



TEAMMATES *for* Life

A HISTORY OF
BURROUGHS ATHLETICS

1923-2011



JIM LEMEN *and* JUD CALKINS

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Originally, the idea was to write a book that was a collection of memories of John Burroughs athletes with a short introduction from me that discussed the history of the athletic program. We collected a group of those recollections (many of which appear, in part, in this book), and I wrote a rather long introduction. After some five years, the project, which had languished from inattention, was revived but with a new format. The group of Jim Kemp (JBS director of advancement/alumni); Josh Stevens and Matt Heidenry at Reedy Press; me; and Jud Calkins '59, who had volunteered his services, decided that it was best to write a history of the school's rich athletic program in narrative form, using not only the recollections of alumni, but also the many historical documents that existed in the school's archives and elsewhere.

Quite early in the revival of the project, we decided to tell the story in a decade format with the following criteria: From the 1920s to the end of the 1960s, the focus would be on growing success in the ABC League for the boys and in the Girls Athletic Association for the girls. From the 1970s onward, due to the growth of multi-class athletics at the state level, the focus would turn to the successes of both the boys and girls at the state level. As we gathered materials, it quickly became apparent that there were many underlying themes in the history. It was more than a story of wins and losses over the decades. It was a story about all the values that one hopes young athletes gain from sports. And as we continued to gather information, it seemed to all of us that the theme "Teammates For Life" described most appropriately the role of athletics at John Burroughs School.

There are countless people who have contributed their thoughts to this book. In fact, there are so many that I cannot begin to mention everyone. Nonetheless, I would be remiss in not mentioning some who gave extraordinary assistance. At the top of the list is Jud Calkins, who volunteered his assistance, and without too much "arm-twisting" he became a co-author. His writing capabilities, his sense for a "good story," his knowledge about the fabric of the school, and his love for the institution helped guide this book to its conclusion. To be able to work hand in hand with Jud in telling the story and to exchange ideas, as well as discussions on how to make improvements to the written work, helped to make the entire project an extra-special experience for me. While we have always been friends, I believe this book has made us "teammates for life." A multitude of alumni contributed to this book, providing information and insights that were invaluable. Bobby Thym, Ted Levis, Lee Bearman, Eddie Williamson, Michael Laycob, Amy and Beth Argetsinger, Tiffany Ferrell, Jack Mosinger, Susie Sullivan, and A. J. Van Slyke provided scrapbooks and photo albums that were absolutely necessary for the story. Damon Goode and Eddie Williamson combined on an account of a Country Day game that needed no editing from me.

In addition to alumni, we received information from former athletic directors, Skippy Keefer and Todd Small, and former and present coaches whose careers spanned several decades—Dan Barton, Chris Bugnitz, Toby Clark, Margaret Clark, Daniel Harris, Andy Katzman, Leslie Kehr, Andy Leonard, Beth Kinsella, Dennis Moore, Ellen Port, Nancy Schmer, Jamie Wagner, and Steve Wilcutt. Special thanks also go to Andy Newman, Bill Brinkhorst, and Margaret Bahe whose pictures abound, especially in the 2000s. Their artistry in photography have made recent yearbooks and the athletic website a treasure chest of memories for the student athletes of John Burroughs. Jim Kemp along with Matt Heidenry from Reedy Press provided skillful and needed commentary in establishing the book's format and style.

Finally, to the many people who have contributed to this book, either by your submissions to the book or simply by your performance on the athletic fields, please accept our thanks. Without your input and without the way you played the games, this history would not have been possible and would not have expressed the themes that we would have wished.

—Jim Lemen

When the call went out from the Alumni Office some years back for alumni recollections to be part of a book on the athletic history of John Burroughs School, I took it seriously. I suited up and drove to Jefferson City to peruse high school yearbooks and newspapers from the fall of 1958, when the Bombers vanquished the powerful Jeff City Jays in football. I filed the definitive account of that event with Jim Kemp and Jim Lemen. (The dispatch appears late in the chapter on the 1950s.) When I encountered the two Jims periodically thereafter, I inquired about progress on the project. Ultimately I received an invitation to join them in bringing it to fruition. I was assigned to the archives of the Stamper Library on October 1, 2010, with a computer, a printer, and a phone, and there I spent much of my life through October 2011. The project has been a huge challenge, but we are pleased with the result. We hope that the Burroughs family will be too.

My thanks go first to Jim Lemen for his extraordinary contributions to Burroughs for over half a century, and on this project for his encyclopedic knowledge of the school's athletic past and his collegiality as co-author. There was sound collaboration and never a cross word. Thanks go also to Jim Kemp for orchestrating the book, to Lisa Holekamp Yost '78 for her fine proofreading, and to the Alumni Office generally for taking hundreds of calls from me on particulars of the Burroughs family—and on the care and feeding of my computer and printer. Matt Heidenry of Reedy Press was superb on layout and provided wise editorial counsel; he also showed remarkable patience as we struggled to meet deadlines. Recognition is also due Andy Newman for his talent and ready availability in photographing a host of artifacts.

I am indebted to Burroughs alumni from various decades for interview time, scrapbooks, and other mementos. In this category, one person stands out—Bill Herbert '63, who personifies the genius of the ABC League. His small size placed him on the B football team, where he could achieve playing time and experience the thrill of the game; he became captain and high scorer of the team. A sports historian and a keeper of the English language, Bill provided many creative graphics and was a valuable sounding board on my prose. One person from the other side of the great divide deserves recognition: my neighbor and Country Day alumnus and archivist Peter Griffin. Peter was quick on the draw with valuable ABC League information, and he provided one of the most striking illustrations in the book—the famous “bat play” with which the Rams bedeviled the Bombers on the gridiron in 1941.

Finally, there is the usual, but in this case heartfelt, thanks to my wife, Pilar, and my son, Rexford, for their tolerance of my time away from home, often at odd hours, and my frequent absence in mind, if not in body, as I dreamed up yet another grand sentence for inclusion in *Teammates for Life*.

—Jud Calkins '59

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1920s / How It All Began



With construction essentially complete on the L-shaped building high atop Price Road, and the names of chosen students duly entered on class rolls, John Burroughs School flung open its thick wooden doors on October 2, 1923, to the first generation of a ground-breaking independent day school in St. Louis.

Burroughs was to be innovative in various respects: It would be coeducational and non-sectarian; it would also draw on the progressive education movement associated with the philosopher-psychologist-educator John Dewey that called for “experiential education” in lieu of traditional rote learning. Extracurricular activities—prominently to include physical education and sports—were to be part and parcel of the experiential approach at Burroughs.

The chronicler of the day on the unfolding history of Burroughs was that periodic literary compilation the *Burroughs Review*—and in particular a student-authored column titled “Lest We Forget.” In its first issue of April 1924, the column captured opening day in the following terms:

The director, Mr. Wilford M. Aikin, had selected a staff of the best teachers to be found, who were on hand to greet members of the John Burroughs “family,” meeting for the first time on that day. The spirit and enthusiasm which marked that first day will never be forgotten. . . . In fact, enthusiasm is a cardinal principle of John Burroughs School on the part of both teachers and pupils.

Enthusiasm indeed has been a hallmark of the Burroughs experience, including, in no small part, its athletic program and tradition. The first year of school bore ample witness.

The classes of 1934 and 1935 as youngsters. Front row from left: Carol McCarthy, Elaine Meyer, Jean Hellmich, Zoe Willson, Marie Bischoff, Judith Galt, Louise Steinberg, Katherine Burg, Frances Catlin, Betty Hoerr, Susan Thompson, Jean Hopkins, and Betty Hessing; middle row: Kathleen Wallace, Virginia Phelps, Katharine Bernays, Jane Kidder, Peggy Haworth, Ellen Kline, Sarah Davis, Alice Henderson, Elizabeth Bixby, Eunice Holderness, Jean Rauh, Betty Herz, Matilda Craven, Marion Hemplemann, Ruth Pfingsten, Patricia Egan, Mimi Wilson, Jean Morrill, and Mary Louise Galt; back row: Frances Bixby, Betty Brown, Delight Hall, Vera Angert, Ruth Stevens, Virginia Hessing, Jane Carpenter, Mary Jane Painter, Sally Bridge, and Claire Angert.



Physical education medals awarded to Gene Jantzen '28.

FOOTBALL FROM THE OUTSET

“As the school opened in October,” wrote William W. Johnson ’26 in that first *Review*, “the boys and girls were handicapped by the absence of the gymnasium (not completed until December 17, 1923).” However, the boys, making use of a spacious third-floor storeroom for dressing, took up football immediately. Johnson continued:

Soon after the arrival of the football equipment there might be seen many figures out on the field twisted into various grotesque shapes in their effort to “hit the dirt hard” and at the same time keep their uniforms clean. But after about five minutes of coaching by Mr. (Deyo) “Sam” Leland there might be seen many grimy objects crashing about, putting up a pretty fair exhibition of football.

Right: Junior school competitors, Army vs. Navy.

The first recorded game was played on Armistice Day, November 11, which coincided with Father and Son Day that opening fall. “The afternoon was made memorable by the first regular football game of John Burroughs,” reported Helen Ledbetter ’26. “It was between picked teams, known as the Army and Navy, and was greatly enjoyed by all, *even the participants.*” (Emphasis added.)

Beginning in the first year, athletics was part of the curriculum for all students for an hour and a half a day. With no interscholastic competition scheduled in the fall, the girls divided into “blue and gold camps” to compete in field hockey and the boys continued their Army-Navy play in football and other sports. Navy fared poorly in an opening series of three football games, reported Johnson in the *Review*, but other lessons were learned: “I will not announce the result, for I am a member of the Navy. I must say that my reason for not announcing is not the modesty of becoming a victor. But then the Navy was comforted by the realization that we were playing football at John Burroughs more for obtaining knowledge of the game than for competition.”

Football was firmly embedded in the culture of John Burroughs School, and forever it would remain. By November 1928, senior Hyde Johnson ’29 would observe in the *Review*: “In my mind the admirable part of our football program is the fact that every boy in school, excepting the handful that are working out on the track, is on a football team.”







SPEEDBALL FINDS A HOME

When the first gymnasium was completed in December 1923, field hockey and football gave way to basketball and a new phenomenon—“speedball.” Speedball, developed early in the century, drew on elements of soccer, football, and basketball and was playable indoors or out. It became a staple of American physical education programs.

At Burroughs, it was introduced by ever-inventive Athletic Director and Coach Leland in early 1924. Sports reporter Johnson discerned the hidden values in the new sport: “Speedball . . . was started as soon as it was possible to get out of doors, and it grew in popularity the longer it was played. There are great opportunities for the development of skill and for the employment of good sportsmanship. As sportsmanship is the desired characteristic of every American sport, we should number speedball among them.”

Girls were fully engaged in the sport as well as boys—regardless of weather. As Ruth Duhme '30, an eighth grader, wrote poetically in early 1926: “The wintry winds wax wild and free, and yet we play speedball. We are repeatedly kicked, quite mercilessly, in the shins by our otherwise amiable schoolmates, and *still* we play speedball!”

GARB OF THE GIRLS

The sleek athletic wear of the modern era in girls' athletics was preceded in the mid-twentieth century at Burroughs by the familiar all-purpose, royal-blue tunics with embroidered names at the top. In the earliest years, the garb of the girls was as shown at the right, worn by girls posing outside the first school gym; the shot is mounted on flooring from the gym that was removed during later renovations.

Elizabeth Stix '26 described the dress in the May 1924 *Review*—in not wholly favorable terms:

In a vain endeavor to live up to their hard-won reputation of "that school-girl complexion," the females of this institution do, at an appointed hour, attire themselves in wide-plaited bloomers and snow white blouses, coal black stockings, and tennis shoes of a neutral color; and thus nicely clad do sally forth upon the athletic fields. . . .

A bit later, by about 1930, the athletic attire was as seen on the frontispiece to this chapter, displayed by junior school hockey



players. All were not pleased with that style either. An archival note with the picture complained as follows:

The gym clothes, which were either blue or yellow, were issued arbitrarily without regard to class, ability, preference or any other known factor. They were built like rompers (garments for children with the lower part shaped like bloomers) and popular with no one. The white shirts in the back row are a mystery.

THE DELICATE BALANCE: ATHLETICS AND ACADEMICS

As first-year football, hockey, and other sports settled into the psyche of students and faculty alike, talk soon began on the proper balance between athletics and academics—a topic that has persisted up to the present. It was couched as follows in that opening 1924 issue of the *Review*, once again by William Johnson with characteristic eloquence and humor:

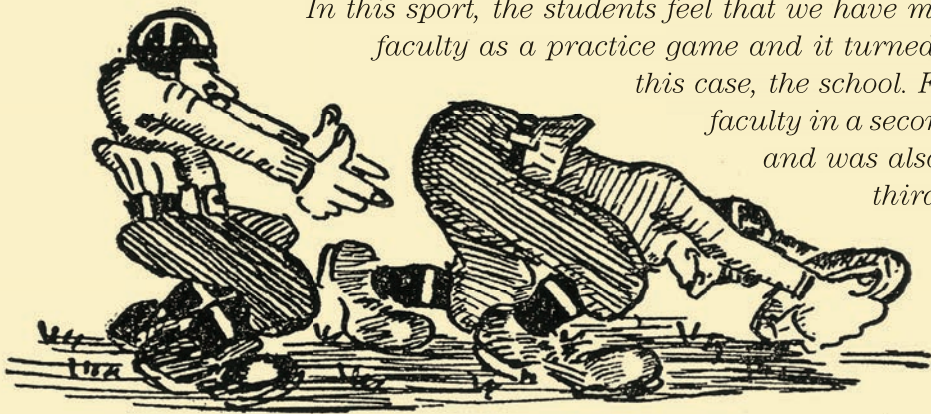
The boys, under the able leadership of Mr. Leland, have been prospering physically as they have mentally under various other instructors of John Burroughs. This is indeed speaking very well for the mental development of the boys, for reports show that there is not one boy in the school who has not gained in some way physically.

If any of the young men of this school have been studying too much, which always results in a detriment to health, it is soon noticed and the offending person brought back to his level. However, the plea of studying too hard, we notice, has not been very successful. In fact, it is about to be abandoned.

HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH THE FACULTY

With interscholastic competition in its infancy in the first year of school, the boys sharpened their skills in basketball by challenging the faculty—with varying degrees of success. By midyear, Sam Leland had organized a school team, and it needed game experience. Young Johnson reported the results:

In this sport, the students feel that we have made the faculty work for once in their lives. . . . We took on the faculty as a practice game and it turned out as all practice games seem to—against the better team; in this case, the school. Filled with the fighting spirit, we launched another attack at the faculty in a second game, but it appeared the faculty had been practicing at night and was also rather determined. The men trimmed us properly. Then, in a third game, we met the faculty and won—almost. We tied them, and an extra period did not change the result.



THE PIGSKIN WARRIORS

The rivalry was resumed in the spring in baseball, and the students once again came up short, as recounted by Johnson. “We have had some difficulty beating them, but won a great moral victory, the score being only 16–5 against us. It has given us considerable joy to humor the faculty in this little thing, and we know we have their appreciation.”

OPENING INTERSCHOLASTIC PLAY

The first interscholastic play for the boys was in the winter of 1923–24 in a basketball game against Clayton, where according to journalist Johnson “we found we had bitten off more than we could chew.” Next came the University City freshmen, “and our five got sufficiently warmed up the second half to steam through with a victory.” Johnson continued, bluntly:

I feel deeply that I had better not mention the last game—but then to make us feel a little more humble and just a bit more determined, too, I think I will. . . . After obtaining a 12-point lead, we lost our game to Mission Hills after the worst exhibition of basketball we have shown, and that is saying much. . . . In spite of our defeats this year, we have high hopes for a fast team next year.

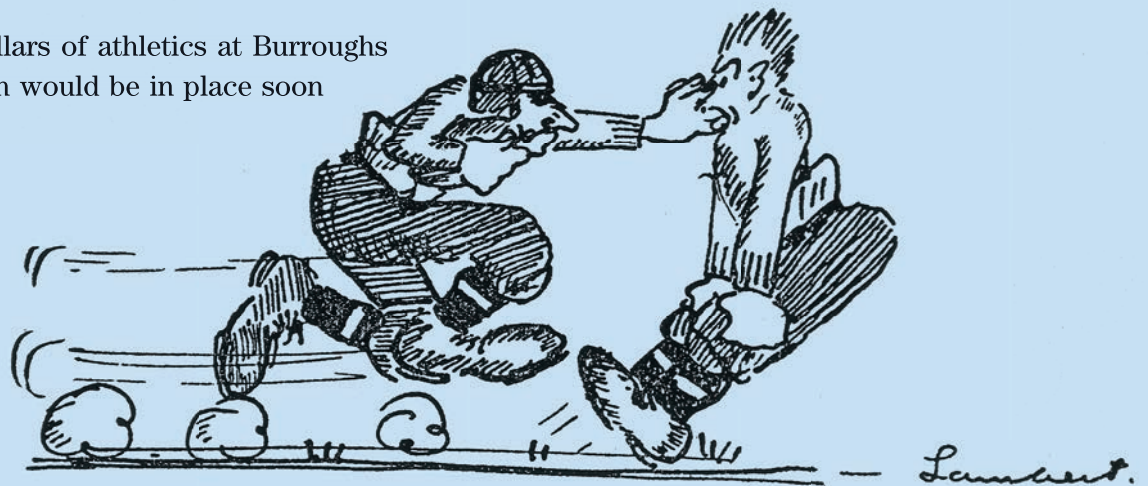
Young Johnson did not point out, though he might have, that Burroughs was competing with one hand tied behind its back. The school opened in 1923 with grades seven through ten only—meaning that there were no juniors and seniors to aid in the competition against other schools. The girls, meanwhile, played two interscholastic basketball games this season: In the first, members of the school team played their “older sisters” (literally) from Mary Institute to a 10–10 tie, and in the second a tenth-grade class team was routed by their counterparts at the same school 25–9.

In the spring both boys and girls played intramural baseball. Elizabeth Stix reported for the girls that “we have just begun this fascinating game” and that the girls “were working hard to overcome the proverbial ‘butter fingers’ and other faults.” At the close of the year, Stix was upbeat in her summary of girls’ sports: “All year we have striven for three things—good health and posture—proficiency in the games we play—and the development of good sportsmanship.”

Good health, proficiency, and sportsmanship—the pillars of athletics at Burroughs in the first year. A matching competitive desire to win would be in place soon enough.

STEPPING UP THE COMPETITION

The next three years saw Burroughs’ enrollment skyrocket—from 77 students at the opening of school to 223 by the start of 1926—and the school striving to find its place in the St. Louis athletic scene. Burroughs



ORIGIN OF THAT NICKNAME “GOV”

“Governor” or “Gov”—a title that connotes one in charge, in control, administering a governing body or institution deftly, decisively, yet with sensitivity for those affected. All of these descriptions—and many more—characterized Leonard D. Haertter, who arrived at Burroughs as a teacher-coach in 1926, rising to director in 1935, and leaving an indelible mark before retiring in 1964.

A special issue of the *Burroughs Reporter* of June 1963 was dedicated solely to him, recounting his recruitment from the math chairmanship at the University of Minnesota High School by Director Wilford Aikin. The new arrival threw himself with boundless energy into classroom math instruction, book authorship, and the coaching of soccer and baseball.

His presence on the field of play was noted in a May 1929 issue of the *World*: “His voice can be heard above all others at a game, and his enthusiasm has helped to arouse school spirit many a time.” Haertter guided soccer and baseball into successful times. He ultimately became known

as “Dr. Haertter”—in addition to “Gov”—in 1950 when Colgate University, his alma mater, conferred on him the honorary degree of doctor of science.

But whence came the nickname “Gov”? From sports, of course. As recounted in that special issue of the *Reporter*, it arose from a baseball game against Country Day in the 1929 season. The story has been confirmed by more than one source. An outfielder on the team, William J. Dick Jr. ’30, was camped under a fly ball, but he dropped it. He returned sheepishly to the bench, expecting the worst from his coach, but before Haertter could get a word out Dick took control: “Now governor,” he said, “don’t get excited, even a monkey can fall out of a tree.”

Moments later the coach ventured to the end of the bench to console his player, saying: “Don’t be upset boy; that happens to all of us; however, I want you to know that I know a monkey can fall out of a tree; but we can’t be concerned with monkey business. Our job is to play to win!”

The response came back from Dick, “O.K., Gov.” And the name was in place forever after.



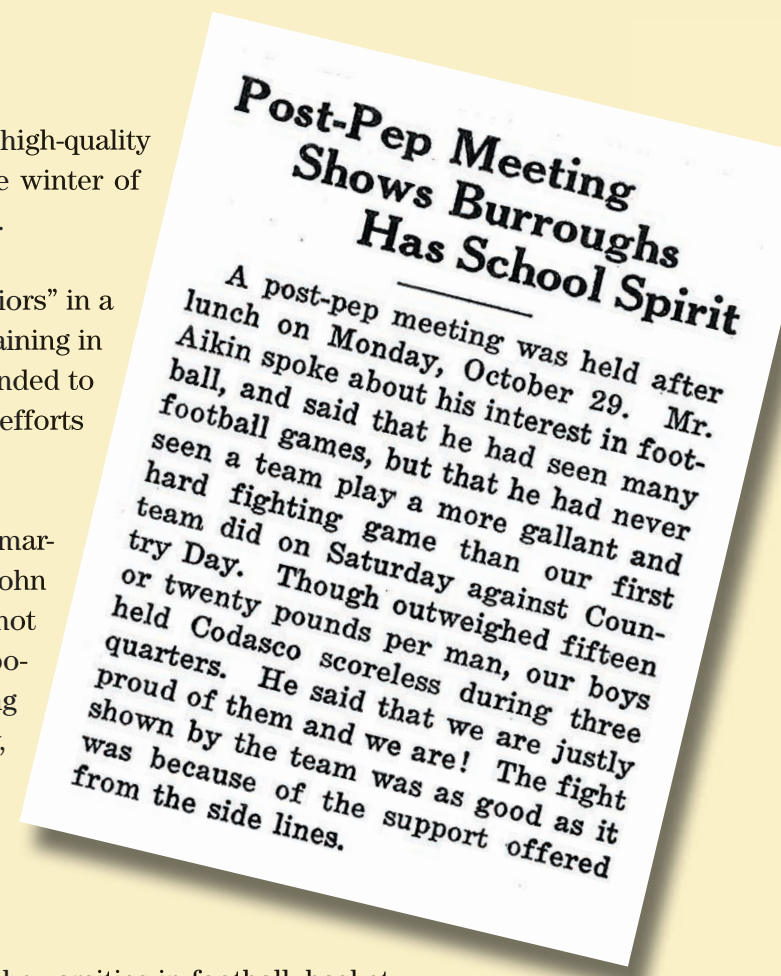
Left: the young teacher; middle: at a fathers softball game; right: the coach with his league champions of 1935.

was now big enough to compete against other schools but not strong enough to play a high-quality schedule in most sports. Interscholastic play for the boys increased, culminating in the winter of 1926–27 in membership in an athletic conference called the St. Louis Preparatory League.

As a sign of continuing football interest, the 1924 team was caricatured as “Pigskin Warriors” in a cartoon in the *Review*. Yet the players were not sure they had received their due, complaining in the *Review* that, “overshadowed by the great cloud of popularity and applause being handed to the girls for a few hockey victories, the boys have not had the publicity justifying their efforts and the fine results obtained.”

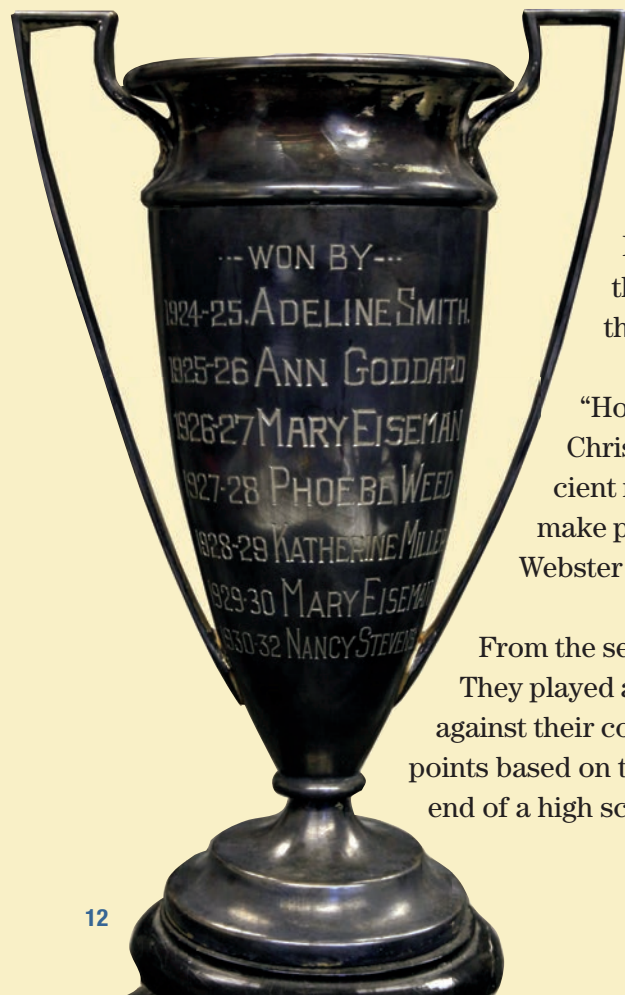
In the winter of 1924–25, the boys won their first two basketball games by comfortable margins against the University City freshmen and the Kirkwood reserves, as reported by John McDowall '26 in the 1925 *Review*. McDowall noted, regretfully, that “if Mr. Leland had not substituted our reserves, our score undoubtedly would have been greater, and our opponents’ score smaller. It was Mr. Leland’s desire, however, to make the game as interesting as possible, and to give many of his candidates an opportunity to participate.” Manifestly, a certain tension between pure participation and victory had begun to develop. By finishing the year with three more victories and one defeat, this squad was acknowledged as the school’s “first real team.” JBS letters were awarded for the first time commemorating team play.

In 1925–26, William Stix '28, the new scribe for boys’ athletics, wrote of competition by the varsities in football, basketball, and baseball mainly against sub-varsities at schools such as University City, Clayton, and Kirkwood, with a few varsity opponents such as Maplewood. The junior varsities played such teams as the Epsilon Eta Boys Club and the Clayton Orphans Home. That winter, Burroughs met a Country Day School team for the first time in any sport—a basketball game which Burroughs lost 25–16. The sterling athletic career of Gene Jantzen '28 was already underway. He was a force in football even as a sophomore in 1925 when the team went 3–1–2, overrunning Principia 8–0. “In this game, Jantzen shone above all others, especially on account of his beautiful line plunging,” wrote Stix. At the year-end athletic banquet, Burroughs awarded football letters to Clark Smith, William Atkins, and William Johnson, '26; James Woods, Richard Kauffman Jr., Stafford Lambert, Lucien Fouke, and Edward Read (captain), '27; and, in addition to Jantzen, William Nesbit, William Boyd III, and William Edwards, '28. Football ultimately captured the abiding interest of Director Aikin, as shown by the *World* story, displayed on this page, of the 1928 loss to Country Day by 27–0.



The school presented letters to the girls as well in recognition of hockey performance. They were Elizabeth Stix, Anne Davis, and Martha Gellhorn, '26; Margaret Vieths, Louise Goddard, Katherine Boyd, Katherine Morton, and Ruth Oliver, '28; Elizabeth Leavitt, Janis Brauer, and Frances O'Neil, '29; and Janet Fish '30.

After the tentative successes of 1925–26, Burroughs took a significant competitive step forward in the following academic year, joining Chaminade, McBride, Western Military Academy, Christian Brothers College, St. Louis University High School, and Country Day School in the St. Louis Preparatory League, which had been formed in 1924 for competition in a variety of athletics; Burroughs' participation was limited to a few sports—football notably excluded. However, the school's membership lasted only a year; Burroughs fared poorly—finishing 1–13 in basketball and 0–6 in soccer—with most losses coming by lopsided scores. The silver lining was Burroughs' first recorded victories over Country Day—in two baseball games, in one of which Burroughs manhandled the boys from Brown Road 21–4.



