

# St. IGNATIUS

ST. IGNATIUS MAGAZINE

FALL 2005

## First Varsity Football Season in 40 Years Brings Loss, But Not Defeat

Story by Tom Molony, Director of Communications

Football photos courtesy of Ray Kizelevicus, SICP English teacher and Spirit Newspaper Moderator

St. Ignatius College Prep's head football coach, **Tony Harris**, is at home on Sunday evening following his team's final game loss to Bishop McNamara High School (35-7). He is disappointed that the school's first varsity season since 1962 is over, but he's feeling good nonetheless.

Harris, who also chairs the school's English Department, is not embarrassed by his team's 3-6 finish in their first season, nor is he frustrated by "what could have been" had his team made a play against Leo, or had they found just one more minute in their narrow loss to St. Laurence. Instead, he's relieved because his team—both coaches and players—will never again have to nervously wonder what it is like to play against bigger schools like St. Rita or DeLaSalle and whether or not they can be competitive on the varsity level in Illinois. Despite their final record, Harris knows that this season will serve as nothing short of a launching pad for teams to come.

"There is some relief that the first season is over and we have that monkey off of our backs," said Harris. "Come this week, we won't be looking back in sorrow for ourselves, but using what we've learned to begin preparation for next season."

The story has been told numerous times. Following the 1962 season, the administration at St. Ignatius chose not to continue on with football and effectively disbanded the program at the school for the next 40 years. Legend has it that Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, Indiana, which opened in 1962, took their school colors from St. Ignatius College Prep's football team when all of the Wolfpack's uniforms were shipped to the Hoosier State as Brebeuf began to field their first football team.

Yet, recently, as the millennium approached, Fr. Brian Paulson, S.J., newly installed president of St. Ignatius College Prep, and a team of administrators and alumni took a long hard look at returning a football program to the school. Despite some initial trepidation, the board voted to reinstall the program, and in the fall of 2002, a freshman football team played the team's first season in four decades.

Coming into the 2005 season, the Wolfpack were chosen to finish dead last in the Chicago Catholic League White Division by most prognosticators. Much to the chagrin of the sports writers, the Wolfpack turned many heads by winning

three games. They also were competitive enough in league play to potentially win six of their eight games, which in the end, earned them a fourth place finish in their division.

"Invariably and without exception, I walked across the field to shake the hands of every opposing team's coach and would hear about how impressed they were with our group of men and the way they played the game," said Harris. "There was no team this year that felt that the week they played Ignatius would be a week off."

Yet, it wasn't the fact that football was back that made the team rise to the

"We're very fortunate that we have such a resilient staff," Harris said. "We have a very good group of guys who form this staff and it would be so very difficult to replace any one of them. This team of coaches has been developed not as a result of my vision alone, but of a shared vision that we all have a stake in."

What the newly formed staff brought with them was a complex, pro-styled offense, some of today's most up-to-date skills and drills to prepare the team for success in a short time by strengthening and conditioning them like few other teams in the country and above all else, a common vision for success.

and **Vinny Lewis '07** at defensive tackle. With two of the four choices returning for next season, the team is already moving in the right direction.

Though the Wolfpack players and coaches will be spending this IHSA post-season at home reading the newspapers and the IHSA Web site for playoff results, you'd be hard-pressed to find one person linked to this team who is hanging his head after coming so close, but not quite fulfilling the dream this time around. Instead, the team has found purpose and focus and can see that they are prepared to take the hard road that will ultimately lead them towards roaming at the top of the Illinois high school football world.

### THE FUTURE IS NOW!

Watching **Jeff Hallagan '07** line-up on defense across from his St. Rita counterpart in the Wolfpack's first varsity game on September 3rd of this year was like watching a father playing against his young son. The size difference was undeniable. And though the St. Rita Mustangs won this year's match up 41-0 due to their superior size and quickness, the one thing they couldn't ever hope to overcome was the heart of the Wolfpack.

