

Dec. 7-13, 1969

By Tom Bodle

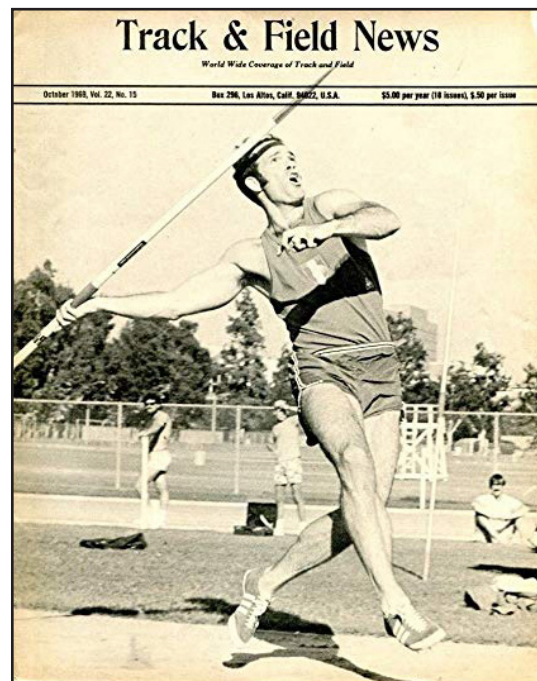
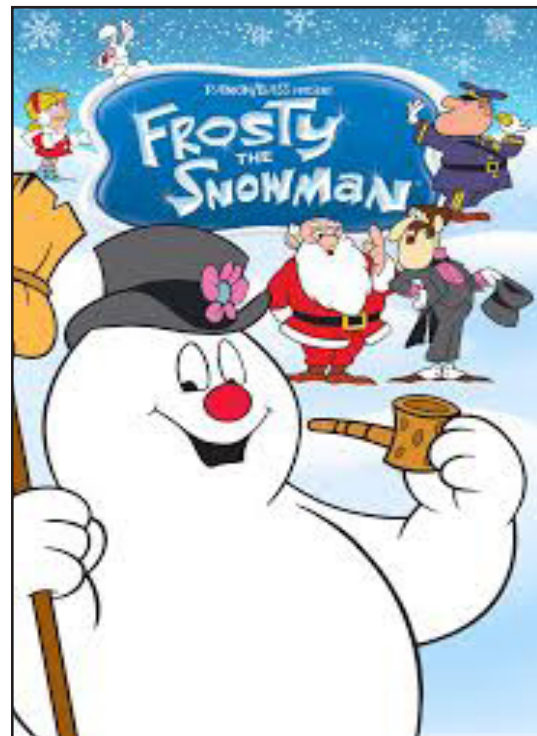
By Monday of the second week of December, 1969 holiday atmosphere was building in the halls of St. Joseph High School. After a jam-packed weekend of basketball, wrestling, Christmas trees and the music program at the Browns game, Sunday night offered an escape from reality with the broadcast presentation of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and the premier of "Frosty the Snowman." Narrated by the iconic Jimmy Durante, his distinct voice introduced an animated story which is a holiday staple, now in its 50th year.

Driving to school, the local pop AM stations were interspersing Christmas music with their top 40 fare. Number 1 for its second week, Steam's "Na, Na, Hey, Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" topped the charts, while Arlo Guthrie's "Alice's Restaurant" debuted. Canton's O'Jays introduced their "Motown" Christmas single "Christmas Just Ain't Christmas Without You" into the array of Christmas tunes.

As the week passed, homerooms decorated their rooms and Student Council, through Special Activity chairman Evan Zupancic, lit up the front of the school building with red and blue spotlights.

In sports, on the international level, Bill Toomey broke the world record in the decathlon this week. Toomey was a superstar in track and field. His career included 23 victories in 38 decathlons, the highlight being the 1968 gold medal. His 8,417 points on Dec. 12th was the benchmark for almost three years.

Another big sports weekend was in the offering for Viking fans. Smarting after their loss to Mansfield St. Peter, the basketball team had a pair of Crown Conference games on their schedule. The cagers traveled to Parma to take on Padua. The Vikings were in a battle from the start. By the fourth quarter, the Bruins took control and wrapped up a 71-64 victory. Padua was undefeated in the conference with St. Joe a game behind. An epic rematch awaited later in the season. The hoopers rebounded the next evening. Entering the "Lions Den" at Cathedral Latin, Pat Lyons, Jim Hill





Well Prepared for Life

As a senior at St. Joseph High School, I was deeply disappointed by the letter of John Barno, which appeared in the News-Journal Dec. 4.

I entered St. Joe in the fall of 1966 knowing little about anything and not caring about either my religion or my fellow man. Now, thanks to those like Fr. Ken Sommer, Bro. Mike O'Grady, John McMahon — as well as the entire Christian community present at St. Joseph — I will leave in a few short months ready to face any problem that my life may give to me.

As for whether or not a Catholic education is worth its extra costs, up to \$500, how can anyone put a monetary value on maturity, a Christian dedication, or the atmosphere of true friendship that is typical of St. Joseph?

Any great community needs a great leader, and I believe that we have one in Bro. Philip T. Aaron, our principal. Although considered by many, including many students, to be rather inactive and permissive, he alone has done much for the betterment of St. Joseph that no one has seen or ever will.

You still don't believe that St. Joseph High School is worth the price? You still feel that St. Joseph High School is not fulfilling its obligations as a Catholic high school? Ask any Viking.

Jim Kubala
18761 Naumann ave.

and company displayed the dominance they showed in their first four games. The Vikes came away with a 97-53 win and were 5-2.

Jeff Myers continued to excite Viking wrestling fans with his late-match heroics. Benedictine had a 2 point lead entering the final bout against St. Joe. Myers stepped onto the mat versus his Bengal opponent and in 24 seconds pinned him to the delight of the Viking faithful. For the third straight match Myers' heroics propelled his team to success, this time with a 23-19 victory.

A topic in the local newspapers in late autumn was the "value of catholic education," "was it worth the price," (at that time about \$500 per high school student.) Catholic school principals were interviewed, journalists gave their opinions and letters were sent by readers to the editors reflecting their views. Our principal, Brother Philip Aaron, took an unexpected approach when he attended a parent forum at Holy Cross parish. In a Cleveland Press article, Br. Aaron was not a salesman for the entirety of Catholic schools. "Some are worth the money, some are not." He emphasized that the value was not in academics or facilities but that those schools that offer their students the freedom to show "initiative, creativity and to search...search for Christ." That is the value of Catholic education. Our classmate, Jim Kubala also weighed in on the topic with a December 11th letter to the News Journal responding to a critical letter from a reader. "Catholic education made me well prepared for life," was the title of his letter. He praised his teachers and the leadership of Br. Aaron. "How can anyone put a monetary value on maturity, Christian dedication and the atmosphere of true friendship that is typical at St. Joseph?"

Jim's response resonates today. Our education at St. Joseph is why I write these chronicles and hopefully why you read them. St. Joseph high school is the foundation of why we re-unite periodically, to share memories and renew friendships. Yes, the value was well worth the price! Can't wait for September 24-27, 2020!

Don't miss out!

Class of '70 Reunion

Thursday, Sept. 24-Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020