, guard

"Mike put the team first, not himself. He was a hard hitter." - - - Danny Simpson, tailback

"A very tough, quick defensive end and tight end." - - - Mark Kalbacher, split end

"Mike was the end next to me on the field my senior year. You could always depend on him to direct the play inward helping me make a tackle when he didn't. He was another great player." - - - Dennis Delaney, tackle

"Mike Strohmeier wasn't very big, but he was very tough. He never took a play off and he played hard." - - - Al Waguespack, defensive back

"Mike was a good defensive end and an important reason why our defense was so good." - - - John Glorioso, quarterback

"Mike is a guy that could run forever and not get tired. In track Mike used to run the 440 yard dash. He would lag the leader until the final 100 yards and would find another gear to pass the field. I saw him win several races this way because he had the endurance and focus to work through the pain and win. Using this endurance and focus I am sure Mike ran down backs from our opponents all over the field." - - - Steve Ferrer, tackle

Mike Strohmeier highlight reel: https://youtu.be/izCV4Kg5l_w

Nap Time . . . Photo by Michael Pearson



The Umbrella and the Neon Lights

Brother Robert Hampton hated meetings. He told me once that the best meeting was the one that never occurred. However, at the beginning of every school year, he had to have a meeting with the faculty in the Audio Visual Room. At this meeting he introduced the new faculty members for the year, then gave VERY brief summary of what occurred during the summer: 5 to 10 minutes tops! He then asked if there were any questions.

The Middle School building was recently completed. Now I'm not going to mention any names, but a certain faculty member raised his hand and asked: "Brother, do you think we could build a covered walk between the Administration Building and the Middle School just for a day like today?"

It had been POURING all day.

Brother Robert sneered at the man. If looks could kill, he would have been dead in a New York second. He then reached down for his umbrella, opened it, and said in a cold military term: "You want a covered walk, huh? Well guess what - I just built one and you're looking at it!"

Brother then went on to admonish the faculty to be diligent in turning off the lights. He said that on many occasions he walked through the halls after the school day and found lights left on the classrooms.

One would think that the faculty member mentioned above would have learned his lesson and not said a further word. One would think, right? NO-NO-NO!

He raised his hand again, and then said: "Brother, we have neon lights in all the new classrooms. I just read that it costs more to turn on a neon light than it costs to burn them for a few hours. It seems to me that we're actually saving energy by leaving them on."



Br. Robert Hampton

After hearing this, Brother Robert was approaching a Category 5 hurricane. He then said, "OK, The lights are on in this room, right? We're obviously burning some energy, right? Now watch this."

He then went to the front door of the AV Room, turned off the lights, then said: "How much energy you think we're burning right now - NONE-ZERO!"

He then said in a very stern voice "Meeting adjourned!"

Dom Gulotta

Overflow Crowd at First HC-St Aug Game

History was made at Tad Gormley Stadium on a chilly, sunny October Saturday afternoon in 1967. A game that heralded two of Louisiana's finest high school football teams entered the field before an overflow crowd of 24,500 spectators.

The throng came to see Holy Cross, the No. 1 ranked team in the Louisiana High School Athletic Association's Class 3A face a new, imposing rival. That foe was St.

Augustine, which had dominated the gridiron of the African American body of teams that made up the Louisiana Interscholastic Athletic and Literary Organization (LIALO). Both were loaded with talent.

Holy Cross had returned the nucleus of its 1966 squad which held 10 opponents to a mere 14 points before a shocking 20-7 loss to Broadmoor in the first round of the playoffs. The Tigers had lost All-State quarterback Herman "Butch" Duhe to graduation, but had a more than capable backup in Bobby Wattigney returning.