Hallagan, the team's starting nose tackle, did not come to St. Ignatius with the intent of playing football and hadn't played organized football during his grade school years. Yet, he is projected to be one of next year's leaders and sees this season as nothing short of a motivator and a building block towards qualifying for the IHSA state playoffs in 2006.

"As a team I believe that we look at this past season as a successful one," said Hallagan. "While at 3-6 we didn't reach our goal of five wins and making the playoffs, but it was obvious to all of us that we looked better this season than we had in the two previous seasons on the lower level. I think going to carry that motivation over to next season and the team will continue to become bigger, stronger, faster and more competitive each year."

One of the main reasons the team is fixated on success in the coming years is the relationship they have built with the coaching staff that has allowed them to share the coaching staff's vision. Hallagan had never played organized football prior to coming to St. Ignatius but says that the

(story continued on page 2)



▲ Coach John Curry wraps the wrist of Evan McLean '07 during Homecoming.

occasion. From the start, Harris had the tedious task of finding patient, constructive coaches who were willing to work with a group of kids that consisted of a number of boys who had no prior tackle football experience—some who were more academically inclined and still others who were there to be there. What seemed to be a daunting task at first ended up selling itself. In the end, Harris wound up with a number of high school all-stars, college All-Americans, former Division-I athletes and even a handful of past-NFL players willing to help him build the team with no feeder system, a two-year history and a long way to go— all from scratch.

"The entire offensive staff has done a fantastic job of organizing our offensive scheme in such a short amount of time," said Harris. "It took a few weeks for [coaches] **Grant Varveris** and **Don Homyk** to figure out the nuances of the program, but they were up to the task and eager to take it on."

In the process of everyone enduring the growing pains of a first season, four Wolfpack starters earned spots on the Chicago Catholic League White Division All-Conference list. They are **Andrew Brice '06** at strong safety, **Drew Homyk '06** at quarterback, **Vytas Kapacinskas '07** at linebacker

## Publications and Marketing Initiatives "In the Works"

We've been hearing a lot of feedback from our various constituents over the years about the load of mail from Ignatius, the format of the publications and more. "There's too much to read!" some say. "We want quality and not quantity!" St. Ignatius College Prep has taken that feedback into consideration and is working to make some significant changes this year. We ask that you continue to communicate with us as we make these changes, so we keep on the right track and provide you with the news you want.

The first thing you'll notice is that the *St. Ignatius Magazine* (for all constituents), the *President's Report* (for President's Club members) and the *Inside Ignatius* (for parents and guardians) have now become quarterly publications. Each of them used to be produced six times per year. The *12th Street Beat* (for alumni only) will be published twice per year, instead of three times. Each publication continues to be available on our web site ([www.ignatius.org](http://www.ignatius.org)) in a PDF format, with a hopeful move into something more interactive in the future.

Next, you will notice a new "look" in certain publications, namely, the *St. Ignatius Magazine*. After input was solicited from staff members and various constituents, we began working to convert the magazine to a more typical magazine style, instead of the folded-up format in which it is currently published. We feel this change will help us to bring you the most interesting and compelling news about our students, faculty and staff, constituents, programs, campus and more. Julie Futterer, the Director of Publications, is seeking contributing writers and possibly photographers to volunteer for this quarterly publication. If you're interested in contributing once or on a regular basis, or if you have an idea to share, please contact her at [julie.futterer@ignatius.org](mailto:julie.futterer@ignatius.org) or (312) 432-8417. Of course, all suggestions may not be possible to act on, but we feel your input is very valuable and our ears are open!

Finally, on the marketing front, work started this summer to unify our image through the tweaking and re-development of our school logos. That project is currently underway, and you can watch for our new "visual signature" to appear in the coming year. We think you'll like what you see!

# school news

## RECENT GRAD "BRIDGES GAP" FOR SCIENCE CLASS

Recent graduate **Sylvester Black '05** made sure that he wouldn't be forgotten once he left St. Ignatius College Prep.

