

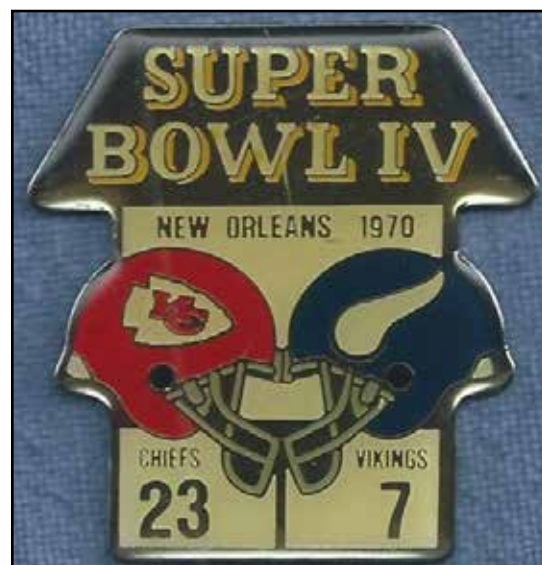
January 11-18, 1970

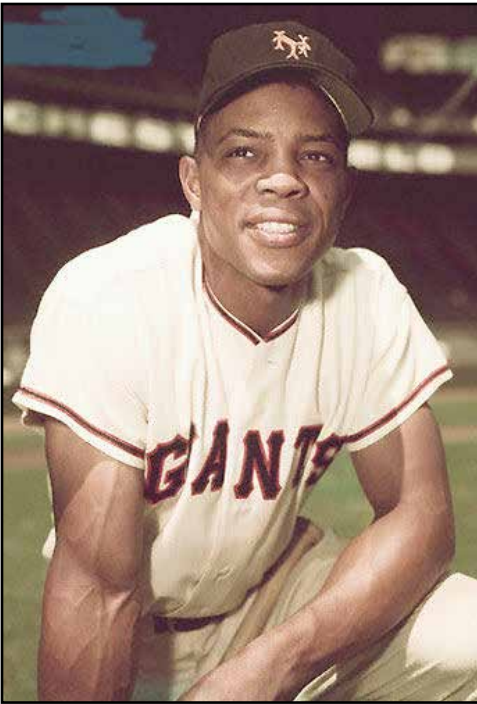
By Tom Bodle

Northeast Ohio was greeted in mid-January with a stretch of frosty weather. Arctic cold temperatures in the low twenties for highs and single digits for the lows were present at the start of a new week. The depths of cold brought only a small dusting of snow, to the delight of those who drive but to the dismay of those looking for a snow day.

Professional sports dominated the national scene this week. Bookend football games encompassed the week. January 11th was Super Bowl Sunday. The game would be the final contest involving what was known as the American Football League and the National Football League. The Fall of 1970 would see the creation of the new National Football League, with the former leagues being renamed as conferences. Teams would be realigned into two conferences with three divisions. The Cleveland Browns, Pittsburgh Steelers and Baltimore Colts agreed to affiliate with the American Conference in order to balance the number of teams in each.

Super Bowl IV was the last opportunity for “bragging rights” between the two former leagues. The NFL was considered by many to be the stronger of the two, celebrating its 50th year. The AFL was the upstart, “new kid” at only 10 years old. The New York Jets surprise upset of Baltimore in the 1969 Super Bowl was seen as a fluke. The Minnesota Vikings entered Super Bowl IV carrying the honor of the old guard NFL. The Vikings were the “toast of the NFL.” The Bud Grant team was 12-2 and came off a resounding victory over the Cleveland Browns in the NFL championship. Kansas City was 11-3 and survived highly competitive play-off games. Minnesota entered Tulane Stadium in New Orleans as thirteen point favorites over Hank Stram and his Chiefs. Surprisingly, Kansas City’s defense shut down the Vikings. Minnesota only managed 67 yards rushing and was intercepted three times. The Vikings could only muster a third quarter touchdown. Kansas City’s Len Dawson was masterfully efficient in quarterbacking





against the vaunted “Purple People Eater” defense. Scoring drives producing two touchdowns and three Jan Stenerud field goals led the Chiefs to a 23-7 victory and the crowning as “Champions.”

