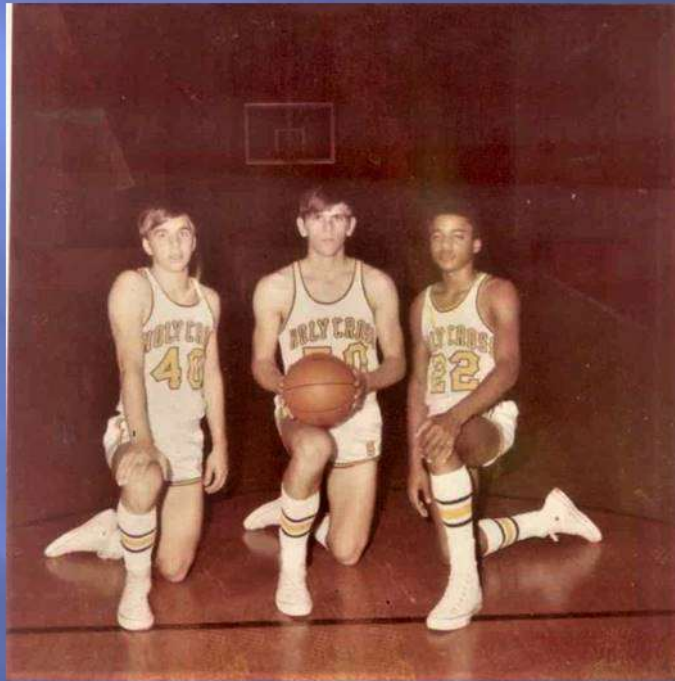


“Youth, enthusiasm, and hard work were some of the ingredients that made the 1970-71 Holy Cross Basketball Team one of the school’s best in recent years. First year coach Don Maestri led the Tigers to a 16-11 overall record.” - - - Tiger yearbook

NOTHING BUT NET



John Hauck - Bobby Poche - Tomie Magee

Family Values

Lancaster and Georgiana Parker were proud parents of a family of 13 children who were raised in New Orleans. They lived in various parts of the city but in later years they and a few of their adult children eventually married and built homes and businesses in the Lower 9th Ward where land ownership was affordable. Lancaster and other men of the community also helped to build by their own hands St. David Catholic Church on St. Claude Ave. which served the growing African American Catholic community in the Lower 9.

After Lancaster left Boh Brothers Construction Co, he and Georgiana embarked on a business of selling a variety of fried pies - apple, peach, lemon and sweet potato and

boiled eggs each morning to longshoremen directly on the docks of New Orleans. Lancaster would buy fruit from the French Market each day, prepare the fruit fillings and he and his wife Georgiana would get up at 4:00 am to prepare the dough and cook the crescent shaped golden fried pies



Tomie Magee looking to make a play

During the summer months Lancaster would take his young grandson, Tomie Magee to tag along to sell his baskets of goods on the docks

“I was elementary school age when my grandfather would ask if I wanted to go along with him,” commented Magee. “I remember mornings yelling “get your pies here” out of the open window of his car to announce the presence of the self-proclaimed ‘He-Be-Ge-Be’ pie man as we rode slowly on the wharf on

N. Peters Street in Bywater and on Tchoupitoulas St in

the Irish Channel. “My grandfather was a welcome sight to the hungry longshoremen working on the docks, including my own father on some days . . . if I was lucky! “

It was these humble beginnings and witnessing the perseverance and determination of his grandparents, parents, relatives and community that shaped Magee’s own disciplined work habits, both in sports on the basketball court and in the professional world.

Entering Holy Cross in the 9th grade from St David School, he tried out for, but was quickly cut from, the Junior Varsity basketball team. Trying again in the 10th grade, he failed once more.

Having aged-out of the JV, he tried-out again but this time for the varsity squad under Coach Ben Abadie. Having gotten a bit stronger and taller, Coach Abadie saw something in Magee and elected to keep him on the squad.

“It came down to the last two guys with only one more spot on the varsity team. It was between me and another teammate, a classmate from my days at St David School,” continued Magee. “Coach Abadie wanted us both on the team, but we’d have to share the last remaining uniform. We accomplished this by us dressing out for alternate

games. My teammate quit after 4 or 5 pre-season games giving me sole possession of the last position on the team. Although I was a bench player, I was finally on the team my junior year!”

That year the basketball team lost all but couple of district games. The team’s overall record was 7-19. The only time Magee played was in practice.

For him, the practices were essentially his game day. When the team practiced offense, he played defense. When the team practiced defense, he played offense. He did ultimately play briefly in a blow-out loss against St Augustine.

“That was the extent of my junior season on the varsity” said Magee.

Coach Abadie departed after that season to become head coach at Slidell High School, and Coach Don Maestri took the helm with Coach Johnny Vitrano at his side.

“The new coaches called a meeting before the summer break going into my senior year with the returning varsity and the upcoming JV players. Coach Maestri spoke about going to the State Championship the upcoming season,” recalled Magee. “It was such a preposterous statement to make after the season we had just had. But despite the seemingly impossible objective, it gave us something to think about; it gave us a goal!”

Coach Maestri also issued a more urgent and personal challenge to his players saying that in the coming season if you’re a senior, you had to be a starter otherwise you would not make the varsity team.



Magee on defense

Magee never considered himself a basketball player - he thought of himself as an athlete trying to play basketball. Having never really played in a real game at Holy Cross for the previous three years, he had to imagine how someone who was an experienced varsity player was supposed to play the game.

“Every chance I had during the summer months after I got off from my summer job working at Holy Cross under Brother Melchior Polowy, I went to my neighborhood school and played on the outdoor basketball courts against neighborhood teenage boys for as long as there was daylight,” he said.

Then the real work began.

“Senior year was tough. The requirement to be a starter and the physical regiment was challenging. The coaches had us running miles for conditioning on a regular basis. We’d run up and down the steps in the gym and on the outdoor track field. We had a drill learning how to take a “charging foul” by absorbing a player running into you with force while you were stationary. Typically, at the end of a hard practice, we also ran ‘horses’. You’d start at one baseline of the court, then run to the free throw line and back, and then to mid-court and back, then to the alternate free throw line and back, and finally to the alternate baseline and back as fast as you could. You could do these multiple times at the end of practice depending on the coaches’ objectives.”

“We’d often go to the wall to build strength or to ‘focus our attention’. If we had a bad practice we had to put our backs against the gymnasium wall and slide down as though we were in a seated position, but without a chair! At the end of a minute or two, you either stood up and wobbled away or you collapsed under your own body weight. The coaches wanted us to be physically and mentally tough so we could outlast our opponents. What we may have lacked in raw talent, we would make up for in sheer grit,” Magee continued.

When his senior year started, Magee knew that starting on the team would be difficult because other players had established themselves either on the varsity or JV teams.

“I had to stand out both in practices and in scrimmages in order to make the team. In the scrimmages against other schools, I didn’t have time for fear. I had to get the coach’s attention to show them I was worth keeping on the team. I suppose that I did enough to impress the coaches since I ultimately made the team and started all the preseason and district games.” he said.

Holy Cross basketball team established itself as a force during preseason by having a relentless defense. A successful regular season was highly awaited by coaches and the team.

One of the highlights of Magee's time on the court during his senior year came early during district play against Brother Martin High School, the prior year's state basketball champions.

"Holy Cross and Brother Martin both had 2-0 undefeated records in district play my senior year, yet the consensus was that Holy Cross had no chance to beat Brother Martin. After all, Holy Cross was known statewide for football and wrestling not basketball! I clearly remember during lunchtime the day of the game going to the chapel as I had done previously before each game and praying not for a victory but for me to play my best, win or lose," Magee reminisced.



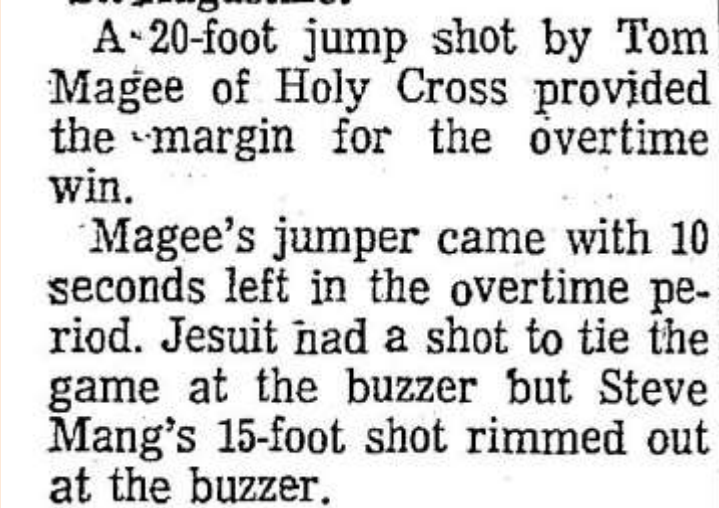
Scoreboard shows 51 to 51 . . . Tomie Magee sinks a jump shot for the win against Jesuit

The Times-Picayune reported the results of the game as follows:
"Holy Cross edged Martin 53-51 in overtime at Holy Cross."

Magee was high scorer for the Tigers with 15 points.

The city newspaper also reported on another one of Magee highlights, this one against the arch-rival Jesuit Blue Jays: "A 20 foot jump shot by Tom Magee of Holy Cross provided the margin for the overtime victory. Magee's jumper came with 10 seconds left in the overtime period."

"Holy Cross had a remarkable season my senior year with me getting honorable



A 20-foot jump shot by Tom Magee of Holy Cross provided the margin for the overtime win.

Magee's jumper came with 10 seconds left in the overtime period. Jesuit had a shot to tie the game at the buzzer but Steve Mang's 15-foot shot rimmed out at the buzzer.

mention and my teammate Bobby Poche being named to the All District 6-AAA A second team. I along with senior teammates Johnny Hauck and team captain Poche did not compete for the state championship that year but our accomplishments as a team was the beginning of Holy Cross becoming a perennial basketball powerhouse in the district and State. I have always been extremely proud and grateful to God for the experience of playing with all of my teammates at Holy Cross," he continued.

After high school graduation he attended Dillard University for a year then transferred to Southern University in Baton Rouge where he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was hired by Conoco Oil, a global energy company.

"I told the recruiter that I'd like to stay close to family for my first assignment and then I'd go anywhere. I was assigned to New Orleans for the next 7 years," he said.

"Although my undergraduate training was in mechanical engineering, I was working primarily as a Petroleum Engineer. So, I attended graduate school in the evening at Tulane University and earned a Master's degree in Petroleum Engineering."

His next two moves were to Lake Charles and then Lafayette. Up until this time all of his experience was in offshore production operations. Conoco wanted to broaden his experience to include onshore operations by transferring him to Midland, Texas.