GIRLS' ATHLETICS: SIGNIFICANT FROM THE START

It is difficult to discern whether the first real interscholastic successes were feats of the Burroughs boys or girls. There was fledgling competition in the first year of school in which the boys vanquished the University City freshmen in basketball, and the girls registered a tie with Mary Institute in the same sport. The record does recount, however, that the girls of Burroughs were the first to make a bold statement that the school could not be ignored in athletics. This came in the fall of 1924 in field hockey, the sport that has been a major interest and strength at the school.

“Hockey is now the one absorbing thought after three-thirty,” announced Camilla Collins '28 in the Christmas 1924 *Review*. “We are taken out on the field and put through our paces in a distressingly efficient manner. At night we dream of left-hand lunges and penalty corners, dream of the day when we will make perfect drives. . . .” The girls were 2–1 on the season, steamrolling Clayton 6–2 and jack-hammering Webster Groves 16–0 before losing to Kirkwood. Field hockey had arrived.

From the second school year forward the girls competed interscholastically in the Girls Athletic Association. They played a number of intramural sports as well and formed class teams to compete against one another and against their counterparts at other schools; the best athletes composed the varsity teams. Each girl accumulated points based on the number of teams and the quality of teams on which she played. At the end of a year and at the end of a high school career, the girls received awards based on their point totals.



The 1929 field hockey team was featured in the *Globe-Democrat*.

From the beginning, girls' sports have played a central role at Burroughs—long before the 1972 federal statute commonly known as Title IX ushered in the era of equality between men's and women's athletics. As Alice Chapman '26 asserted in the November 1924 *Review*: “The girls' athletics are an important factor in our school life.”

Girls' sports regularly received equal billing with that of the boys in the *Review*. In addition to field hockey, there was basketball, baseball, gymnastics, tennis, track, and volleyball—not to mention speedball. There was likewise archery, and, according to the winter 1927 *Review*, “when the weather has permitted, many of the girls have enjoyed the skating on the pond near Busch's Grove.” Enthusiasm was abundant, as documented in March 1928:

Anyone pessimistic about the success of girls' athletics should come over to the gymnasium in the afternoon and see a girl, in a heated encounter, rise from the floor after a hard fall and gracefully drop the ball into the basket.

Recognition was forthcoming as well. “We are pleased to record,” trumpeted the *Review* of November 1925 “that two hockey players from the John Burroughs School made the All-St. Louis team, Miss (Dorothy) Mumford our coach, and Louise Goddard.” Anne Davis and Elizabeth Stix were named as backups on the all-star team.

A TEAM TO REMEMBER

The varsity hockey team topped off the decade with a four-year unbeaten streak. The final season of 1929 must be recorded as one of the finest in the history of the school.

Led by a group of seniors that had played together for six years, the girls compiled a 4–0 record, devastating their opponents thirty-five goals to one. The team was celebrated in the December 8, 1929, *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* with a photograph and the hugely understated caption, “A hockey squad with an unusual record.”

Unusual record indeed. A brimming preseason optimism was vindicated when the team trampled Clayton 12–0 in the first game, ripping the nets for seven goals in the first half alone. The girls marched through the rest of the schedule without a down moment, overwhelming Principia 9–0, archrival Mary Institute 10–0, and Principia again 4–1. A trio of sharpshooters on the front line accounted for most of the scoring, striking early and often to run up insurmountable first-half leads. They were center forward Ruth Ferriss '30, right inside Jane Bond '30, and left inside Ann Russe '31. Combined, the threesome scored some twenty-seven of the thirty-five goals for the season, according to accounts in the *World*.

Other members of the starting eleven were Mary Eiseman, Anne Goddard, Virginia Grace, Jane Niggeman, Ruth Percy, Elizabeth Russe, and Mary Scudder (goalie), all '30, and Mary Rickey '31. The backups were Margaret Loeb and Martha Hicks, both '30, and Louise Bretzfelder, Babette Treuman, Phoebe Weed, Virginia Moser, and Anna Carpenter, all '31.

Like other private schools at the time, Burroughs sent a team in early November to preliminary tryouts for the All Private School Hockey Team. “Only the most promising were asked to come for the final tryouts,” the *World* reported. In the case of Burroughs, the entire starting squad was invited back. In the end, “eight of the varsity, including the entire forward line, made the All Private School Team.” One can only wonder at the results the girls of Burroughs would have achieved in a twenty-game season.

BIRTH OF THE ABC LEAGUE

As 1927–28 progressed, Sam Leland as Burroughs athletics director wrote to a friend in California for information about a newly created classification system that permitted more balanced competition between schools. Concurrently, Lee McCandless, athletic director at Principia, heard a lecture by the creator of the California Exponent System.

PRESENT AT THE INCEPTION

Before the first ball was thrown or the first pushup pushed, there was physical exertion of a different kind when Burroughs opened its doors in 1923. “Our first class project was shoveling dirt so they could finish the sewer lines,” recalled Eric P. Newman ’28, ninety-nine years of age at the time of an interview for this book in 2011. He was an eighth grader on opening day. When it came to sports, Newman related, he was refused for football. “I was a puny kid, when I graduated I weighed only 135 pounds. I would have been wrecked. So I got into soccer, and ended up on Gov’s team, and later became a fullback on the MIT team.”

Involvement in sports was an integral part of the Burroughs experience, Newman remembered, but also a necessity to field teams. “We only had twenty-four kids in our class, and half of them were girls,” he said. “I was on the baseball team because we didn’t have enough players. I was on the first team that beat Country Day—Gov didn’t care how incompetent we were; he just said, ‘Keep on playing.’”

With obvious pleasure, Newman summarized the Burroughs approach this way: “It wasn’t just winning; it was to enjoy sportsmanship

and competition on a fair basis.” And there was no doubt about the centrality of athletics: “We were fully aware that physical exertion and a good long sleep was stimulating to our classroom attention.”

Characterizing Burroughs as “an experiment in coeducation,” Newman emphasized the buoyant school spirit that permeated the institution and how it carried over into performance. “I was in some track meet,” he recalled, “a long race, and I lost my left shoe. I had a choice to make: stop and go back for the shoe or carry on. I kept going—one shoe on, one shoe off.”

Newman is a prime example of the cohesiveness of the Burroughs family; he proudly notes that thirty-two members of his family have attended the school, including his wife, Evelyn Edison Newman ’37.

His most lasting memory of Burroughs is of his fellow students. “The quality of the people was what impressed me,” he said. “Not only in their grades, but in human relationships. The students were carefully selected, and we got along beautifully. John Burroughs made my life.”



Football Team Is Given Chicken Dinner

On Tuesday evening, November 27, all of the boys who had ever played on the A team in football this year were invited to a dinner given by their fathers and several Trustees at St. Albans Farms. The object of the dinner was to get all the fellows and their fathers together and discuss the past football season.

At 6:15 dinner was served to the entire party, forty-three in all. The menu was very attractive and the food was exceptionally good; as a result everybody ate heartily. The menu was as follows:

Pickles	Olives
Tomato Soup	
Roast Chicken with Cranberries	
Mashed Potatoes	
String Beans	Carrots and Turnips
Pineapple and Grapefruit Salad	
Vanilla Ice Cream	Demi Tasse

Coach Leland showed very effectively by means of statistics that the John Burroughs team was always outweighed by the opposition. First he took the average weight of the squads of our rival schools:

Country Day155 pounds
Western168 pounds
Principia158 pounds
Burroughs145 pounds

Then he went on to point out that where our fellows who played on the first team were between the ages of 15 and 16 those of Country Day were between the ages of 16 and 17, Western between 17 and 18, and Principia between 16 and 17. Then the most important point was brought up—the number of boys on our first team who were classified as first team men as compared with those of the other schools. The chart appeared as follows:

Team	No. of First Team Men
Country Day29
Western32
Principia33
Burroughs14

Leland enlisted the aid of other athletic directors—Robert Hughes at Country Day and Major Frank Garetson at Western Military Academy—and the four schools created the ABC League to begin in the fall of 1928. These schools would comprise the league until the late 1950s when it underwent its first expansion, initially involving teams below the varsity level.

By assigning to each student points, or “exponents,” based on their age, height, weight, and class year, the schools created teams at the A, B, and C levels in each sport, thereby equalizing competition among all student athletes. In the first year, the designated sports were A, B, and C football; A, B, and C basketball; A soccer; A track; and A baseball. Other sports were added at each level over the years. At the close of each year, an “All Sports Winner” was named based on the performance of the A, B, and C teams in each sport. By this means, the contributions of athletes at all levels were accorded equal importance. The ABC League survived and thrived into the twenty-first century.

In 1962, Principia’s McCandless reflected on the success of the league he had helped to launch:

I believe sincerely that the essence of the whole matter derives from one very simple principle . . . namely, that we dared to be unorthodox in a highly orthodox field; we have dared to place the welfare and education of the individual boy, whether he is large or small, experienced or inexperienced, ahead of the welfare of the program or the fortunes of the member schools. This was the vision that founded the league.

EARLY ABC COMPETITION

The first year of competition in the ABC League proved difficult for Burroughs, particularly at the A level in football and basketball where both teams were winless. Varsity football, sadly, failed to score a point. School spirit, nonetheless, persevered. The *World*—the student newspaper that commenced publication in 1928—reflected this, and likewise provided a forum for the coaches to explain that youth and a lack of size had been major factors in the disappointing 1928 football season. (Witness Coach Leland’s comments at the team’s chicken dinner.)

Basketball likewise faced problems with the size of its players. The *World*, reporting on a loss to Western, observed: “The only thing they (Western) had to do was to hold the ball up in the air and the Blue and Gold team could not reach it.” At the same time, sportsmanship in the new league was demonstrable. Following the loss

HOSTING SOCCER'S ELITE

The year was 1927, and the tiny Latin American country of Uruguay was on top of the soccer world, having won the 1924 Olympic competition and soon to capture the 1928 Olympic crown as well. Based on Uruguay's preeminence, when World Cup soccer officially began in 1930 under the banner of FIFA, Uruguay was the host country, winning its only World Cup title with a victory over Argentina 4–2.

In May of 1927, Uruguay toured parts of the United States, including St. Louis, and needed a venue on American soil for final preparations. Word got around. Soccer was an important winter sport at Burroughs. Director Wilford Aikin sprung into action. Camilla Collins '28 had the story in the June 1927 *Review*:

When we speak of a distinguished team, it might well be assumed, and rightly, that the John Burroughs baseball nine was under discussion. However, this time such does not appear to be the case.

On the eleventh of May the all-star soccer team from Uruguay, in acceptance of Mr. Aikin's invitation, used our field for their final practice before departing to play teams in Chicago. A great crowd, from other schools besides ours, watched the world champions of the soccer realm.

Their speed and accuracy were amazing, and our own soccer squad is hoped to have received much valuable assistance from watching these experts play the game.

In a later day, Ray Beckman, the renowned Burroughs soccer coach from 1951 to 2002, would be an Olympic soccer player, representing the USA in the 1948 games.



Jimmy Dunn, the St. Louis center forward, headed Goalkeeper Baigiani rather hard on this play but the goalie eventually cleared the ball. Halfback Vincenzo is on the right and Fullback Recoba directly behind the goalkeeper.

Uruguay Defeats St. Louis, 4 Goals to 1

to Western, the Burroughs team was treated to a swim in the victors' pool.

Burroughs captured its first league titles in baseball and soccer—the two sports to which Leonard Haertter had been assigned as coach in 1927. Varsity baseball shared the crown in 1929 with Principia and Country Day. In soccer, the school won its first outright championship in the second year of ABC League play, 1929–30, with a 5–0–1 record.

That second year of league play brought more success generally to the school. The A, B, and C football teams compiled .500 or better records, as did the B basketball team. The concept of league competition was firmly established, especially at the B and C levels where each team played its league rivals twice in each season.

CONNECTIONS TO PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Through the generations, Burroughs has forged strong connections with figures in professional sports—both as friends of the school and as

parents and believers in a Burroughs education. These connections began in the first decade of the school's existence.

George Sisler, the Hall-of-Fame first baseman for the St. Louis Browns and team manager during an illness in 1924, sent his four children to Burroughs where all excelled in sports. Before any young Sislers were enrolled, however, he was a supporter of the institution. The February 1925 *Review* described a "Gymnasium Exhibit" featuring girls and boys in various sports and athletic displays. "The demonstration was honored by the presence of a large number of parents," the *Review* reported, "and also of George Sisler, manager of the St. Louis Browns, to all of whom . . . we extend a hearty welcome."

In December of 1928, at the third annual athletic banquet honoring both boys and girls, the featured speaker was Branch Rickey, then the general manager of the St. Louis Cardinals and later, as GM of the Brooklyn Dodgers, the man who would



Hall-of-Famer George Sisler batted over .400 twice while playing for the St. Louis Browns.

Branch Rickey was a strong supporter of Burroughs and its athletics.



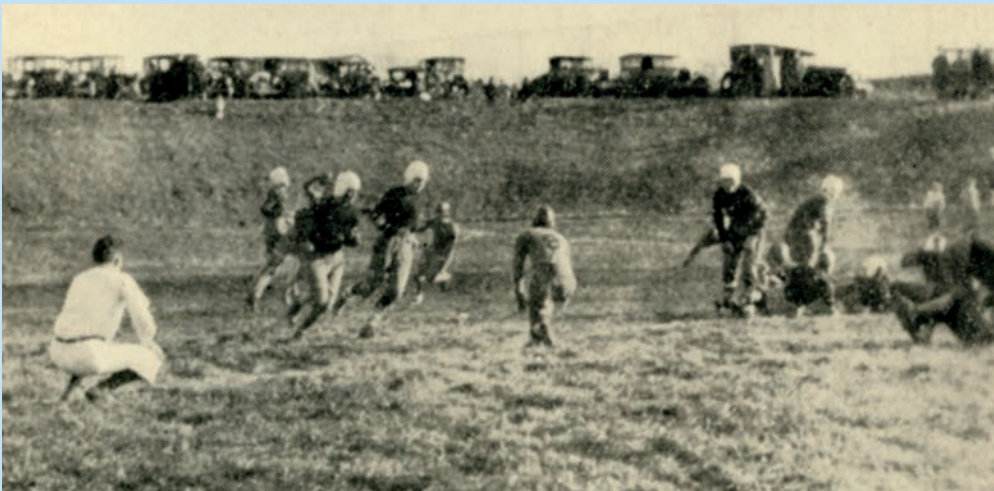
shepherd Jackie Robinson into professional baseball. Rickey would send six children to John Burroughs School. These banquets continued to be the occasion for the presentation of letters, and the accounts thereof contain names that would echo loudly through the generations at John Burroughs School.

A LOOK BACK

In 1929, the “fathers and boys” of Burroughs compiled a brochure on the significance of the school in their lives. Pierre Grace '29, a senior, provided the perfect testament to the mission and progress of the young school:

Burroughs draws out of a student all of his good qualities and develops them to a high degree. . . . The athletic program has meant as much to me as the other phases of school life. During my four years in athletics there has developed a courage, determination, devotion, and humility, which will repay a hundred times for any of the defeats I have suffered on the fields.

As word of Burroughs spread, enrollment jumped and teachers performed with distinction—in the classrooms and as coaches on the playing fields. New construction boomed: From a single outdoor field and one gym, Burroughs expanded to two separate fields for girls and boys, plus a track and tennis courts. Girls competed in the Girls Athletic Association and the boys had joined like-minded independent schools for balanced and healthy interscholastic play. The vision of the school’s founders had been vindicated.



Burroughs versus Country Day very early, with vintage cars on high.



Aerial photo of Burroughs campus, from the 1929 “fathers and boys” brochure.



1930s / A Gathering Force in the ABCs



The decade of the 1930s opened with an announcement by way of performance that John Burroughs School was present and ready for duty in ABC League play. In the course of the decade, Burroughs would capture no fewer than twenty-eight ABC titles at the combined A, B, and C levels and win three all-league championships recognizing play at all levels in all sports.

It was a decade too that brought varsity football prominence to Burroughs, with a cherished win and two ties against chief rival Country Day School, and an undisputed A football title in 1937. By way of fits and starts and an open contest among all students, the school selected names for its A, B, and C teams to carry into competition.

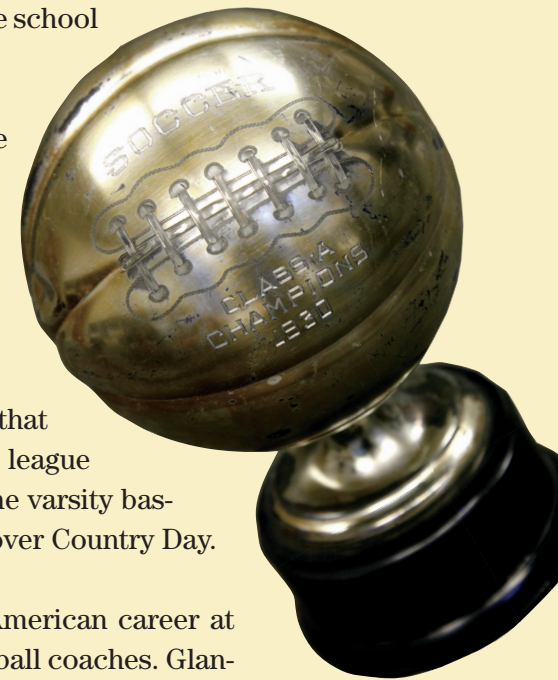
The girls of Burroughs, meanwhile, continued their pursuit of excellence in field hockey, gaining substantial recognition along the way, and adding lacrosse—albeit short-lived—at the end of the decade.

A STRONG BEGINNING

Burroughs opened the decade with a rush, fielding three teams in 1930–31 that won or tied for ABC League championships: A soccer and A baseball won league titles outright, and the C football team tied for first with a 4–0–1 record. The varsity basketball team added to the aura of gathering success with a narrow victory over Country Day.

James Glancy, who had arrived in 1929 after an honorable-mention All-American career at Ohio Wesleyan, became one in a succession of outstanding Burroughs football coaches. Glancy's first varsity team in 1929 finished 3–2–1 in what was deemed a good season for the still-fledgling school. The next season contained glimpses of good things to come. In an early game that was anticipated as a challenge, Burroughs swept Chaminade 57–0, with William Turner '31 and Eugene "Gigi" Hahnel '32, combining for seven touchdowns.

Facing page: **1931 A football squad, first to best Country Day.** Front row from left: Dick Young, Jack Robinson, Fred Davis, Frank Davis (captain), Lou Steiner, and George Tittmann; second row: John Biggs, Jim Howard, Scotty Glancy, Charlie Mill, Bill Turner, Gene Hahnel; back row: Coach Jim Glancy, Tom DePew, Penn Hamilton, Ed Lebens, Art Brauer, Eugene Gerhard.





George Sisler Jr. and Branch Rickey Jr., circa 1931.

By this time the *John Burroughs World* had begun publication (October 1928), becoming the chief chronicler of the times. The student-journalists quickly adopted the breezy, jargon-laced prose often characteristic of sports reporting. The story of the Chaminade blitz was a prime example: “Burroughs ‘A’ Team Kalsomines Chaminade, 57-0.” (“Kalsomine”: A variation of calcimine, which is a white wash consisting of glue and other substances, used on plastered surfaces.) The story went into riveting detail:

Gene Hahnel made three hula-hula dances off tackle for touchdowns, and Freight Train Turner took the ball four times through the line through perfectly made holes with the same results. J. (Jim) Nolan ('31) intercepted a pass and Dick Boyd ('31) dodged and hurdled would-be tacklers for the rest of the points. The line more than anything else deserves credit. . . . The holes were made when and where they were necessary, while few plays went through them on the defensive. Gene Nolan ('31) and Charlie Mill ('32) did great work, and Chuck DePew ('31) did one of the finest pieces of field generaling that has ever been seen at Burroughs Bowl.

In the same 1930 season, “Freight Train” Turner scored the first-ever touchdown against Country Day School—by now abbreviated “Codasco”—on a seventy-yard run with a pass interception. The outcome, unfortunately, was a Burroughs loss, 7–6.

1931–32: A YEAR OF FIRSTS

The 1931–32 school year was filled with firsts—the first varsity football victory over Country Day and the first year-end trophy recognizing Burroughs as the overall ABC League champion. As the year progressed, the *World* tracked the mounting point totals among the various schools at the A, B, and C levels. Burroughs’ winning number was based in no small part on championship performances by the A baseball team plus the B basketball and C football teams. The May 18, 1932, *World* hailed the milestone:

This year athletics at John Burroughs has taken a forward step. For the first time since the A.B.C. League competition, Burroughs has secured a leg on the trophy, Western already having two legs and Country Day one leg. The title was clinched Saturday afternoon when Burroughs beat Principia by four points in the annual track meet. Burroughs has witnessed its most successful year in athletics. . . .

THE WAY IT WAS

Richard W. Horner arrived at Burroughs as a seventh grader and graduated in 1932. Horner attended Washington University where he was elected student body president and earned a Rhodes Scholarship. He still follows Burroughs events with great interest—including sports. In an interview, he looked back on athletics in the early years at Burroughs.

“Limited facilities and low expectations,” he recalled with a laugh. “My most vivid recollection is a man named Sam Leland. He put together the whole program. A wonderful, caring man. He wanted every student to have a chance to participate, and everybody did get a chance to play. He taught us too. A lot of us were really dumb about sports.”

Yet plenty of confidence was placed in the student-athletes. Horner described being thrust into a B basketball game by Coach Sam McCutchen with an order: “Horner, get in there and show ’em how to play this game.”

At first, all outdoor sports were played on a single field. Surrounding enthusiasm was palpable. “Because the school was so small and we were so crowded, there was a great deal of school spirit,” he noted, much of it generated at morning assemblies of the student body. The epitome of this spirit was Leonard Haertter, who arrived in 1926 as a math teacher, and then doubled as a baseball and soccer coach. “He loved sports as much as he did teaching math,” Horner noted.



Horner recalls the details of many of the games of his day, citing the names of players whose sons would figure in JBS sports as well at a later time. “Charlie DePew (’31) threw this long pass to Carl Lischer (’29),” he related. “Now, Lischer was fast. I remember him catching that ball and running like a deer.” Charles DePew III ’63 was a wing-back on the standout 1962 team, and Charles Lischer ’60 was an All-District linebacker on the successful 1959 team.

Horner—who daily took two streetcar rides from north St. Louis to Burroughs (enough time to complete his homework)—fondly recalled the teacher-coaches who mentored him during his Burroughs years, naming Haertter, McCutchen (history and basketball), and Mark Neville (English, plus soccer and later football), as well as those who confined themselves to the classroom, such as Charles Baker (Latin). “These were extraordinary teachers. They made themselves part of your life growing up.”

Branch Rickey Jr. ’31 was a schoolmate. Horner related how Rickey’s father—general manager of the St. Louis Cardinals—took a group of Burroughs students to a Cardinals World Series game in St. Louis, introducing them to ballplayers in the locker room afterward.

Horner described the game of speedball as an example of how Burroughs worked: “If they didn’t have something they needed, they made it up.”

Burroughs turned in a solid 4–2 record in varsity football. The first victory over Country Day came after a lengthy dry spell: Burroughs had lost to their rival five years in succession—from the beginning of the rivalry in 1925 through 1930—and had been outscored 80 to 6. The two schools met in 1931 in driving rain in front of 1,700 expectant fans. In a burst of enthusiasm, the *World* of November 23, 1931, trumpeted the result: “Glancymen Trample Codasco 6 to 0”:

Slipping and sliding over a partially soaked gridiron, Coach Glancy’s Blue Tornado succeeded in ironing out a 6 to 0 victory over their arch-rivals from Brown Road (first site of Country Day School, near the airport). The Codascoans, though making seven first downs to the Glancymen’s one, found the Blue line holding their own and making good every semblance of a break. Never did the Hughesites (a reference to Coach Robert Hughes) succeed in getting within 25 yards of the Burroughs goal line, and only on three occasions was the oval even in the territory of the Big Blue.

Burroughs was now the “Blue Tornado” and “Big Blue” by the newspaper’s account, and Turner, previously “Freight Train,” was alternatively denominated “Big Bill.” Country Day had the better offense, the *World* judged, but it could not stop Turner on a one-yard dive up the middle for the lone touchdown, coming in the third quarter after Manus “Scotty” Glancy ’33 returned a punt “through a maze of would-be Codasco tacklers” for forty yards. Scotty was the coach’s brother. In the fourth quarter, John Biggs ’33 almost scored again on a fifty-yard return of an intercepted pass. The *World* lauded the play of Richard Young ’32, in addition to Glancy and Biggs.

Both the ABC League and Burroughs by now were receiving widespread acknowledgment. The *Post-Dispatch* and the *Globe-Democrat* published their “ABC League All Star Team,” on which Burroughs earned four berths, tied for first with Principia. The newspapers honored Glancy, right halfback; Spencer Robinson ’34, left end; Walter Pattee Jr. ’32, right guard; and team captain Frank Davis Jr. ’32, right tackle. In this era the metropolitan newspapers also picked All-ABC teams at the B and C levels.

At the end of the football season, Branch Rickey, by now a trustee as well as a Burroughs parent and friend, held a dinner and dance at his home to celebrate the team’s performance. Rickey, as master of ceremonies, deferred to team captain Davis to present Coach Glancy with a gift, one that bespoke loudly of the times—a silver cigarette case and lighter. After speeches by the coaches, Rickey offered to host the same event “every time you win that game,” a reference to the Country Day victory. This may well have been the first Blue and Gold Dance.

THAT ELUSIVE TEAM NAME

Today, Burroughs is known far and wide as the “Bombers”—conjuring up images of planes diving, paratroopers falling. This was preceded, however, by a number of alternative choices. The 1931 *World* reflexively offered up “Blue Tornado” and “Big Blue” for the varsity football team. Then, in a February 16, 1931, article captioned “Join the Contest,” the *World* turned to students for suggestions. Five names were offered: Broncos, Wildcats, Gold Crushers, Square Shooters, and Badgers. No immediate conclusion was reached, so many of the varsity teams continued to carry the names of their coaches—the “Glancymen” in football, the “Haerttermen” in baseball.

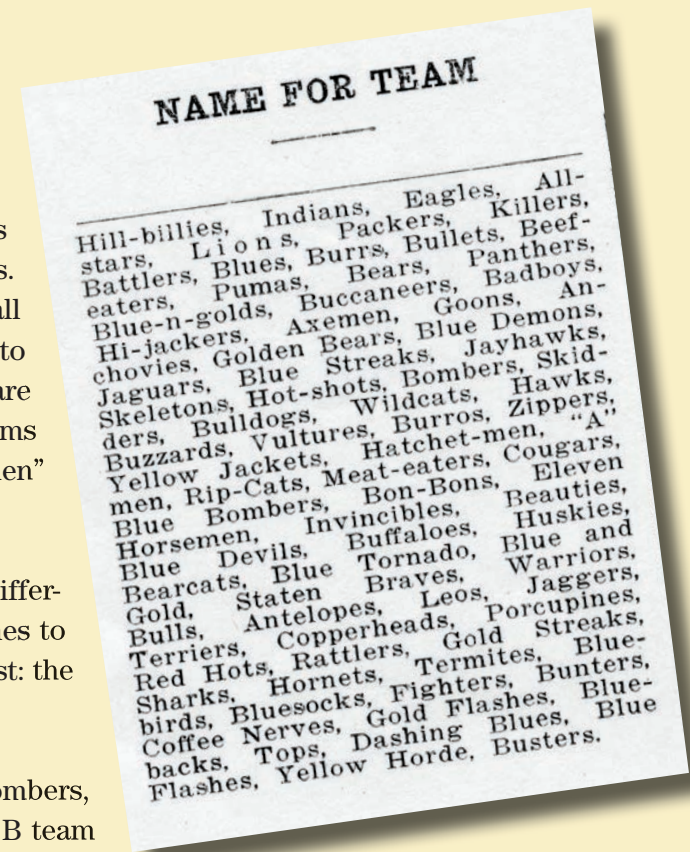
On October 8, 1935, the *World* announced the renewal of the naming sweepstakes. “Ninety Different Names Suggested for Burroughs Football Team,” blared the headline. “Three Best Names to be Voted on by Students in Assembly Thursday.” The offerings were inventive to say the least: the Bees, Hill-billies, Killers, Battlers, Beefeaters, Badboys, Goons, and many more.