Coach John Kalbacher's defense was also loaded with All-District players, including linemen Tom Besselman, Larry Arthur and Jesse Truax and linebacker Larry Gaudet. On the other side were the Purple Knights, winners of 26 straight games and the LIALO championship before joining the LHSAA and Catholic League in the summer of 1966. The school tried for three years to join the association, but was turned down on every occasion. But St. Aug principal, Salesian Father Robert Grant, successfully sued the LHSAA in federal court to gain admission the hard way. So the game had much implication on the future of prep sports in Louisiana. And nearly 25,000 wanted to see which would win this classic and historic confrontation between black and white athletic programs.

Retired New Orleans Police Major, Melvin Howard, a wide receiver for St. Augustine, recalled that day and game 46 years later.

"We were 26-0," he said. "I didn't remember what it was like to lose a football game until my senior year." It was a shock to Howard and his talented teammates when they opened the 1967 season with a 30-27 loss to Washington in Lake Charles. But that setback gave the Purple Knights of coach Eddie Flint new resolve to vindicate themselves by winning the Catholic League.

Holy Cross lost its first game, as well; a 13-7 decision against LaGrange another Lake Charles school. Neither lost again leading up to their district clash.

Still allowed to play LIALO opponents in pre-district competition, the Knights defeated McKinley, 25-13; John Martyn, 40-0, and Landry, 28-0, before opening Catholic League play against St. Aloysius. A demonstrative 26-7 win over the Crusaders gave the London Ave., school all the confidence it needed to take on Holy Cross.

"I remember that game," Howard said. "Our star back, Harold Solomon, was one of the quickest backs in the state. He would run past the line and guys would be catching air trying to tackle him."

Holy Cross' defense had to find a way to slow the senior back down while St. Aug's coaches had to find a way to block the large and hard-hitting Tiger defense.

“I watched film of Holy Cross games and I knew it would be a difficult game,” Howard related. “They were the champions of the league. I knew we could score on them, but defensively they weren’t going to give us anything we couldn’t earn for ourselves.”

Yes, the Tigers were fierce competitors. Following that loss, they brushed aside Nicholls, 38-0; Warren Easton, 34-0; East Jefferson, 31-0; then opened district play with wins over Rummel, 55-7, and archrival Jesuit, 22-13. They were fit and ready for St. Augustine.

But the Tigers’ poise wasn’t matched by the Purple Knights that day.

“Holy Cross was impressive and I admit I was nervous,” Howard said. “I didn’t feel right. We were not accustomed to playing during the day. St. Augustine played its games at night in the LIALO. So that was something we all had to get used to.

“Holy Cross had an end named Jesse Truax, who played both ways, and he stood 6-7 and weighed about 280 pounds.”

The Tigers also had a hard-hitting offensive line upon which Besselman, Arthur and center Joe Thobodeaux assisted Truax as blockers.

Defensively, the Holy Cross coaches told the backs and linebackers that whenever Solomon ran a pass route to make hard contact with him whether the ball was being thrown his way or not. He eventually became wary of their presence and was not a factor in the Knights’ passing game. But Howard was as the main target for quarterback Floyd Sandle’s passes and he was effective.

After Holy Cross built a two-touchdown lead, Solomon scored on a 20-yard run. Sandle tallied from three yards out and fullback Stanley Wiltz tallied from the 5.

The deciding factor was another two-way player for Holy Cross, wingback Ken Hrapmann and a late safety that iced the win for Holy Cross.

“I remember Kenny,” Howard noted. “He broke two long runs on us.” The 160-pound senior scored on a 48-yard pass from Wattigney and on a six yard run. He also ran for three extra points as the Tigers prevailed, 29-21.

Hrapmann led the city with 18 touchdowns scored and was the No. 3 rusher (643 yards) behind Redemptorist’s Billy Garrity (1,084) and Solomon (741), Hrapmann and Howard became teammates at Northwestern State University the next year.

“We had this thing going about which of us was faster. We still speak to each other about once a year,” Howard said. Hrapmann was named to the Demons Hall of Fame following his outstanding collegiate career.

Holy Cross went on to play for and lose the 1967 state championship to Airline, 20-7. St. Augustine finished the season 3-7 record.