Magee's first foreign assignment came in 1986 to Jakarta, Indonesia. Indonesia is an island chain above Australia covering an area of 3,200 miles by 1,100 miles and has

the largest Moslem population in the world. He was instrumental in training the national engineering staff in time for them to take lead roles in the development of a newly discovered oil field.

“Indonesia was the best time in my career professionally and personally. One of my best memories with the family was taking a trip by land across Java Island in order to vacation in Bali. I’ve always enjoyed experiencing different cultures so we went by car with a hired driver. We were able to experience the people, sites and food along the way”, he said

Magee and his family, who always accompanied him on all his various assignments, took a Christmas vacation trip to Australia where to his amazement he met his brother who was an officer in the U.S. Navy. The naval fleet was spending R&R in Australia. Magee searched him out so he and his brother were able to celebrate a remarkable New Year’s together “down under”.

“No one believed that this was unplanned but it was a shocking surprise to us both who had not seen each other for years but met in Australia by chance,”

Once when he was in Jakarta having drinks with friends, he heard what sounded like a strong New Orleans accent. Magee approached the person and the conversation progressed to “where did you go to high school”. It turned out he was talking to a ‘72 Holy Cross graduate Joey Dysart who was also working in Indonesia.

On another occasion Magee travelled from Jakarta to Sorong, Irian Jaya, approximately a 1,700 mile plane trip, for an eventual helicopter flight to a remote oil development site in swamp land along the southern coast. While overnighing in the city of Sorong before travel the next day, a local Irian guide named Francis invited Magee to see the town.

Magee picks up the story:

“Francis brought me by public bus to the town market. As we were walking through the market, the people started following us.

I asked Francis ‘Have they never seen a foreigner?’

He replied ‘Yes, They’ve seen foreigners.’

‘Have they never seen an American black man?’

‘Yes, they’ve seen American black men.’

‘Francis, I have to know: why is everyone following me?’

‘I told them you were Muhammad Ali,’ said Francis with a mischievous smile!”

In 1993, Magee repatriated to the United States where he held various leadership positions in Conoco’s global technology support organization. While in that role he

once got an unannounced visit from a Louisiana businessman who wanted to make Conoco aware of the services his company could provide. It was a former Holy Cross coach and math teacher Joey McGoey.

Years later Conoco and Phillips 66 merged companies and Magee was assigned a leadership position in providing global guidelines for the training and development of engineers and setting targets for US and international petroleum engineering recruiting. He was accountable for all US petroleum engineering recruiting.

About 3 years later, ConocoPhillips acquired a company with oil and gas operations in Algeria. Magee accepted the assignment to manage the Saharan desert operations from London requiring many trips to the African oil field.

It was risky business flying into the Sahara. During this time period the group known as Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb was active in the cities and desert. The central operating facility was protected by the presence of a nearby military fort and operations personnel required military escorts to visit sites beyond the central facility.

ConocoPhillips eventually relocated the office from London to Houston and Magee continued to manage the field operations from there.



Bali sunset photo by Tomie Magee

“After 33 years, I’d given all I had and decided to retire shortly after returning to the U.S.,” concluded Magee.

Following retirement Magee has volunteered his services for church and community. He spent 10 years as a court appointed Guardian Ad Litem. As such, he represented the best interests of minor children in legal proceedings in foster care while in Child Protective Service custody.

He serves as a catechist in his parish preparing Catholic youth to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and as a Board member at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center. He enjoys travel, tennis, swimming, and cooking traditional New Orleans cuisine for his family and friends.

Magee concludes that his life has been blessed. The good, the bad and the ugly have all impacted him in various ways but he has held to one conviction that has proven itself out over his lived experiences.

He explains, “The things we share in common are greater than the differences that divide us.”

51st Part 2 Unofficial Reunion



The Holy Cross Class of 1971's 51st Part 2 Unofficial Reunion will be held once again in the Sicilian Room of Rocky and Carlo's on Saturday, 12 November 2022 from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM or until Tommy kicks us out.

Message from Frances and Harold Veith

It's been a slow process but we've started moving. On October 10 Harold started low dose chemo to slow his MDS down until we get a definite donor. The chemo will be on a 7 days on/ 21 days off cycle for 2 cycles.

Sometime after Thanksgiving another bone biopsy will be done to see where we stand regarding the bone marrow transplant.

We have learned that Harold's sister (Nancy) who is 4 years younger is a 100% bone marrow match. We are cautiously overwhelmed with joy as there are more details. They are still waiting for our son's results and our daughter is a 50/50 match and continue to watch the worldwide registry. Once the donor is found and donation takes place, Harold will be hospitalized for aggressive chemo until remission and then straight to transplant.

For those who didn't know, shortly after the last reunion, Harold's health went from healthy and fit, to weak and frail. His diagnosis was high risk MDS (Myelodysplastic Syndrome) bone marrow failure. His red and white blood cells and platelets are very low which makes him very susceptible to bleeding and infection.

And last July Harold went into the

hospital to be treated for Pericarditis. His care team decided that the Pericarditis would be treated for 2 - 3 months before any cancer treatments can start.



Frances and Harold Veith at the Crawfish Boil

Thank you everyone for the prayers and reaching out to Harold either by phone call or text. You have been uplifting to him. You can call/text him on weekends (no doctor appointments), even if the call is 5 minutes. His number is 504-481-5128.

While Harold continues to keep hope and pray, laughter has continued in his daily life Thank you'll so much for your prayers and thoughts! Thank you'll for everything!

To my Holy Cross Class of 1971 Family: You'll are truly exhibiting the teachings of the Holy Cross Man. I will always be proud to be a part of the Holy Cross Class of 1971. With the greatest gratitude,

Frances and Harold Veith

Take me back down where cool water flows . . . photo by Bobby Wahl



Car Talk

When it was discovered that I was planning to do some stories on high performance cars, someone (not mentioning any names but the initials are RS) thought it would be a good idea that I should drive one.

He didn't have to twist my arm too hard to get me to take the keys to his vintage Corvette. The first thing I noticed was how far I had to fall in order to land in the driver's seat.

Pushing the starter button caused the engine to roar to life – and what a deep rumbling sound it made. I thought I was in a race car.



Speed Racer in someone else's Mach V

The Vette had a greenish heads-up display that showed speed and G-force. As

I floored it- well, MY version of flooring it – the HUD showed 25 mph. I'm pretty sure the G-Force indicator was broken as it didn't get above zero, not even on my over-steered cornering. He should really get the steering checked!

It seemed like I'd driven it for only a few minutes before I was back in the parking lot. When I opened the door to get out, the ground was only inches from my feet. It was truly a driving experience unlike any I've had. It drives nothing like my little Honda!

Jeff Junker

The Rapid Rabbit

Named the Rapid Rabbit, the Authement Boys raced in a 2 door '57 Chevy, running a stock 283 V8 engine with a 4 barrel carb.



David Authement with a trophy

David Authement and his brother Noel went mainly to LaPlace Dragway and Southland in Houma starting in about 1969.

His most exciting moment didn't occur on the track, but on the Huey P Long bridge on his way to Southland.

“Our trailer was wider than the car so it was a tight fit coming down off the narrow Huey P. A driver in the left lane comes flying by honking furiously – today it would be called road rage. He passes us up. Next thing we see is his unhooked boat trailer with the tongue on the ground passing us up. Then the trailer and boat flipped over to our left,” recalls Authement.

He doesn't remember winning many races, claiming that 250 pounds of metal flake blue paint and a lot of Bondo was their downfall.

After 4 years of racing he sold the car to a classmate. His racing days weren't over as he bought a drag



The Gasser

bike and became a Top Fuel Harley racer.

He ran the bike on gasoline for about a year to get the feel of it and then switched to Nitro Methane. On high octane aviation gas with a carburetor the bike put out 150 hp and ran in the low 10s elapsed times at about 110 mph on a 4 inch slick. Then modifying the frame to fit a 10 inch slick for a 350 hp Nitro injected engine he ran in the mid 8's at about 165 mph.



The Fueler

“Going down the track in the quarter-miler is a ride that’s hard to describe. It felt like 500 pounds on your back when you pegged it at the starting line. The front tire rose about 2 feet in the air and didn’t touch ground again until it neared the finish line,” said David. “Racing wasn’t a money-making proposition. You did it because you enjoyed the ride. It’s a freedom you never get over once you get a taste of it.”

He ran on tracks in Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida.

And he still rides. His current bike is a 2011 Harley Limited.



David Authement on his Harley

A Coaching Career

“I was always the tallest kid in grammar school,” admitted Bobby Poche. “I was too tall to play Bidy Basketball due to the height limit.”

That height served him well by the time he was an eighth grade boarding student at Holy Cross. Recruited by Coach John Wall solely because of his height, Poche claims to have been the worst basketball player in the school.

He didn't get his first real experience playing against other teams until he attended a basketball camp at Tulane. As a sophomore on the junior varsity, his best game was against Br Martin scoring 25 points.

Poche was a two-sport athlete, playing on the junior varsity football team. He was 6' 3", 175 lbs and listed as a center and tackle. But most of his work consisted of holding the blocking dummies for the likes of Dennis Delaney, Steve Ferrer, and Mike Truax. Since he spent most of his on the ground looking up at lineman, he quit football to concentrate on basketball.

Prior to his junior year, he attended a basketball camp at St James Major under the tutelage of former NBA player Bill Dwyer. Dwyer was recognized as the regions premier developer of basketball talent. In the afternoon session the camp participants would practice skills such as proper technique for shooting with the night session reserved for team play.

It was about that time the HC basketball head coach Ben Abadie left for the comparable position at Slidell High School. Abadie's assistant at HC was Don Maestri.

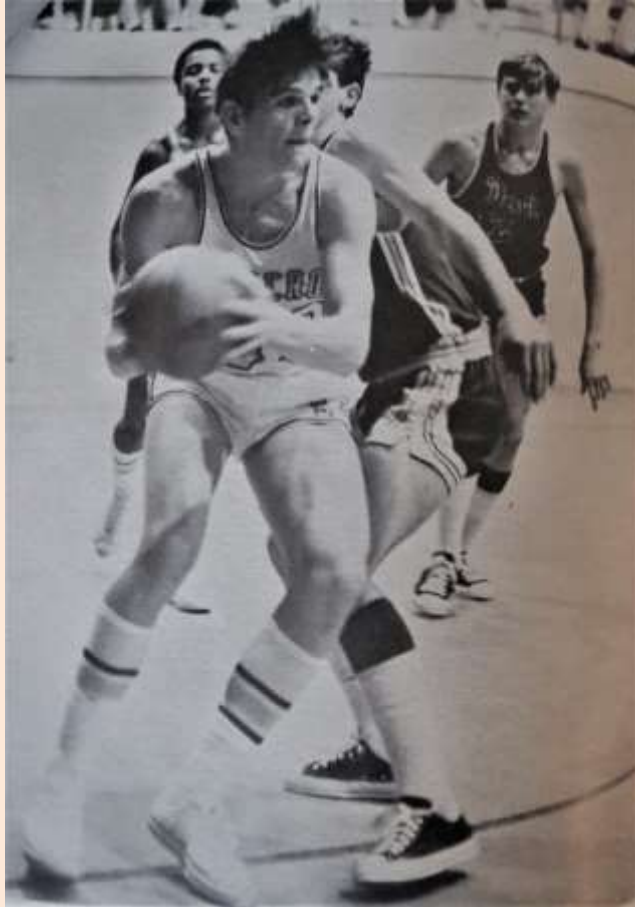


Team Captain Bobby Poche

While an assistant coach, Maestri asked to ride with the football team on their bus to the games. He listened to John Kalbacher's speeches and observed the techniques on how a winning team was put together. Apparently impressed with the young coach's enthusiasm, Kalbacher offered Maestri the head coaching job.