A week later the *World* reported that the process was complete: The varsity was to be the Bombers, the winning selection over the other finalists—Lions, Bulldogs, Terriers, and Falcons. The B team would become the Bulldogs, and the C team the Junior Bombers.

ON TO A SECOND TROPHY

Wasting no time, Burroughs donned a second ABC League crown the next year, giving further notice of its status as a rising athletic force. The May 25, 1933, issue of the *World* headlined the achievement: “Blue and Gold Teams Win A.B.C. League Title for Second Consecutive Year; Burroughs Brings Home Four Championship Teams out of Eleven Entered in Race.”

Crediting the hard work of Coaches Leland, Glancy, Haertter, Sam McCutcheon, and Gene Jantzen '28, the latter an all-purpose athlete when at Burroughs, the *World* noted that the varsity soccer and baseball teams had won league titles, as well as the C football and basketball teams. “The baseball team undoubtedly has the best record of any team in the school,” it asserted. “Of the six years Mr. Haertter has been coaching baseball, his teams have won the championship for the last four years.”



SURMOUNTING ADVERSITY

Despite the successes of 1932–33, storm clouds were gathering. The same *World* article hailing the second ABC League championship cautioned that “many athletes who were outstanding will be lost through graduation this year.” Indeed, the 1933–34 school year tested Burroughs’ mettle. Coach Glancy was out with sickness the entire fall; varsity baseball lost its first game to Country Day since 1930; the girls’ hockey team lost for the first time in eight years; and the student newspaper was moved at one point to criticize the effort of the track team: “Prom-Affected Athletes Are Overcome in Close Meet.” How would the school respond?

The answer came in the 1934–35 school year when Burroughs athletes bounced back with a vengeance: Varsity field hockey and soccer were undefeated; the baseball team won the first in a string of five ABC titles (strongly abetted by two members of the Sisler family, of future major league baseball renown); the track team recorded one of its best seasons ever; and the A basketball team was rated “as one of the best teams to don a blue and gold uniform.”

POST-SEASON BASKETBALL SUCCESS—AND A YOUNGSTER’S TRIUMPH

The superlatives that were applied to the varsity basketball team in 1935 appeared in the first yearbook published by Burroughs, which was called the *Review* at the time. (The annual compilation wouldn’t assume the title of *Yearbook* until 1951 and ultimately would become the *Governor* in 1964.) Most Burroughs athletic historians, when reflecting on early post-season basketball success, focus exclusively on the grand teams of 1949 and 1951–53. The 1935 team, however, had a stirring post-season run. They posted a season record of 10–4, with all losses coming at the hands of ABC foes Western and Country Day, thereby removing Burroughs from championship contention. As recorded by the *Review*, however, the post-season more than made up for it:

After spending an indifferent season, the Burroughs quintuplet ended the year in a blaze of glory by winning the St. Louis ‘B’ Basketball Championship from the St. Charles Pirates. Rated as an unknown outsider, Burroughs quickly made its mark by downing Brentwood, 32–31. Chaminade was the next victim, receiving its third trouncing of the year from the Glancymen. This placed Burroughs in the semi-finals, where it met and defeated Principia. The final game was with the favorites of the Tournament, St. Charles. Burroughs was invincible that night and combined a perfect defense with a clicking offense to conquer the Pirates, 26–14, and win the Championship.

**Varsity basketball
district champions, 1935.**

Standing from left: Melvin Norris, Joe Doughty, George Sisler, Paul White, Harry Leschen, James Taylor, Mr. J. J. Glancy;
sitting: Tom Toney, John O'Neil, Ben Eiseman, Jim Blackman, Pete Mara.



Burroughs had appeared in this “St. Louis District Basketball Tournament” in 1933 and would do so again in 1938, advancing in the latter year to the finals only to be defeated by Chaminade. Under the system for state tournament play as explained in those years by the *World*, Burroughs should have been in line for further state competition in 1935. Nonetheless, the season ended with the district championship—with no further explanation in either student publication.

Basketball fame came to Burroughs in a different form in 1937. That year, Bill Herbert '40, at the tender age of fourteen, triumphed in a free-throw contest sponsored by the *Globe-Democrat*, pouring in seventy-seven out of one hundred shots. He won, astonishingly, in a competition that was open to high school players up to nineteen years old who came from seventy St. Louis-area schools.

1935–36: A BANNER YEAR—AND A THIRD LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

The year 1935 opened a new era at John Burroughs School: Leonard Haertter replaced Wilford Aikin as director of the school (the title “headmaster” came much later). Haertter continued coaching baseball for a time. Meanwhile, George Staten took over as head football, basketball, and baseball coach. He, like Glancy before him, was an Ohio Wesleyan graduate; also like Glancy, Staten was brought to Burroughs through the good offices of Branch Rickey.

The year opened with a good varsity football record of 3–1–1 for the newly christened “Bombers” and a three-way tie with Western Military Academy and Country Day for the championship. Western, the Alton, Illinois academy that closed its doors in 1971, was a sports powerhouse: Burroughs’ victory by 7–0 was the first over the cadets in football since 1931. (JBS’s first track win over Western did not come until 1936.) But the season finale with Country Day, before the largest crowd ever to see a JBS football game, ended with the fourth loss in as many years to the red and white, a 33–7 pummeling of the Bombers.

The Harvard Trophy.

One of the season’s highlights was the famous lateral pass play from fullback Jim Hay ’36 to right halfback Joe Doughty Jr. ’37—a last-second backward toss to confound would-be tack-

lers. Unveiled in an early game against Clayton, the play netted a touchdown that fueled a fierce winning rally. Hay-to-Doughty was next on display against Western, accounting for the winning and only score of the game. Meanwhile, the C team unleashed its version of Notre Dame’s fabled Four Horsemen—Don Nardin and Babe Peden, both ’38, and Richard Hume and John “Bobo” Simmons, ’39, who flattened Country Day 44–0 en route to a league title.

More importantly for the school, Burroughs raced convincingly to its third overall ABC League championship by winning outright titles or ties in A football, soccer, track, and baseball; B basketball; and C football



and basketball. The 1936 *Review* devoted a full page to the achievement, reporting that Burroughs had amassed more performance points in ABC play than any school since the beginning of the league. The trophy awarded to Burroughs was the Harvard Cup, having been donated by the Harvard Club of St. Louis the previous year. (The Yale Club of St. Louis, not to be outdone, by 1937 was awarding its own cup to the winner of C football in the ABC League. The now-antique cup is filled with the Burroughs name.)

By the midpoint of the decade, John Burroughs School had firmly established itself as a force within the newly formed league of independent schools.

FIRST UNDISPUTED FOOTBALL CROWN

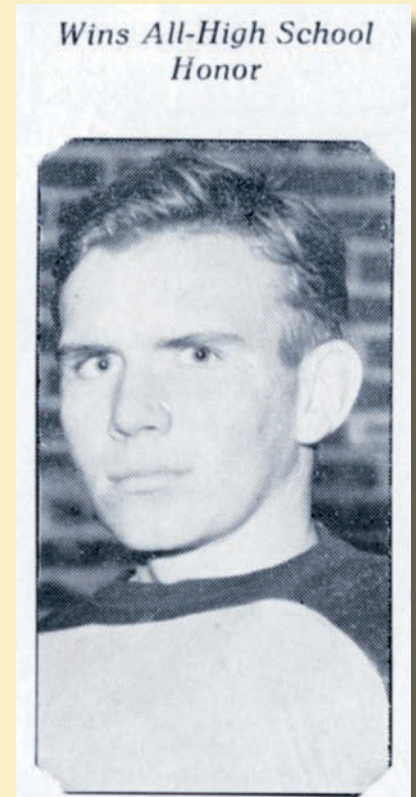


The Yale Trophies

Burroughs won its first outright football title in 1937 with a 5–1–1 record, even though, according to the *Review*, “the prospects for a successful football season were far from bright when candidates were called out in the fall. Only four regulars returned from last year’s team, and the squad, as a whole, was light and inexperienced.” Bucking the odds, the team opened with four straight wins, mostly by comfortable margins, including a 19–0 thumping of Western Military Academy, which had been the favorite to win the championship. In colorful prose, the *Review* reported what happened next:

Then hopes for an undefeated team were shattered when the Green and White jerseyed boys from S.S. Catholic journeyed to Burroughs to catch the Bombers on an off day and bring them their first and only defeat, 13–0. The South Siders’ bucking game proved too much for the Burroughs eleven.

The season-ending game with Country Day was played in snow flurries and 20-degree cold. Codasco struck on their opening drive for a 7–0 lead. Burroughs regained its balance to counter with a second-half touchdown, but a fourth-quarter drive stalled at the



Oather Kelly Jr. '38 was selected to the All-District team.



Varsity soccer team, 1935, “only one goal against them.” Standing from left: Jack Leschen, Maury Matthews, Reid Jones, James Hay, William Russe; sitting: Howard Lackland, Richard Kahle, Louis Hoerr, John Scudder, Charles Dee, William Fraser, William Lawry.

Country Day 20. Final score: 7–7. Burroughs would tie Country Day in the annual classic of 1939 as well, leaving them on the short end of the rivalry for the decade: one win, seven losses, and two ties. The total points favored Country Day 140 to 57.

The championship team of 1937 came in for an array of honors. Named to the All-ABC team were Robert Leland '38, son of Burroughs Coach Sam Leland, at end; LeRoy Sante Jr. '38, left halfback; Dick Sisler '38, fullback; and, last but not least, Oather Kelly Jr. '38, guard. Kelly was named to the All-District team of the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*—the first JBS player so honored, and, according to the “recollection” of the *World*, the first ABC player to receive the honor as well. Coach Jimmy Major of Normandy High School regarded Kelly as “the best interscholastic guard of the year.”

SOCCER REIGNS SUPREME— AND BATTLES THE ELEMENTS

Burroughs dominated the ABC League in soccer in the 1930s, winning league championships in 1930 and annually from 1933 to 1936. The team fell short for a year before capturing another crown in 1938. The peak years were 1935 and 1936, during which the Bombers compiled a record of 13–0–3, outscoring their rivals 47–1. The peak was 1935, with a record of 7–0–2 and a point advantage of 27–1. The leading scorers were Bill Russe and Bill Lawry, both '35, and Louis “Bud” Hoerr and John Scudder, '36. The *Review* commented as follows on this team:

The varsity soccer team was of its usual high caliber in the 1935 season. Only one goal was scored against them, in a game with Principia which Burroughs won 7–1. The highlight of the season was the game with St.

Louis U. High. In this game Burroughs played its best ball, holding one of the best teams in the city to a scoreless tie.

The 1937 season, a 3–1–3 effort by the Bombers, demonstrated why soccer ultimately became a fall sport. The opening game, which Burroughs won 6–0 against Principia, was played with three inches of snow blanketing the field, and the *Review* reported that “the final quarter of the game was played in almost complete darkness.” The second and third games were hampered by thick mud, and in the fifth game “Western defeated Burroughs 2–1 in mud such as only Western fields can produce.” In the final game of the season, a 0–0 tie with Codasco, “a terrific crossfield gale made it practically impossible for either team to get the ball even near the mouth of the goal, much less kick it in.”

The 1938 team won the league championship in spite of a costly mishap near season’s end. “With the best record in the league,” recounted the *Review*, “Burroughs had a mental lapse and kicked a goal for Principia, thus beating themselves.” The inadvertent goal, by Oather Kelly of football renown, went down in school lore as “Kelly’s boomerang kick.” Burroughs rebounded in the final game to beat Country Day and capture its seventh league title in ten years.

BASEBALL THRIVES

Burroughs baseball had gotten off to a fast start in the 1920s, posting the first athletic triumph over Country Day in 1927, a 21–4 rout pitched by Gene Jantzen, and capturing a share of its first ABC title in 1929, a three-way tie with Western and Country Day. The team was an attraction in town, drawing brimming crowds to the playing field directly behind the main building.

In the 1930s the varsity baseball team captured no fewer than eight titles. The 1931 team won the first undisputed league title thanks in no small part to a .331 team batting average, bolstered by individual marks of .563, .438, .435, and .400 for Spencer Robinson ’34, Branch Rickey Jr. ’31 (who also captained the soccer team), Ivan Lee Holt ’31, and Walter Pattee ’32. Burroughs won the championship by beating Country Day in the season finale with a remarkable comeback from an 8–0 deficit in the last inning.

Burroughs got good pitching in the decade from Norman (“Red”) Aikin ’30, the multi-sport son of Director Wilford Aikin; Arthur Bonsack Jr. ’31; Marcellus (“Mike”) Carpenter ’33; the Sisler brothers, George Jr. ’35 and Dick Sisler ’38; and Gardiner “Gardy” Bridge ’38. George Sisler threw a no-hitter over Western and two- and three-hitters over

FROM JBS TO LITERARY IMMORTALITY

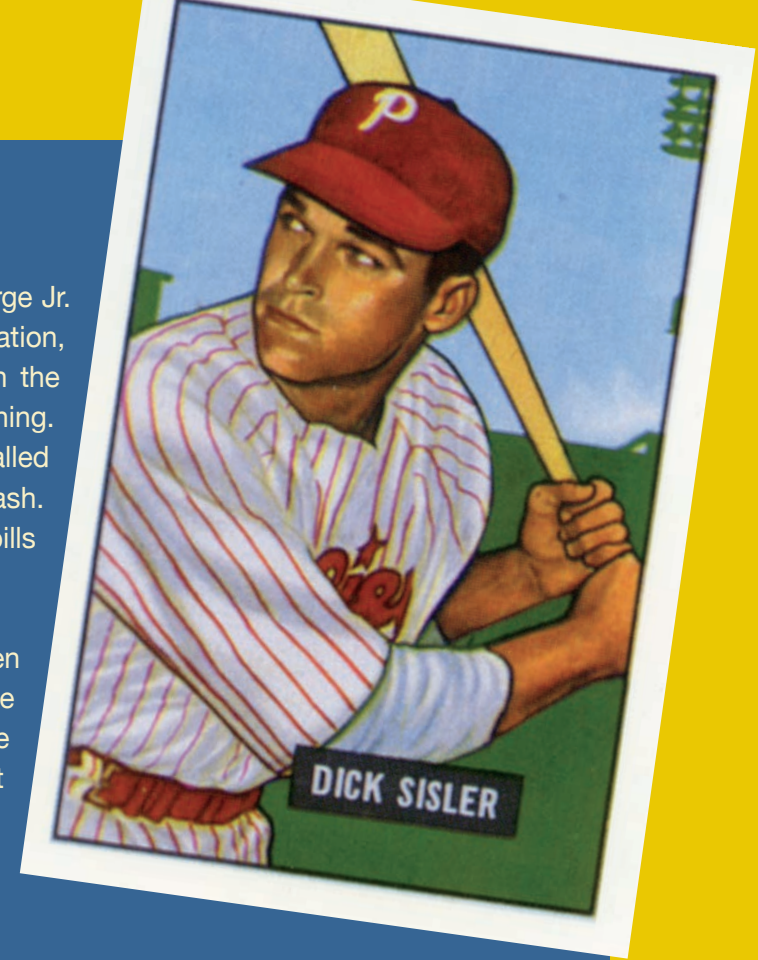
After Burroughs, the Sisler brothers followed their father into professional baseball: George Jr. played briefly in the minor leagues before a career in minor-league baseball administration, notably as president of the International League. Dick had a solid playing career with the Cardinals, the Philadelphia Phillies, and the Cincinnati Reds before moving on to coaching. Dick signed initially with the Cardinals. His brother Dave Sisler '49, a boy at the time, recalled the banner day: Dick rode a streetcar to downtown St. Louis for the signing—\$500 in cash. He returned to the family home, 6343 Pershing Avenue in University City, and threw the bills in the air with glee.

The shining moment of Dick's career came in 1950 as a veteran member of the Phillies, then known for their upstart "Whiz Kids." On the final Sunday of the season, the team faced the Brooklyn Dodgers on the latter's home turf, Ebbets Field. After a late-season swoon, the Phillies were clinging to a one-game lead over the Dodgers in their bid for a first pennant since 1915. Sisler, despite an ailing wrist, already had three singles to his credit when he stepped to the plate against formidable Don Newcombe in the tenth inning. The left-hander slammed a three-run, opposite-field home run sending the Phillies to the World Series against the Yankees. (They lost in four games.)

Despite the historic feat, it was left to a coincidental rendezvous in Cuba with Ernest Hemingway for Sisler to achieve genuine immortality. When Sisler was discharged from military service in late 1945, the Cardinals, in particular Coach Mike Gonzalez, assigned him to winter baseball in Havana. Sisler described what happened next in a 1971 interview with the *Nashville Tennessean Magazine* (he retired in Nashville):

They weren't used to many home runs down there, and I hit two the first day. . . . I hit three off Sal Maglie in one game. The day before that, I had hit one all the way out of the ballpark in Havana, out onto the property owned by the Tropical Cerveza brewery.

The latter accomplishment was a first at Havana's Tropical Park, and it earned Sisler a watch as a gift from the owner of the brewery. His power hitting also won him an invitation to a party at Hemingway's villa in Havana. The two became acquainted.



The Old Man and the Sea, an allegory based on an old fisherman's epic struggle with an eighteen-foot marlin, was Hemingway's final novel. The author wrote the book in 1951, a year after Sisler's shot heard 'round the baseball world. The book was published in 1952, winning a Pulitzer Prize that year and then gaining prominent mention in the Nobel Prize for Literature awarded to Hemingway in 1954.

The old man of the book was Santiago, with his young companion Manolin. They shared a passion for baseball, in addition to fishing. In the terse prose of Hemingway, Sisler took his place beside Joe DiMaggio—and his place in literary history:

"Tell me about the baseball," the boy asked him.

"In the American League it is the Yankees as I said," the old man said happily.

"They lost today," the boy told him.

"That means nothing. The great DiMaggio is himself again."

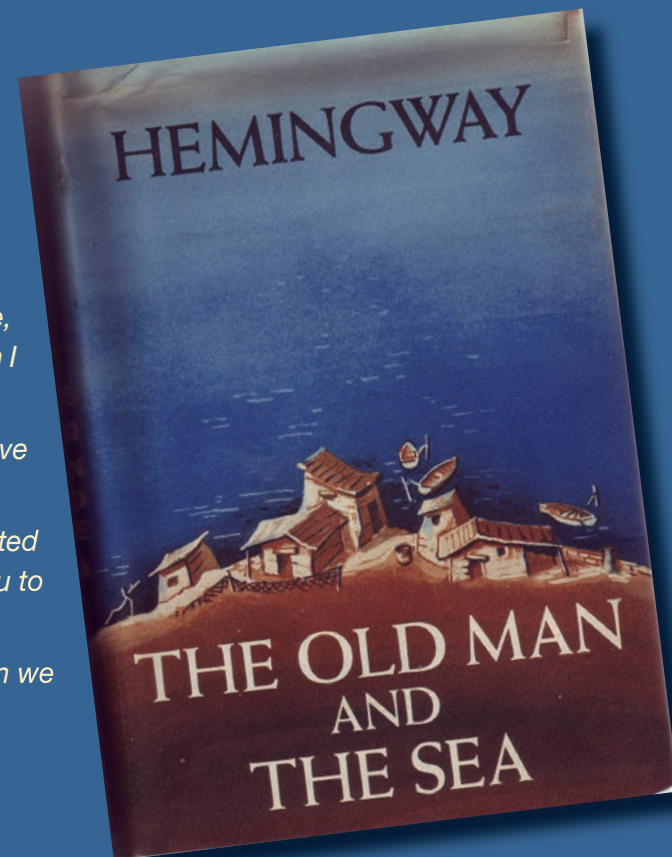
"They have other men on the team."

"Naturally. But he makes the difference. In the other league, between Brooklyn and Philadelphia I must take Brooklyn. But then I think of Dick Sisler and those great drives in the old park."

"There was nothing ever like them. He hits the longest ball I have ever seen."

"Do you remember when he used to come to the Terrace? I wanted to take him fishing but I was too timid to ask him. Then I asked you to ask him and you were too timid."

"I know. It was a great mistake. He might have gone with us. Then we could have that for all of our lives."





1938 league champs (tie). Back row from left: Mr. G. R. Staten (coach), J. Simmons, J. Green, R. Smith, N. Probststein, W. Herbert, D. Martin, J. Bronfenbrenner (manager); front row: C. Heineman, G. Bridge, R. Sante, R. Sisler, B. Reismeyer, B. Peden, R. Hume, O. Kelly.

Country Day his senior year, and Dick pitched a no-hitter over Western and a two-hitter over Country Day in his Burroughs career. In 1937, Burroughs blitzed Country Day 20–1, led on the mound by Joe Doughty '37, pitching the second one-hit game of his career and striking out seventeen batters, including eleven in a row. Dick Sisler led a forty-five-minute, ten-run fourth inning.

Baseball excellence was predictable with the Sislers. But their talents extended well beyond the diamond: George, or “Shotgun” as he was known by classmates, scored the winning touchdown to beat Clayton in 1934 with a pass interception in the closing seconds of the game. He also led the 1935 basketball team of post-season glory, setting a single-season scoring record for Burroughs with 116 points. In the spring he divided time between baseball and track.

Dick Sisler was likewise a four-sport performer. In football he scored the touchdown against Country Day in 1937 that produced a tie and thus Burroughs' first undisputed ABC football title. Apart from baseball, he performed in the hurdles and field events in track. In a 1938 track meet against Western, he accounted for fifteen of the team's thirty-nine points.

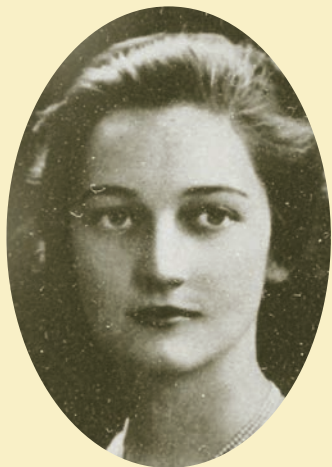
Dick Sisler shared pitching honors his senior year with his classmate Gardy Bridge, who at one point in 1938 hurled eighteen scoreless innings in a row. Bridge, in an interview, recalled with relish the talents of Sisler: "He was the big one—he could play any position on the field. He hit a home run into Len Haertter's office." Director Haertter's office was in the main school building. Under the field configuration at the time, that was in deep right field for the left-handed-hitting Sisler. According to the lore of the time, Gov offered a silver dollar to any Bomber who broke a window in his office with a home-run drive.

FIRST TITLES IN TRACK

A number of speedsters plied the narrow cinder track at Burroughs in the 1930s, beginning with Frank Proctor '31 who ran a 5.01.5 mile in 1930, shaving 23.5 seconds off the ABC League record. He bettered himself in the league meet the following year with a time of 4.52.

John Biggs '33 set the 100-yard dash mark of 10.1, which—though tied by his son, John Biggs '62, among others—stood for decades. Other speed merchants were John O'Neil and Tom Toney, '35, John Felker '37 (who recorded an unofficial 10.0 for the 100 in 1937), Earl Sherry '37, and Bob Leland '38.

Burroughs secured its first ABC track titles in 1936 and 1937 and won the ABC meet both years by comfortable margins. In 1936, first-place winners in the all-league meet were Harry Leschen Jr. '36 in the high jump, with a hearty leap of 5'10", and Paul White Jr. '36 in the discus, with a toss of 119'3". In 1937, there were first-place finishes by Felker in the 220, Sherry in the low hurdles, Robert Obourn '37 in the 440, Truman Fowler '38 in the mile, and Joe Doughty in the discus. The 880-relay foursome of Felker, Sherry, Obourn, and Paul Simmons Jr. '37 took first for Burroughs as well.



Left: **Best female athletes.** Cornwell sisters, from top, Margaret '33, Dorothy '38, Helen '36.



1939 hockey. Back row from left: M. Cutts, P. McPheeters, B. Stockstrom, M. McCarthy, N. Schleicher, C. Steiner, N. Braxton, G. Dee; front row: N. Kline, K. Woodward, L. Leland, V. Christy, K. Rice, H. DePew, V. Cornwell.

HOCKEY: DOMINATION BY THE GIRLS

Over the course of the decade, the girls of Burroughs dominated the competition at the varsity level in field hockey. The fall of 1931 marked their sixth undefeated season, and the standout for the year was “red-haired speedster Al (Alice) Egan '33,” according to the *Review*.

By the fall of 1933, the *World* proclaimed that the record of the girls’ athletic teams was “even more impressive than the boys” and that “the All-Star teams of the County and City are just the Burroughs’ varsity transferred.” That same fall, however, the quest for an eighth consecutive undefeated hockey season fell short. The string was broken when, with the “Burroughs forward wall weakened by the absence of Jane and Alice Rickey '34 and '35 respectively,” Principia prevailed 2–1.

The girls played short seasons of two to four games, but they played them in grand style. Following the 1933 season, the girls claimed more undefeated campaigns (with only a few tie games) in 1934, 1936, and 1938, and their sole losses in 1935 and 1937 came at the hands of more experienced teams—the Burroughs alumnae and the St. Louis Hockey Club. There were even victories in these successful years over Monticello College (later Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois). Summarizing the 1938 season, the *Review* pronounced:

Without a doubt the varsity hockey team is the pet prize as far as Miss (Coach Alice) Beaman is concerned. In this aggregation she can see the good results of a difficult job well done. They take the game seriously, with the result that their skills and techniques are well mastered.

The *World* cited as outstanding players Hope DePew '39, Laura Mae Leland '39, Phyllis McPheeters '40, and Betsy Stockstrom '40.

Burroughs continued to employ field hockey in the interclass competition between girls in grades 9 through 12. Other sports in the program were speedball, basketball, tennis, volleyball, baseball, track, tumbling, archery, and dancing. An overall winning class was named at the end of each year, which heightened the aura of competition and enthusiasm. Lacrosse entered the picture as a girls' sport in 1939 with high hopes, as expressed in the 1940 *Review*: "Lacrosse, unlike hockey, is played in the air and offers an opportunity for all-around development. In the future, this game may well become as widespread and as well liked as hockey." Alas, after two years it vanished until the late 1980s.

ON SPIRIT, SPORTSMANSHIP, AND THE ROLE OF ATHLETICS

The school newspaper of the 1930s featured an anonymous fountain of wisdom known only as the "Old Timer." He saw the bigger picture of life, which was often welcome in the dreary days of the Great Depression. In the peak athletic year of 1935, the Old Timer found transcendent value in the gridiron sport revered by Burroughs boys:

Football is a grand game. It tests the courage and sportsmanship of the players and the emotions and sportsmanship of the spectators. . . . Individual stars do not shine brightly on the Burroughs team. It's team spirit and the will to win that are the standouts this year. The spirit and cooperation seem to carry the boys to victory.

Sportsmanship, likewise, was a hallmark of athletics at Burroughs. This was poignantly expressed by a letterman on the 1931 varsity football team, who pleaded anonymously in the January 12, 1932, *World* for greater recognition for the substitutes on the A, B, and C football teams.

The studious students of Burroughs were not content simply to report the news of sports; they were moved to analyze the phenomenon as well. In a November 1932 column, the editor of the *World* found

Editorial

A "Regular" Pleads for the Football Substitute

Dear Editor:

Last Friday at assembly certificates were given to the "B" and "C" teams and letters to the "A" team in acknowledgement for their services in football during the 1931 season.