But over the 40 games played against one another, the Purple Knights lead the series 27-13.

From: <https://nolacatholicleague.com/>

Joey Photo by Jeff Junker



Faded Photographs

The Class of '71 was welcomed to the Dauphine St campus by Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

They saw the old gym destroyed.

They saw the new dorm being built from the architectural plans drawn by the father of one of their classmates - a classmate who would later be involved with the design of the Paris Ave campus after a more destructive hurricane.

They watched Butch Duhe bring the Tiger football team to the 2nd round of the state playoffs and Bobby Wattigney lead the team to runners-up the next year.

They saw the Huddle move to the Lower School building.

And they began their journey from Boys to Men.

Grade 7 to 9 video: <https://youtu.be/4m6r2qkgaBo>



Mike Campiere

Certificates of Dubious Achievement

I can't remember the first year I started my special awards. I believe it was around '76 or '77, but I do remember that it was on a very small scale. I made a copy of the school award certificate and revised it to become the "Certificate of Dubious Achievement". I only presented a few to each of my senior classes, maybe five or six per class. I awarded the "Preparation H Award" to the biggest pain in the ass. The "Rip Van Winkle Award" went to the student who left the most drool on his desk at the end of the period. I dedicated one class period for awards day so we all had a break and a good time.

Since the first attempt was so successful, I decided to make it a yearly event. Throughout the next school year, I recorded possible awards for the seniors in my classes. During the year, students constantly asked me if they were going to receive an award and it became apparent that I would have to create an award for all of them. That year the award ceremonies became a bit rowdy and it caused Chief to visit my class. He asked what I was doing and I was sure that I was in deep trouble. After I explained and showed him some of my awards, he asked me to let him know when I planned next year's awards so he could participate.

The following year I gave Brother Tim a weeks' notice for the event. He told me that I should move the ceremony to the Huddle so that the other classes would not be disturbed. When I brought the first class to the Huddle, Tim was there with Brother Robert! A dais was set up with the portable microphone. The soft drink machine was opened and there were bags of popcorn in the popcorn machine, all available to the students.

The ceremony came off just like graduation. I was at the microphone to announce the award and the winner. Brother Tim picked the appropriate award and handed it to Brother Robert. The winner came to the front to receive the award and shake hands with Brother Robert. I watched in amazement as my boss handed out the "Preparation H Award" while issuing his "congratulations" and a firm handshake.

The student awards ended when a parent complained about the award her child received (apparently no sense of humor). However, the "Certificates of Dubious Achievement" were revived in the form of faculty awards. Ken Tedesco and I had several after school brainstorming sessions to create awards for the end of year faculty luncheon (a faculty "Preparation H Award" was presented every year).

The awards were a great success and just like the students, disappointed faculty who had not received a reward asked to be included next year. So Ken and I spent the entire year creating awards for each faculty member. Some of the best awards we came up with were never revealed in public. After a couple of years, Ken and I lost our enthusiasm for the hours spent in preparation and the program ended. However, I'll always consider those times as some of the happiest that I spent at holy Cross.



Mike Heller with Br. Timothy

Mike Heller '66

John Edward Bull, P.D.

passed peacefully in his sleep at his home in Metairie on September 18, 2020 at the young age of 68. Dr Bull is survived by his favorite and only child, Jessica Ruth Bull. He is also survived by his brothers Rene, James and Pat Bull, along with his sister Helena Cupit and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Edward R. Bull of New Orleans. Born December 14, 1951, he was a native New Orleanian who loved all things: Saints, food, snowballs and especially his days at Holy Cross High School (Class of 1969). He graduated from The University of Louisiana Monroe's Pharmacy School. Dr. Bull was a devoted 3rd generation pharmacist and pharmacy owner for over 40 years. To know him was to love him or to develop very pronounced eye-rolls due to his eccentric nature and off-beat sense of humor. His ashes will be placed in an antique pharmacy bottle and interred on a shelf at the historic New Orleans Pharmacy Museum, at his bequest.