Senior year saw Bobby Poche as captain of the team. He led by example trying to be first on the court for practice and last to leave. He even put in overtime work on his

shooting skills. He was always hustling and was unselfish with the ball during the game.



“I tried my best to encourage my teammates and do what had to be done to win,” he continued. “At the end of the season we were 16-11 overall and 9-7 in district. I didn’t expect the success we had because we were so horrible the year before. Don Maestri gave us confidence; he was a good motivator.”

One of the highlights of the season had to be the win against Brother Martin. The Crusaders were so upset that the sports editor of their student newspaper, Gerry Preau, had this to say:

“Exactly one month ago today, the Brother Martin Crusaders were on the canvas. The ‘Saders had just dropped their second game in three district outings, that one to, of all teams, Holy Cross. When a team loses to Holy Cross it is time to hang up its shoes.”

Our own Louie DiVincenti fired back a response in his sports column:

“The January 29 edition of the Martin Crusader made an interesting comment about HC roundballers, stating “when a team loses to Holy Cross, it’s time to hang up their shoes.” Well after losing in the first 53-51, the barefooted Crusaders defeated the Tigers 66-54 in their second outing and now claim they are No. 1. It will be interesting to see just what type of shoes the Knights will wear when they aren’t able to weasel out of their inevitable conflict with Booker T. Washington.”

The two-time MVP and 2nd team All District player earned a scholarship to Temple Junior College and had some success on the courts until he blew out the sole of a new pair of Adidas rolling his ankle. He finished his degree in Education at Nichols.

Poche’s coaching career started at Shaw where he was named JV and freshman coach. From there he went to St Paul’s.

Next stop was Covington High School. His team won 3 games the first year and rapidly improved to 15 and 17 wins over the next two years.

Slidell coach –former HC coach – Ben Abadie commented: “Bob Poche is a great young coach. They are the most improved team in the parish.”

His next coaching job was at Thibodaux followed by De LaSalle.

It was at De LaSalle that Poche coached his first stand-out player: Dwayne Bryant. By the time Bryant finished his high school career –going on to Georgetown - he was a consensus All-American, the #6 ranked recruit, and led DLS to a state title in 1986, producing a record of 40-1.



Due to budget cuts, Poche left DLS landing at Salmen High School. While there, he coached arguably one of the best players to come from Louisiana – Chris Duhon. Duhon was Gatorade Player of the Year and eventually played for the Chicago Bulls and LA Lakers.

2008 found Poche at Riverdale High School where he was named Coach of the Year. One of his players, Tyeka Ranton, went on to play at Angelina College where she was named as a Junior College 2nd team All-American as well as an All-American Honorable Mention from the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association. He retired from coaching in 2011 after 2 years at East Jefferson High School.

“As a coach, it’s not what I know, but what the players can do. To win you need the right people for the right system,” concluded Poche, who was also a Social Studies teacher. “I enjoyed coaching. I have no regrets. I got a chance to affect people’s lives. Do I miss coaching? Yeah. I do.”

Bobby and his wife Cindy have two children, both of whom went to LSU. Carl is a Mud Engineer and Ashley is an Occupational Therapist.

Lettered Olives

photo by Debi Sched Colomb



Tessitore Elected Alumni Association President

John Tessitore has been elected as President of the Holy Cross Alumni Association. He said, "We look forward to an exciting year with lots of participation from our Alumni and wish to expand our membership with our presence at Holy Cross functions throughout the year. I am confident that together we can accomplish our goals of friendship, leadership and overall inclusiveness of all our fellow Alumni."

Chalkboard

Sarah and David Falgoust visited Toledo, Madrid, and Paris. They ran into Miguel de Cervantes.



Rene Bull along with his son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren took a trip to Majestic Caverns, about 40 south of Birmingham, Alabama. The cave's claim to fame is that it was mined for saltpeter during the Civil War and used by moonshiners during prohibition.



Debbie and Roni Sumich with their first grandson



Christine and Bill Pedeaux with their 6th grandchild



Yvonne and Louis Saltzmann with their new granddaughter Drew Marie Saltzmann and Logan Kate.



Mike Strohmeyer with his grandson Cruz HC28 on a fishing trip.



Anniversaries

- Peggy Jones and Larry Folse 6
- Christine and Bill Pedeaux 40
- Billie Kay and Robyn Miller 17
- Kim and Donald Duplantier 28
- Rhonda and John Glorioso 10
- Rhonda Todoroff and Phil Kessling 14
- Annelle and Dan McGovern 36
- Suzie and Bobby Wahl 49
- Paula and David Hardin 54
- Debbie and Byron Byrne 47
- Melissa and Kenny Duke 30
- Francis and Charlie Kothmann 45
- Kathy and Jerry Lodriguss 48
- Mary Ann and Rene Bull 22
- Debbie and Roni Sumich 49
- Peggy and Al Perry 45
- Claudia and Steve Schulz 46
- The Magees 46
- Julie and Sam Bolen 50
- Paula and David Hardin 54
- Rachel and Mark Kalbacher 42
- Shelli and Gary Vinturella 24
- Yvonne and Louis Saltzmann 38

Suzie and Bobby Wahl covered over 2,000 miles on a road trip that took them through the Black Hills. Sites visited included the Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse monuments.



Shelli and Gary Vinturella spent a week in London



Gary Ritzmann and his son John are Corn Hole Champions winning the title last week in league play. The goal is to sink a 6' by 6' one pound bag in a 6' hole in a slanted board mounted on 2 by 4s. Gary's been playing for about 10 years and claims you have to spin the bag, not toss it. Fun Fact: The game received a patent in 1883 and was called "Parlor Quoits." The sport is covered by ESPN.



Special thanks to Don Maestri, Tomie Magee, Nat Kiefer '76, and Greg Domecq '75 for the photos and background information for this issue of the HC71 newsletter.



Magical Maestri Tour

“I’ve been around the world. I’ve played in all the Southeastern Conference gyms against SEC teams. But that first team at Holy Cross that started my career is the one that I’ll never forget. I owe them more than they will ever realize,” reminisced Don Maestri. “Without their commitment to success, there’s no doubt that my coaching career might have taken a different path than it did. They were a great group of guys.”

The last time the Tigers won a championship in basketball was 1945. Holy Cross was known as a football power and bringing home state championships in wrestling. There was not much interest in basketball at the start of the seventies.

The 1970-71 team changed that perception. They started winning; people started coming to the games. The spark behind that change was Don Maestri, a newly minted coach who prepped at De La Salle.



Maestri's first team in the 1970-71 season (1st Row L-R) Billy Paulson Karon Metoyer, Victor Duvernay, Ned Couret, John Hauck, Richie Manguno, Chuck Farrell (2nd Row L-R) Greg Collins, Jimmy Wonders, Donald Lucas, Bobby Stolf, Bob Poche, Ricky Suprean, Tomie Magee

The three seniors on that team - Tomie Magee, Bobby Poche , and John Hauck - provided the leadership that was crucial to the Tigers success. They helped produce the best record in 15 years of Holy Cross basketball starting what would become the best decade of Holy Cross basketball that has never been matched.

“Those guys complemented each other,” he continued. “Poche was the captain of the team and was tough and hard-nosed. He had no fear of anyone. If there was a rebound anywhere close to him, he’d get the rebound. Bobby was named to the All-District and All-St Bernard Parish team.”

“Magee knew how to score. I called him ‘Overtime Tom’. You could count on him to make clutch plays. Against Br Martin he made three free throws at the end of the game with unbelievable poise. And in overtime against Jesuit he hit a basket to win. Tomie made it look as though he wasn’t under any pressure.”

“Hauck was one of those guys with chemistry and was a hell of a playmaker. Defensively he was like a pit bull. If the opposing player wanted to run right, John would turn him to the left.”

Other major contributors to the team were Victor Duvernay '72, Bob Stolf '72 and Ricky Suprean '72.

“Duvernay was a very good outside shooter. Stolf was a 100 percent effort guy who was a strong, aggressive rebounder and defensive player. And Suprean was nicknamed ‘Squirrel’ because of his high energy and spirit,” analyzed Maestri.

Prior to becoming head coach, he coached the junior varsity squad. Being fresh from college, he was still very youthful looking when he met the JV team for its first meeting.



Coach Don Maestri

“I walked into the room and one guy asked me ‘What position do you play?’ I replied, ‘I’m not a player. I’m your coach’,” chuckled Maestri.

Hoping to learn the formula for building a winning program, he asked the legendary football Coach John Kalbacher if he could ride the team bus to the football games to observe and listen to what Kalbacher had to say to his team and coaches prior to the game, at half time and in the staff meeting after the game.

“I always thought you could learn from a successful leader and John Kalbacher was an all-time great coach. I got to sit on the bus next to him and picked up a lot of things from him.”

When Ben Abade left the head coaching job at Holy Cross to take a similar position at Salmen High School, Coach Kalbacher, who was also Athletic Director, asked Maestri if he’d like to be head basketball coach.

“I said I’d loved to be head coach,” he recalled. “My classroom faced the walkway between the gym and the lower school building. I saw Coach Kalbacher walking on that walkway to Br Robert Hampton’s (Headmaster) office and was so distracted that I couldn’t teach for the rest of the day. I was pacing back and forth. Later he called and said I was the new head basketball coach.”

Maestri was taking over a team that won only seven games the year before. His challenge was to turn around a lackluster program.

“I wasn’t focused on what happened the year before. I was so excited about being a head coach. With the Junior Varsity we’d won 17 games so we had some success with those kids. And we had three seniors to provide leadership,” stated Maestri. “I was not a great coach but I was fired up and enthusiastic. I knew the defense had to be tough and I put the players through a boot camp that was physical. These guys were all tough. None of them complained.”

It was an experienced team that had taken their lumps the year before and they responded to the new coach. They exemplified what you need to win– teamwork and unselfishness but more importantly: talent.

Maestri cited that the keys to that successful program were talent, leadership, unity, and goals.

“We had unselfish players. None of these guys had an ego. Our goal was to be successful against teams we were expected to beat. Once we were successful we started to have confidence. It became contagious.”