On the "A" team were grouped most of the athletes of the Senior class, many of whom will never play football in competition again. Naturally not all of these men received letters, only the select number had played in the required number of games to warrant receiving letters. There were men on that team, and the "B" and "C" teams, too, for that matter, who sat on the bench game after game, watching their team-mates coming off the field at the end of the game with at least three admirers tugging at each one congratulating him, while the substitute walked alone to the locker room. But how about the other nights of the week? This same sub, still just a sub, was in the game just as much as the regular, giving the latter practice so that he could star the following Saturday. I ask you, is that just? Shouldn't this man receive credit for the work he has done? The work he has indulged in probably hasn't been quite as spectacular, nor quite up to the quality of the "reg", but it has meant work to him just as much as it has the more fortunate individual. The saying "a team is as good as its substitutes" has been heard a million times and proven on nearly as many occasions; so I say recognize the substitute, if not with a letter at least with a miniature one or a scrap of paper with a few words inscribed thereon. Sincerely,

"A REGULAR".

athletics to be a metaphor for life: “Most people do not appreciate the value of athletics, because they do not realize its importance. They think of it first, to compete with other schools, and second to build up a boy or girl physically. They are partly right, but the main reasons are to develop character, and to train boys and girls for life after they leave school.”

TRADITIONS TAKE HOLD

On opening day at Burroughs, Director Aikin had stressed the concept of a school “family.” No word better describes the generations that have walked the halls and stormed the playing fields at Burroughs. In the athletic mosaic of the early years, the names there inscribed include Mill, Horner, Stix, Cornwell, Dee, Toney, Rice, Sisler, Leschen, Eiseman, Newman, Edison, Duhme, Hoerr, Spitzer, Felker, Goddard, Gale, Probststein, Martin, Altvater, Maritz, Holekamp, Herbert, and Rickey. These and others are names that would appear and reappear through the decades, and the photographs of those who were first in line bear stunning resemblances to the family members who would follow.



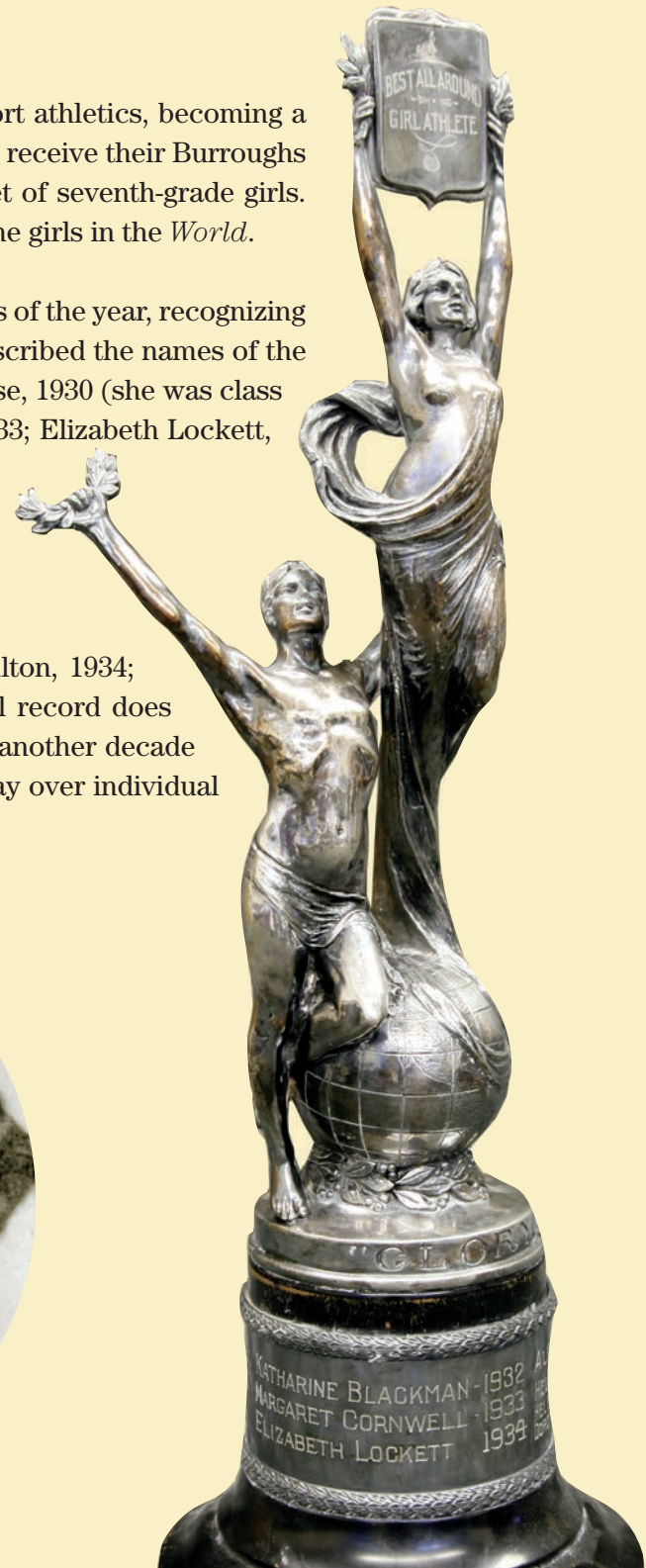
Other traditions put down roots in the 1930s: A Fathers' Council arose to support athletics, becoming a forerunner of the Parents' Council. Student-athletes continued to step forward to receive their Burroughs letters, and the first cheerleaders appeared in the 1930s, consisting at the outset of seventh-grade girls. They were later replaced by their male classmates, prompting complaints from the girls in the *World*.

For a time Burroughs made a practice of naming the best male and female athletes of the year, recognizing pure talent but also values such as team spirit and sportsmanship. Burroughs inscribed the names of the girls so honored on a soaring trophy. They were Elizabeth Leavitt, 1929; Ann Russe, 1930 (she was class of 1931); Phoebe Weed, 1931; Katherine Blackman, 1932; Margaret Cornwell, 1933; Elizabeth Lockett, 1934; Alice Rickey, 1935; Helen Cornwell, 1936; Helen McPheeters, 1937; and Dorothy Cornwell, 1938. Margaret Cornwell coached at Burroughs in the 1940s, and, as Margaret Schmidt, she held various administrative positions at the school from 1955 to 1974, including principal of the eleventh and twelfth grades.

The boys singled out as best athletes included John Biggs, 1933; Everett Hamilton, 1934; Jim Blackman, 1935; Joe Peden, 1936; and Robert Leland, 1938. (The historical record does not account for all years.) The tradition of naming best athletes continued over another decade but ultimately faded away in the face of Burroughs' strong emphasis on team play over individual stardom.



Other best girl athletes.
Ann Russe '31 (left) and
Alice Rickey '35.





1940s / A Decade of Domination



The 1940s saw John Burroughs School, still an upstart at less than twenty years of age, overwhelm the competition in the ABC League, trample public school powerhouses, and race to the very brink of a state basketball championship. In the previous decade, Burroughs had rejoiced in its three ABC League trophies. In the 1940s, by contrast, winning the Harvard Cup at year's end had become an expectation. The Burroughs name was inscribed thereon no less than seven times—in 1941–43 and 1946–49—meaning that the trophy was twice retired and sent home to the Bombers' burgeoning trophy case.

The string of loathsome losses in varsity football to Country Day School was reversed, producing a decade of Burroughs dominance, including five victories in a row. The C team, meanwhile, established a dynasty of historic proportions, creating a contagion that spread to the B football and C basketball teams alike. Tennis asserted itself, and track sprinted to a second-place finish in the state meet in mid-decade. Varsity baseball and soccer continued their inexorable march forward, and with a final push at the end of the decade by the 49ers the Burroughs name reverberated across the state of Missouri.

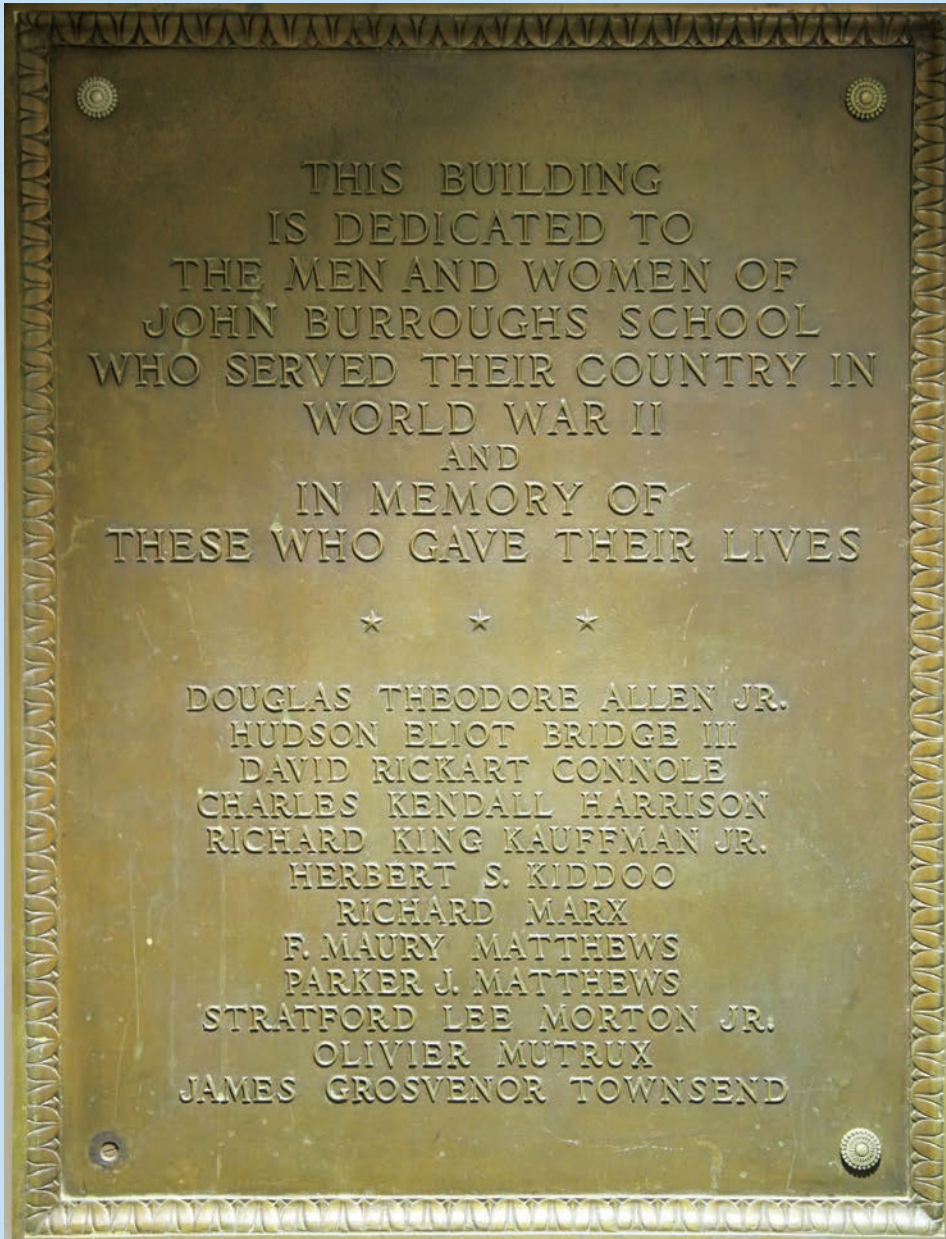
THE IMPACT OF A WORLD WAR

For the first half of the decade the backdrop to athletics at Burroughs was the Second World War, including its looming threat of the draft for high school seniors. The 1943 yearbook—still called the *Review*—acknowledged the conflict in an introduction to the athletics section titled “Power for Victory”:

With the war playing such a huge role in our everyday lives, it is more than ever necessary for those who are subject to military duty to be physically fit. The system of physical education at Burroughs is designed to bring this goal about.

Left: School spirit, a Burroughs hallmark





The same theme was sounded in March 1942 by the *World* as it catalogued programs available for students to support the military effort: One was “the introduction of boxing into the physical education program.” This led to a week-long boxing tournament at the school “divided into junior and senior divisions in order to match the fighters more evenly in weight and ability.”

Roger Altvater '46 noted that Burroughs boys were subject to the draft at the end of the semester in which they turned eighteen. Accordingly, he and others who were scheduled to come of age early in their senior year attended summer school in 1945 so they could graduate in January. When the war ended in August, they finished school in the normal course.

In September 1945, the Burroughs trustees announced plans to renovate the existing gymnasiums and construct a new one, all for the sum of \$100,000. The campaign “To Build a Better Burroughs” was successful, and in November 1947 the Memorial Gymnasium, still in use, was dedicated “to the men and women of John Burroughs School who served their country in World War II and in memory of those who gave their lives.” Those who gave the last full measure of devotion were named on the plaque that remains outside the gym. They were men who had also given fully to athletics in their days at Burroughs.

IN THE HALLOWED RIVALRY—PAYBACK

Much has been written about the football rivalry between the two prestigious, private schools of St. Louis County. The *World* in 1943 minced no words in declaring the annual season-ending matchup “the most important athletic event of the year.” In the usual publicity runup to the 1942 game, the *World* reprinted a standby editorial from November 1935:

Harvard and Yale, Army and Navy, Washington University and St. Louis (University), John Burroughs and Country Day—these traditional rivalries are known to all. . . . Burroughs’ competition with Country Day is not as of great duration as the other famous pairs. It is, however, every bit as intense. Ours is a rivalry which we value. We respect Country Day, its students and its teams, and we look for hard-fought games that are also cleanly-fought. . . . We do not wish that the spirit of rivalry change to that of a feud.

In 1949 the newspaper offered an explanation for the competitive phenomenon: “The natural rivalry developed out of the fact that the two institutions are the outstanding nonsectarian schools in the St. Louis district.” Ironically, the heat of competition on the field has forged many enduring relationships between the competitors over the years.

Whatever its origin, the rivalry had been decidedly lopsided. From 1926 through 1929, CDS was a perfect 4–0 with a point advantage of 73–0. In the 1930s, Country Day continued the rout with a record of 7–1–2, outscoring the Bombers 140–57. Burroughs won in 1931 and tied in 1937 and 1939. The *World* periodically reminded its readers, however, that the 1936 game should have been a second Burroughs win for the decade: Earl Sherry Jr. ’37 returned a punt the length of the field in the last minute for an apparent 19–18 victory, but the play was nullified by a clipping call, “although the offender remains anonymous to this day.”

In the 1940s, Burroughs turned the tables with a vengeance, losing in 1940, 1941, 1943, and 1944 but otherwise dominating the series with six victories—five of them in sequence from 1945 to 1949—and outscoring the Rams 142–65. Tack on Burroughs wins in 1950 and 1951 and the winning streak extended to seven years. This meant that graduating seniors in 1951 and 1952 never witnessed a varsity football loss to Country Day. Furthermore, because the B and C teams had success in the same period, Shelby Pruett ’50, captain of the 1949 team, could state with accuracy: “I never played on a football team that lost to Country Day.”

CHEERS FOR CODASCO GAMES SATURDAY

For those who do not know them, here are the cheers which will be used to help our teams along to victory this Saturday.

Fight team fight:
FIGHT TEAM FIGHT,
FIGHT TEAM FIGHT,
FIGHT TEAM FIGHT TEAM,
FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT,
YEAAAAAAAAAH!

B-b-bur
B-B-BUR
R-R-ROU
G-G-GHS
B-U-R-R-O-U-G-H-S
BURROUGHS.
YEAAAAAAAAAH!


The old locomotive:
Yeah—RAH, RAH, RAH,
YEAH—RAH, RAH, RAH,
RAH RAH RAH RAH
BURROUGHS, BURROUGHS,
RAH RAH RAH RAH
BURROUGHS, BURROUGHS,
RAH RAH RAH RAH
BURROUGHS, BURROUGHS,
YEAAAAAAAAAH!

The chant: first two lines chanted:
B-U-R-R-O-U-G-H-S
B-U-R-R-O-U-G-H-S
B - B - BUR
R - R - ROU
G - G - GHS
B-U-R-R-O-U-G-H-S
BURROUGHS!

Spell it out (starting slowly and gradually increasing in speed):
B-U-R-R-O-U-G-H-S
B-U-R-R-O-U-G-H-S
B-U-R-R-O-U-G-H-S
BURROUGHS!

Blue fight, gold fight:
BLUE FIGHT, GOLD FIGHT,
BLUE AND GOLD,
FIGHT, FIGHT,
CHANGE CODASCO'S
RED AND WHITE,
MAKE 'EM BLACK
AND BLUE TONIGHT.
FIGHT, FIGHT, FIGHT!

Lost and found columns of Tokio newspapers are crowded these days. Every time an American buys a War Bond, the Japs lose face. Buy your 10% every pay day.



THE FAMOUS (INFAMOUS) BAT PLAY

It was the fall of 1941 and Robert Hughes, head football coach at Country Day from 1926 to 1965 and one of the founders of the ABC League, had a problem. The Burroughs game was looming, and five of his players were down with injuries. “Pop” needed a boost, so he turned to a play that would go down in infamy—at least at Burroughs.

The *Country Day News* in November 1970 recounted an interview with Hughes that touched on the origin and substance of the “bat play.” Hughes designed it in conjunction with coaches from Cleveland and Webster Groves high schools. The ball was centered to Dick Ernst, who then dropped it as Gene Tittman, wearing a glove, batted the ball up the field and out of bounds. “According to a rule then in effect, any ball knocked over the sideline in such a manner would be in the possession of the last team that touched it,” the *News* reported.

The *World* described what unfolded on the field. Burroughs went up early 6–0 on a ten-yard sweep by Dave Scott ’42. In the second quarter, Country Day unveiled the bat play for a sixty-yard march deep into Burroughs territory before returning to conventional play for a touchdown and a 7–6 halftime lead. The play “completely

baffled the Bombers,” reported the *World*. In the second half Frank “Bud” Schleicher ’43 recovered a fumble at the CDS 10 from where Bob Matthews ’42 scored on a series of “straight bucks.” Codasco resumed its trickery, but this time Burroughs captain Ewel Hardy ’42 “twice charged through the line to block Tittman’s bats.” Codasco ultimately scored on a pass interception for a final score of 13–12.

The consensus was that Country Day’s innovation had given them the needed edge. Outraged Burroughs fans demanded “football, not volleyball,” Hughes recalled. “I was not very popular at Burroughs after that game.” The *World* objected to the play as “a formation—devised in the light of official interpretation—that gives no defense a chance.” Mark Neville of the English Department, a football enthusiast, took half a page in the *World* for a largely indecipherable analysis of the play in light of the 1941 Interscholastic Football Rules. The play had been allowed during the game as a backward pass, batted in flight, that was awardable to the team that last touched the ball.

The skullduggery was banned the following year by a rule change providing “if a backward pass or fumble is batted forward by the offense, it becomes a forward pass.” Country Day was forced to return to the drawing board.



Photo courtesy MICDS Archives



1942 league champs. Back row from left: F. Czufin (manager), J. Taylor, T. Poindexter, D. Longmire, R. Geissal, C. Corneli, R. Messinger, G. Henry, D. Volk, J. Miller, L. Ledbetter, W. Schneider, J. Luten, J. Wood, H. Wuertenbaecher, W. Harrell, J. Porter, J. Sincoff, B. Tilghman, A. Stockstrom, R. Hoerr, R. Salisbury, J. Hessing; center backfield: Coach G. R. Staten; backfield: W. Obear, R. Dodson, R. Deas, L. Manchester, J. Jenkins; line: P. Beisman, F. Eiseman, F. Schleicher, W. Kieffer, J. Kerwin, E. Sante, S. Pollock.

1942: BREAKING THE MOLD

Burroughs partisans believe there would have been seven victories in the 1940s but for the shenanigans of Country Day in 1941—the year of the infamous “bat play” in which CDS, resorting more to volleyball than football, threw the Bombers sufficiently off stride to win 13–12. Nonetheless, the 1942 squad faced an eleven-year drought in the rivalry (despite two ties), which they remedied with a 28–7 pasting of Country Day in the course of a short league-championship season. It was the soundest beating of Country Day since the rivalry began and would remain so until 1948.

Emotions were high for the season-ending game. Coach George Staten’s boys entered with a strong 3–1 record. Enthusiasm escalated when a cavalcade of Burroughs cars, bedecked in blue and gold, proceeded from downtown Clayton out McKnight Road to Woodson Road, and thence to Brown Road, the site of the old Country Day campus near the airport. The *World* blared the results in great detail: On Burroughs’ first offensive series, junior Jimmy Jenkins ’44, a sprinter in track, swept to the left on a reverse and “skirted 46 yards behind expert blocking for the first tally of the day, and spirits ran high on the east side of the playing field.” The Bombers next scored a “freak touchdown” when left-handed Roderick “Roddy” Messinger ’43 circled from the right and fired a ten-yard pass to Rutledge “Rut” Deas ’43, closely guarded in the end zone by two defenders. Deas tipped the ball in the air where it was grabbed by Paul “Bud” Beisman ’43 for a Burroughs halftime lead of 14–0.

Country Day struck in the third quarter after a sustained drive, “but this was quickly remedied as Jimmy Jenkins ran the CDS kickoff back for 85 yards and proved himself without a doubt the fastest man on the field.” When the Bombers regained possession, they “rolled unmolested from mid-field into striped territory for the final tally of the game,” scored by Lawrence Manchester '43. Jenkins gained a whopping 185 yards; the bulwarks on the line were Beisman at right end and right tackle Fred Eiseman '43, son of two of Burroughs founders and later a revered science teacher and football and baseball coach at JBS from 1950 to 1961. Beisman-Eiseman allowed only twenty-five yards around their end on a day when Country Day gained a total of 254 on the ground. Evatt Sante '43, an outsized lineman for his time at 220 pounds, kicked four extra points, which the *World* called a story in itself. “Very seldom in high school football is a place kick attempted for the extra point; but those boys had it down to a science.”

Still smarting from the surprise bat play of 1941, the *World* seized on the victory to chasten Country Day: “For the first time in 11 years, we have a real victory to talk about. . . . Last year made a deep impression on the team of John Burroughs. This year, Codasco was ‘batted’ into ignominious defeat for their meager victory.”

The 1942 season would have been perfect but for a 7–6 loss to Ritenour. Another season highlight was the first win in five years over Western Military Academy, 9–7, despite the absence of three Burroughs starting backs and a regular end. The Beisman-Eiseman duo excelled again, sacking a Western runner for a safety. Bill Kieffer '45, the starting center, scored on a seventy-yard jaunt with an intercepted pass, aided by key down-field blocks from Beisman and Kip Corneli '43.

Jimmy Jenkins sweeps left in the 1942 victory over CDS.



FISTICUFFS AT THE BIG GAME

Perhaps it was inevitable. Despite the *World's* admonition that the rivalry with Country Day not turn into a feud, emotions of the moment ultimately seized control at the game of 1942, with partisans on both sides finally crossing the line. A sub-headline in the *World* on Burroughs' shellacking of the Rams exclaimed, "Goal Posts Torn Down in Fierce Fight Following Game." Perhaps out of decorum, the story provided no further details.

John Minton '46 was a freshman at the time at Wydown Junior High School who entered Burroughs in the tenth grade and started on the school's first undefeated team in 1945. Minton supplied details on the melee in written recollections prepared for this book:

In November 1942, JBS trounced CDS 28-7 at Country Day. I attended that game, and when it was over the JBS fans rushed on the field to tear down the goal posts, and the CDS fans came out in force to defend them. In the middle of this swirling mass of pushing and shoving was a tall blond woman, dressed in high heels, stockings and a full-length mink coat, using her purse for a bolo against the CDS defenders. That woman was Mrs. Jule Miller the mother of Jule Miller '43, who played in that game, and Marilyn Miller '45.

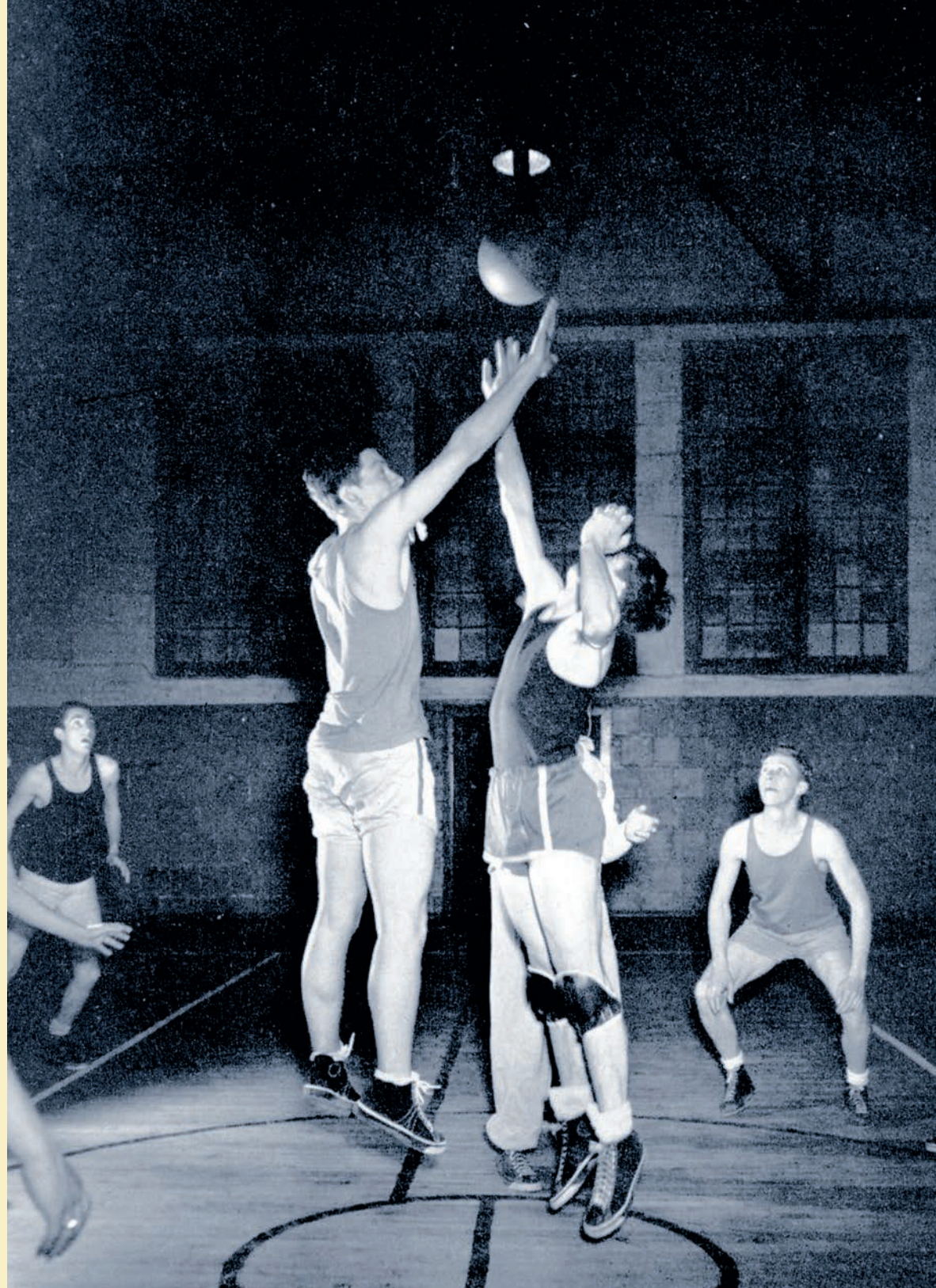
Multiple Burroughs players received post-season honors: Named to the All-ABC League first team were Beisman, Sante, and Jenkins; placed on the second team were Eiseman, halfback Manchester, quarterback Deas, left-end Scott Pollock '44, and left guard Corneli. Beisman also made the All-District second team.