John Bull '69

The Eye of the Gator . . . Photo by Jeff Junker



Br. Robert Hampton's Impact

Robert Jefferson Hampton was born in California into a Mormon family, and converted to Catholicism. He became Principal of Holy Cross in the 2nd. semester of the 1964-65 school year, and held that position until 1980. He was a 20-something year old tank commander in WWII. I never heard him speak about the war, (of course, many WWII Veterans didn't.) I only learned of his service a while back.

In my opinion Bro Robert has had more of an impact on Catholic high school Education than anyone I can remember.

He was a man who "thought outside of the box." He did things that displeased a lot of people, but he did them anyway. I remember that he once told me: "Dom, you don't do things because they are popular; you do them because you think they are right"

I think that he was years ahead of his time in many of the things he did. Here are only a few of them:

He established a Holy Cross Middle School. Many people told him that this was a foolish venture.

In 1970, he hired the first group of women teachers at Holy Cross. HC was one of the first, if not THE first all-boys' Catholic high schools to do this. Plenty people told him that this was crazy. Really? I don't know of any boys' Catholic high school that DOESN'T now have female faculty members.

He established the largest private school bus education system in the state of Louisiana. At one time, I think HC had between 10-15 busses.

In the 1980's Mike Leach, Ken Tedesco, and I approached him with the idea of forming a night school at Holy Cross for parents. He went along with this. At its height, over 100 parents were enrolled in night classes at HC in Math, Typing, English, (especially resume writing) and Religion.

In the mid-to-late, 1970's Holy Cross became one of the first, if not THE first Catholic high school in the Archdiocese of New Orleans to offer Computer Science as a curriculum course. Brother Robert foresaw the influence technology in education, and did something about it. Once again, HC led the way! Still remember taking a workshop

on how to use a TRS-80. He saw the value of computers for the future, and vigorously supported it,



Br. Robert Hampton

Br. Robert was a no-nonsense educator. He expected nothing but the best from his teachers and his students. He once told me "Dom, if you go home after teaching school all day, and you aren't tired, you haven't done a good job."

His approach was very simple: he ran a school! HC was never meant to

be a training camp. For him there was no such thing as an "athlete-

student". You were a "STUDENT-ATHLETE."

Because of Br. Robert, there were many students who attended Holy Cross in spite of the fact that their parents couldn't afford the tuition. He had a soft spot in his heart for any student who was willing to work his way through school. One could go to HC on any given Saturday morning and see plenty of students washing busses, cutting the grass, working with the Brothers, etc. in order to pay off their tuition.

I can only guess how many of those students went on to become Doctors, Lawyers, Businessmen, etc. But make no mistake about it: Br. Robert also deeply appreciated blue-collar worker. He often said: "There are plenty of white collar workers who can't repair a car, or fix a broken A/C. They are sacred members of our society and we need them."

I know of MANY former employees/students under him who became principals, school administrators, college presidents, educators, etc.

I once asked him why he did these things, and he simply replied: "If you're not in the front of the line, you'll be somewhere in the back."

There are legions of men in society today who are simply good men. We teachers were taught a very simple Holy Cross code. It's this: "What the world needs today are men of virtue more than men of learning."

In his final Commencement address, the last words of Br. Robert to the graduates were "Please don't forget us. We will never forget you. "

Dom Gulotta

Douglas Degan: The list is long with the number of people that worked under Br. Robert at HC and became principals, school administrators, etc. It's kinda like the coaching tree created with people that worked under Vince Lombardi.... Great leaders tend to rub off on others and Br. Robert definitely was a great leader.

David Hardin: In early 1967 he came to St. Edwards University to interview. He asked me if I could speak Spanish. I said "Si, Hermano!" Began my apprenticeship under Brother Robert.