Tomie Magee '71 recalls that first meeting, saying “The new coaches called a meeting before the summer break going into my senior year with the returning varsity and the upcoming JV players. Coach Maestri spoke about going to the State Championship the upcoming season. It was such a preposterous statement to make after the season we had just had. But despite the seemingly impossible objective, it gave us something to think about; it gave us a goal!”

One of Maestri's favorite memories of the 1970-71 season was bittersweet. After the junior varsity team played Br Martin, the father of one of the Holy Cross JV players had



a fatal heart attack. The varsity game went on as scheduled with the Tigers getting the win.

“Beating Br Martin was incredible. It was a big high. They were the defending state champs.”

After the victory over Br. Martin the overjoyed, cheering students were running out of the gym and broke a glass door.

“Br. Robert called me to the office and said we couldn't have any more of that. I assured him that it would never happen again.

. . . We had just beaten the state champs and he was worried more about the door,” he said with a laugh.

Echoing that thought was team captain Bobby Poche '71: “I didn't expect the success we had because we were so horrible the year before. Don Maestri gave us confidence; he was a good motivator.”

Another fond memory was beating his Alma Mater, De La Salle, at the De La Salle gym for the first time ever. By the end of the season, they had beaten every team in the Catholic league at least once except for Rummel.

Through the decade that he coached at Holy Cross, the wins kept coming in what was considered the best decade of the Catholic League with more players signing with Division 1 colleges than any other time. And it was those wins that were a key component to recruitment.

“The fact that we were successful in a tough league made it more satisfying that we could compete with the best. The league was incredibly talented. The Catholic League always had teams playing for the State Championship.”

The games against traditional Catholic League rivals also drew the largest crowds. The



John Hauck #41 takes a shot in front of 2,600 fans in the Br Martin gym

largest crowd ever to pack the Br Martin gym occurred against the Tigers with 2,600 fans in attendance.

Three playoff games had to be moved to Tulane University's gym because of the size of the crowd: Br Martin in 1974, De La Salle in 1976, and Jesuit in 1978. All of those games drew over 4,000 fans and the Tigers prevailed in all of them.

Other venues the team played in were the University of New Orleans, Xavier University, and the Maravich Center at LSU. They played in tournaments in Gulfport, Slidell, Houston, Destrehan, and Lake Charles as well as 2 CYO tournaments. Again, they were triumphant in all of them.

Holy Cross is also the only high school to have played a triple-header in the Superdome on a bill featuring a high school, a college, and a NBA game. The Tigers played Gulfport, Tulane played LSU, and the New Orleans Jazz played the Detroit Pistons.

Maestri has one regret about his time at Holy Cross: the Tigers didn't win the State Championship in 1976. Their record was 32-3. The team beat St Augustine in the Superdome securing the Catholic League title.

"I was distracted all week by that win and I didn't properly prepare for the game. We lost to East Jefferson by a tip-in by one point. The State Championship was won by Landry, who we had beaten by 32 points earlier in the season.

HOLY CROSS BULLETIN

Vol. 56, No. 5 Holy Cross School February 20, 1976



Superdome: Super Tigers

With the Louisiana Superdome as the backdrop, the Holy Cross Tiger basketball team systematically dismantled the St. Augustine Purple Knights, 66-47, to clinch HC's first district championship in any sport since 1970 and the first basketball championship since 1945.

Over 4,000 screaming fans were on hand last Saturday night as the city's coach of the year, Don Maestri, led his troops in the first regular season prep basketball contest in the dome...and won it.

Some of the scenes BULLETIN photographers caught included (top) the HC bench, showing the fierce determination and confidence that were a major part in the Tigers' long awaited district championship; (right) Carlos Zuniga, New Orleans prep basketball's MVP, going up high to add two more to his big 16 point total under the dome; (bottom) the crowd, telling the final story as the Tigers stand as king of the District 11-AAAA mountain.



Special Edition of the school paper published by Public Relations Director Ken Hechler and his student staff

"I was just too high from the win over St Aug. The day of the game Ken Hechler came out with a special edition of the Bulletin about our win in the superdome. I must have read that issue of the Bulletin 10 times during math class. I was too wrapped up in our win in the Superdome and lost sight of the goal."

"The players were ready. . . It was my fault. I didn't focus enough on that particular game. You can never overlook the next game on the schedule after you've just played a great game," he reflected. "That became my coaching philosophy for the rest of my career. That stuck with me for the rest of my life."



Busses lined up on the Dauphine St campus ready to take fans to the State Playoffs in Alexandria

One of the players on that team was forward John Christman '76 who wrote "Don Maestri's success lies far beyond his record of wins and losses or in the great teams he has produced. It lies in the young men whose lives and values he has helped to mold. What makes him effective is that you know that everything he says he means with a judge's sincerity. He once told me when I was a seemingly insignificant JVer that there was nothing in the world that he wouldn't do for one of his players. To this day I am convinced that if I asked him for \$1,000, he would find a way to give it to me."

Nat Kiefer '76 was a shooting guard on the 1974, '75, and '76 teams and was a member of the team that played in the Superdome. He had this to say about his time on the squad:

"If you were at Holy Cross at the time, there was a magical and electric atmosphere. It was like Don Maestri created a rock star basketball program. HC was show time way before the Lakers dynasty in the 80s-90s. During the 70s, the competition in the Catholic league was unbelievable. There were so many great teams that had college caliber players and coaches. John Joly, a prep journalist, described the Catholic league basketball of the 70s as the best ever. Don's HC teams from 74-76 were 93-16 - the best in the Catholic league. 1974-76 was truly a magical time for the school and HC community. Don's 1970-71 team built the foundation for us to build on."



Nat Kiefer takes a shot

“There are 3 things you want in a coach. First, knowledge of the game and the Xs and Os. Second, the ability to relate to the players both as basketball players and as men in order for the players to reach their full potential. And third, create a winning and exciting culture. Don checked all three boxes. He brought not only a winning culture to Holy Cross but also an exciting style of basketball with a fast-paced tempo patterned after the great North Carolina teams of the 70s.”

“During my three years of playing for Holy Cross, if someone would have asked me where I think Don's career would go as a coach after HC, I would have said he would become a successful Division 1 coach. And he was! I was happy to have a front row seat to the birth of his greatness. He was one of the most influential people in my life. I owe him so much. The fact that we remain friends almost 50 years later speaks volumes about the man. It was an honor and privilege to play for him for 3 wonderful and unforgettable years and to be a part of Don's Magical Maestri Tour of the 70s,” reflected Kiefer.

Ironically this was the year that the Superdome was the location where the team photo was taken prior to the start of the season.

The lesson learned from that game in the Superdome was to focus on the next game. With a 211- 99 career record as Holy Cross Head Coach, it was a lesson well learned.

And he is quick to share credit for the team's success. He had good assistant coaches.

Greg Domecq '75 had this to say about the assistants:

“Maestri also had great luck with some outstanding assistant coaches, especially early in his career. Maestri, a University of Southern Mississippi graduate, was able to land Johnny Vitrano who was a star at both St. Aloysius (later merged with Cor Jesu to become Brother Martin) and USM.”



Strategy session with the team

“He also hired a tough-as-nails guy named Frank Caliri who played for the Marquette Warrior team that lost to Southern Illinois in the 1967 NIT Finals in Madison Square Garden. He often talked about having to guard Walt “Clyde” Frazier from the Salukis who went on to lead the New York Knicks to the 1970 NBA World Championship. No one wanted to go against Caliri at practice because of the physicality of his defense. It didn’t hurt that he was a veteran of the Special Forces for the United States of America.”

“A bit later in 1976, Terry Gill joined the staff. Terry played at the University of New Orleans for Ron Greene where he helped the team to a Division II Final Four

appearance and is still the 2nd all-time assist leader with 442. Terry also led all college divisions in free throw percentage in 1974 when he drained the net for 92.4%. The impact that these three individuals had on Maestri and Holy Cross was significant.”

Maestri also gives credit to the student body, band, and faculty for the team’s success.

“The way our program differs from most teams,” said Maestri in an interview with the Times-Picayune, “is that the program itself doesn’t revolve around just the players and coaches. It consists of the student body, band, and faculty.”

Expanding on that comment he made in 1976, he added that “It wasn’t just the coach or players. There were so many creative and talented people involved in our program who were doing things that had never been done before. There were staff and faculty like Mike Leach, Harold Reese, Dom Gulotta, Mike Heller, Br Michael Boyd, John

Serio, Lou Carboni, Richard Crosby, Charlie DiGange, John Glorioso, Michael Noonan, Ken Tedesco, Al Wilhelm, Loretta Clement, Dave Hardin, Vince Guttuso, and so many others. They encouraged their students to attend the games. They helped create excitement through the whole school. We had the best group of people in the city, the best faculty, the best student newspaper, the best spirit: It was unbelievable!”



Protecting the Tiger's goal are Pete Johnson 10, Manuel Potolongo 40, Nat Kiefer 14, and Carlos Zuniga 54.

And support also came from an unexpected source: Br. Melchior Polowy. The legendary wrestling coach sent Maestri a short letter expressing how appreciative and proud he was of the basketball team and how meaningful it was for the school to have such a successful program.

Also contributing to the team’s success was Mike Orkus with the pep band and Terry McGaha. McGaha and the student council created “Whoosh Week” which was Homecoming for basketball. Every school had a homecoming week for football, but only Holy Cross had one for basketball.



SPOILS OF VICTORY are finally enjoyed by Holy Cross basketball fans as Coach Don Maestri directs the Tigers' 65-57 first round championship win over

Martin at Tulane gym Tuesday night. The Bengal bench is tense even though HC had the game wrapped up by then. —Bulletin photo

First round championship win - All the fans are cheering except one: Br Robert Hampton

Regarding the impact the Pep Band:

“Without them HC basketball would not be the same,” Maestri commented in a 1975 Bulletin interview. “They not only inspire the team but inspire the fans with one of the most exciting extra attractions possible.”

He recently expanded on that comment saying: “No one had a pep bank like us. Mike Orkus wrote jingles for the basketball team creating a great atmosphere for winning.” The pep band also made a trip that year to the Top Twenty basketball tournament in Alexandria.

The Bulletin reported it as follows:

“The band and a large number of fans waited for us outside the coliseum, “said Maestri “and this impromptu pep rally helped us tremendously.”

Maestri said this was a first for the Top Twenty and fans and coaches from all over the state marveled at the spirit shown.

And then there was Ken Hechler . . .

“Hechler was a genius. He came up with brochures that had scorecards for the students to fill in after each game hanging in all of the classrooms. Nobody took team photos the way Ken did. Most schools have a photo of the team in their gym. Ken had the pictures taken at local landmarks.”



Tiger Power flashed on the Superdome's pylon

“I don’t know how he did it, but he arranged to have the flashing sign on the pylon at the superdome flash Tiger Power for 15 minutes while we took the team photo. Another time they were taken aboard the riverboat Natchez.”