1940–41 basketball team, first league champs. Back row from left: Coach Staten, R. Zelle, C. Renard, E. Samuels, F. Eiseman (manager); front row: C. Ellaby, T. Martin, J. Beisman, R. Matthews.

1941–42 tipoff in the old gym.



BASKETBALL EMERGES

Varsity basketball captured its first league championship in school history in 1940–41, compiling an 11–1 record in regular-season play and adding two victories in the post-season district tournament. The starting five were Julian Beisman, Edward “Bud” Samuels, Charles Renard, and Robert Zelle, all ’41, and Ted Martin ’42. The backups were Robert Matthews and Charles Ellaby, both ’42.

The Bombers were known for their second-half heroics, as in the second Principia game which they won 38–30 to secure the championship. The game was tied after three quarters, but “the Bombers put on one of the most beautiful displays of basketball ever seen at Burroughs to go ahead and win in the final quarter,” reported the *Review*. Burroughs reached the quarterfinals of the district tournament by beating Pacific behind “Big Moose” Renard’s ten points, and then beating Brentwood, led by Bob Zelle with fourteen points.

Varsity basketball added a second league crown in 1942–43 with a modest record of 4–2 in league play—but with a 36–14 thrashing of Country Day in the first encounter. Bill Kieffer, merely a sophomore, and Loy Ledbetter ’43 were strong on the inside while Bob Salisbury ’43 was the high scorer. The team plummeted in the next two years, but Kieffer led the league in scoring and earned All-League honors in both campaigns; Jerry Rubenstein ’45, captain in 1944–45, also earned All-Conference recognition.

Basketball returned to prominence in 1946–47 under first-year coach Ray Wolfe, sharing the league title with Western and compiling a regular-season record of 8–3. One or more of John Pfeifler ’47, Bob Maune ’47, and sophomore Dave Sisler ’49 usually scored in double figures. The two seniors made first-team All-ABC, and Sisler, a portent of things to come, was on the second-team. In district play, Cleveland High School routed Burroughs in a David-versus-Goliath matchup. Burroughs as David would slay many a Goliath as it marched through the state tournament in 1949, but that is a separate story.

FLUX IN THE COACHING RANKS

George Staten was named head football, basketball, and baseball coach in 1935, opening auspiciously with a 3–1–1 record in football and a three-way tie for the league title. Staten proved himself something of a coaching Houdini with his ability to divide his time. Between 1940 and 1944 he twice coached A and B basketball at the same time, and in 1941–42 he tacked on the C team as well. Staten was replaced in 1945 by Lyle Bennett in varsity football and basketball, but he continued as the head coach in baseball, compiling an uncommonly strong record, and at the C level in football and basketball with breathtaking results.

Bennett, formerly a football assistant to the renowned Fritz Crisler at Michigan, led Burroughs to its first undefeated football

season (one tie) in 1945 and a second-place finish in the state track meet in 1946. He was succeeded by Raymond Wolfe, who took Burroughs to unprecedented heights on the gridiron and the hardwood in his seven-year career.

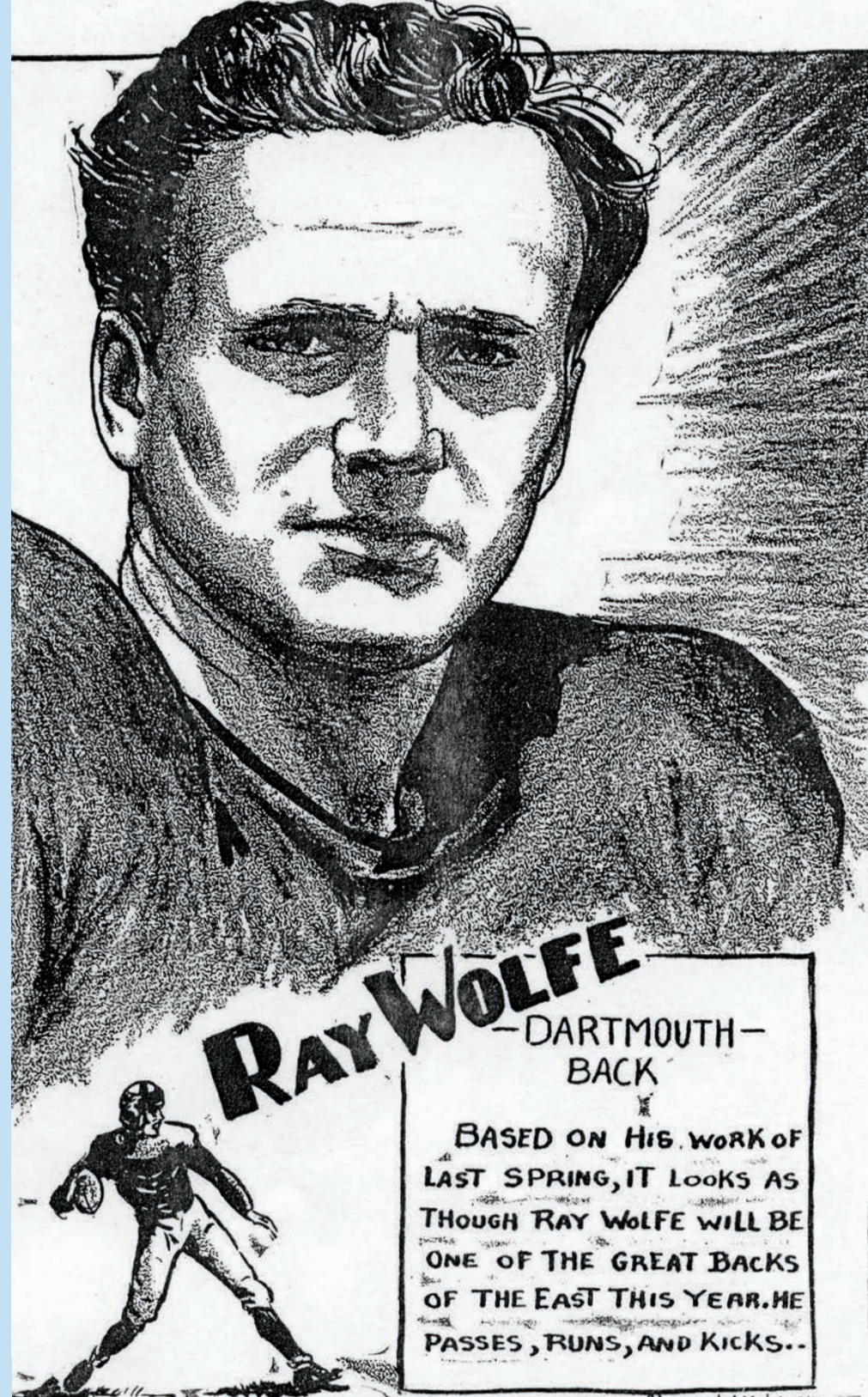
A celebrity joined the coaching staff for a single year in B football—Dick Yore, a three-year starting quarterback for Coach Jimmy Conzelman's famous Washington University teams of the 1930s, which held their own against Army, Notre Dame, Illinois, Missouri, and SMU. Yore, a member of his university's Sports Hall of Fame, became a thoracic surgeon and sent two children to Burroughs, Michael '68 and Lisa '74. He coached the Bulldogs to a 5–1 record and a league championship. At the football banquet, an appreciative squad presented the budding physician with a blood pressure instrument.

“The Saw Is Sharpened”

On a Saturday morning in January 1944, Deyo “Sam” Leland, Burroughs athletic director from the inception, was sawing wood at his home in Glendale. He came inside to rest, telling his wife he thought the saw was dull. He did not return to his chores. The man who had charted Burroughs' illustrious athletic course died at the age of fifty-one. In addition to serving Burroughs, Leland had contributed mightily to the Boy Scouts, receiving the highest honor for volunteer leadership—the Silver Beaver Award. On behalf of a grieving Burroughs family, the *World* wrote:

The saw is sharpened: For as long as John Burroughs School lives, the life of Coach Deyo S. Leland will be a symbol of unstinting devotion to the principles of thinking, being and playing clean.

A memorial drinking fountain was initially planned near the amphitheater, but the final remembrance was something more consonant with Leland's contributions: In 1949, the football field was christened—and has forever remained—Leland Field.



THE FIRST MAN FROM DARTMOUTH

In 1946 a determined young man named George Raymond Wolfe began a stunning seven-year career at Burroughs as head coach of football, basketball, and track. So spectacular were his results that some forget he also taught math. He was the first man from Dartmouth College; the second was Jim Lemen (1963–66, 1970–2011).

Wolfe, square-jawed and serious, was a three-year standout running back at Dartmouth, followed by three years in the Navy playing base football and serving as a pilot and navigator in the Pacific. At the time of Wolfe's death in 2002, Chuck Thies '49 described him for the *Burroughs Reporter*:

Coach Wolfe was laid-back and usually wore a half smile that made you wonder what he was thinking. There must have been a fair number who admired that demeanor because it seemed that a good many, some perhaps unconsciously, emulated it—maybe still do. It is interesting to speculate how much of Ray Wolfe is part of the lads who performed under his mentorship in the following years.

In football, Thies wrote, Wolfe inherited a rebuilding job rivaling the Marshall Plan. The entire first string of the great 1945 team had graduated. His first season was mediocre—a 4–4 record—but something happened the week before the Country Day game that the players would never forget.

Dave Sisler '49, a sophomore like Thies, told the story: “He challenged each player, mano-a-mano. I’ve never seen anything like it in my life. They were going to hit or be hit. A player was a man or a mouse—and all the mice had Ray Wolfe to contend with. When Saturday came, it was a different team. We went over and beat them 19–0. That’s when my athletic career began—right there.”

Peter Fischer '53, a key member of the 1953 state basketball champions, recalled another instance of Wolfe's no-nonsense approach to his job: “During the season, Ray Wolfe called the entire team into the chalk talk room and told us that we should take the message home to our parents that he was the coach and he was not interested in any more gratuitous advice from parents of the team about who should play for how long.”

In seven seasons Wolfe won four ABC football championships, going undefeated in two of those years and 6–1 in the other two. His teams beat Country Day in his first six years, finally bowing in his final season of 1952. His basketball record was even more remarkable: Burroughs won the league title in six of his seven seasons, only twice by tie, and between 1949 and 1953 he went on a state-championship tear:

- 1949: fourth place in the state tournament;
- 1951: a twenty-three-game winning streak and third place in state;
- 1952: another run through the regionals into the state tournament with a season record of 29–2;
- 1953: a 27–1 season and Burroughs' first and only state basketball championship.

In track, Wolfe's 1950 team placed second in the district and fifth in the state meet, half a point from third. In 1951, competing against some eighty schools, Burroughs rose to fourth in the state, and in 1952 they were crowned state champions.

Wolfe left Burroughs in 1953 for private industry, first with Ralston Purina and later with other companies outside St. Louis. He never returned to coaching, but he maintained contact over the years with many of his Burroughs players.

CHEERLEADING EVOLVES

Women's suffrage became law in 1920 by the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Twenty-nine years later, Burroughs girls gained the right to be cheerleaders by vote of the student body.

There was never a shortage of enthusiasm for the Burroughs teams, but in the early years support was ad hoc and ill-organized. Student body legislation in 1939 established a cheerleading corps—but it was strictly a male domain. Through ballots distributed in advisories, the school elected a squad of three boys: James Alexander and Clement “Bub” Pollock, both '41, and Donald Charles '42. They were succeeded in January the following year by Ted Martin '42, Evatt Sante '43, and Laurens “Laurie” White '43—all to receive Burroughs letters for their efforts at the spring athletic banquet. A month later, the student council, realizing that too often the cheerleaders themselves were involved in games, expanded the group to six. The *World* was fully behind the effort, down to explicit instructions on the art of cheering:

The most effective cheer is the one that is given in perfect unison with the motions of the cheerleader. . . . Start on the FIRST syllable. Keep together and snap it out at the correct time. . . . If you pitch your voice up and force the sound against your teeth, this will save your voice and give a clearer, sharper tone to the yell.

The *World* closely monitored attendance at games, chastising the student body when needed. “Despite a great deal of prompting from this editorial column,” the *World* chafed in 1940, “attendance at the football games last Saturday was still far below what it should be. Especially this was true in the morning. It was honestly pitiful to see such a small handful of people attending these games.”

Gender equality came to cheerleading in the fall of 1949 when the student body voted to admit girls, with faculty concurrence. Nominations were taken, and a tryout assembly was convened. A lunchtime election followed, producing the following winners: Ann Scott '50; Dorcas Taylor and Jere Meisel, '51; and Leigh Strassner and Ralph “Bebe” Weinrich, '53. In an editorial “Bring on the Girls,” the *World* hailed “the fine move on the part of the Legislative Assembly.” It was chagrined by the long delay in admitting girls, but it sounded the right note for the future:

The reason that girls have previously been denied this privilege is not readily apparent, although some parents perhaps consider it unladylike and unsophisticated for their daughter to go through the cheerleader's acrobatics. We do not go along with this attitude. Instead, we believe that school spirit will increase considerably by this new plan.

C FOOTBALL JUGGERNAUT

Combine the New York Yankees with the Boston Celtics and you *might* have a dynasty rivaling the C football team of John Burroughs School from 1939 to 1949. The Junior Bombers played a six-game season—two each against their three ABC League foes (with an occasional non-league supplement). Over the eleven years their record was simply staggering: nine league championships—eight outright and one a tie; a record of 49–1–2 in league play, with a point margin of 1,068–85; undefeated in eight of the nine championship seasons (with tie games in only two of those eight years), and unscored upon four years.

The stampede began under Coach Sam Leland, who oversaw three undefeated seasons and an eighteen-game winning streak from 1939 to 1941. The 1942 team extended the streak to twenty games before a loss that caused a tie for the championship. The 1943 season, Leland's last, was a losing one, but in 1944 the boys returned to form when George Staten transferred down from the varsity. Staten coached the C team for five of the next six years with monstrous results: five league championships, three perfect seasons, and a point advantage of 766–39.

The biggest Staten years were 1946 and 1949 when his whiz kids scored at a point-a-minute clip—while allowing *no* points against them. The Junior Bombers played eight-minute quarters, or 192 minutes in a six-game season. In this compressed time, the 1946 team, captained by Dick Strassner and George “Lew” Petring, both '49, rang up 209 points for an average of 35 per game. Jim Burst and Alden Caskie, both '49, were the high scorers while Shelby Pruett '50 wore out a shoe kicking extra points. Pruett and Strassner did the passing, completing 75 percent of their attempts for eight touchdowns.

Arthur Heuer '49 played on Staten C teams from eighth grade through tenth. The coach's playbook was thin, Heuer recalled, but he drilled the boys rigorously. The premier play was 418—a reverse from the 4 back to the 1 back through the 8 hole, led by an avalanche of blockers. “We scored a touchdown every time,” Heuer marveled. When 418 was called, Heuer at center snapped the ball, made a quick block, and promptly trotted to the goal line to prepare for the extra point.

The *St. Louis Star-Times* featured the 1946 team as the “Little Fellows Who Had a Big Season” and “the colossus of the ABC League.” So potent was their performance that Mark “Doc” Neville of the English department, by then the varsity line coach,



The 1946 Junior Bombers.

was moved to laud them in verse at their football banquet. Staten, for his part, could not separate himself from his 1946 point-a-minute squad. He followed them up to the B team in 1947 for a brilliant encore—undefeated league champions with a point spread over six games of 126–12. The *Review* called it “one of the best B teams in the history of John Burroughs School.” Indeed, the B team was energized for the decade as a whole, claiming four league titles outright and tying for a fifth.

Staten’s magic at the C level was not limited to football. After coaching varsity basketball to its first championships, he switched to the C team for the seasons of 1944–45 through 1949–50. In those six years his teams captured five league championships, suffering no defeats in league play in the championship seasons, and going undefeated overall for three years.

Staten left Burroughs in a blaze of glory. His last C football team in 1949, captained by Gerry Papin ’52 and Gordon Philpott ’53, lagged only a few points behind the phenoms of 1946. They recorded a perfect season, averaging thirty-four points per game and shutting out all opponents. Staten’s last C basketball team of 1949–50 followed suit. The squad raced to thirteen wins against no losses, outscoring their opponents 537–231 for an average of 41–17 per game. This was the very group that would bring Burroughs a state basketball crown in 1953.

1945: UNDEFEATED VARSITY FOOTBALL

The Class of 1946 brought Burroughs its first undefeated varsity football team in 1945, compiling a 7–0–1 record and outscoring the opposition 123–32. Roger Altvater ’46 pointed out that the season was made possible through a quirk of fate. In tenth grade, eight boys transferred into Burroughs from Clayton schools and elsewhere, all to become varsity athletes and most to contribute significantly to the team of 1945. They were John Minton, Bill Maritz, Robert Mueller, Jack Goessling, Richard Clarahan, William Thompson, Al Schneider, and Hugh Rosaaen. “We wouldn’t have had that 1945 season without those guys,” Altvater asserted.

For his inaugural season, Coach Lyle Bennett brought with him the Michigan playbook and game films. John Minton ’46, quarterback on the team, retains total recall of the season. “We were a Woody Hayes–style team,” he related. “We threw only three passes all season.” Just as Hayes would have predicted, one fell incomplete, one was intercepted, and the third was a completion—in this case from Bob Mueller to Peyton Daniel ’46 for the touchdown that beat Country Day 6–0.



First row from left: Altvater, Krause, Maritz, Goessling, Phillips, Petring, Grant; second row: Mueller, Seldin, Deichmiller, Costen, Kelly, Daniel, Schneider, Minton; third row: Pfeifler, Crossen, Ramsey, Thompson, Alexander, Scott, Maune, Nobel; fourth row: Miltenberger, Longmire, Stuart, Day, Thomas, Drew, Schoen, Luyties; fifth row: Coach Bennett, Martin, Rosaaen, Kerckhoff, Stansbury, Perkins, Wulfing, Coach Neville.

Because of injuries, the team played only one game at full strength, “but there was always a player to rise to the occasion,” reported the *Review*. The Bombers beat Kirkwood 7-0 in the sixth game in a major upset. “We had no more business playing those guys than the Chicago Bears,” claimed the quotable Minton. They had just been crowned the county champions, he said, and were photographed as such under the Burroughs goal posts before the game. But Neville, the new line coach, was a Kirkwood resident, and he had been mentally preparing his players for this

The Eyes Of Burroughs Are Upon You

The eyes of Burroughs are upon you,
All the live-long day.
The eyes of Burroughs are upon you,
As you work and play.
The eyes of Burroughs are upon you,
As you fight all through the fray.
We will ever, ever see you
Through to victory.

game since the first day of preseason practice. Burroughs jammed the Kirkwood offense, and Al Schneider barreled over from the four yard line in the second half for the decisive score. He also ran for the extra point.

“I don’t think they got past our fifty yard line all day,” Minton asserted. “I was so pumped up I couldn’t go into the locker room at halftime. I was still looking for someone to knock down at 11 o’clock that night at Medarts.”

The blowout of the season was against Roxana, 46–12, with three touchdowns by Schneider, two by Daniel, and one by Goessling. The lone blemish was a tie with Clayton. Burroughs led 6–0 late in the fourth quarter on a first-half Daniel touchdown when Clayton launched a passing attack. A sixty-five-yard completion put them on Burroughs ten yard line, and with seconds

remaining they scored on another pass play to record the tie.

The Burroughs touchdown pass that beat Country Day came in the second quarter, but the Bombers needed a fierce goal-line stand before halftime to secure the victory. The win led to a strange sight two weeks later. Country Day’s Dick Klinger, in fulfillment of a bet with Peyton Daniel, pushed Daniel through the streets of downtown Clayton in a wheelbarrow, with Daniel flourishing a sign touting the game score.

The Codasco game usually ended the season, but this year a “post-season” contest was played against Pembroke Country Day in Kansas City. Players and supporters alike traveled by train in a festive event for an 18–12 Burroughs victory. When the All-ABC team was published it contained three Burroughs names, all backs—Minton, Schneider, and Daniel. Minton was quick to credit the linemen who were overlooked: ends Bill Thompson ’46 and Al Deichmiller ’47, center Jim Kelly ’46, and interior linemen Lynn Krause, Bill Petring, Herb Phillips, Bill Maritz, and Bill Costen, all ’46.

The undefeated season still generates great pride in the Burroughs family. Janey Studt ’46, when asked about the athletic prowess of her class, exclaimed in response, “You mean the *famous* Class of 1946! We were undefeated in football and won the ABC League, and we were proud of it. We didn’t have cheerleaders then (except those few elected boys), but all of the girls were at every game cheering them on just as enthusiastically.”

BASEBALL AND SOCCER: MORE OF THE SAME

Baseball Posts Hefty Scores

A certain monotony settled into ABC League baseball in the 1930s. From 1930 to 1939, Burroughs won eight league titles. The trend continued unabated in the 1940s—seven more titles, only two by tie. The man at the helm was George Staten, head coach from 1936 to 1950 (with a year out in 1947). Staten's daughter, Sharlee '49, a fine Burroughs athlete herself, called baseball her father's "true love." So it would seem. In fourteen years, he won twelve championships, and the Bombers were undefeated in league games in four of those seasons. His only non-title seasons were 1940 and 1941.

Burroughs ran up some hefty scores over the years. The 1941 squad was "one of the 'hitting-est' teams ever seen in Burroughs uniforms" by the *Review's* account—despite its lack of a title. It "outslugged Normandy for a 14–10 victory" and against Country Day "chalked up 19 hits and left with a 22–9 victory, hitting the ball to all corners of the field." The 1946 squad, the second in a row to be undefeated in league play, overran Clayton 20–4, hammering seven different pitchers for eighteen hits, four of them by Dick Clarahan '46.

Excellent pitching in the first half of the decade came from Tommy Lasker '42, a three-year starter, Chad El-laby '42, Bill Obear '43, and Robert "Robin" Day '45. The league championship of 1943 boosted Burroughs to yet another leg on the Harvard Cup signifying the overall championship of the ABC League. Highlights of that season included a one-hitter by Obear against Clayton and a grand slam by Scott Pollock '44 against Western. Pollock, a junior in his third year of varsity play, missed his senior year due to the military draft.

In the 1944 and 1945 seasons, Day was a force on the mound, allowing only seven hits in four games against Country Day and Western. Hugh Rosaaen '46 was an able reliever and the leading hitter in 1945; in 1946 he struck out fifteen Western batters in a 1–0 victory. John Minton and Bob Mueller '46 stood out in the 1946 season, one in which JBS sealed the league title—together with another leg on the Harvard Cup—when Clarahan hit a home run to beat Country Day. Dave Sisler '49, only a freshman, struck out eleven in a three-hitter over Western.

Sisler was dominant in 1948, allowing only four hits in three games against Country Day and Western as the Bombers tied for the championship. He was an All-League selection along with Shelby Pruett '50 at third base and Dick Strassner '49, catcher. The 1949 team, undisputed champions, placed Strassner, Sisler, and Jim Burst,



1941: “One of the hittingest teams ever seen.”

Back row from left: T. Lasker, P. Beisman, R. Smith, W. Hager, C. Renard, R. Zelle, C. Ellaby, E. Sante, Coach Staten; front row: R. Donnell, W. Obear, S. Pollock, G. Henry, T. Martin, A. Stein, R. Winkelmeyer, J. Brown.



second base, on the All-Conference team. It was Sisler’s fourth All-ABC award, serving notice of the big-league career that lay ahead. He closed his Burrroughs years with a two-hitter over Principia and a three hitter against Western, striking out sixteen in the latter game and clouting a home run, a triple, and two doubles.

Soccer Routs the “Pelicans”

In soccer, the Bombers owned the ABC League in the prior decade with six titles. They slowed a bit in the 1940s but still brought home four championship trophies. The first league title was in 1941–42 with “a starless aggregation playing in close cooperation throughout the season,” reported the *Review*. The team was 3–0–1 in league competition (no games against Principia), with key scoring from Scott Heuer ’42, Dave Scott ’42, and Lou Stockstrom ’43.

The 1944–45 championship team was likewise undefeated in league play at 4–0–2, pummeling their opponents fifteen goals to three. Assisting Head Coach Les Hatchard was Director Leonard Haertter, apparently unable to escape the lure of the athletic field. The Bombers opened with a 2–0 win against the curious-sounding Pelicans of the Muny League. The co-captains were Jack Grant ’45 and Bill Scott ’46, the brother of Dave and the high scorer for the team with seven goals. Other scoring was done by Marc Seldin ’47, four goals, Robin Day ’45 and Peyton Daniel ’46, two each, and Grant, Roger Altvater, and Bill Costen ’46, one each.

The 1946–47 squad took the title with a 5–1 league record with scoring from John Martin and Edgar McCulloch, both '47, and Tim Corneli, James Forsen, Ray Bolin, and Alan Siegerist, all '48. The final championship team of 1948–49 posted a 5–3–3 record, its only losses coming in non-conference games to perennial powerhouses CBC and St. Louis U. High. The co-captains were 49ers Lew Petring and Lou Tiger. Seniors Jim Geissal and Alden Caskie scored key goals, and junior Shelby Pruett took home the Les Hatchard Award for best player in the ABC League, scoring at least thirteen goals by the *Review's* account, including six in an 8–0 drubbing of Principia.

Throughout the decade, the weather was a cruel adversary. Against the Pelicans in 1944, the ground was snow-covered and frozen; in a loss the same season at Chaminade the temperature was near zero, and at Country Day the Bombers played to a 1–1 tie “on a field bogged down by six inches of pure slop.” In the winter of 1940, “bad weather caused frequent changes on the schedule and the actual stretch of playing time was little longer than two weeks.” Before a Principia game in the 1948–49 season, coaches Hatchard and Gaylord Montgomery, a long-serving math teacher, “worked for hours chopping ice away from both goals and covering the ground with sand.”

TENNIS, TRACK, AND GOLF

Tennis: Disrupting CDS Domination

From the beginning of ABC League tennis play in 1931, Country Day won the championship every year until Burroughs interceded with three consecutive titles in 1943–45. The premier player early in the decade was Ira “Bud” Sandperl '41, described by the *Review* as “a clever lefthander, excellent at placing shots.” Instructed by the renowned Bill Tilden, Sandperl was a three-year varsity player who rose to the rank of sixth in the St. Louis district.

Burroughs girls gained tennis rankings as well. In 1943, Bettie Scott '45 reached fourteenth nationally among juniors; she was also first in the district at the “girls” level and second in juniors. Others ranked in the St. Louis district in singles or doubles were Mary Richards '43, Mary Love and Pat Aloe, both '44, and Mary Phelan '45.

The first boys championship team of 1943—led by Rut Deas and Larry Post, both '43, and Bob Spitzer '44—broke Country Day's stranglehold on league competition by going 4–0 against Western and Principia and splitting matches with Codasco. The championship team of 1944 was led by Bob Spitzer, “the outstanding player on the team,” according to the *Review*. Close behind



Ben Bishop '49 serves an ace.



Bill Harrell '44 excelled in the low and high hurdles in 1943 and 1944, taking first in both events both years in the ABC meet.

were the cousins Bernard “Bunny” Edison and Bill Edison, both '45. The team was coached by Elmer Hirth, although he would not join the Burroughs faculty as a math teacher until 1948. The Bombers won their third consecutive tennis title in 1945, again under Hirth, with an undefeated record in league play. The singles positions were held by John Martin '47 and Bill and Bunny Edison.

The Ben Bishop Era

Burroughs tennis in the second half of the decade was synonymous with Ben Bishop '49. As profiled in the *World*, he won five varsity letters beginning in eighth grade and never lost a singles match for the Bombers. Bishop began tennis at the age of eight and was on the local and regional circuits by thirteen. By tenth grade he was playing second singles behind John Martin, moving to first the next year after Martin graduated. His strengths, he told the *World*, were his serve, volley, and net game.