One fine day during his junior year, while standing in the atrium of the science building, Black took note of the space around him. "I noticed the skylight and the panes of glass and the way the light created shadows and I realized what a magnificent space it was," said Black. "It was then that I thought, 'hey, I should build a bridge in here!'"

When senior year arrived, Black got the chance to turn that idea into reality. His love for engineering and architecture prodded him to further research the bridge-building project for his Independent Research science course. He then considered the addition of miniature trains to the plan.

"I pondered the addition of Lionel trains, whizzing around graceful curves and flying past each other as they cross the bridge," wrote Black in a reflection paper, "bringing the lessons of the classrooms— tension, compression, equilibrium and more— to life."

As more people heard about his "Ignatian Railway Bridge" project, it gained momentum and attracted much attention. Black received a lot of support along the way from

people including science teacher **Kathy Giunta**, who was "behind him every step of the way," and mentor **Jim Osborn**, a friend of SICP's principal, Dr. Cathy Karl.

The knowledge and time devoted by Osborn, particularly, was essential. Osborn, a retired officer of Motorola and a leader and engineer by trade, had a love for "tinkering" that equaled Black's. He spent many of the 400+ project hours taking Black to train shows, helping to lay the track, doing an incredible amount of problem-solving and keeping the project on schedule. On May 1, 2005, the project was complete with the unveiling of a 19-foot bridge that arches over the center of the science atrium balcony. Over the bridge and along the perimeter of the balcony walls runs a miniature track that carries two miniature Lionel trains.

A plaque honoring Black and Osborn will soon be hung in the atrium, and the duo will go down in history as the pair who built the impressive Ignatian Railway Bridge. "Some day, I want to take my son to St. Ignatius and show him the model bridge I built," said Black. "Then, hopefully I can take him over to the window, look out at the city, and point out the REAL bridge I built!"

Black currently attends Princeton University.



## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE NEWS AND EVENTS

### ALUMNI OFFICE

The Alumni Office just finished another successful fall reunion season. We would like to thank the classes of 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, and 1975, who collectively raised over \$30,000 for their reunion class gifts. Congratulations are also extended to all award recipients: **Dr. Dean Yannias '70** (Alumni Medal), **Wally Podrazik '70** (Award of Excellence in the Field of Communication), **Dr. James Dowdle '65** (Award of Excellence in the Field of Education) and **Joe O'Connor '60** (President's Award). The next reunion event will be the Yearbook Signing Party for the Class of '05 on January 5.

Architecture buffs are encouraged to attend the historic church tour on February 12, 2006, which will highlight architecturally significant churches in Chicago. **Fr. George Lane, S.J.**, author of *Chicago Churches and Synagogues*, will be our expert tour guide. The afternoon will end at Holy Family Church with a 5:00 mass, celebrated by Fr. Brian Paulson, S.J.

The Alumni Office also plans to host a fabulous wine tasting event, "Taste the World through Wine," on February 18th. With the help of sponsors such as Carlucci's Restaurant, guests will have the opportunity to taste wines from different regions of the world, paired with complimentary foods. There will be seminars led by a professional wine sommelier throughout the evening, music, a raffle benefiting SIHAP with a grand prize trip to Napa Valley, and a fantastic atmosphere. Invitations will be mailed sometime at the end of December so stay tuned.

### PARENTS' ORGANIZATION

A reminder that the next Parents' Organization general meetings won't be held until the second Tuesday of the month in March and April (check the web site for confirmation of the dates).

At the time the St. Ignatius Magazine is being printed, the annual benefit for St. Ignatius College Prep will be taking place with a performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Chicago's Auditorium Theatre. Watch for event details to come in future publications.