At the end of the week, the professional football season would conclude with the two league all star games. John Hadl of the Los Angeles Chargers led the AFL West to a 26-3 dismantling of the East in the AFL all-star game.. In the NFL's 20th Pro Bowl, Chicago Bears' running back Gale Sayers led the West to a 16-13 victory over the East.

Even as the weather was at its most frigid, the “boys of summer” made news. The “say hey kid”, Willie Mays was acclaimed baseball's “Player of the Decade” for the 1960's. More consequential was St. Louis outfielder Curt Flood. On January 16th, he filed a lawsuit challenging baseball's “Reserve Clause”, which gave owners control over a player's contract. The two year adjudication would eventually lead to free agency in major league baseball.



In significant world news during this week, tensions in Belfast, Northern Ireland resurfaced. The summer of 1969 had been fractious. The British army had been brought in to quell the fighting between Catholic communities and those aligned with Great Britain. For several months tensions had moderated, but during this mid-January Belfast once again became engulfed in riots and demonstrations. In Africa, Muammar Gaddafi seized power. After a four and half-month coup, Gaddafi and his supporters overthrew the Libyan monarch and he established himself as the “Premier of Libya.” Also in Africa, the two and a half year attempt of Biafran independence from Nigeria came to an end. Biafra was forced to succumb to Nigerian authority.

The winds off Lake Erie were bone chilling as Viking students entered their hallowed halls this week. The smattering of snow covering the football field resembled the tundra regions of the far north. The first semester was in its last stretch. As students gathered in the cafeteria during unstructured time or for lunch, the savory smell of the famed “hot rolls” warmed the senses during this frigid week. There was so much to unite students at St. Joe's over the years, but the memory of those fresh baked, hot rolls from the cafeteria staff perhaps is the first on the list of all of the memories of high school.



One of the major changes in courses at St. Joe in this school year, was the restructuring of Religious Studies. Vatican II had created monumental changes in the Catholic Church. In an effort to make religion classes more pertinent as well as to implement educational changes, the Religion Department moved to a curriculum which had large group (close to 100 students) and small group (30-40 students) sessions. In the team taught large groups, held in the school's chapel, major presentations were given as well as broad base discussions involving religious doctrine, social teachings and other “life-orientating” topics. Small groups were used for note taking, smaller discussions



and testing. This mid-January, the Religion Department along with a group of parents and administrators which formed “the Religion Advisory Group” held the second of two forums for all parents to help communicate the many changes which were occurring. Vatican II was so new that it was important to give information about the contrast between the Old and New Theology, the meaning of Pentecostal prayer, how retreats can take on a variety of forms and the process and content learning strategies that were in religious education.



As the school week ended, the Viking winter sports teams were ready to go. The hoop squad travelled to Chanel on Friday. They were on a roll after two early December losses. Blistering the Firebirds with an 81-57 win, the basketball team improved to 11-2, with a 5-1 Crown Conference record. Also in Crown Conference action, the wrestlers took on St. Edward. The Eagles and Vikings had built themselves into formidable wrestling programs. St. Ed had won the Catholic Invitational, while the Vikes took second. Senior wrestlers Brian Swetlin, Mark Hummer and Jeff Myers performed well with wins. Hummer came from a 2-0 deficit to win 4-3 and Jeff Myers upset St. Ed's Ed Trepanier. Both wrestlers remained undefeated for the season. The Eagles however emerged with a 23-19 victory and Crown Conference bragging rights.

As the weekend began, the weather modified and temperatures reached the high thirties.

A new semester was about to begin and our last semester at St. Joseph was on the near horizon.