Bishop compiled a stunning record outside the ABC League. His senior year he was ranked first in junior boys singles by the Missouri Valley Tennis Association and first in doubles with his partner, Mike Weatherly of Country Day. A month after playing a leading role in the Bombers' 1949 race to fourth place in the state basketball tournament, Bishop was runner-up in national junior singles play—held that year at the St. Louis Armory—and he teamed up with Tony Trabert to win the men's doubles later in the year in Missouri Valley competition. In 2007, Bishop joined other Burroughs tennis luminaries in the St. Louis Tennis Hall of Fame.

Track: The Brothers Scott

One of the prominent track names in the decade was Scott—the brothers Dave '42 in the dashes and hurdles and Bill '46, middle distance. Dave Scott capped his three-year career in 1942 by scoring twenty or more points per meet. In the ABC meet that year he won the 220 in 23.5 seconds, the low hurdles in 23.7, and the high hurdles in 15.8.

Bill Scott continued the family tradition in 1944–46 with a record-setting career in the 880 and the mile. He dominated the ABC meet sophomore through senior years. In 1945, he set the record for the league meet in the mile with a time of 4:46.5. That same season, his junior year, he led Burroughs to second place at the state meet in Columbia, winning the mile by 20 yards in 4:48.2, and the 880 in a thriller in 2:09.10.

“The half-mile caused the Burroughs spectators to become worried,” the *World* reported. “Scott was passed the first time around the track. Coming down the last stretch in the two-lap race he was in fifth place, but in true Scott style Bill won by five yards.” Scott tied for first in the 440, according to the *World*, and Ed McCulloch '47 placed third. Other points came from the medley relay team, first place; Jack Goessling '46, second in the 220; and Leonard Furlow '48, who placed in the broad jump.

Other track standouts included Malcolm “Mac” Obourn '40, who excelled as a sprinter, hurdler, and broad jumper, scoring 23½ points himself in a meet with Western, and Carl Messinger Jr. '41, a burly standout in football and soccer who was built for the shot put yet lithe enough for the mile and half mile. In the class B district meet in 1941, Messinger took first in the mile, second in the 880, and third in the shot, while Walston Chubb '41 set a meet record in the 440 with a blistering 52.9.

Golf: Gaining in Popularity

Golf debuted in 1949 under the tutelage of Stephen Hinrichs, a recent addition to the history department. There was no interscholastic play initially—only the honing of skills—but the *Review* promised that the activity was “gaining in popularity as a spring sport, and soon our boys will be competing with the best in the district.”

THE FABULOUS 49ERS

San Francisco has its 49ers, but all they play is football. The 49ers of Burroughs excelled in all sports, spreading the name of their school far and wide. To recognize the sporting achievements of the Class of 1949, the Fathers' Council presented Burroughs with a plaque bearing the names of all team members in football, basketball, soccer, and baseball. The seniors, with support from underclassmen, had won league championships—and more—in each sport.





Football: “Coming of Age”

In 1948, the 49ers recorded the first undefeated *and* untied season, ringing up 254 points in eight games against 33 for their opponents—a point differential of 221. Not a single ABC team crossed the Bombers’ goal line. The co-captains were Chuck Thies and Dave Sisler, both ’49.

The Bombers opened the season by crushing Chaminade 59–0, with scoring by an array of players. In a splendid display of sportsmanship, Coach Ray Wolfe instructed his men to punt on first down as the score escalated. Their next game was a squeaker, 15–13, against Pembroke Country Day; the Bombers’ points came on a safety, a short-yardage plunge by Thies, and a pass from Ben Bishop to Ken Read ’49. Pembroke’s hard-charging group was stymied by excellent line play from Burroughs, the *Review* reported, especially by John Krause ’50, Tom Perkins ’49, and Lew Tiger ’49.

The team overran league opponents Principia 33–0 and Western, in a sea of mud, 12–0. Key fumble recoveries by Ed Rowland ’50 and Doug Montgomery ’49 highlighted the win over Western. Burroughs continued its high-scoring ways by drubbing Coyle, a Catholic school in Kirkwood, 49–0. Versatile Shelby Pruett scored two touchdowns, two extra points, and a field goal. Wolfe again displayed sportsmanship by playing substitutes over half the game.

Dave Sisler, an insightful sports historian, pinpointed the sixth game of the season as a watershed for John Burroughs School. Kirkwood came to Leland Field ranked as one of the city’s top teams, just as in 1945, and featuring two heralded players, Carroll Maas and Davey Jones. As a multitude of Kirkwood boys in red and white streamed down the hillside, led by their cheerleading corps, the Burroughs squad, thirty strong, watched and wondered. Ultimately undaunted, the Bombers stymied the Kirkwood offense and raced to a 19–0 halftime lead behind scoring from Thies and Pruett. Maas and Jones scored for the Pioneers in the fourth quarter, but Burroughs cruised to victory 19–14. The *Review* hailed it as “the greatest victory of the season.” Sisler took a broader view: “Burroughs came of age when we beat Kirkwood,” he declared. “Before that, no one really cared about us—we were the ABC League. Suddenly people realized—Burroughs can compete.”

Burroughs athletes with famous fathers. Dave Sisler ’49, left, and Shelby Pruett ’50, seen in their football uniforms in 1948 with their fathers and former Major League Baseball greats “Hub” Pruett, right, and Geoge Sisler, left center.

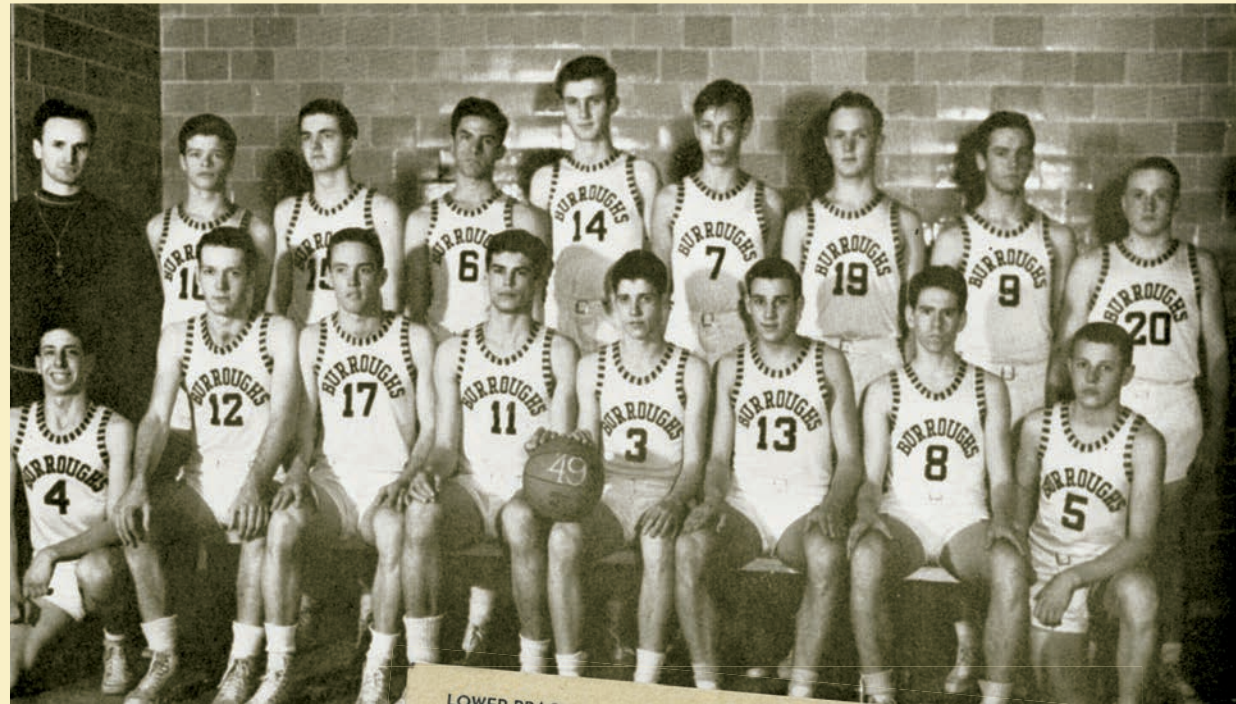


Speedy Jim Burst, brandishing a cast on his left arm from an injury that had kept him out all season, exploded in the next game against Crystal City, scoring four touchdowns in a 44–6 route. Crystal City was deep in the country; Burroughs was from the big city, and the boys were private schoolers to boot. Shelby Pruett recalls graffiti in the visitors’ locker room referring to Burroughs as “city slickers” and “pantywaists” and announcing, “We’re gonna’ kick your a____.” Instead, Burroughs raced to a halftime lead of 26–6. When the rout was over, Pruett recalled, “we were told we’d better pack our things and leave in a hurry.”

The season ended with the fourth straight shutout of Country Day. The victory margin of 23–0 was the widest of any Burroughs win in history. The Bombers’ first strike came on a twenty-nine-yard Pruett-to-Sisler pass. After Rowland blocked a punt, Pruett scored for a 13–0 halftime lead. Burst scored from twenty-three yards in the second half, and Pruett kicked a field goal. The game ended with Burroughs on Country Day’s one-foot line. Honors poured in for the Bombers: Named All-ABC were Pruett and Thies in the backfield, Sisler at end, and Perkins in the line. Sisler and Thies made second-team All-District and Pruett and Burst honorable mention.

A Basketball Encore

The 49ers provided an immediate encore with a dramatic race to a fourth-place finish in the state basketball tournament, a particularly noteworthy achievement in that the 1948–49 season was the last in which all schools competed in the same playoff category, regardless of size.



1949 basketball team. Front row from left: Strassner, T. Brown, Thies, Sisler, Bishop, Burst, Heuer, Weinrich; second row: Coach Wolfe, Wagner, Werner, Rosenfeld, Cramer, Pollnow, Hampton, Burke, Pfeifler.

LOWER BRACKET		MISSOURI CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI	
MARYVILLE ✓ 3:25 p. m. Thurs.	38		
DONIPHAN	36	7:30 p. m. Fri.	
BUFFALO ✓ 7 p. m. Thurs.	41		
OZARK	35		Third 8 p. m. Sat.
REPUBLIC 8:25 p. m. Thurs.	44	3 p. m. Sat.	
BURROUGHS ✓	55		Championship 9:30 p. m. Sat.
BOWLING Green* 9:50 p. m. Thurs.	52	8:55 p. m. Fri.	
CAPE CENTRAL	41	41	
	(OVER)		

54
40
COMPLIMENTS OF THE
LEBANON SAVINGS & LOAN ASS'N.
LEBANON, MISSOURI
INSURED SAVINGS EARNING 3 PERCENT



The engagement of Ben Bishop '49 and Elaine Rowland '53 was celebrated with this cartoon depicting Rowland bounding into a huddle of the famous '49ers basketball team, from left, Dave Sisler, Chuck Thies, Dick Strassner, Jim Burst, and Bishop.

The starting five were all 49ers—Dave Sisler, Ben Bishop, Jim Burst, Chuck Thies, and Dick Strassner. As part of their ABC championship, Burroughs beat Principia when they were the only undefeated team in St. Louis. The Bombers flattened Webster Groves 44–29, which, by the *Review's* account, “began to indicate that they were going places.” Emotions ran high as the team gathered momentum. Two JBS fathers were ejected from one game for hurling jibes at the referees, which may have prompted an editorial in the *World* by John Zentay '49 reminding boosters that enthusiasm was fine, “but when it reaches such proportions that the referees are personally insulted then the fans are stepping out of bounds.”

By the time of the subregionals of the state tournament at University City High School, Burroughs was 11–2 and seeded ninth out of sixteen behind such powerhouses as St. Louis U. High, Cleveland, Beaumont, and Southwest. The Bombers plowed through Hadley 60–24, with reserves playing most of the game, and Soldan Blewitt 53–33. In the semi-finals against Southwest, the fast-breaking sharp shooters played their best game of the year, amassing a 56–14 lead before the reserves took over. In the finals, Burroughs overcame University City and their star Terry Fails, 36–31. Strassner had a hot shooting hand, and Jim Burst exhibited dribbling skills in a two-minute stall to close the game.

The regional tournament was held at the Washington University Field House. Burroughs was now seeded second behind McBride. The Bombers overcame CBC in the opener and dominated Lutheran High School in the second round behind Sisler's twenty-one points. Their opponent in the finals was again U. City, which had advanced to the regional tournament as the runner up in the subregionals. Different

game, same result: Burroughs by 37–29. There were tense moments as the Bombers trailed by six to start the fourth quarter but scored fourteen straight points to win.

By now the little-school-that-could, Burroughs rode the train and an 18–2 record to Springfield, Missouri, for the sixteen-team state championship. There they would mingle with schools that had won thirty games and more. Burroughs snapped Republic’s nineteen-game streak in the first round 55–44 behind Ben Bishop’s twenty-three points. Next came Bowling Green with a 34–1 record. In front of a crowd of 5,000, the Bombers charged to a 27–16 halftime lead and scored fifteen straight points in the third quarter to win 54–40.

The magical run ended on a Saturday afternoon with a 39–38 loss to Buffalo, the eventual state champions. “We came out flat,” recalled Sisler. More importantly, four regulars—all but Bishop—fouled out of the game. “The Bombers led in field goal scoring fifteen to thirteen but failed to hit accurately from the charity stripe,” reported the *World*. An apparent buzzer-beater by sixth-man Rod Wagner ’50 was disallowed as too late. Burroughs partisans seriously questioned the refereeing. According to one second-hand report, the officials believed they had lost control of the Bowling Green game due to the Burroughs fast break, so they wanted to slow the Bombers down in the Buffalo matchup. Disheartened, Burroughs lost the consolation game by precisely the same score to Bonne Terre on a free throw in the last minute.

Sisler made first-team All-State and All-District and was named the *St. Louis Star-Times*’ prep player of the year, leading the district in scoring with eighteen points per game. Bishop made second-team All-State while Burst and Thies received All-League recognition.

A strong ABC adversary of the 49ers later became a valued friend of Burroughs. F. Morgan “Buzz” Taylor, a three-sport athlete at Western Military Academy, became the roommate of Dave Sisler, Chuck Thies and Lew Petring, all ’49, at Princeton, where he played football and nearly made the 1952 Olympic team in the long jump. Taylor married Barbara Olin ’50. In 2006, Buzz, Barbara, and Barbara’s sister, Judy Olin Higgins ’54, gave significant support to the now-pending new Haertter Hall, and Taylor dedicated part of the gift to his wife and his three close Burroughs friends.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES

The tradition of honoring a girl and boy for their athletic careers at Burroughs continued in the 1940s, a much-anticipated award announced at the athletic banquet following Field Day each spring. For the girls, the honor was called the “physical education award.” Beginning in 1941 and proceeding chronologically, the recipients were Margery Dodson ’41, Elizabeth Rickey ’42 (the sixth and last of Branch Rickey’s athletic children at Burroughs), Emily Freund ’43, Jane Cutts ’44, Madeline Haertter

'45, Elizabeth "Tbby" Gray '46, Joy Glik '47, Carolyn "Callie" Costen '48, and Mary Christy Gordon '49.

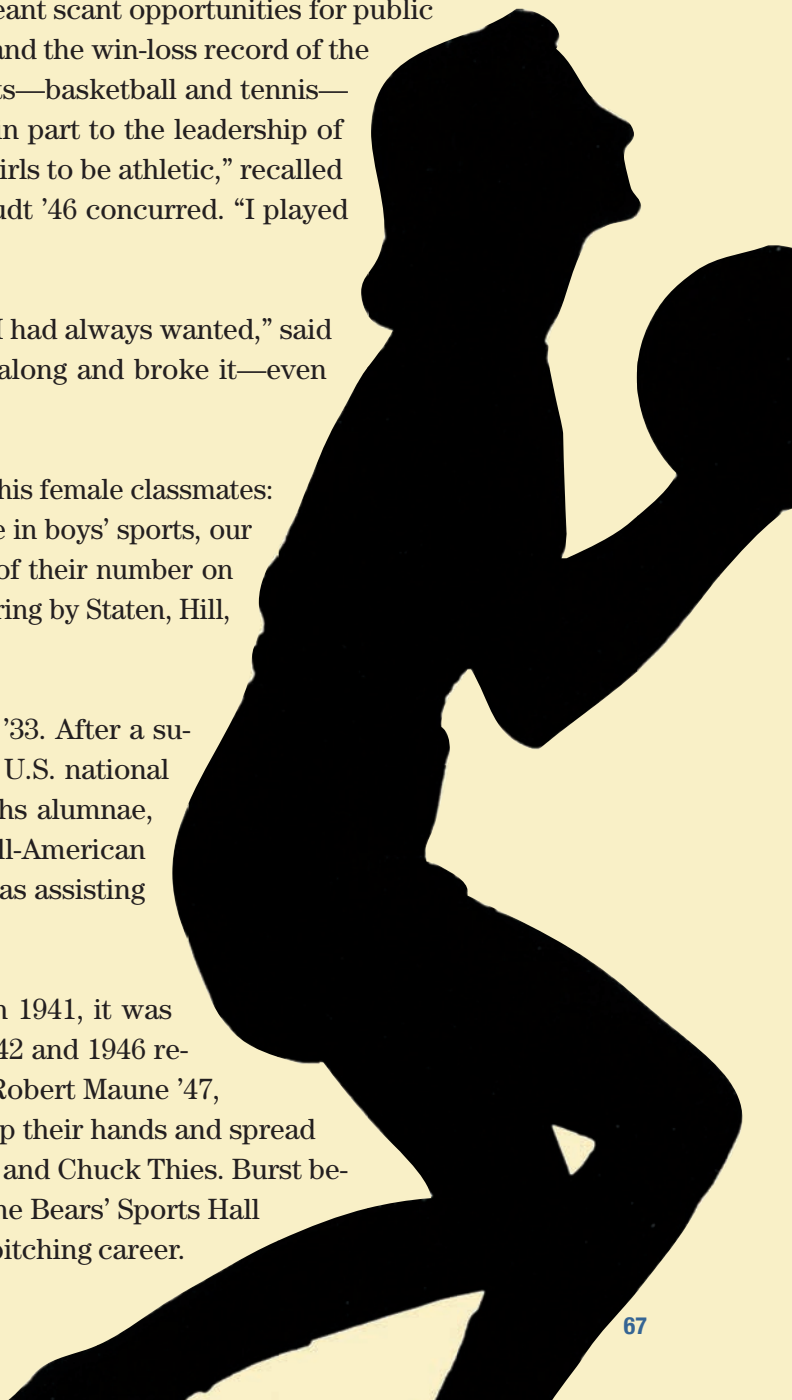
The award was important in part because the limited interscholastic play for the girls meant scant opportunities for public recognition. Varsity hockey played only a few games a year—mostly against Principia—and the win-loss record of the 1940s fell off sharply from the prior decade. In addition, varsity programs in other sports—basketball and tennis—developed late. Girls sports, nonetheless, remained an integral part of school life, due in part to the leadership of Athletic Director Alice Beaman. "Miss Beaman was instrumental in encouraging all the girls to be athletic," recalled Virginia Staten '46, one of George Staten's daughters. "It was the thing to do." Janey Studt '46 concurred. "I played everything," she related. "It will always be a big part of my life."

Field Day was a prime opportunity for the girls to display their talent. "I achieved a goal I had always wanted," said Staten, "I set a record in the high jump. But then my sister (Sharlee Staten '49) came along and broke it—even though she was shorter."

Sharlee Staten was one of a host of talented girls in the Class of 1949. Ben Bishop wrote of his female classmates: "Had Jane Hill, Margie Pruett, Sharlee Staten and Christy Gordon been allowed to compete in boys' sports, our jobs would have been in real jeopardy." In their junior year, the girls of '49 placed seven of their number on the hockey varsity, and their senior-year record of 3–1 was the best of the decade, with scoring by Staten, Hill, Elizabeth Kotsrean, Marion Streett, and Barbara O'Neil.

Major accolades came early in the decade for a Burroughs alumna, Margaret Cornwell '33. After a superior hockey career at Sweetbriar, she toured Central and South America as part of a U.S. national team. She continued play for a Midwest sectional team, along with two other Burroughs alumnae, Alice Rickey '35 and Elizabeth Lockett '34, and in 1941 and 1942 she was named to the All-American team of the United States Field Hockey Tournament and Convention. At the time, she was assisting in girls' athletics at Burroughs.

For the boys, the individual achievement award was dubbed "most valuable player." In 1941, it was shared by Bob Zelle and Carl Messinger. The Scott brothers, Dave and Bill, won it in 1942 and 1946 respectively. Other winners were John Martin '43, Ted Royston '44, Rowland Dodson '45, Robert Maune '47, and Sam Grant '48. With the abundance of talent in the Class of 1949, the judges threw up their hands and spread the honor among Jim Burst, Ben Bishop, Doug Montgomery, Dave Sisler, Dick Strassner, and Chuck Thies. Burst became a four-sport standout at Washington University and was an inaugural inductee in the Bears' Sports Hall of Fame. Sisler led Princeton in basketball and baseball, followed by a stellar big-league pitching career.





1950s / Giant Killers



Jim Lemen, venerable coach and athletic director until his retirement in 2011, served John Burroughs School for forty-four years in his two tours of duty, slightly more than half the life of the institution. In that time he heard and lived many stories of heroic athletic performances by Burroughs teams, but two in his experience stand at or near the top in the collective memory of the school. First is the Bombers' conquest of the mighty Puxico Indians in basketball, before a packed house at Washington University on a cold night in early January 1952. Second is the Burroughs defeat of the powerful Jefferson City Jays in football, under the Friday-night lights in the state capital, in the rain and mud on Halloween, 1958—marking the last defeat suffered by the Jays before embarking on a record-setting winning streak.

These were two among many instances of upstart behavior by Burroughs in the decade of the 1950s. They were also examples of continued athletic excellence at the school, which included a cavalcade of new ABC League titles in baseball, perpetuating the tradition of old; a near-dynastic basketball program in the early years, topped by a state championship in 1953; a field hockey victory over Villa Duchesne, snapping a fifteen-year Villa spell and highlighting an undefeated season; a team title in state track and two individual ones in tennis; and a twenty-game winning streak in football to close the decade.

The 1950s were the innocent times of face-maskless football helmets (until circa 1957) and single-wing backfields; blue tunics for field hockey and girls' basketball (three quick dribbles and a mandatory pass); letter jackets and gold football charms; wooden tennis racquets; cinder tracks and sand in the high-jumping pit. Most importantly they were the times for slaying giants, wherever they might be found, in St. Louis or across the state.

State basketball champions, 1953. Kneeling and sitting, from left, Gordon Philpott, Leigh Strassner, Bobby Thym, Bebe Weinrich, Director Leonard Haertter, George Billmyer; standing, Coach Ray Wolfe, a state tournament representative, Gates Agnew, Peter Fischer, Cliff Dimmitt, Joe Lintzenich, Bill Gullion, Hewes Agnew.

A BASKETBALL EARTHQUAKE

In the winter of 1947–48, the first rumblings of a basketball earthquake were felt in Stoddard County, just above the Missouri Bootheel. Early tremors gave way to fearsome shockwaves persisting for six years, beginning in southeast Missouri but quickly spreading across the entire state. The epicenter was in tiny Puxico, some 150 miles south of St. Louis where the Puxico Indians went on a victory spree from 1947–48 through 1952–53 that was unparalleled in state basketball history. The force that ultimately quelled the upheaval was the Burroughs Bombers, in the Class B state championship game of 1953.

Burroughs, meanwhile, established a titanic basketball program of its own. The destinies of the two schools became inexorably linked with a four-game struggle in the seasons of 1951–52 and 1952–53, pitting what by then were two of the premier prep teams in the state. The final count: two victories each, one state championship each.

The magic of Puxico began with its rhythmic name. The allure was heightened by the small-town, predominantly farming roots of its adherents. The city numbered a mere 1,000 inhabitants and its high school had no more than 200 students in grades 9 through 12—a bit smaller than Burroughs. The Puxico story is contained in a book titled *My Name Is Mr. Ryan*, referring to Puxico Coach Arnold Ryan, written by Matt Chaney of Cape Girardeau in 1994. Over the six-year span, the Indians compiled a staggering win-loss record of 212–20 for a winning percentage of 91.4. They reached the state tournament five out of the six years, and they made the final four on four occasions, playing for the championship three times and winning back-to-back state titles in 1951 and 1952. In its two championship seasons, Puxico posted a stunning record of 79–2. They were a perfect 40–0 the first year and 39–2 the second, with one of the losses coming at the hands of Burroughs.

Top Scorers in the Nation

Puxico was in the forefront of basketball innovation, employing the fast break, full-court press, and the jump shot all at a furious pace. They reached 100 points 22 times in their championship seasons. According to Matt Chaney, the Indians were the highest scoring prep championship team in the nation in 1950–51. Their highwater mark was a 148–16 humiliation of Greenville in the subregional tournament of 1951, when Win Wilfong, Puxico's most storied player, scored fifty-four points in less than a half. Wilfong, a 6'1" jumping jack, was part of a fearsome threesome at the height of Puxico's power. The other two members, a year behind, were 6'5" center Forest Arnold and high-scoring Grady Smith, both of whom joined Puxico in their junior years over howls of illegal recruitment from surrounding school districts. The orange-jerseyed Indians ran intricate pre-game drills, ending with each man tipping the ball off the backboard and Arnold, last in line, slamming a dunk. As the Puxico legend grew, sportswriters and basketball enthusiasts from across the state clamored to watch, forcing games to be moved from the Depression-era log gym on campus to larger venues in southeast Missouri.

Wilfong and Arnold became All-Americans at Memphis State, and Wilfong joined the St. Louis Hawks in 1957. Grady Smith, meanwhile, played his way into St. Louis University's Basketball Hall of Fame. Other standouts included Elmore Fortner and Gene Wilfong, Win's younger brother, both of whom were starting players for Memphis State.

A Famous Coach Remembers

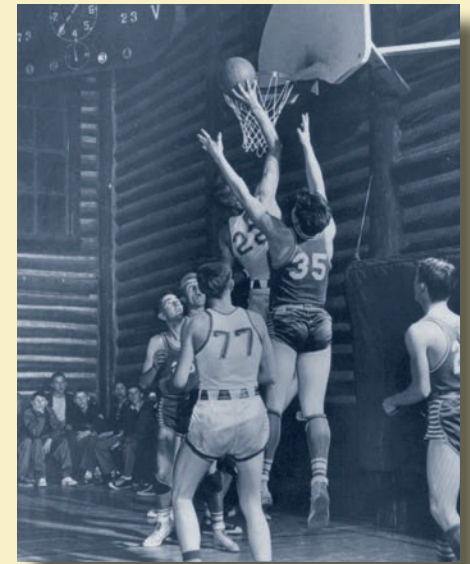
Norm Stewart, the renowned coach of the Missouri Tigers, was a star on the Shelbyville High teams of the early 1950s. In 1951, his junior year, Burroughs beat his team in the opening round of the state tournament. His senior year, Puxico routed Shelbyville in the finals, sending a disconsolate Stewart to the bench early with ten points.

"We were never in the game, never . . ." Stewart admitted to Matt Chaney. "Really, Puxico was such a fabulous team. There has been some outstanding high school basketball in this state, but I can't remember anybody being more dominant than Puxico." Rich Koster of the *Globe-Democrat* went a step farther, elevating Puxico's time in the sun to the realm of mythology. When Win Wilfong died prematurely from cancer at the age of fifty-two, Koster wrote:

Before and after his professional career, Wilfong was a Puxico High School Indian. He was always a Puxico Indian. Win Wilfong was the shooting guard from Brigadoon. If you are old enough to have been aware of sports in Missouri in 1951, you must remember the basketball fable of the Puxico Indians. Of the sleepy little farm town on Highway 51, halfway between Poplar Bluff and Cape Girardeau, which captured headlines and imaginations around the state for two exciting winters. . . . It was a marvelous, magical story.