It's hard to believe, but the annual auction, "Puttin' On the Ritz," is coming soon! Mark your calendars now to save the date: Saturday, March 4, 2006. Special thanks to **Joe Perillo** for making a **2006 BMW 325si SEDAN** available for the raffle (vehicle specifics available at [www.ignatius.org](http://www.ignatius.org)), and don't forget that we'll also be raffling SICP tuitions! You'll also find other fantastic items, like a 10-day stay in Hawaii and wonderful travel and entertainment packages. There will be something for everyone at this fun event, including dancing in the dining hall. Please contact Alice Luzzi, Director of Parent Relations, at (312) 432-8404 if you have questions or would like to donate an auction item.

(story continued from page 1)

staff has been fundamental in his hard work in the off-season that has translated to success on the field.

"Most of [the coaching staff] knew us from freshman year on and knew how to work with us," Hallagan said. "A lot of us had not played football before high school and were patient with us as we learned how to play. We've all become very close because they have developed personal relationships with us, too."

With Hallagan helping to lead next year's group into the season, he has become very aware of some of the changes that need to take place in order for the Wolfpack to garner that magic number of five wins that will propel them to their first play-off bid in more than five decades.

"Obviously we're smaller and a little weaker than some of the teams we played. I think it's an incentive to know that if we grow a little and come in at the same size as some of those other teams, we will not be 3-6 next season," he said.

With the first season, all the jitters and the unexpected step up to varsity football for the first time in more than 40 years out of the way, what do Hallagan and his team-

mates expect to happen in 2006?

"A lot of us will be seniors next year and into our fourth year of football, so it will be good to see how well we work together now that we have this season behind us," said Hallagan. "One of the interesting transitions will be to see how the current group of sophomores step up next season and fill in."

"One thing that we have is team unity. We're a very close team and I think that mixed with our off-season training schedule is going to make us a very good football team starting next year."

The 2005 freshman team finished in third place in conference play that left them one game out of first. With those types of results coming so quickly for the Wolfpack football team, state level glory is already within their reach.

### FROM PAST TO PRESENT

**Henry Deiters '46** has seen and played a lot of football in his lifetime. He knows success on the gridiron as he starred for the Wolfpack at end and kicker on the 1945 team that shared a piece of the City Championship with Fenwick. Like many alumni, he too was disappointed to see the team dissolve in the early 1960s.

"The team had run on to some hard times in those days and we were sad to see the program go from St. Ignatius," said Deiters. "Football was a tradition as with most high schools, and not having football at Ignatius was like losing some of its tradition." When hearing of

the impending return of football to St. Ignatius a few years back, Deiters, like many alumni, had mixed feelings about effect that it might have on the student body and overall academic integrity that has been the cornerstone of the school's reputation.

"I admit that I was concerned for a number of reasons," he said. "Football is a very punishing sport physically and with insurance a very expensive sport, too. My initial concern was the cost. But football attracts good students who also are athletes and athletes tend to be good students. I think bringing football back also helps these kids grow in life by teaching them how to be a part of a team and work with others for a common goal. I know that all of us [alumni] are proud to see it return and it brings pride back to the school."

Though Deiters did not make it to a game this season, he no less kept tabs on his Wolfpack through former teammates and schoolmates, the newspapers and the internet.

"God bless those boys for even putting a team back together," said Deiters. "3-6 is a record that they can build on and from what I have read is more success than most sportswriters expected from them."

As Deiters keeps up with the new growth of the program, he does have one thing he would like to do before long.

"I would really like to meet the head coach," he said. "He has done such a phenomenal job with these kids and really maintained the pride and tradition of the program and the school. We all owe him a sincere debt of gratitude for his work with these young men."



◀ Friends and Class of '51 alums support the Wolfpack.

## SICP CHEERLEADERS INSPIRE MARATHONER

Who says cheerleaders only cheer on football and basketball players? Fr. Paulson recently received an e-mail from Thom Dartt, a 7th grade reading teacher at Campbell Middle School in Smyrna, Georgia. Thom, a participant in the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon, wrote to give praise the **St. Ignatius cheerleaders**, who were rooting on runners during the marathon on Sunday, October 8.