“For the 1978 season the team photo was taken at the Rain Forest Bar atop the Hilton Hotel overlooking the city. Ken captioned it “On Top of the City”. The message he was sending was that HC basketball was on top of the city.”

After a decade of winning with the Tigers, Maestri decided to move to the college coaching ranks. In an interview with the Times Picayune in November 1978, he

shared his feeling about leaving the Blue & Gold:

“I have had a very pleasant stay at Holy Cross and the faculty and students will always be an important part of my life. Brother Robert (Hampton, HC principal) has been a real inspiration and I will always thank him for being an integral part of our success.”

”I must finally thank our fans who followed us all over the state in large numbers and gave us the support we needed to build a topnotch basketball program.”



Holy Cross basketball was on top of the city!

In 2018, he was inducted into the Holy Cross Sports Hall of Fame. His bio there recalls his success:

“In 10 seasons at Holy Cross he posted a 211-99 record. In 1973 the Tigers made their first state playoff after a 15-year absence. During the 1974 season, the team had a 35-6 record and finished as the state runner-up. The 1976 team won the Catholic League, defeating St. Augustine in the Superdome. The 1976 team finished with a 32-3 record and ranked 11th in the nation. Maestri's teams also finished 1st or 2nd place six times in the Catholic League.”

After a year at Mississippi State and two years at Alabama, he broke record after record at Troy State in Alabama over a 31 year period. His Troy teams still hold college records that have yet to be bettered, including winning a game 258 -141 in which his team scored 51 three-point shots.

He summed up his feelings about his time coaching at 4950 Dauphine St:

“Great teams like that are part of your life forever. I left Holy Cross, but Holy Cross has never left me. It was a special time in my life. There’s not a week that goes by that I don’t think about Holy Cross.”

DON MAESTRI

COACHING BIOGRAPHY

ALABAMA COLLEGE

COACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Alabama (Assistant Coach)
1980-1982 (NIT, NCAA, Sweet 16, SEC Champs)

Troy University, Head Coach 501 WINS
1982-2013
(501-402)

7 - CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1991 Gulf South Conference (Division 2)
1994 East Coast Conference (Division 1)
2000 Atlantic Sun Conference (Division 1)
2002 Atlantic Sun Conference (Division 1)
2003 Atlantic Sun Conference (Division 1)
2004 Atlantic Sun Conference (Division 1)
2010 Sun Belt Conference (Division 1)

8 - POST SEASON TOURNAMENTS

5 - NCAA 2 - NIT 1 - CBI
1988 NCAA (Division 2)
1991 NCAA (Division 2)
1992 NCAA (Division 2)
1993 NCAA (Division 2)
2003 NCAA (Division 1)
2004 NIT (Division 1)
2009 CBI (Division 1)
2010 NIT (Division 1)

2 - FINAL FOURS

1988 (Division 2)
1993 (Division 2)
1993 National Finalist (Division 2)

7 - COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS

5 Different Conferences
Gulf South Conference - 1991
NCAA Southeast Region - 1993
East Coast Conference - 1994
Mid-Continental Conference - 1997
Atlantic Sun Conference - 2000
Atlantic Sun Conference - 2004
Sun Belt Conference - 2010

3 - PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

1991 - Calvin Aultman - Gulf South Conference
2000 - Detric Golden - Atlantic Sun Conference
2004 - Greg Davis - Atlantic Sun Conference

39 - ALL CONFERENCE PLAYERS

3 - ALL AMERICANS

1990 - Anthony Reed (Division 2)
1993 - Terry McCord (Division 2)
2004 - Greg Davis - AP Honorable Mention (Division 1)

4 - NCAA SCORING CHAMPIONS

1991 (Division 2)
1992 (Division 2)
1996 (Division 1)
2004 (Division 1)

7 - NCAA THREE POINT

FIELD GOAL TITLES

1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2004, 2005, 2006

3 - NCAA CURRENT RECORDS

258 Points in a Single Game (Division 2 - 1991)
51 3-Pointers in a Single Game (Division 2 - 1991)
28 3-Pointers in Single Game (Division 1 - 1994
Vs. George Mason
University)

Strangers on the Shore

photo by Louis Reuther



Leach Receives Diploma

Michael Leach is officially a Tiger, receiving an honorary Diploma at this past May's graduation ceremony.

Mike Heller gave the introduction as follows:

"Michael Leach (nickname "Teach") -Alumni from 1968 through 2005 all ask to have Mr. Leach join them at their reunions. Now we ask Mr. Michael Leach to officially become a Tiger by accepting an honorary Diploma for Holy Cross School.

There was no pretense in Mike. What you saw was the real thing. He was always frank with flair with wry humor that was almost poetic. Like many of us, Mike found his calling in the classroom. His decades of students will attest to his skill and dedication. As head of the English department, Mike put together a classic package of courses that prepared his students for post HC advancement – in both further education and in life."

BOYS AND THEIR TOYS



Dan McGovern with his cousin Dylan Murry at Watkins Glen International prior to the LMP2 (LeMans Prototype 2) class race. Dylan is with the Jumbo Racing team running in endurance races. Top speed in this one-ton machine is 211 mph, powered by a 4.2 liter V8 naturally-aspirated engine. When this photo was taken Dylan was second in points for LMP2 in the IMSA Michelin Endurance Cup.



Tommy Giroir with his 2001 C5 corvette powered by a stock V8 generating 350 hp.



Charlie Kothmann says his first car was a 1956 Chevy sedan, 235 cu.in. 6 cylinders with a manual shift on the column. He bought it from his brother-in-law for \$150. "I drove it in high school, 4 years in college up in Monroe at NLU, and then another year after I graduated," he said



Dan Colomb's first show car is a 2004 Commemorative Edition Corvette Z06. He says it will do zero to 60 in 3.9 second with its LS6 engine 5.7 liters 405 hp. Dan's shown here with the 3rd place trophy he won in the C5 class. The Vette looks and smells new with only 13 k miles on it.



Roni Sumich's 2007 LT3 with the z1 package V8 LS2 400 hp



The Wizard of Whoosh

The year after I graduated from Holy Cross, I started working with their bus service, so it was only natural that I drove the team bus for the away basketball games. About two years later, after becoming student council moderator, we had an idea: Let's do a spirit week for basketball like we did for football.

By then there was a lot of excitement about the team as more students were going to the games. We needed something to fire up the student body. We were looking to implement something along the lines of TOP week. The Student Council started brainstorming and came up with the name of "Whoosh Week," naming it after the sound the ball makes as it goes through the net.

We created a logo, conducted special intramurals, and had a Whoosh Week dance. It was essentially homecoming for basketball. A week was picked when the team had two home games. We had a variety of activities the students could participate in, such as a free throw competition, one on one, and three on three events. The week ended with a pep rally, a bonfire, and the Whoosh Week dance.

During the week there was also a mystery intramural where something was hidden on campus. Daily clues were given during the morning announcements. John Christman '76 came up with the name of Heraldo Hooch for our mysterious "Wizard of Whoosh." He also wrote the daily clues consisting of 4 to 6 lines of rhyming alliterations.

The first day's clue would allude to what the item was; the second day's clue would make it more obvious as to what the hidden object was; the third day a reference was made to the location. The middle schoolers would be like banshees trying to find it; the upper schoolers attempted to be cool about it, trying not to be obvious in their search. I would hide an object - something like a doubloon or a dime - on a Wednesday so it wouldn't be found right away. Heraldo Hooch would make an appearance at the pep rally wearing an 'old man' mask and a cape and present a check to the winner.



The Wizard of Whoosh

Terry McGaha '70

The Maestri Years: 1970-1979

By Dr. Greg Domecq '75

One of the many definitions of value in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is the relative worth, utility, or importance of an item or concept in one's life. I've always admired Alex Martin's '77 answer on Facebook whenever someone brings up Kenny Hechler's name.

Alex has made his career in journalism at the highest level as he currently serves as the chief print editor/writing editor for the Wall Street Journal. Alex always comments, "How can one thank someone who has given you your life?"

In many ways, I feel that way about Don Maestri and the Holy Cross Basketball Program.



Maestri's first team in 1970-71 (1st Row L-R) Karon Metoyer, Billy Paulson, Victor Duvernay, Ned Couret, John Hauck, Richie Manguno, Chuck Farrell (2nd Row L-R) Greg Collins, Bobby Stolf, Jimmy Wonders, Donald Lucas, Bob Poche, Ricky Suprean, and Tomie Magee

In the early 1970s, Holy Cross basketball became more than just a sport to get Tiger fans through the dreags of winter and connect very successful football and baseball seasons. During the 1969-70 season, the Dauphine Street school only earned 7 wins against 19 losses which included a 2-12 record in the Catholic League.

In the spring of 1970, Br. Robert Hampton, the principal, decided to hire an inexperienced, young junior varsity coach in his early twenties who was a De La Salle graduate, Don Maestri.

Coach Maestri made it clear from the start that the rejuvenation of the program had to be a team effort. Making all involved feel as though they were integral parts of this process may have been the new coach's greatest strength. What happened over the next nine seasons has become part of Holy Cross legend as Maestri amassed a 193-92 record, a 1974 state runner-up finish, a 1976 Catholic League Championship, and broke a fifteen-year drought by qualifying for four state playoff appearances. The changes in the team's success were reflected in the stands as packed houses, pep bands, and enthusiastic support became the norm.



Maestri during his first year as a head coach at HC talks strategy with Tomie Magee '71

In the early days of the program, Maestri would have the team jog around the court pointing at the stands and chanting, "You lucky fans. You lucky fans."

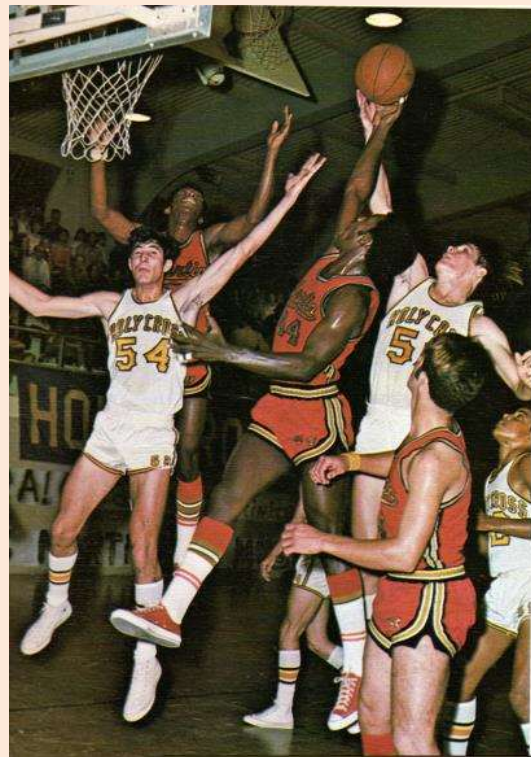
The fans were lucky to watch the Tigers play. Lives on every level were impacted as so many became involved in what a Holy Cross Bulletin article, written by John Christman '76 referred to as the Magical Maestri Tour.

