

## March 15-21, 1970

By Tom Bodle

“Beware the Ides of March!” This phrase, familiar to students of Fr. Reich’s Latin classes and Mr. Roger Lancaster’s British Literature study of Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar”, referred to the ancient Roman calendar’s middle of the month. The Ides of March was equivalent to the modern day March 15th. The Romans often treated the Ides of a month as a day to honor their gods and to celebrate. For Julius Caesar, it was the day on which Brutus betrayed and assassinated him.

The middle of March has a much more positive connotation in modern times. It is the time of year when the northern hemisphere transitions from the dark and cold of winter and into the warmth and new birth of spring. The week of the Ides of March includes celebrations of St. Patrick, St. Joseph and the first day of Spring.

In world events this week in 1970, two impacting situations arose. In Cambodia, a military coup forced the reigning monarch, Prince Sihanouk, to flee. General Lon Nol imposed a dictatorship on that country. Indochina was already in turmoil with the ongoing Vietnam War and the change would create more chaos in the region. In the United States, postal workers walked out in a wildcat strike. It was the largest such strike in American history and lasted two weeks.

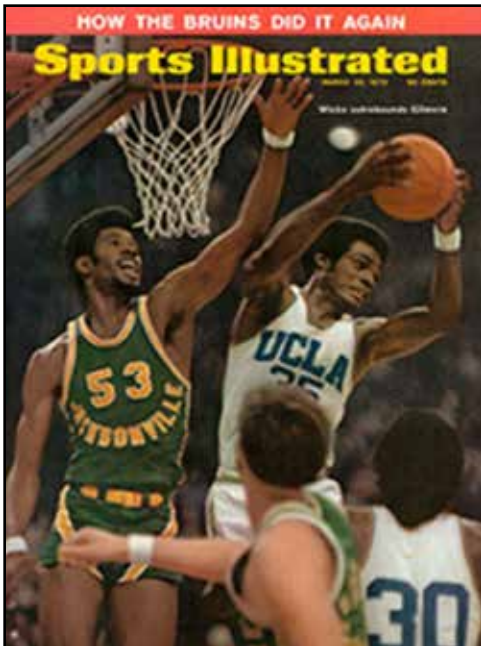
A sign of hope in a beleaguered world opened on the world scene on March 15th. “Expo ‘70”, the world’s fair. Osaka, Japan hosted the festivities which brought the best and brightest of entertainment and ingenuity from 77 countries. “Progress and Harmony” was the theme for the exposition which attracted over 64 million people before it closed on September 13th.





New to international conventions was the “Golden State Comic Book Convention” held in San Diego, California. This was the first such gathering of comic book and science fiction enthusiasts, which would become known as Comic-Con. The single day gathering has evolved into a four day mega convention of pop culture.

The major sports event of this week was the NCAA final four in basketball. Artis Gilmore, the 7’2” All-American center led his University of Jacksonville squad to the number one ranking as it reached the championship game March 21st. UCLA, coached by the legendary John Wooden also reached the finals. The Bruins were number two. They had held the NCAA crown the previous three years, led by super star Lew Alcindor. With Alcindor having moved on to the pros, UCLA’s run was in jeopardy. With a core of talented players, Henry Bibby, Steve Patterson, Curtis Rowe and Sidney Wickes, UCLA took on the challenge to their throne. If defense wins championships, the Bruins proved that in the title game. Jacksonville, which was the first team to average over 100 points a game was held to only 69. Led by Curtis Rowe and Sidney Wickes, UCLA won its fourth title in a row with an 81-69 victory.



The Viking Village was certainly not idle with the Ides of March. The indoor track team participated in the nationally renowned Cleveland Knights of Columbus track meet at the Cleveland Arena. High school, college and amateur athletes came to Cleveland to compete. In the local high school division St. Joe’s advanced to the finals in 11 events.

The golf team opened their season on March 18th. Seniors Bob Clarke and Jim Booms led the golfers. Mr. Frank Passarella was the coach and Mr. Robert Austin, who was a golf professional outside of his typing classroom, served as an instructor. The team didn’t disappoint in their opening match, sinking the Mayfield Wildcats 9.5 to 3.5.



March 17th was not a day off school, but you would swear it was, the halls were half empty. It was St. Patrick’s Day. The Cleveland parade was a must go-to-event for the many Vikings with a trace of Irish blood in them, and some without. Also, 200 plus band members were out of school and about to embark on their march down Euclid Avenue in this 128th parade. In 1969, the band had an experience of a lifetime as they performed in New York City’s parade. John Jaros recalled that they spent three days travelling by air, visiting the sites, seeing a Broadway show and participating in the parade. He marvelled that the entire trip cost only \$250 per member. The 1970 parade was not quite the memory for band members. The temperature stood at 38 degrees with snow flurries. Still, several hundred thousand onlookers saw the largest all male high school band perform, in the words of Mike Pausic, “in its flashy, funky and exquisitely loud manner.” A newspaper article explained that a river of blue kept on flowing along the parade route. Performing proudly the “Saints” and Irish classics, the Viking band made an impression on the crowd and the judges, receiving rave reviews as one of the finest units in the parade.

On March 19th, the school took time to honor its patron, St. Joseph, on his feast day. A school Mass was held. Special tributes were made during religion classes.



March 20th was the first day of Spring, but the last issue for the class of '70's Norseman editorial staff. Editor-in-Chief Ken Kampman rendered an editorial good-bye in this 7th edition of the paper as he passed the torch to the class of '71. As usual, the paper was filled with news and sports. The senior class announced that the prom would be at the Statler hotel and a raffle of a 1970 Mercury Cougar had begun to help defray prom costs. Seniors John Ranally and Greg Patt were highlighted for winning awards in Scholastic Magazine's art competition. The editorial page featured an article by Mr. Joe Radican about the lack of responsibility students had for the school's cleanliness.

The end of the week welcomed spring with a student council mixer on March 21st. Then led to quiet in the halls of St. Joe's as spring break and Holy Week were about to begin.