"I was struggling with leg cramps and when I got to the place where your cheer team was stationed, they were awesome! They were loud, encouraging and genuine. That's tough, considering they had to be there for several hours. Being the product of a Catholic education, it doesn't surprise me that those girls are so dedicated. However, they're also human and, being out there so long, they could have easily lost that "edge." They didn't and for that I am grateful. Those kids have no idea what they can do (and did) to lift our spirits and adrenaline levels. At that point, I really needed it.

I have taught and coached (high school and college basketball) for several years and that is the kind of spirit that separates great schools/programs from the average ones. My sincere thanks to the team, which is a great representative of your school and community! I hope to be back running the race next year, too. If I am, I will certainly be on the lookout for the best cheer team on the course... Ignatius!"

Way to go, SICP cheerleaders!

# A Lifetime of Learning: A Visit With SICP's Oldest Alum, Thomas Brisch '27

Story by Terri Connor Brankin, Major Gifts Officer

It's a remarkable thing to visit with a person who is 96 years old. It's another thing entirely to visit with a 96-year-old who remains an avid reader of history and current events, is healthy, and vividly remembers much about an era that to the rest of us is truly history.

**Thomas Brisch, St. Ignatius College Prep Class of 1927**, greeted me warmly at the door of his lovely home in the rolling hills of Galena, Illinois, where he has been retired for "some years." We had talked on the phone several times prior to my visit to thank him for his regular and generous donations, but I was unprepared for how spirited and agile Mr. Brisch was in person.

"You made it!" he announced and ushered me by the arm, passing by his ample book collection on shelves in the living room, to a comfortable couch. There, spread out on the coffee table, were pictures of current-day St. Ignatius that were sent to him so that he could compare them to the school of his memories from the roaring '20s.

"See the corner of that building?" he said, pointing to a picture of what is now called the Richard Driehaus Building. "That's where Fr. Connor caught me smoking. My father was asked to come to school to discuss my behavior!"

Even after so many years, it was evident that Tom still felt his father's disappointment. Then, the inevitable question.

"Do they still have JUGs?"

Yes, Mr. Brisch, we sure do.

From all accounts, that smoking incident was the only blotch on Mr. Brisch's impressive record at St. Ignatius. In fact, flipping

through the now-fragile and yellowed pages of a 1927 yearbook, it's impossible to miss Thomas Brisch:

- 1927 Ignatian of the Year
- yearbook writer
- Library Society officer
- football team manager
- class trip traveler to Europe and Hollywood (chronicled in the yearbook)

"When I wrote those stories for the yearbook, they were heavily edited by the Jesuits," he exclaimed. "They edited everything!"

Tom built on those wonderful experiences by attending Loyola University and Creighton University. After graduating from law school, Brisch worked alongside his father at the Brisch Brick Company in Chicago. "We sold a lot of brick to Walsh Construction," he remembered. "We also helped St. Ignatius build the old dining hall."

"So where is the new dining hall?" Brisch asked. And then it occurred to me that this is why he is so sharp. Tom is actively curious about everything, and I find I can hardly keep up with his questions.

"Is the firehouse still there?" "Where is this arch with the wolf?" "They call themselves the Wolfpack, huh? We didn't have a mascot back then. We were just 'Ignatians.'"

"Look at that football field! I didn't play sports at Ignatius- too skinny!" "How many Jesuits teach there now? I had a Latin teacher once who was a layman, but that was it! All the rest were Jesuits."

"In those days," continued Brisch, "we used to go to mass at Holy Family once a week. What a beautiful church. We also had annual retreats there. There

was a building on May Street, north of St. Ignatius, where we used to have our graduation exercises. It was a community hall of some kind. I suppose it's all torn down now. There was a famous Italian restaurant that I used to go to quite often but that's probably gone too."

While Mr. Brisch and I found it easy to identify the visual differences between the St. Ignatius of 2005 and of 1927, it was surprisingly easy to find the similarities, too- in spirit, determination and humor. Tom remembered, "it's a long day, for Pete's sake! It takes discipline to get all that school work done. And if you don't, you're juggled!"