THE BURROUGHS RESPONSE

Burroughs had a magical story of its own to tell. Over the five seasons from 1948–49 through 1952–53, it compiled a record of 112–17 for a winning percentage of 86.8. The season of 1949–50 was a rebuilding year with seven losses. In the three peak years of 1950–51 through 1952–53, the team went 82–6 for a winning percentage of 93.2. Burroughs reached the state tournament four out of the five years, finishing first, third, and fourth in three years. They beat the biggest and the best in St. Louis, including, in 1951–52, when Burroughs was in Class B, regular-season wins over the ultimate state champion and the runner-up in Class A.



Top: Win Wilfong (22) plays above the rim as Puxico buries Bernie High in the Indians' old log gym, 1951.

Bottom: Puxico stalwart Grady Smith, left, in a jump ball with Bobby Thym '53 in a 1952 game at Southeast Missouri State.



Pictured before the state quarterfinals of 1952, from left, Puxico's big guns Grady Smith and Forest Arnold, and Bill MacCarthy '52 and Bobby Thym '53.

Without a football program, Puxico began its basketball season much earlier and had many more games in which to hone its skills. In their famous 1950–51 season they played their first game on November 3 when Burroughs was still eight days away from its season-ending football game with Country Day.

1949-50: REBUILDING

After Burroughs finished fourth in the state tournament in 1949, it was time to rebuild. The 1949–50 team did so with an overall record of 10–7, tying for the ABC League championship at 4–2. Sophomores Bill MacCarthy, Charlie Duncker, and Bill Peniston, all '52, began their starting careers; Kay Werner and Captain Rod Wagner, both '50, rounded out the starting five. MacCarthy earned All-District honorable mention and joined Wagner on first-team All-ABC.

Foundation-building was also proceeding at the sub-varsity level. In one of the greatest exhibitions of C basketball in school history, the Eagles outscored their opponents by 140 percent for the season. Bobby Thym and Gordon Philpott, the high scorers, were joined by Leigh Strassner, Peter Fischer, Gates Agnew, and Ralph “Bebe” Weinrich, all class of 1953—the group that would soon lead Burroughs to a state championship.

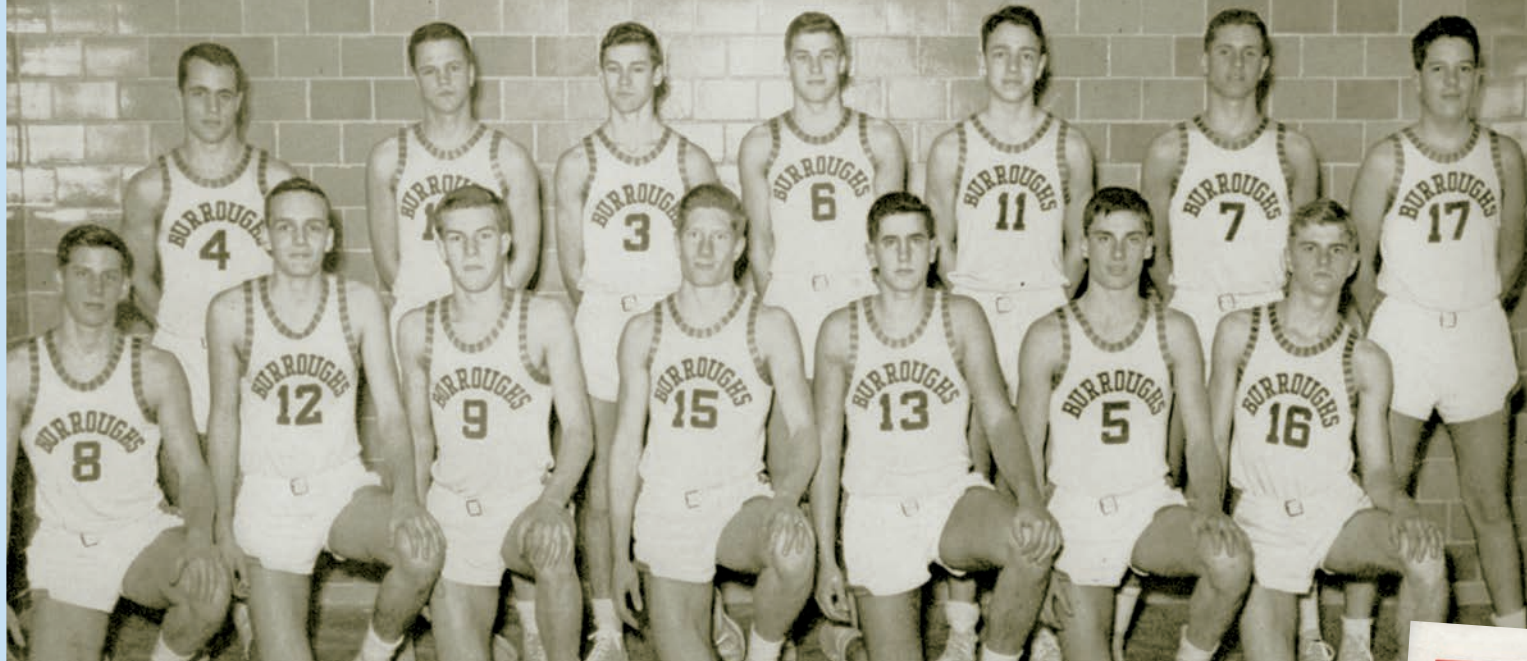
1950–51: THIRD IN STATE

By the 1950–51 campaign, the starting team was set for two years: MacCarthy, 6'4", at center, Thym and Charley Duncker at forwards, and Don Pruett '52 and Peniston at guards. All were juniors except Thym, a sophomore. Philpott was the sixth man off the bench.

The Normandy Springboard

After a 3–2 start, the Bombers entered the prestigious Normandy Christmas Tournament and launched a twenty-three-game winning streak. They flattened Jennings in the opener 66–54 behind MacCarthy's thirty-four points—twenty in the first quarter. MacCarthy scored twenty-two the next night in a 47–38 upset of Southwest High. The giant killing had begun. The third victory was a thriller over Brentwood, 40–37; Thym scored two clutch baskets in the last thirty seconds.

In the championship game, the Bombers faced the Green Dragons of St. Mary's, who had upended the No. 1 seed, the Beaumont Bluejackets, winners of multiple state championships among large schools. Burroughs led all the way and stalled at the close to win 42–38. The Bombers roared through the rest of their schedule, and at season's end they were paid high



Third in state, 1951.
 First row from left: Bill Agnew, Bill MacCarthy, Charles Duncker, Kent McGinley, Pat Esserman, Bobby Thym, Dale Read; second row: Bill Peniston, Sandy McDonald, Don Pruett, Gordon Philpott, Andy Meyer, Terry Flint, Ned Meister.

tribute. For the first time in history, the ABC League placed the entire starting five on its All-Conference first team. MacCarthy made second-team All-District, and the other four starters received honorable mention.

Into the Playoffs

In the subregional tournament, the Bombers subdued Pacific, Principia—for the third time—and Brentwood, the latter representing their only real challenge. In the regionals at Union, Burroughs trailed Desloge in the first half but recovered for a 72–43 rout. They scrambled from behind again to overcome Newburg despite a forty-one-point outburst by one Ron Prewett. In the finals, Burroughs made it two out of three over the Brentwood Eagles, who were in the tournament as runner-up in the subregionals, with a ten-point victory.

At the state tournament in Cape Girardeau at then Southeast Missouri State College, Burroughs opened with a victory over Norm Stewart and Shelbyville. “Burroughs beat us 43–34 with the big guy, MacCarthy,” Stewart said in the interview for *My Name Is Mr. Ryan*. “See, they ran plays and we never ran plays, just like Puxico. You threw the ball and went to the bucket. Indiana style, (Branch) McCracken.”

The Bombers met their match in the semifinals against the Cinderella of the tournament, the Waynesville Tigers. The other semifinal pitted Puxico against its southeast Missouri neighbor Morehouse. The crowd for the two games was immense. Harold Tuthill of the *Post-Dispatch* foresaw a Puxico-Burroughs final, and Puxico met expectations. The Burroughs game, however, was decided quickly the other way. Waynesville—led by a trio of hot-shooting guards—was up 25–16 at halftime and won 39–25. MacCarthy was held to six points, all in the second quarter.



Waynesville shocked the house the next night with a near upset of Puxico in the finals, losing 42–38. They slowed the Indians down, ultimately forcing Puxico to stall to preserve their lead. Burroughs, meanwhile, finished the season 27–3 by beating Morehouse 56–50 for third place. Thym led the Bombers with twenty-six points. He and MacCarthy made the All-State team.

Caught on Film

The victory over Morehouse was captured on film. For Charlie Duncker's sixtieth birthday, his son Steve '76 sought it out and shipped it to New York for professional transference to video cassette, dubbed with crowd noise, music, and graphics. The archive provides an invaluable glimpse of the times and of the talent of the Bombers. The cassette remains in the Burroughs archives as evidence of how the Bombers played their way into the elite of the state.

1951–52: “GREATEST TEAM EVER”

The varsity basketball picture in the 1952 yearbook contains no names, simply “Greatest Team Ever,” a likely description in light of the 29–2 season, both losses at the hands of the eventual Class B state champions Puxico. None could know that a year later the Bombers would lose only one game—and win it all at state. A friendly debate persists over which was the better team.

The 29–2 Bombers



Burroughs opened late on December 4 with a narrow win over Jennings in the first-ever Principia Tournament. This was deemed to be the real championship matchup. Accurate free-throw shooting by the Bombers made the difference. Burroughs dominated Clayton and Lutheran in the next two games to win the title.

Undefeated Burroughs became one of sixteen teams invited to the prestigious Prep League Invitational Tournament at St. Louis U. High over Christmas break. Four other invitees were undefeated, and the Bombers beat three of them. The first was Mercy in the quarterfinals. The second was DeAndreis and big Lloyd Aubrey, a future Notre Dame and pro player, in the semifinals. The Bombers held Aubrey to eight points while Thym, described in the press as “the slender forward with the unstoppable fall-away shot,” scored eighteen.

The Bombers edged St. Louis U. High, also undefeated, 45–42 in the finals in a game marked by ties that went down to the final buzzer. Thym and MacCarthy made the all-tournament team, and Thym was named MVP. The full import of the Burroughs achievement became apparent only in March when St. Louis U. High won the Class A state championship and DeAndreis placed second.

Clash of the Titans

The Washington University Field House, though since renovated and reconfigured, reverberates still with the noise and clamor of January 4, 1952, when Burroughs trumped Puxico in the prep game of the year. It was the first of a home-and-away series scheduled only in late October, apparently in response to public demand. Puxico, reigning Class B champions, had compiled a two-year streak of forty-four wins before falling at the buzzer to St. Mary’s, a private school in Cape Girardeau, in late November. The Indians avenged that loss in late December and were now 12–0.

An estimated 5,000 spectators jammed the field house; those turned away could tune in by radio. The score was tied six times and changed hands nine times in the second half, according to Harold Tuthill of the *Post-Dispatch*. Burroughs led 44–40 after three quarters, but Puxico regained the lead 51–50 on a Forest Arnold field goal. MacCarthy and Arnold traded baskets leaving Puxico ahead 53–52 with 1:55 remaining. With 36 seconds left, Bill Peniston broke up a Puxico stall and fed Charley Duncker, who scored with three seconds to play. Most remember a Duncker layup; Don Pruett recalls a shot closer to the foul line. “That ball must have bounced up and down off the rim eight times before it went in,” Pruett submitted.

Junior Bills to Play Burroughs for Title
Both Teams Put Perfect Records on Line Tonight

Burroughs Risks Clean Slate Against Puxico Here Tonight
Bombers, Indians Meet in Feature at Field House

Burroughs-Puxico Return Game Tops Card of High School 'Revenge' Duels



“Duncker’s goal made it 54-53, but Puxico obtained possession of the ball, fired it down court, and apparently took a 55-54 lead on an Indian goal,” reported Tuthill. Bedlam ensued on the court and in the stands. After huddling at the scorer’s table, the referees ruled that Puxico’s Gene Wilfong, who scored the final basket, had fouled Thym before the final shot, and that the horn had sounded before the basket as well. They awarded Thym a free throw with time expired. He calmly sank it for a final score of 55-53. MacCarthy was everywhere during the game, intercepting passes, rebounding, and scoring twenty-four points on twelve field goals.

The Bombers met another group of Indians the next night, highly acclaimed University City, winning 49-45 at home and extending their streak to eleven games. The rematch with Puxico was at Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau, “home” for the popular Indians. The Bombers were now the last undefeated team in the state. MacCarthy was out with a sprained ankle. Burroughs kept it close early but Puxico surged in the second half to win 69-58. “More or less as expected, it was a scoring duel between Burroughs’ Bobby Thym and Puxico’s Grady Smith,” wrote the *Globe’s* Bud Thies. “The latter got the better of it with 29 points against 22 for Thym.” Puxico shot an unbeatable 48 percent from the field, and Duncker and Peniston fouled out in a hectic third quarter.

On to State

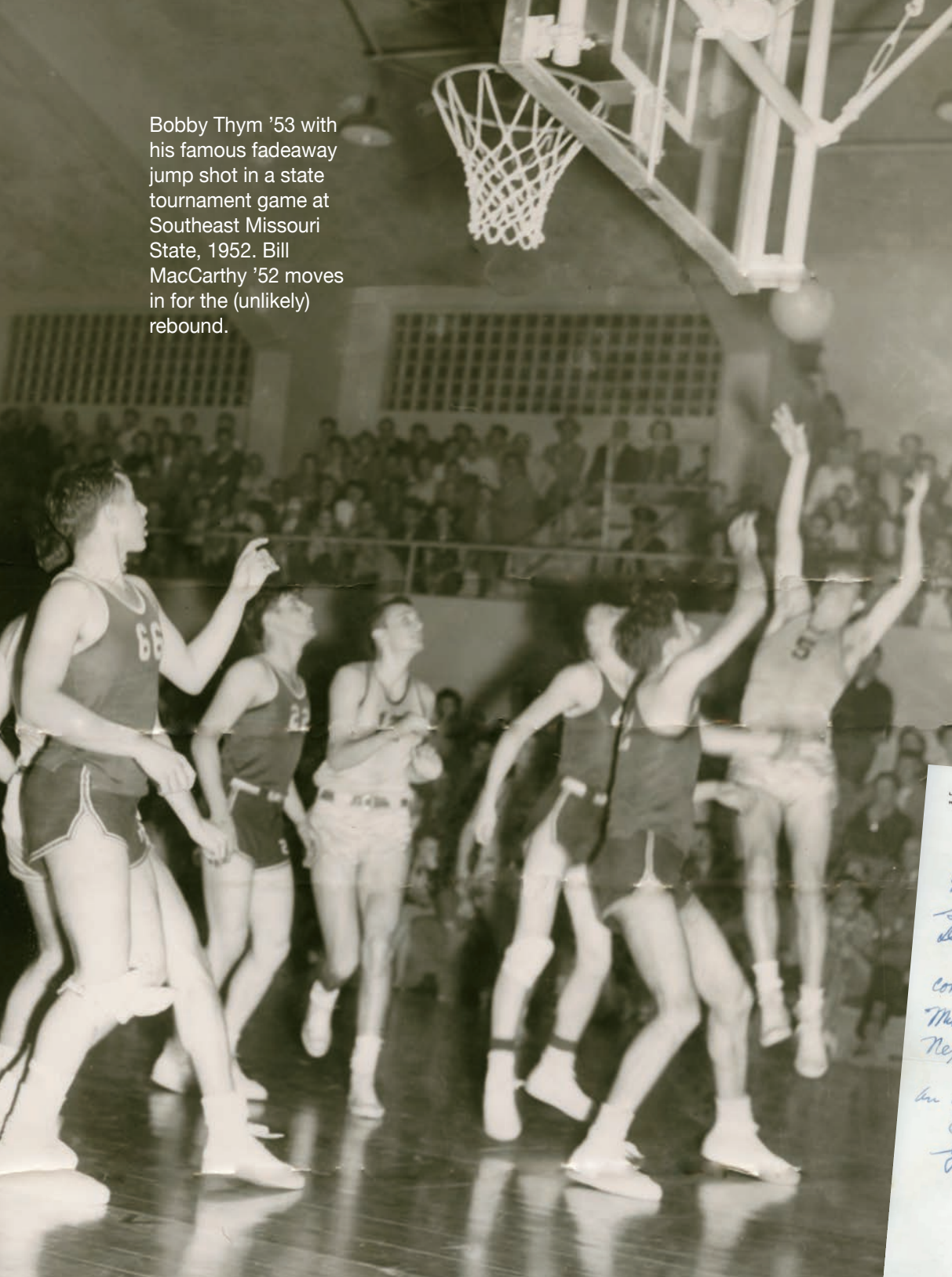
In the subregional tournament, Burroughs swept Coyle, Pacific, Country Day (for the third time), and St. Francis Borgia by an average score of 64-38. In the regionals at Union, the Bombers overcame St. James, Warrenton, and Montgomery City by an average of 64-34. MacCarthy battered St. James with twenty-eight points.

The Bombers returned to Cape Girardeau for what promised to be one of the greatest Class B tournaments in history. Criticism abounded, however, over the tournament bracketing that was drawn to force a Puxico-Burroughs confrontation in the quarterfinals. Burroughs’ credentials were burnished the week before the tournament when St. Louis U. High and DeAndreis topped the Class A tournament in Columbia.

Lodging in Cape Girardeau was scarce, prompting calls for residents to rent out spare rooms. Burroughs backers took over the Frontier Court on Highway 61. Although ragged in the tournament opener, the Bombers overcame Pattonburg 61-40 while Puxico swamped Atlanta 89-46. “Burroughs-Puxico Return Game Tops Card of High School ‘Revenge’ Duels,” blared the *Globe-Democrat*. But the rubber game was no contest. Gene Wilfong scored twenty-five, Grady Smith twenty-three, and Forest Arnold eighteen as the Indians shot more than 50 percent from the floor in an 88-61 runaway. MacCarthy was limited to three free throws before fouling out in the third quarter. Puxico plowed past Wheaton in the semifinals and smothered Shelbyville 85-37 for the state title.

For the second year in a row, the Burroughs starting five became the All-ABC first-team. Thym and MacCarthy joined

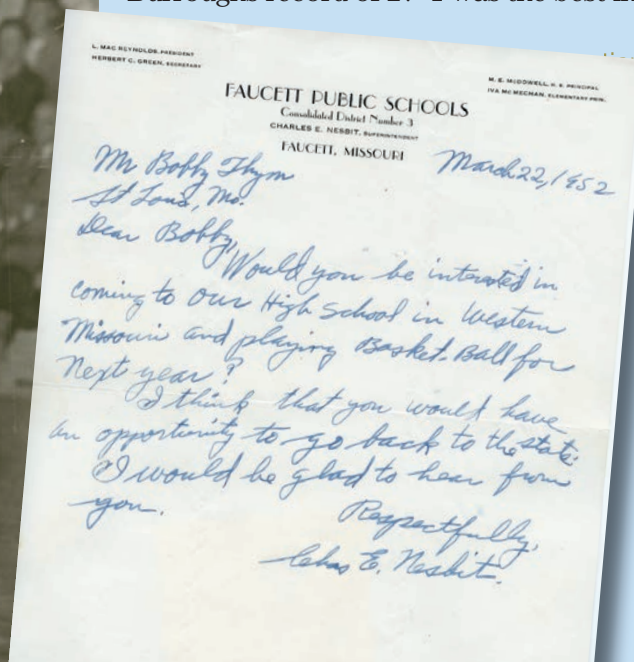
Bobby Thym '53 with his famous fadeaway jump shot in a state tournament game at Southeast Missouri State, 1952. Bill MacCarthy '52 moves in for the (unlikely) rebound.



Puxico's Grady Smith and Forest Arnold on first-team All-State in Class B. Thym shared the *Globe's* All-District first-team with standouts Bob Winkelman of Jennings, Lloyd Aubrey of DeAndreis, and Harold Alcorn of McKinley. MacCarthy landed on the first-team of the *Post*. The greatest tribute of all may have come from Charles Nesbit, superintendent of schools in Faucett, Missouri, who invited Thym to play for his high school in western Missouri the following year. Little did he know how far Thym would go by staying at home.

1952-53: RUN FOR THE CROWN

The 1952-53 Bombers finally brought home the coveted state championship trophy—despite *sharing* the ABC League crown with archrival Country Day. They were the quintessential comeback kids, repeatedly staging late-game rallies to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Against Country Day, sadly, it was too little too late, but the Burroughs record of 27-1 was the best in school history.



Faucett Public Schools reaches out to Thym.

Players seeing the most action were Bebe Weinrich, Gates Agnew, and Leigh Strassner at guards, Gordon Philpott, Peter Fischer, and Bill Gullion '53 at forwards, and Bobby Thym at center—despite measuring only a shade over 6'1". The Bombers unveiled the comeback theme in the second game. Trailing Brentwood 41–27 at the start of the fourth quarter, they struck for twenty-one points, led by Fischer who finished with thirteen, to win 58–53.

In early December, the Bombers repeated as champions of the Principia Tournament, first downing Jennings by a whopping 51–24 and then Lutheran 56–39. Thym and Philpott combined for forty-eight points against Lutheran. Tuthill of the *Post* labeled Thym “the Stan Musial of prep basketball.” Burroughs beat McKinley and Harold Alcorn in the finals 58–50, with Thym scoring twenty-seven points for the second time in two games.

The Country Day Misstep

The opening game of ABC play against Country Day proved to be the blemish in an otherwise perfect season. Down at the half 28–21, the Bombers pulled even at 46–46 with three and a half minutes to go. Strassner sent the game into overtime with a last-second free throw tying the game at fifty-four. In the extra period, however, Thym was hobbled by a pulled muscle and the Rams, sparked by football standouts Athan Mertis and Jack Hennessey, won 60–59. The Rams were coached by Marv Levy of future pro football renown.

Burroughs invaded Country Day’s cracker-box gym at the Rams’ old campus for the rematch. The Bombers opened the second half with a furious sixteen-point outburst and cruised to a 72–61 win, shooting an outrageous 74 percent for the game. Thym had 26 points and Weinrich 24.

Comebacks Capture State

Now 16–1, the Bombers were seeded first in the fourteen-team subregional tournament at Normandy High. They shelled Maryland Heights 103–38 in the opener for their first 100-point game. They drubbed Coyle 63–40, and in the semifinals they beat hot-shooting Bayless, with its future pro athlete (baseball) Sonny Siebert. Thym scored thirty-five for his high game of the season, and Philpott added eighteen. Burroughs dominated Brentwood in the final, 66–50.

In the regional tournament at Elvins, the Bombers were again seeded first. They overcame stubborn Wellsville 65–42, and then sank Owensville 62–46 to set up the *fourth* meeting with Brentwood for the championship, which Burroughs won 54–45.

The 1953 state tournament brackets were drawn to allow a Burroughs-Puxico final, but the path to get there appeared treacherous. The Bombers opened

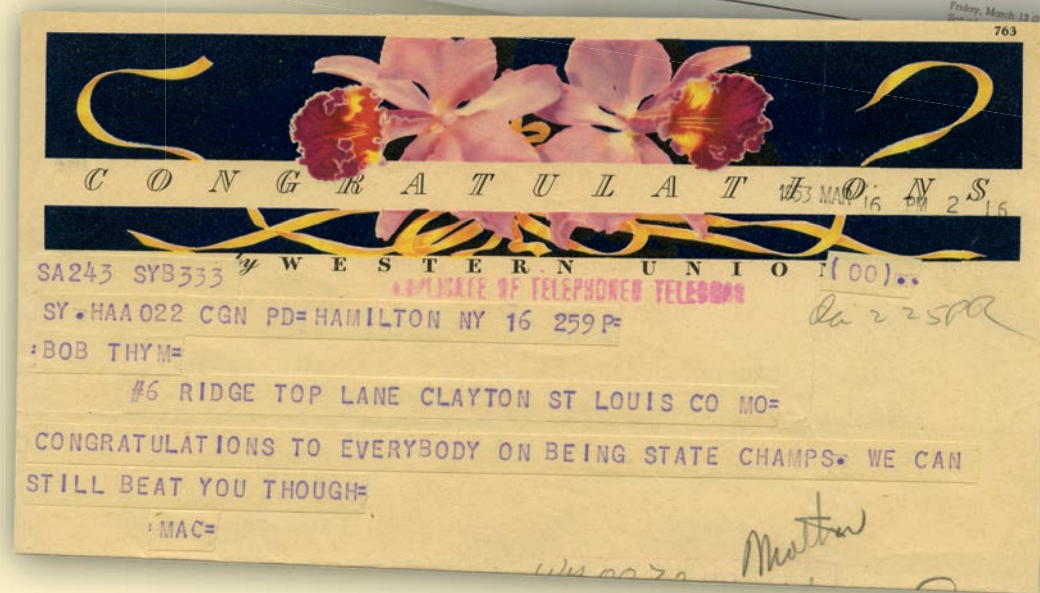
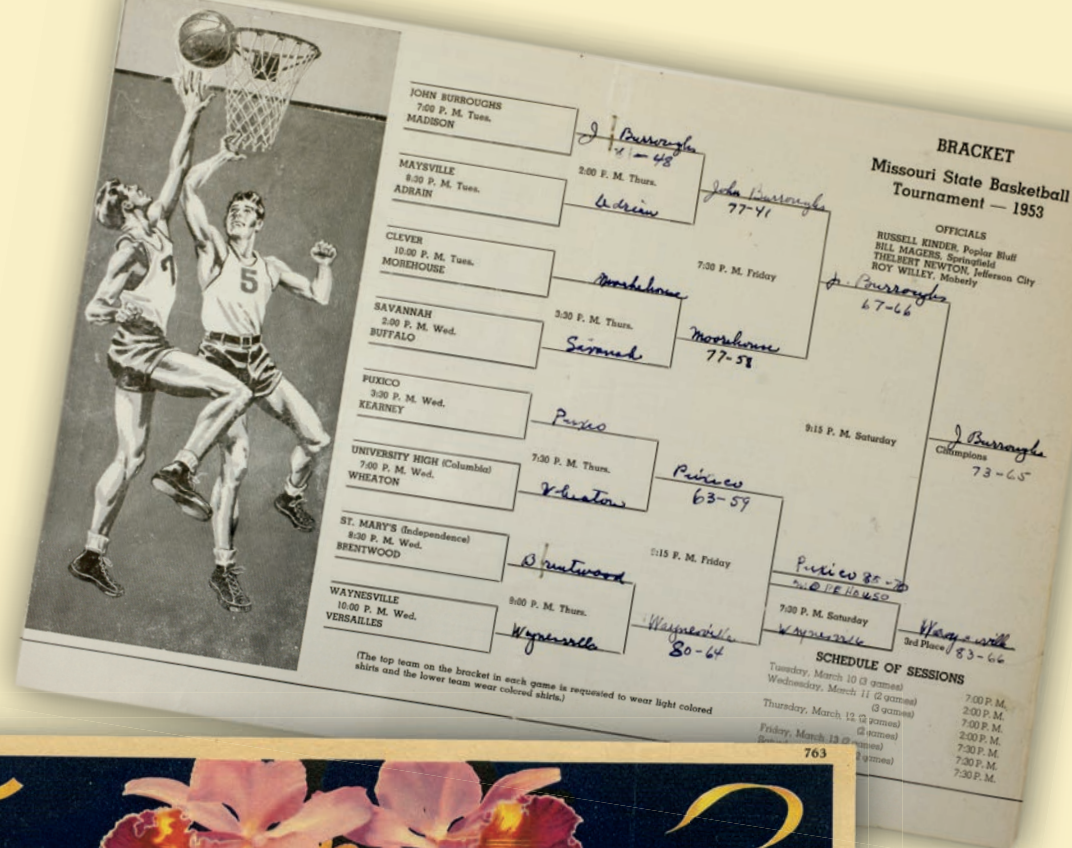


against Madison High School with Lionel Smith, the coach's son who averaged thirty-seven points a game and had scored seventy-one in a single night. Burroughs held Smith to seventeen points while racing to an 81-48 victory. "The Bombers' Bobby Thym showed fans what an inside man should do as he swept both backboards and banged in thirty-two points, most of them on recovered rebounds," reported the *Globe's* Bud Thies.