Maestri's first team was much improved as the Tigers posted a 16-11 overall record 9-7 in the Catholic League.

Perhaps the biggest win that year that marked the upswing of hoops on Dauphine Street was a 53-51 overtime upset of state champion Brother Martin. The Tigers proved they could play with the current powers and under their new coach, it would only get better.

The "sophomore jinx" hit Holy Cross as the round ballers took a step back by posting a losing record in the district (7-9). Although season two may have been a disappointment, the Tigers were competitive in several games against stiff competition. They dropped two games to Br. Martin 61-54 in double overtime and 55-51 later that season and a 53-52 win over De La Salle.

There is a quaint cliché that says "the third time is a charm," and that was certainly true for the Bengals' basketball fortunes. The Tigers found their way into the LHSAA State Basketball Playoffs for the first time in 15 years (1957), the year that most of the current sophomores were born.



Bobby Stolf and Bobby Poche scrap on the boards for Maestri's first major upset over Brother Martin in 1971.



The 1973 team that broke the 15 year playoff drought are (first row – L-R) Pete Johnson, Luis Benitez, Karon Metoyer, Ken Trasher, Adrian Knapper, Robert Earl Lipton (second row L-R) Carlos Zuniga, Hayward Hewitt, Don Lucas, Felton Young, Haydel White, and Don Picou.

Let's take a moment to analyze how Holy Cross was able to become a district contender in a relatively short period of time. Let it be said that the Tigers had a core group of very good players in the school at the time. On the 1970-71 team players such as Bobby Poche, Tommy Magee, Victor Duvernay, Ricky Suprean, Bobby Stolf, John Hauck, and others were all dedicated athletes who were committed to the program that Don Maestri was promoting. Their hard work made Holy Cross an attractive landing spot for neighborhood prospects who would have never considered Holy Cross basketball as it was often considered just "something-to-do" for athletes from other programs.

With the blessing of Brother Robert, Coach Maestri set out on a "community outreach" program that would attract several minority students. With the help of Brother Francis Stroz, a work program was initiated to help students-in-need to earn their tuition.

The first of these students was August Keith, Felton Young, Roy LePage, Pete Johnson, and Jerry Richardson. Only two of those players ended up making significant contributions to the program.

Those pioneers, however, proved that it could be done and paved the way for many more over the next decade.



Coach Bill Dwyer

Don Maestri will tell you himself that he was not a great X-0 coach early in his career. Maestri prided himself in teaching defense and the Tigers responded to that training. In fact, Maestri's dad, Don Sr. (The Chief), was a Biddy Basketball coach who was known for a potent offense and big scores from even the youngest of teams.

Several HC players fondly remember "Chief" sitting in the stands at the top of the gym for Saturday morning practices. It wasn't long, however, before Maestri's dad was sound asleep, snoring loudly, as he quickly became bored with Don's attention to detail in a myriad of defensive drills.

Maestri also aligned himself with a former NBA player who was a basketball coach and offensive guru at St James Major, a local elementary school. Bill Dwyer was a New Orleans legend. He was a member of the 1942 Seton Hall team that won the

NIT Tournament and then played for the Portland Trailblazers. He also coached for a stint at the University of Miami. Maestri was always willing to learn from others.

Maestri also had great luck with some outstanding assistant coaches, especially early in his career. Maestri, a University of Southern Mississippi graduate, was able to land Johnny Vitrano who was a star at both St. Aloysius (later merged with Cor Jesu to become Brother Martin) and USM.

He also hired a tough-as-nails guy named Frank Caliri who played for the Marquette Warrior team that lost to Southern Illinois in the 1967 NIT Finals in Madison Square Garden. He often talked about having to guard Walt "Clyde" Frazier of the Salukis who went on to lead the New York Knicks to the 1970 NBA World Championship. No one wanted to go against Caliri at practice because of the physicality of his defense. It didn't hurt that he was a veteran of the Special Forces for the United States of America.



From a 1972 contest at HC Maestri (center) is flanked by Frank Caliri on left and John Vitrano on right.

A bit later in 1976, Terry Gill joined the staff. Terry played at the University of New Orleans for Ron Greene where he helped the team to a Division II Final Four appearance and is still the 2nd all-time assist leader with 442. Terry also led all college divisions in free throw percentage in 1974 when he drained the net for 92.4%. The impact that these three individuals had on Maestri and Holy Cross was significant.⁶



Longtime HC Public Relations Director Ken Hechler was a legend on Dauphine Street

To complete the perfect storm for what was about to happen on the hardwood, there was a core group of teachers at Holy Cross that was looking for a social outlet. Maestri, like the Pied Piper of Hamelin, was able to knit this group into a cohesive group of boosters.

At the top of that list was HC public relations director Ken Hechler, who may have been the best PR man at any level in the state of Louisiana. The Tiger Basketball brochures rivaled, if not surpassed, most Division 1 schools in the country.

Faculty members like Mike Heller, Charlie DiGange, Harold Reese, Mike Orkus, Mike Leach, and Terry McGaha became “basketball groupies.” While the improved play on the court had a lot to do with their involvement, the program’s expectations for academic achievement and Maestri’s ability to make all feel like contributors made HC basketball a true family unit.

Faculty members like Mike Heller,

Like in any family, there is always some controversy. Some of the white students who would have been a contributing factor to basketball teams on Dauphine Street and their parents resented bringing in black players who were more talented into the program who took spots on the teams that these individuals believed were inherently reserved for them. Most of those students stopped trying out for teams and some were vocally opposed to the direction of the program.

During the Maestri years, there were several white players who did make significant contributions on the court to the program’s success. Ricky Ruiz, Nat Kiefer, Dennis Mahoney, David Malone, and Scott Parker were just a few of those players who were critical to many wins. These players are sometimes forgotten when those upset by the number of black players in the mid-seventies complained about the direction taken by the program. It is true that the overall talent level on those teams made playing time scarce for players who otherwise would have played larger roles on those squads.

While I was a “victim” of those times, it was a great experience for me that greatly influenced my life. Based on my level of play at a local summer basketball camp at St. James Major where many of the local white players attended and coaches of other teams, I could have played a much larger role at schools like Jesuit, Shaw, or Chalmette. Had I done that I would have never had the incredible experiences I had with the Tigers. I learned so much about life and understood the impact of racism. I was often harassed during pre-game warm-ups by fans of other schools questioning why a white guy would want to be on a team with so many African Americans. I would not trade my time on those teams for anything in the world.

The 1974 team was truly a breakthrough season. A 35-6 record (most wins in school history) and a Louisiana State AAAA runner-up finish truly put Holy Cross basketball on the map. The most hurtful part of the season was that the Tigers’ nemesis, the Brother Martin Crusaders, appeared five times on the schedule.

HC faced the ‘Saders in both the regular first and second-round home and away matchups, the first-round championship game, the district championship game, and the state championship game. Holy Cross could only defeat Martin on one occasion for the first-round championship at Tulane’s arena in front of 5,000 fans by one point on a last-second drive to the basket by sophomore point guard Pete Johnson. Tiger starters were juniors Hayward Hewitt, Felton Young, Robert Earl Lipton; and sophomores Carlos Zuniga and Pete Johnson. I would be remiss if I did not mention junior, Adrian Knapper, who may have been the best sixth man in the state.

At the conclusion of the season, the Tigers gained national recognition by Street and Smith, a nationally recognized magazine being ranked number 9 in the country. Unfortunately, Brother Martin was ranked 6th. Although the Tigers would lose 6’9 center Felton Young the following season because he would turn 19 years old before the September 1 LHSAA age limitation rule, optimism was rampant for a return to the top the following season.



After a disappointing 67-56 loss to Brother Martin in the state finals at Rapides Parish Coliseum in Alexandria, Louisiana. Front is Robert Earl Lipton, back L-R Manual Potlongo, Greg Domecq, Nat Kiefer, Warren Seymore, and Hayward Hewitt, and Warren Seymore.

Even though the expectations were high for the 1975 team, the result was disappointing. The result was due in large part to a change in the way the Catholic League scheduled the season.

For as long as I can remember, the league determined the champion by having two rounds. The first-round champion would play the second-round champion for the district championship and both teams would qualify for the state tournament. For whatever reason, there was a change for this one year only. The schedule included a home-home series against each school for a 14-game regular season. The best record would be the district champion and everyone else would be seeded into a district tournament. Only the district champion and the tournament champion would qualify for the state playoffs.

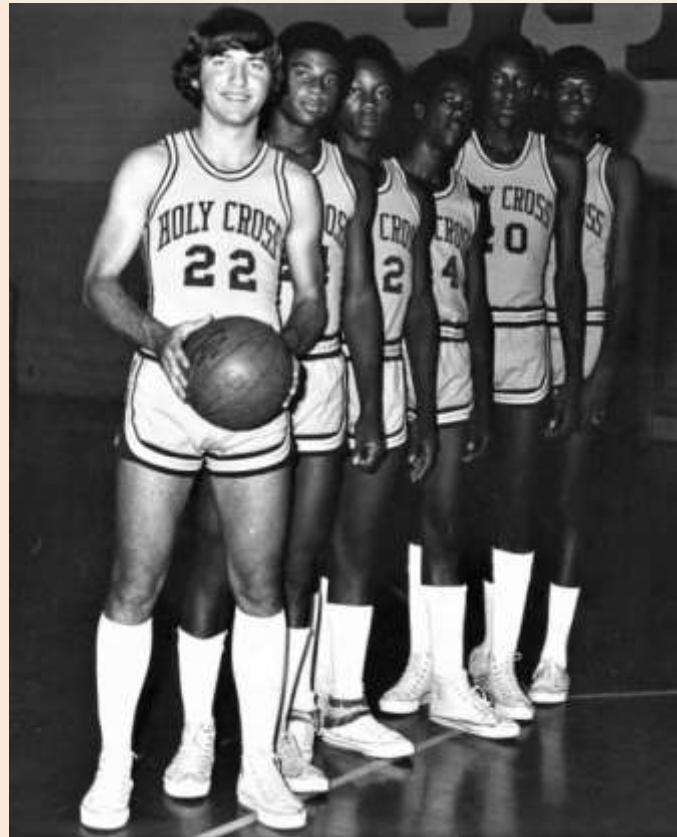
St. Augustine had the best overall record even though they lost twice to Holy Cross. In the old schedule, the Tigers would have tied for the second-round championship. Instead, HC faced De La Salle in a one-game winner-take-all at the UNO Health and PE Center (The Chamber of Horrors). Holy Cross was upset by the Cavaliers 47-45 and on February 22, 1975, the season was over for the Tigers without even a playoff bid. DLS went on to the state finals losing to an undefeated LB Landry team in the championship game. With a 26-7 overall record, Maestri was quoted at season's end,

“This group of kids was the hardest working, the most dedicated, and the closest-knit team I have ever coached.”

