

Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 1969

By Tom Bodle

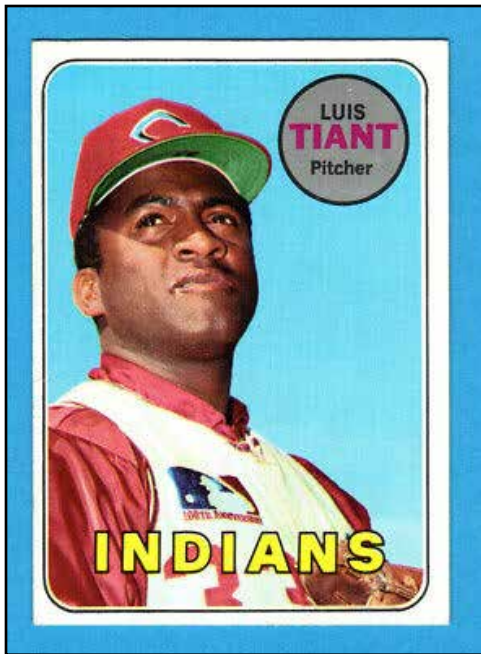
Clink..clank..clink..clank, the sound of the pulleys pierced the air as excited riders climbed the steepest first hill on Euclid Beach Park's roller coaster, "the Thriller". At the peak of the hill could be seen the entire park. The renowned carousel, the rocket ship ride, the "flying turns", the "over the falls" coaster and rotor stood out. Down below hundreds of joyful park attendees walked the concourse, stepped into "Laughing Sal's" fun house, played games in the "Arcade" and feasted on popcorn balls and candy kisses. Breathtaking vistas of the Lake Erie shoreline were on display as suddenly the coaster dropped, as from under one's feet, into the hills and turns of the ride. Screams and laughter carried through the minute and a half ride, followed by "let's do it again!" as riders exited.

Euclid Beach Park opened in 1895 on a prominent beach on Cleveland's east side. Developers purchased the site with the dream of creating a "Coney Island" style amusement center. The first owners failed and quickly went into debt. Dudley S. Humphrey and his family took over management in 1901 and quickly improved the facilities, added rides and tried to create a family friendly atmosphere. Through the next six decades, the Park provided a center for family fun, church social events, labor union picnics, safety patrol days, dances and millions of fond memories.

Euclid Beach was also a neighbor to St. Joseph High School. Located a little over one mile west on Lake Shore Blvd. it was a place many of us visited during the summertime. The Euclid bus system's Euclid Beach line dropped many a Viking off as it moved to the park's entrance to turn around on its route. On September 28, 1969 the last screams cried out from the Thriller, as Euclid Beach Park not only "closed for the season" but closed forever.

September 28th also concluded the Cleveland Indians first season in the newly structured American League. With expansion, the Tribe was placed in the A.L. East. In 1968, the Indians had their best team in a decade. Pitching was its strength behind Sam





McDowell, Luis Tiant and Sonny Siebert. The Indians finished third and gave hope for an Indian summer in 1969. Cleveland lacked “pop” in their lineup. Early in the season General Manager Gabe Paul and manager Alvin Dark made a “blockbuster” trade with Boston. They secured power hitter Ken “Hawk” Harrelson and hoped he would be a catalyst for the Tribe. The Indians had to give up a solid starter in Sonny Siebert and a very good catcher in Jose Azcue. Harrelson turned out to be only average in his effect on the team. Also Luis Tiant failed to have his star-studded 1968 performance, as he could only muster a 9-21 record. Cleveland finished in last place at 62-99 and forty-six and one half games behind the division champions Baltimore Orioles.

It was a quiet week at St. Joseph High School. Academically the mid-term of the first quarter was reached. Students were either adjusting to the new schedule with “unstructured time” or trying to get a plan to survive the first quarter as best they could.



It was an off week in football. Only nine games were able to be scheduled. Still football was a hot topic as the gridders climbed in state ratings and the Cleveland Plain Dealer confirmed that the St. Joe-St. Ed football game would be moved to Municipal stadium as part of the P.D.’s Charity Football Classic. This game would be the second game of a double-header which would lead off with the Cleveland Senate championship.

Cross Country continued their successful season as the team placed second at the Ashland College Invitation. Jim Stanley led the harriers with a 3rd place finish.

The second edition of the Norseman was distributed in homerooms on October 3rd. The staff did a wonderful job of reporting news at St. Joe as well as creating a forum for “hot topics” of the day. This edition featured opinion pieces by Larry Gaia, Peter Ciofani and Dave Taft concerning the military draft. Greg Patt unveiled His “BullScraps” column which touched on a variety of in school topics. *(Editor’s note: Since Tom mentioned it, I couldn’t resist adding an example! GP)*

Shalom, the Vikings folk music ensemble, concluded the week by hosting a folk festival. Folk groups from within St. Joe and from area high schools participated in the event.

Turning the calendar into the first full week of October, Vikings were anticipating a return to some football as Chanel was the next team on the horizon. #

Norseman

A Publication of the Students of

St. Joseph High School

BULLSCRAPS

by Greg Patt

END OF THE QUARTER

BOXSCORE

Social Studies Department .3 pts.
for their award winning video
tape masterpieces.

Junior class 10 pts.

Pressing question of the month
---Should the Sophomores have
the privilege of voting for the
homecoming queen? But then what
privileges are left to them as
upperclassmen?

Quote from Tony Pallela about an item in my last column: “If you think Student Council has trouble getting ideas for the dances, you oughta see the trouble I have getting dates for them.”