Sue Ellen Lyons: I loved working for Br. Robert, and he hired me on the spot because he was a good friend to my family. When my family was experiencing some serious issues, and my mother couldn't afford food, much less tuition, Br. Robert told her to bring my brother and his clothes to move in with the boarders at HC. He allowed him to live there for 3 months at no cost to my mother while she got back on her feet financially. We owed him a great debt of gratitude.

Gasper Gioe: Brother Robert was a giant among men in regard to his impact as a leader and educator. I never knew or heard of anyone ever saying anything but great things about him. We were all blessed to have known and been guided by him. Brother Robert was a wonderful man.

Danny Vorenkamp: He was a huge influence in my life. A great human being to say the least.

David Havrylkoff: Had the opportunity in the morning to do the announcements and to serve on the Catholic Youth Rally with him. He was funny in his very serious way. He used to tell us all the time youth was wasted on the young. I was a real example of that.

Michael Clement: In today's world, you only hear about the bad educators. It's really uplifting to know about the silent ones who did it right and didn't look for any glory. May we all aspire to be more like Brother Robert Hampton and the thousands of others just like him.

Frank Peter Auderer, Jr.

entered eternal life on Saturday, October 17, 2020, in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the age of 83 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in New Orleans on May 27, 1937, and was a proud resident of St. Bernard Parish for the last 50 years. An adventurer at heart who loved travelling, sailing, and attending Chalmette High football games, he was a proud graduate of Holy Cross High School, Southeastern Louisiana University, and Tulane University. He began his career as an educator at Holy Cross High School. He continued his career at the Archdiocese of New Orleans and served as a teacher and an administrator at Chalmette High School and principal of St. Bernard High School and Holy Cross High School. He completed his career as the Superintendent of St. Bernard Parish Schools. He was also an accomplished and respected financial planner. He served his country in the United States Marine Corps. Over the years, he also served his community as a Justice of the Peace, St. Bernard Parish School Board Member, Board Member and President of Nunez Community College Foundation, St. Bernard Parish Councilman-at-Large for the Western Division, and Campaign Chairman of the St. Bernard United Way. He was the recipient of numerous awards, including Louisiana



Frank Auderer

Superintendent of the Year, Man of the Year for St. Bernard Business & Professional Women's Club, and Principal of the Year by the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.

Michael Bayham: I first knew Frank Auderer as principal of Holy Cross while the campus was in the midst of free fall. Later on, he ran for School Board, the only candidate I ever saw who won an election without a single yard sign. From there he was elevated to school superintendent and then he ran for councilman at large, easily swamping his opposition. He served at a time when the parish was recovering from hurricane Katrina and a deep political division. Mr. Auderer didn't treat former students he encountered like students and I always appreciated his professionalism. Our politics were very different but we shared a commitment to see a stronger St Bernard in the aftermath of the storm and Mr. Auderer was great to work with. He was deeply respected in St Bernard Parish.

John Persson: Outstanding man who had influences on me that have benefited me throughout my life and career. All-time favorite teacher. The keyboards we use today are the same as the typewriters in his class. His Business curriculum led to my college majors and degree that led to my company ownership. He took personal interest in us, and even formed an intramural type basketball league that we played one night a week in the old gym. Was reacquainted with him in 1991 when my son Matt started HC, as Frank was the Principal at that time.

The Tiger Cub



Louis Reuther

HC-St Aug Game From the Collection of Al Perry



**The
DEFENSE**

NOTHING COULD be taken away from the defense, despite the high scoring contest. St. Aug's FLOYD SANDLE is stopped at left and Holy Cross halfback ROBERT TRETOLLA at right suffers the same fate.



CLINCHER

CHUCK KNOWLES of Holy Cross stops SOLOMON behind his own goal to put the HC Tigers eight points ahead and the game well out of reach of St. Augustine.

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

Tiger Yearbooks Still Online:

* Digital copies of the 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971 yearbooks can be found online

at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1C2gJh4DgOaDkH2WjYvSaLzx0qZaZIBW2?usp=sharing>