With a sense of accomplishment, the disappointment was still very real.

The roller coaster ride continued in 1976 as the Tigers won their first Catholic League Championship since 1945. The highlight of the season came in the Louisiana Superdome as HC defeated St. Augustine 66-47 to capture the crown.

If that were the pinnacle of the season, the valley occurred a week later when the 32-2 Tigers faced East Jefferson in the first round of the playoffs. The Warriors upset Holy Cross 60-57 to end the season on another “what could have been” moment. This was a heavily laden senior team with starters Nat Kiefer, Pete Johnson, Dennis Mahoney, Manuel Potlongo, and Carlos Zuniga leading the way. Key reserves like Llewelyn Howard, John Christman, and Larry Poche were also seniors. The end of this season left a different feeling as Tiger fans wondered how Maestri would rebuild the program that had become a perennial district power.



1975 Holy Cross Seniors Greg Domecq, Adrian Knapper, Robert Earl Lipton, Joe Johnson, Hayward Hewitt, and Warren Seymore.



The 1976 Catholic League Champion Team, the first since 1945: (First Row L-R) Armand Sinibaldi, Cedric Mark, Billy Vogt, David Malone, Lewellyn Howard, Nat Kiefer, Pete Johnson: (Second Row L-R) Head Coach Don Maestri, Larry Poche, Carlos Zuniga, Manua Potlongo, John Christman, Dennis Mahoney, Assistant Coach Terry Gill.

In what can only be called a rebuilding year, the Tigers overall record dipped to 12-17. Maestri's new project got better as the year progressed finishing with four wins in the second round earning a 5-9 district record. The Tigers added a talented 6'8' junior

center, Jimmy Carter to a roster that included seniors Cary Landry, Cedric Mark, and Billy Vogt. Contributing underclassmen juniors Eddie Madison, David Malone, Armand Sinibaldi, Demetrius Smith, Earl Dejan, Larry Smith; sophomores Rocky Arceneaux, Steve Gilliland provided a young group that made the future seem a bit brighter.

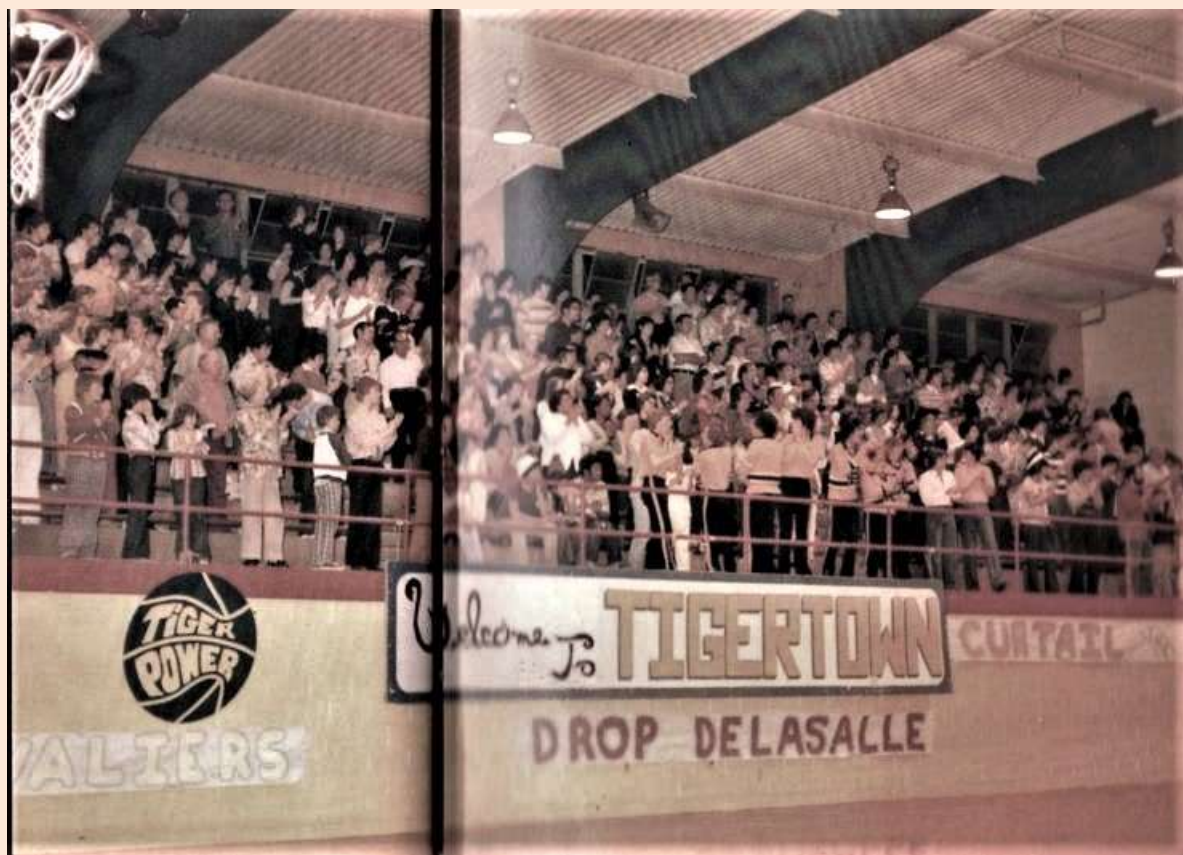


Heraldo Hooch, the Wizard of Whoosh, made his first appearance in 1976.

While there were many changes on the hardwood for the Tigers, a new innovative spirit program that became known as "Whoosh Week" was embraced by the student body. The new concept was the brainchild of Terry McGaha '70 who served as the student council moderator and David Havrylkoff '77, the council coordinator.

"We created a logo, conducted special intramurals, and held a Whoosh Week dance. It was essentially homecoming for basketball,"

said McGaha. John Christman is credited with naming Herald Hooch, the mysterious Wizard of Whoosh. McGaha also credited Tommy Krysan and Paul McMahon as important drivers of the new initiative.



Packed Houses, pep bands, and excitement became the norm during the Maestri Years.

The Tigers did shine during the 1978 campaign as many viewed this year as perhaps Maestri's best coaching job. The team was led by seniors Jimmy Carter and David Malone and earned the district runner-up to the Rummel Raiders. The hoopsters earned a 6-1 record in the second round losing only to defending state champion Rummel who went on to win it again in 1978. The Tigers made the playoffs and some noise reeling off wins against East Jefferson and Cohen before dropping a 63-59 decision to HL Bourgeois. HC earned a 26-9 overall record which put them right back in the New Orleans basketball spotlight. Once again, however, Maestri lost seven seniors off this squad and there were more questions than answers for the following season.

I can add some personal notes on the summer of 1978 and the Holy Cross Basketball program as Coach Maestri asked me to coach the team in the city summer league that was held at East Jefferson High School. Using a hot shooting Rocky Arceneaux and a dependable Harold Toscano and Ron Pierce as well as an inside presence of Steve

Gilliland and Wayne Morrison this HC team far exceeded expectations by winning the league championship which raised the bar for the 1979 prep season.

In another rebuilding prep season, the Tigers dropped to a 6-8 district record and a 12-17 overall record and no playoff appearance. HC once again improved throughout the year earning a winning record in the 2nd round of the Catholic League schedule.

Perhaps the biggest win of the year was a “Woosh Week” victory over Jesuit 70-65. To me, however, the most memorable game was the final game of the year, an 86-85 win over Archbishop Shaw on the road. It was a big game as it marked the last game Don Maestri would ever coach at Holy Cross. In fact, sealed in a box in my trophy case at home is the chalk that Maestri used in the locker room that final day. While it may not net me much money if I decided to put it up on eBay, it is worth the world to me!



—Photo by Paul Palermo, Tipery Studio

Holy Cross' Centennial Tiger basketball team is pictured around the famed Holy Cross Gazebo, a landmark on the Dauphine Street campus. Originally a street car stop, the Gazebo now stands as a symbol of the great traditions of Holy Cross School in this, her 100th Year. Members of the team include [bottom] Terrance Morgan, Tom Dukes, Joe Arceneaux, Harold Kelly, Ron Pierce, Warren Allen, [top] Steve Gilliland, John Tucker, Barry Griffin, Howie Vollenweider, Harold Toscano, Scott Parker, Wayne Morrison, and Keith Haggerty.

While my association with Don Maestri and Holy Cross Basketball did not get off on the right foot, those experiences, like those of Alex Martin '77 with Ken Hechler, paved the way for much of my professional career.

I grew up in an "over-protective" home. My mother never allowed me to play sports as a kid because of my brother's lack of athleticism and her fear that I would get hurt. Holy Cross opened so many doors for me.

I made the Babe Ruth team at HC in seventh grade as a pitcher. While warming up before the first game even started, there was an overthrown ball in the infield that whacked me on the side of the head and knocked me unconscious. I was taken to St. Claude General where I was diagnosed with a concussion. My mother ended my baseball career that day.

I then made the junior varsity football team in eighth grade. I had two lumps on my knees and before the start of the season, my mother took me to the orthopedic doctor in Gentilly, Dr. Nabos. I was diagnosed with Osgood-Schlatter disease, and I had to wear leg braces at night. My mother ended my football career that day before the first game.

All I had left was basketball.

My eighth-grade year was Maestri's first year as the coach. I "hired" a junior basketball player named Ricky Suprean to teach me the fundamentals. I was paying him out of my own pocket from the funds I raised from my Christmas break and spring break job filling fire extinguishers. One day I was working with Ricky in the HC gym and Maestri came through and asked to speak with him.

They took a few steps away from me but at a close enough distance for me to hear. Maestri told Ricky that he wanted him to stop working with me because I would never be good enough to make a team at Holy Cross.

I was devastated.

I became possessed at getting better every day. I would spend eight to ten hours most days at St. James Major outdoor courts working endlessly on fundamental drills and playing pick-up. I also attended all of Coach Dwyer's camps at St. James, again using my own money to attend.

I played freshman ball the following year and junior varsity for Coach Vitrano as a sophomore. At the end of my sophomore year Coach Maestri moved me up to the varsity.

On that day, Coach Maestri used me as an example to the rest of the team. He remembered the story about talking to Ricky in the gym that day. The message was that one could accomplish anything if he was willing to be committed to the process.

Having never met my father, Coach Maestri became a father figure to me. Being selected as one of the captains my senior year means as much to me as the doctorate degree I have earned at the University of Virginia.

Maestri gave me my first high school coaching experience with the summer league team in June of 1978. I went on to be a varsity assistant and JV coach at HC (1979-82), and a varsity assistant at Newman (1982-85). My first high school head coaching job was at Riverside Academy where I was named the 4AA Coach-of-the-Year (1986).

Then I went on to St. Martin's in Metairie where we earned the best record in school history (27-5) and I earned the area Coach-of-the-Year (1988).