Judging from his treasured book collection, organized methodically by local history, or Jesuit authors, for example, Tom Brisch never lost the love of learning encouraged by his Jesuit educators. That, combined with the many hours spent hand-printing book titles on spines for the St. Ignatius Library Society (now in the Brunswick Room collection), might have been what compelled Brisch to start a new career as a book dealer. He opened his own store after he "retired" to Galena.

"I've given truckloads of my books away since I closed the shop. Books are my hobby," he said.

It's no wonder, then, that Brisch underwent successful cataracts surgery shortly after our interview so that he would not have to give up reading and learning. Commenting on the success of his surgery, and his overall good health, Mr. Brisch shared with me that he had an episode a few weeks prior to my visit.

"They took me to the hospital and I had the 'Last Rights.' They don't call it that anymore. They have a different name

for it now, but anyway, it seems to have made me recover! Until that point, I was a goner!"

But at 96 years and counting, Tom Brisch is doing well. He actively lives and learns, every single day, as a man of faith... with the historical respect and genuine interest in the world that we all inhabit as followers of the true Jesuit tradition. Ad Majorem dei Gloriam. St. Ignatius College Prep prays that God continues to bless you richly, Mr. Brisch!



1926



2005

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*The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005, which was signed into law by President Bush on September 23, 2005, temporarily removes the 50% limitation on the donor's contribution base. For all practical purposes, this figure approximates the donor's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Such gifts must be made to a qualified charity between August 28, 2005 and December 31, 2005. This change applies only to cash gifts to public charities. It does not apply to supporting organizations and donor advised funds. The charity receiving the gift does not have to be involved in Hurricane Katrina relief.*

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#### NOVEMBER

11-12 and 18-20: Harlequins Fall Musical - "Sugar"

22: Annual Benefit - "Joseph and the Amazing  
Technicolor Dreamcoat" at Auditorium Theatre

24-25: No Classes - Happy Thanksgiving!

#### DECEMBER

4: Open House

5: No Classes

8: Immaculate Conception Liturgy

19: Christmas Break Begins

#### JANUARY

3: Classes Resume

5: Yearbook Signing Party for Class of 2005

11-13: Semester Exams

14: Entrance Exam

16: No Classes - MLK Jr. Day

#### FEBRUARY

9: Women's Council Career Networking Night with  
featured speaker - Life Coach Alison Miller, Ph.D

12: Historic Church Tour (see pg. 2)

18: "Taste the World" Wine Tasting Event (see pg. 2)

20-21: No Classes - President's Day

#### MARCH

1: Ash Wednesday Liturgy

4: "Puttin' On the Ritz" Annual Auction (see pg. 2)

6: No Classes - Faculty & Staff Retreat

#### Womens Council Events

##### CAREER NETWORKING NIGHT

- February 9, 2006

- 4th Floor Brunswick Room.

- Featured speaker will be  
Life Coach Alison Miller, Ph.D.

- Break out areas of interest such as  
business, marketing and education

- Meet colleagues in your field or  
investigate a new field

- Invitations to follow or visit [www.ignatius.org](http://www.ignatius.org)

##### RETREAT

- Saturday, March 25 - Sunday, March 26

- A day of prayerful reconnection for  
profoundly busy women, including "How  
to Pace a Life," led by Jane Maxfield

- Lindenwood Retreat House in  
Donaldson, IN

- Bus will leave St. Ignatius on Saturday  
at 4:00 p.m. and will return on  
Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

- Limited overnight capacity

- Invitations to follow or visit [www.ignatius.org](http://www.ignatius.org)

**ON THE MAILING PANEL:**  
Coach Tony Harris looks on as the  
Wolfpack plays their first varsity  
homecoming football game at  
Chicago's Hanson Stadium on  
September 24. The Wolfpack lost  
to Gordon Tech (21-10). Photo  
courtesy of Ray Kizelevicus.

# upcoming events