I was then helped by Coach Maestri who used his connections with Wimp Sanderson, the head coach at Alabama, who was close with UVA assistant Dave Odom, a UVA assistant, to get an interview for a spot on the staff at the University of Virginia. I was fortunate to work at UVA under both Terry Holland (1988-90) and Jeff Jones (1990-92). I also had the opportunity to coach the JV team at Virginia for four years.

While at UVA, I coached on the bench for the 1990 ACC Championship game, a loss to Georgia Tech; and a 1992 NIT Championship game, an overtime victory over Notre Dame. I then went on to Winthrop University in South Carolina where I recruited most of the players who won the Big South Championship in both 1999 and 2000.



Domecq (left) on the 1990 UVA staff that was the ACC Runner's Up... After Domecq (L-R) assistant coach Craig Littlepage, Head Coach Terry Holland, Assistant Coach Jeff Jones, and Assistant Coach Tom Perrin.

Those years were some of the happiest professional days of my life, and in many ways, I owe those successes to both Don Maestri and the Holy Cross Basketball Program. When Brother Robert made that decision in the spring of 1970 to hire Maestri, Holy Cross basketball was not only transformed into a New Orleans basketball power, but it also became a vehicle that changed lives.

Greg Domecq '75

The Wonders I Have Seen *photo by David Falgoust*





New Videos

Two new videos have been uploaded to the HC Class of '71 YouTube Channel: Sweet Talking Guy by Da Rockitts and some scenes from our Crawfish Boil

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqN2_US_UEwLPJT8N7dpTyA/videos?view_as=subscriber

Harry Schmidt Retires

Harry Schmidt has retired from Bergeron Auto after 41 years of service.

"I enjoyed helping people select a car,' said Harry. "By treating people right, offering a good product at a fair price and service after the sale, I've sold cars to three generations of customers."

He says he'll miss the interaction with his customers.

Two weeks after he retired, he moved to Lafayette to spend more time with his grandchildren.

His break from the auto industry will not be long-lived as he's now helping his daughter and her fiancé with two used car lots, soon to expand to three.





Sam and Julie Bolen in the Badlands

When Half A Loaf is Better Than No Loaf At All

July 22, 2022

By Ron Brocato, Sports

Clarion Herald

There's a trophy in the lobby of the Holy Cross administration building that stands as one of the oldest relics of New Orleans prep football. It has survived for 97 years.

The prize once earned in battle is one half of a silver football mounted on a wooden plaque. It marks the first time the local Catholic school held its own against the mighty Warren Easton team at the dawn of its rivalry.

The plaque tells a story of a furious and often bitter battle between one Catholic and one public school whose only similarity was their sports teams' zeal to beat each other. It was a war of wills that over the decades became a model of respect for the enemy. Holy Cross' football program was just three years old when the 1925 season started. In three earlier meetings against the Eagles, Holy Cross was beaten by scores of 38-0, 9-0 and 53-6.



But that all changed in 1925 when Coach Jimmy Burns inherited several boarding students who had migrated from Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. It seemed that these students knew a thing or two about playing with the pigskin.

Nevertheless, Easton's coach, Perry Roehm, dismissed Holy Cross' early 4-0 record as an anomaly heading into the

clash of the two schools in Week 5. After all, his team's true rival was Jesuit, against whom they played every year since 1915 before large crowds. And the Eagles had won five games in a row entering the fray.

Most of Holy Cross' home games were played on Sundays in the school's baseball park, but this one was moved to the larger Heinemann field which could accommodate a larger crowd (the attendance was recorded as 1,200).

But there was a lot of spirit in the stands. Holy Cross' male cheerleaders recruited several girls from nearby Holy Angels Academy, who, in turn, encouraged their friends attending the other all-girls Catholic schools to lend their support to the Tigers.

When the contingent of cheerleaders, now fortified with feminine rooters, entered the stadium, they encountered their public school counterparts from Sophie Wright and Esplanade Schools for Girls. It was a festive and spirited gathering, with both sides exchanging volleys of partisan cheers.

Accounts of the game cited that Easton outplayed Holy Cross for 60 minutes, pounding out 14 first downs, but was unable to move the ball into their opponent's end zone. Roehm's team was stymied by penalties and fumbles and a defense that turned back the Eagles six times from inside Holy Cross' 5-yard line.

After the game ended in a scoreless tie, the local media criticized Roehm's strategy of running the same line plunges into the heart of the Tigers' resilient and persistent defense on every down.

Following the game, Easton factions filed a protest with the Prep League alleging that several Holy Cross players did not meet the terms of eligibility. Hearing that, an investigation was mounted by league president P.J. Flanagan, who concluded after conferring with league secretary Leon DiBenedetto, that Easton had based its opinion on rumors and not a specific charge.

"In conclusion, we might add that Holy Cross is the only school in New Orleans to ever open its books for an investigation of this kind to show that they are conducting athletics on a higher plane than any other school we know of," Flanagan said.

Roehm then tried to have the tie for the city championship nullified by claiming that Holy Cross was not a member of the state association and was not eligible for state championship honors. Flanagan dismissed the argument and verified the dual championship.

The silver football was cut in half, and trophies were presented to each school, proving that a half-loaf is better than none at all.

Ron Brocato

David Michael "Dave" Ponthier

of Lacombe, Louisiana, passed away on July 26, 2022, at the age of 68. He was a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, born on October 2, 1953, to his loving parents, the late Haybon 'Hap' Ponthier and Beverly Savoie Ponthier. Dave is the cherished father of Stuart Michael Ponthier, Dustin Christopher Ponthier, Brooke Annette Ponthier, and Erica Marie Ponthier; proud grandfather of Autumn Naomi Watts; and treasured brother of Stephen Ponthier, Robin Rosenthal, and the late Wade Ponthier. Dave attended the University of New Orleans and Louisiana Technical Institute. He was a master carpenter and contractor, a career he thoroughly enjoyed. Dave also enjoyed gardening, fishing, cooking, and fixing cars. He was a talented musician, playing both the French horn and piano.



Pamela Ann Laciura



Pam."

aged 67, beloved sister, aunt, cousin, and friend, passed away on August 13, 2022. She will be remembered for her love of family, her wonderful cooking and baking, and her infectious laugh. Born July 29, 1955, Pam grew up in the Mid-City area of New Orleans before moving to St. Bernard Parish and then St. Tammany Parish after Hurricane Katrina. She is survived by her brothers Anthony Laciura (Joelle), Jerry Laciura (Gigi); her sister Shirley Barnett (Steve); her nieces Sarah Barnett and Michelle Savage (Greg); her nephew Christopher Laciura (Jessica); her grandnieces Rosemary Crist, Lily West, Mia West, and Olivia Laciura; her grandnephew Andrew Laciura; her great-grandniece Remi Couch; her cousins Mary Ann Himel and Shirley Ann Calcagno; extended family and dear friends, including Katelyn Atkins (Alana) and Daniel Pixton, who called her "Nanny

Charles James Folse, Jr.

passed away peacefully on September 16, 2022 at the age of 75 from Parkinson's disease. Beloved husband of Linda Cuadrado Folse. Father of James Peter Folse (fiancé, Rebecca Hardiman), Brian Charles Folse (dec.), and Kelly Folse Dieudonne. Grandfather of Christopher Michael Dieudonne, Jr., brother of Larry J. Folse (Peggy), and Kathy F. Scheuermann (Gabby-dec.).

Charles (Jimmy to family), graduated from Cross High School in 1966 and Southeastern Louisiana University in 1971 where he met his wife, Linda. He was a member of TKE fraternity at SLU. He and Linda were married in August of 1971 and moved to Columbus, Ohio for a job with



Holy

Libby Glass there, then followed to Shreveport, LA, for a job with Libby Glass Plant, then finally to Metairie for a job at the Kaiser Aluminum Plant in Chalmette.

James Edward Adams

entered into eternal rest on June 24, 2022. Beloved husband of the late Dorothy Barnett Adams. Companion of Marlys Heindel. Father of Sharon "Sherry" A. Buras (Rocky), Terry A. Rittiner (Blair Jr.), and James "Jim" Adams (Yvette). Grandfather of Becky Reed (Lyle), Breana Dunne (Brian), Jamie James (Anthony), Blair Rittiner III (Jennifer), Bryan Rittiner (Laura), Lori Jas (Gabe), Yve Simoneaux (Micah), Melissa Boggs (Hugh), and Sarah Adams. Great-grandfather of Nicholas, Nathan, Brianna, Logan, Emma, Caleb, Sabrina, Jacob, Emma, Blair IV, Carson, Gabriel, Julia, Ellie, Olive, Ruddy, Ayva, Charlotte, Amelia, and Hugh. Son of the late Arthur Adams and Maude Jackson Adams. Brother of Rindy Hetherington (late George) and the late William "Bill" Adams (Gail).. Age 94 years, a native of Beaumont, TX and resident of Gretna, LA. Jim traveled the world in his career as a petroleum engineer.



Calvin George Byrne Sr.

passed away peacefully on June 19, 2022, at the age of 93. Calvin is survived by his sons, Byron Hugh Byrne (Debbie), Kevin Joseph Byrne (Anne), and Timothy Sean Byrne (Ann); daughter, Erin Marie Byrne; and grandchildren, Dr. Emma Byrne Levenson Moore, Abbie Rose Levenson, Jennifer Byrne Robinson, and Evan Matthew Byrne; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Joyce Traub Byrne; son, Calvin George Byrne, Jr.; son-in-law, William Joshua Levenson; parents, Hugh Byrne, Sr. and Emma Anderson Byrne; and siblings, Emmett Byrne, Conrad Byrne, Isabella Byrne McGrath, Hugh Byrne, Jr., Eugene Byrne, and Thomas Byrne. Calvin was a New Orleans



native and a 53-year resident of Chalmette prior to relocating to Diamondhead, MS following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He graduated from S. J. Peters High School in New Orleans. He served in the U. S. Navy post World War II and was stationed in Alaska. He worked for Lusk Shipping Company as a Stevedoring Operations Manager for over 35 years and held similar titles at Roadway Express and Highway Express shipping companies as a second job to provide for his family.

Frances Kentner LeBreton



died on Thursday, June 2, 2022, at her home in Baton Rouge. She was 93 years old. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a resident of New Orleans for 73 years. She attended Newcomb College and had been active over the years in the Juniors of the New Orleans Woman's Club, Les Nouvelles Woman's Club, Zeta Tau, Alpha Alumnae, and the People Program. She was the beloved wife of the late Albert Leon LeBreton, Jr., daughter of the late William Albert Kentner and Frances Marie McGuigan, mother of the late Amy Frances LeBreton. She is survived by her children, Linda Ann LeBreton, Albert Leon LeBreton III (Michelle), Diana Marie LeBreton, and René Stephen LeBreton (Susan), and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The Holy Cross Class of 1971 Facebook page can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HolyCross1971>

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