Burroughs pummeled Adrian 77-41, with nearly every Bomber scoring, to set up a semifinal against Morehouse, whom it had conquered in the consolation game of 1952. Morehouse's ace Joe Todd was a one-man gang, but the Bombers staged a miraculous fourth-quarter comeback to win 67-66 (see "Against All Odds"). Puxico, meanwhile, overpowered a strong Waynesville team to establish a Burroughs-Puxico final.

The Bombers tempted fate one more time against the Indians, falling behind 25-13 at the end of the first quarter and 32-16 at one point in the second. Applying the full-court press, Burroughs cut the lead to 42-38 by halftime and was ahead 61-55 at three quarters. At a third-quarter timeout, Thym exclaimed, "C'mon you guys, these guys don't know how to play basketball. Let's show 'em how we do it in St. Louis." The Bombers responded with a 73-65 win. Weinrich scored twenty-one, and Thym had twenty-two before fouling out. Philpott and Bill Gullion had big games as well.

The celebrated rivalry between the two small but mighty schools was over. Thym concluded his three-year career with an average of seventeen points per game, twenty-one in his senior year. He made the *Globe-Democrat's* first-team All-State, Class



Top: Brackets for 1953 state tournament.

Bottom: Congratulations from Bill MacCarthy of the 1952 team to Bobby Thym and the 1953 state champs, with a reminder of who was the best.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

How does a high school basketball team, down by eighteen points in the fourth quarter, rally to win in a day with no three-point shot or 24-second clock? Burroughs accomplished the impossible in 1953 when they overcame Morehouse High School in a game that was far stranger than fiction.

These were the days, after all, when the stall was a potent offensive weapon. Consider the classic upset by tiny Milan High over Muncie Central in Indiana, the inspiration for *Hoosiers* with Gene Hackman. With the score tied at twenty-six all, Bobby Plumb freezes the ball for four minutes before a game-winning basket at the buzzer.

Mighty Morehouse, a stone's throw from Puxico near Missouri's Bootheel, was 35–5 entering the semifinals of the state tournament. The Tigers featured Joe “Buddy” Todd, who would later join Puxico's Grady Smith in the backcourt at St. Louis University—as well as in the Billikens Hall of Fame. An outside marksman, Todd struck for twenty-two of his forty points in the first half, propelling Morehouse to a 34–18 lead at the break. Burroughs responded with a twenty-seven-point third quarter, but they cut the lead by only three. They trailed 58–45 at the end of the period, and Morehouse widened the bulge to eighteen points in the fourth quarter before the turnaround began.

“They must have let up a bit because it was so easy,” suggested Gordon Philpott '53. “We never gave up. That was the story of our whole season.” Gates Agnew focused more on the Burroughs full court press as the key to the comeback. It was a 3–1–1 zone, with long-armed Bobby Thym covering the middle in the backcourt, jack-rabbits Bebe Weinrich and Leigh Strassner on either side, Philpott roaming at center court, and Agnew guarding the Burroughs basket.

“It was impossible for them to get past it,” Agnew declared. “That's how we won the game.”

The *Post-Dispatch's* Harold Tuthill chronicled the extraordinary details: “A constant battering by (Bobby) Thym, Gordon Philpott and Gates Agnew, plus the Burroughs tight pressing defense, rattled the Morehouse athletes, who made just two field goals and four free throws in the last eight minutes. Meanwhile the Bombers were cutting into the Morehouse lead until a free throw by Thym, a field goal by Gates Agnew, a field goal by Thym and another by Philpott put Burroughs on the short end of a 57–62 score with three minutes 43 seconds to play.”

In the closing moments as described by Tuthill, Morehouse attempted a stall; Burroughs broke it up but fouled. Thym hit key baskets to close the gap to 66–63, and a Burroughs steal and an Agnew field goal brought the Bombers within one. Morehouse lost possession, and with eighteen seconds left Burroughs called time out. When play resumed, Burroughs fumbled, recovered, and fumbled again. Amid the chaos, Hewes Agnew, brother of Gates, took control.

“I grabbed a loose ball and immediately looked for Bobby Thym,” he related. “I found him and he did the rest.” Thym whirled to drive for the basket. “There was a guy right behind me, and I didn't see him,” he said. “*To this day* I don't know why he didn't steal that ball.” Thym banked the ball in as time expired. In the tumultuous victory celebration, Gates Agnew suffered a deep bruise and missed the championship game the next night. Nonetheless, having defied all odds, Burroughs beat Puxico for the school's first and only state basketball championship.

B, and the newspaper's "Prep Dream Team" for St. Louis. KXOK Radio named him the Prep Player of the Year ahead of Webster Groves' vaunted center Jim Krebs. Philpott earned honorable mention All-State and Thym, Philpott, and Weinrich were All-ABC. Thym became a four-year starter at Vanderbilt, where he still ranks high on the school's all-time scoring and rebounding lists.

Basketball at Burroughs, meanwhile, went into comparative hibernation for the rest of the decade. None of the succeeding six teams managed a winning record, and only one captured an ABC League championship, the 1957–58 team, which recorded a 4–2 league record with David Clark '58 and Jud Calkins '59 sharing high-scoring honors at thirteen points per game. There were, nonetheless, some strong individual performances, such as twenty-eight points by Tad Foote '55 in a 1955 win over a highly rated Western team, and nineteen points in the first half—twenty-one in the game—by Barkley Calkins '56 in a narrow loss to Country Day in 1956.

FROM RAG-TAG TO POLISH

The girls of Burroughs were graciously invited into the cheerleading ranks for the first time in 1949. Before that, it was an all-male thing, and not exactly orderly—booming voices and a few megaphones.

The election of 1950 for the first time brought uniformity and style. Seven girls emerged from the tryouts and all-school vote. They were, as shown below, from left, Sue Morrison '54, Ginny Poindexter '51, Val Wagner '51, Joan Sturgis '53,



Dorcas Taylor '51, Carolyn Hirth '53, and Jere Meisel '51, all pictured in the 1951 yearbook in mid-routine with newly chosen attire. A cheerleading squad had been born.

The girls went right to work under the direction of Elmer Hirth, who had performed similar oversight at Clayton schools before Burroughs. "He gave his heart and soul to cheerleading," said Morrison, a freshman at the time and a four-year cheerleader, the captain for two. "He pulled us together as a unit." Some cheers were already on the books; others were devised by the squad or borrowed from other schools. "There was one cheer we did only for the Country Day game," Morrison explained:

*Blue and Gold, fight, fight;
Blue and Gold, fight, fight;
Take Codasco's red and white,
Make 'em black and blue tonight.*

The girls practiced diligently during the week and worked hard on the weekends, traveling hither and yon to cheer for teams at the A, B, and C level. There was also training for cheerleading aspirants; elections were held each year for as many as twenty-five hopefuls. "It was very competitive, and often very heart-breaking," Morrison related.

The uniforms had to pass muster with Gov, known as "Dr. Haertter" from 1950 forward in light of an honorary degree from his alma mater Colgate. "The outfits were a great cause for concern," Morrison recalled. "The school wanted very conservative. Dr. Haertter said we'd better dress and behave as ladies." The girls chose well. The outfits remained in vogue for years to come.

THE LAST OF THE BEST

A tradition from the 1930s and 1940s carried over to the first two years of the 1950s—the boys' Most Valuable Player Award and the girls' Physical Education Award, a much-anticipated honor for a senior boy and girl announced at an athletic banquet after Field Day. The award of 1951 proved to be the last in the unfolding history of the school.

In 1950, Ginny McCutcheon and Rod Wagner were the recipients. McCutcheon, tall and slender, excelled in A varsity hockey and basketball and on the A class team in soccer. "She's tops in personality and one of the best liked girls in the class, which is easily shown by her remarkable leadership in sports," declared the *Review*. Wagner, as a junior, was the sixth man on the basketball team that finished fourth in state, and he was the captain and first-team All-ABC his senior year. He was also a running and passing threat at quarterback in football and a speedster in track.

The honorees in 1951 were Bunny Sturgis and Terry Flint. Sturgis, described as “small and mighty” by Sue Morrison, was commended in her class profile for “all class ‘A’ teams and several varsities—a good sport on the hockey field and off.” Flint was a multi-sport athlete and co-captain of his senior football team. “On the athletic field he has been a leader as captain of many C, B and A teams,” read his profile.

“KILLA VILLA”

The upending of giant-sized opponents was not limited to boys’ sports. In one of the great events of the decade, the A varsity hockey team of 1957 snapped Villa Duchesne’s reputed fifteen-year winning streak. Villa was coached in hockey and basketball by Thelma Kenefick, known widely for her own career at the national level as a field hockey player. Based on her thirty-four years as coach and athletic director, her name was chosen to adorn Villa’s gymnasium.

The matchup with the speedsters from Spoede Road had yielded pure frustration over the years. Between 1949 and 1955 alone, the record against Villa was 0–6–2. By 1956, Burroughs, captained by Linda Dubinsky ’57, was prepared to reverse history. Led by Alice Hammond in her third year as head coach, the girls romped to victories over Principia, Ladue, Sunset Hills, and Mary Institute before the big game. They were ahead 1–0 at the half, but Villa tied it up after the break.



Varsity hockey, 1956. Front row from left: C. Jones, K. Comfort, D. Bascom, K. Calkins, S. Roudebush; second row: Miss Hammond, S. Wotka A. Ruhoff, D. Loeffel, J. Aitken; third row: J. Sutter, D. Ward, E. Rogers, E. Wehmiller, L. Dubinsky.

Top: **Mementos for 1957.** Softball charm, medal for Coach Hammond, hockey pin for undefeated victors.

Bottom: **Varsity hockey, 1957.** First row from left: A. Helmholz, S. Wotka, B. Prewitt, S. Albers; second row: D. Riley, A. Ruhoff, J. Foote, D. Loeffel, Miss Hammond; third row: M. Poindexter, K. Calkins, J. Aitken, J. Lorenz, C. Mueller.



“The rest of the game became an agonizing struggle for control of the ball, which was almost constantly at the opponents’ goal cage,” reported the yearbook. “But with 10 seconds left, a Villa wing connected with a stray pass and scored with a beautiful drive.” The cry for the next season became “Killa Villa.”

The team of 1957 began with a 12–2 shellacking of Sunset Hills in Kansas City, led by eight goals by Kathy Calkins ’58. Anne Ruhoff ’58, team captain, set the scene: “The backfield players—fullbacks (Jane) Aitken (’58) and (Judy) Lorenz (’58) and goalie Ruhoff—never touched the ball. It was very cold and the Sunset Hills team retreated inside to warm up, leaving us in a parental and team huddle on the field.”

Burroughs overcame Principia and then Ladue before confronting their nemesis. Excitement was palpable on campus the week before the Villa showdown. Steph Wotka and Beth Prewitt, ’59, tacked a poem to the locker room bulletin board predicting victory by the blue and gold. The outcome merited the lead story on the sports page of the *World*:



An ambition of fifteen years was realized on Wednesday when Burroughs scored a decisive victory over Villa Duchesne’s “A” varsity in a hard-fought battle. Burroughs led 2-1 at the half and Villa evened it up after the break. But our forwards fought for the final and winning goal. Kathy Calkins scored twice and Dorinda Loeffel once. In the last minutes of the game the defense held off the Villa forwards, who were anticipating defeat, but battling hard.

Burroughs edged Mary Institute 2–1 in a come-from-behind victory to cap the season undefeated at 5–0. The teams of 1956 and 1957 combined posted a 10–1 record, outscoring their opponents 45–11. The girls of 1957 received silver pins in the form of hockey sticks to commemorate their season; in return, they presented Coach Hammond with a gold pin proclaiming, “We did it.”

Basketball and Softball

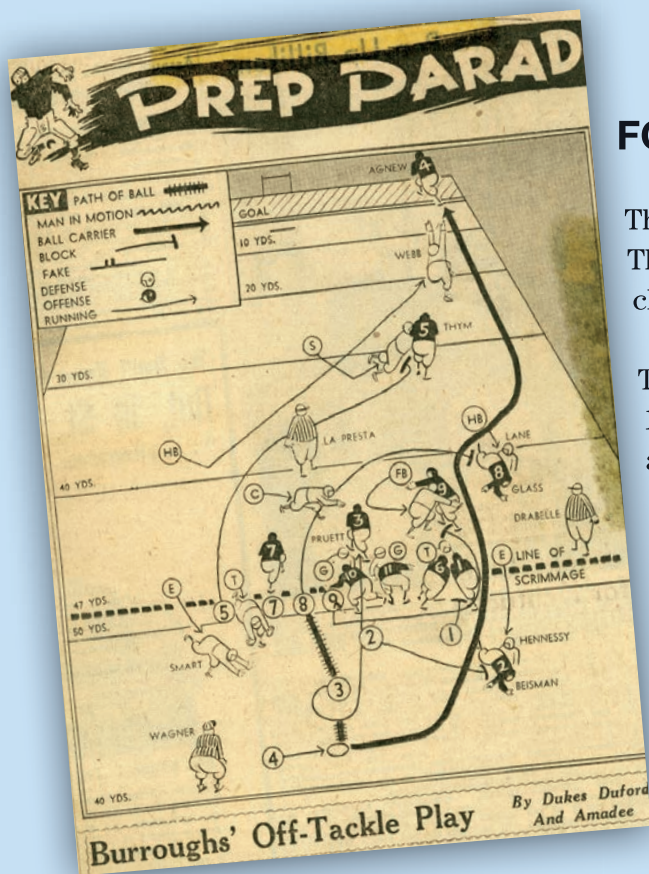
The Class of 1958 excelled in basketball and softball as well, running up some extraordinary scores. In basketball, they were 3–1 on the season, losing only to Mary I, which, according to the yearbook, “had an effective guarding system, which accounted for our only defeat.” An effective guarding system indeed. According to Calkins, it was a veritable bear hug, and it prompted a protest from Coach Hammond during a break in play.

Under the rules of the day, there were three forwards and three defenders; neither group could cross the center line. Only three dribbles were permitted before a pass to a teammate was required. Despite the resulting slowdown in play, Burroughs ran up scores of 65–33 against Principia and 52–29 against Ladue, led in the latter game by Dorinda Loeffel with twenty-three points.

In softball, the Burroughs varsity was undefeated from 1956 to 1958. In the latter year, the team outscored their opponents 66–12 in five games. The biggest margin came in a 19–2 hammering of Principia. The success of the varsities did not, however, undermine the system of widespread participation in which girls would compete against other schools on class teams. “We spent half our time thinking about class games and half varsity,” noted Hammond, athletic director from 1954 to 1960 and 1961 to 1963. “We wanted to give all the girls experience.”



High-scoring varsity softball, 1958. First row from left: Judy Hunkins, Kate Haven, Donna Riley, Dorinda Loeffel, Carla Mueller; second row: Miss Schlueter, Steph Wotka, Beth Prewitt, Ginny Edwards.



FOOTBALL: THE EARLY YEARS

The five football teams of 1949–53 added gloriously to the first undefeated-untied season of 1948. Those squads compiled a record of 33–5–1, outscored opponents 1,037–317, won three ABC League championships, and recorded another perfect season in 1951.

The record would have been even better but for a Brown Road buzz saw that emerged in 1952 and 1953. Country Day, by then the “Rams,” posted back-to-back perfect seasons in which they were among the premier teams in the district. In the Burroughs–Country Day series overall, the Bombers fared well enough. They won eight in a row from 1943 to 1951; in the 1950s as a whole they were 5–5, and in 1955 they posted their largest margin of victory since 1927.

The Bombers of 1949 came within a whisker of a second consecutive perfect season. Led by Captain Shelby Pruet ’50, the team was 6–1 and set a school record by holding their opponents to thirty-two points. Major scoring came from Pruet and sophomore speedsters Bill Agnew and Bill Peniston; the latter scored on a one hundred-yard kickoff return against Western, and a ninety-yard punt return against CDS in a 21–13 win. The lone loss was a flashback to 1945, when unbeaten Burroughs was tied by Clayton in the closing seconds of the game. Against the Greyhounds of 1949, Burroughs was leading 10–7 with ten seconds to go when they lost

a fumble on their own thirty-five yard line. Two fifteen-yard penalties backed them up to their goal line, where Clayton scored on a pass play with eight seconds remaining to win 13–10.

The 1950 Bombers were 7–1, outscoring the opposition 228–84 and trampling Country Day 20–0. Agnew and Peniston continued their high-scoring ways, and Don Pruet, brother of Shelby, emerged as a running and passing threat at full-back. His favorite targets were Terry Flint ’51 and Bobby Thym ’53. In the season’s only loss to Webster Groves, one of the area’s best teams, Pruet connected with the two receivers sixteen times. An injury to Agnew on the first play of the game handicapped the Bombers.

Perfection in 1951

The team picture of 1951 shows a dapper Tom McConnell, newly arrived from Clayton High as an assistant to Ray Wolfe. McConnell helped propel Burroughs to an 8–0 season featuring a 237–33 pasting of the opposition and only one touchdown scored against the starting team. Peniston was lost early with an injury but became honorary captain; Sandy McDonald ’53 filled in with heavy scoring.

Diagram in the *Post-Dispatch* of Bill Agnew’s forty-seven-yard end run for a touchdown in the 20–0 victory over Country Day, 1950. Don Pruet took the snap, spun, and handed to Agnew, who got key blocks from teammates.



1951 undefeated, untied, and league champions.

The Bombers routed tough Suburban League foes Clayton and Maplewood by a combined score of 67–0 with Agnew, now a senior, racing for seven touchdowns. In shutting down Country Day 7–0, the Bombers relied on great defense by Thym and Bill MacCarthy at the ends and Charley Duncker, Bill Long, Bob Bartell, '52, and Bill Nichols '53 on the interior line, according to the *World*. Codasco failed to penetrate Burroughs' forty-nine-yard line. The Pruett-to-Thym passing combination was sharp all season. Agnew led the district in scoring with ninety-four points; he and Thym made second-team All-State and were joined by Pruett on the All-Southeast Missouri District team; Bartell received special mention.

In 1952 the Bombers' only loss—apart from a 46–16 pummeling by Country Day—was to Principia 19–6, despite a touchdown on the opening kickoff by Gordon Philpott. The Bombers shut out Clayton, Mercy, and Dupo on big scores. All-ABC recognition was accorded to Sandy McDonald at fullback and Hewes Agnew '54 at end. Pete Walsh and Gates Agnew, '53, received honorable mention.

In Tom McConnell's first year as head coach, the 1953 team compiled a 6–1–1 record, opening with a 37–6 rout of a big Ladue team. Hewes Agnew at tailback ran and passed for multiple touchdowns but was lost for the season with a knee injury the next week against Clayton. Jim Woods and Hillis Howie, '54, provided the scoring punch thereafter. Joe Lintzenich booted nineteen extra points. After the Bombers shelled Pembroke 48–26 in a televised game in Kansas City, a Raiders parent exclaimed, "Your team played like professionals." The Bombers held Principia to a mere sixty-six yards of offense but had to settle for a 6–6 tie. Country Day derailed the Bombers 32–0, fueled by the passing attack of Joe Trigg to Charley Disbrow.

TENNIS SEIZES CONTROL

Apart from his basketball heroics, Leigh Strassner was the number one singles player on the Burroughs varsity for four years. By his senior season of 1953, Perry Bascom '54 had joined him in the number-two slot, and they were partners on first doubles. Together they led Burroughs to its first league championship in seven years, wresting control from perennial power Country Day. The Bombers lost to Codasco in their first meeting that spring, but they met again in the final match of the season. Strassner and Bascom won their singles contests, and the afternoon came down to a doubles final between Strassner-Bascom and Ted Simmons-Dwight Seward. A hushed crowd turned out to see the Burroughs aces prevail 6-8, 6-1, 6-4.

The twosome took third place in the post-season national interscholastic tournament in Charlottesville, Virginia, and they teamed up for many years thereafter in St. Louis area doubles play. When Strassner was inducted into the Missouri Valley Tennis Hall of Fame in 2008, Bascom, his friend and teammate for life, was there in support. Strassner is also in the St. Louis Tennis Hall of Fame.

In 1955, Earl "Butch" Buchholz Jr. '59, a mere eighth grader, was key along with Dick Weil '55, Bill Wood '55, and Paul Putzel '57 in compiling a 10–2 varsity season good enough for second place in the league. The team won fifty-two out of sixty individual matches. Buchholz and Putzel were back in 1957 to lead the Bombers to a 10–1 season and a tie for the championship with Codasco. This team, like that of 1956, won the prestigious Country Day Invitational Tournament, featuring schools well beyond the ABC League.

The last two years of the decade saw some success at the state level. The 1958 team won the district tournament, reported the *World*, thus propelling the number one and two players, David Clark '58 and Dick Lungstras '59, to the state tournament in doubles, where they reached the semifinals. In 1959, Lungstras and Tom Goldman '61 finished third in doubles at state.

A Pro Is Born

Butch Buchholz '59 was in a quandary as he sat in a second-floor study hall in early 1958. In his pocket was a prepaid ticket to Paris and the French Junior Open tennis tournament. In one ear was the voice of his mother saying, "Pursue your education." In the other was that of his father, tennis pro Earl Buchholz Sr., urging, "Seize your opportunity."

The pressure mounted. A decision reached, he stashed his books and walked down to Price Road, up to Clayton Road, and caught a bus home to Itaska Street in South St. Louis. He parlayed his plane passage to victory in the French Open, affirming his status as the number one junior (18 and under) in the world at the age of seventeen.



Butch Buchholz '59 with pros on parade on the streets of downtown St. Louis, 1970.

There had been decision-making anxiety months earlier after Buchholz lost an Orange Bowl tournament to a lesser opponent. At the time he was an important cog on the Burroughs basketball team, with a mean sidearm set shot. At a family dinner, however, his father suggested it was time to make a choice: “You’re number one in the world in tennis,” he declared, “What’s your ranking in basketball?” Buchholz bid a sad farewell to his basketball teammates to focus on tennis. The results were evident not only in the French tournament, but also at Wimbledon and the American and Australian opens—all of which he won to become the Grand Slam champion of junior tennis.

Beginning in seventh grade, Buchholz hitchhiked or bussed to Burroughs, where his father was teaching tennis. By eighth grade he was a key member of the varsity, and by tenth grade he was the two-time Missouri state champion and winner of the national interscholastic tournament in Charlottesville, Virginia. His dedication to tennis was legendary. On winter nights after basketball practice, he raced to the St. Louis Armory or a church gym to refine his game.

By late 1958, Buchholz was a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team. He turned professional in 1960 and in a nine-year career won big-name tournaments and achieved a top-five ranking. The Buchholz name was uttered in conjunction with Laver, Hoad, Trabert, Rosewall, Gonzales, and others. As a tennis promoter, he achieved even greater recognition—as a commissioner of World Team Tennis, head of the Association of Tennis Professionals, and, most famously, the founder of the Lipton Tennis Tournament, later the Sony Ericsson Open in Key Biscayne, Florida.



After bolting that study hall, Buchholz finished his high school career at Southwest High. He lives in Coral Gables, Florida, and rarely misses a Burroughs reunion with his former classmates—including his teammates for life.

A trophy commemorating Buchholz’s national interscholastic championship.

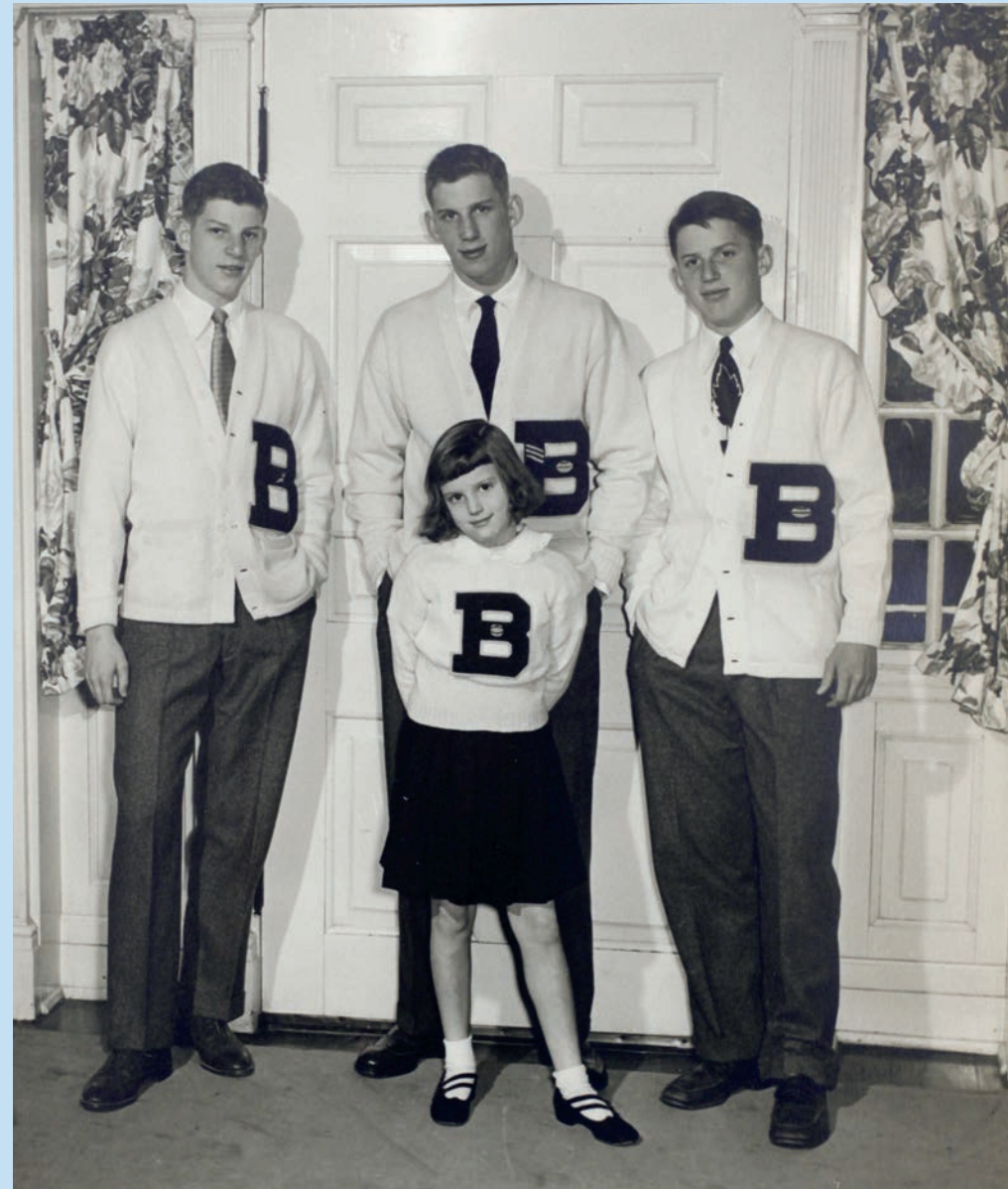
THE BROTHERS THREE

It is unusual for three brothers to pass through a school in three successive years, each to leave an indelible mark on the athletic mosaic of the institution. So it was, however, with Bill, Gates, and Hewes Agnew, '52, '53, and '54 respectively, the brothers three who excelled in football, basketball, baseball, and track in the heady years of the early 1950s.

Bill was a three-year force in varsity football. "In the running game, he was unsurpassed, even in the mud," observed Gordon Philpott. Small wonder. He was big for his time at 6'1" and 180 pounds, and he was the fastest schoolboy in Missouri as evidenced by his track performances in state competition. Bill stood out in baseball as well, and when schedules permitted he ran the dashes in his baseball uniform between innings.

Gates Agnew was co-captain with Philpott of the 1952 football team, excelling at quarterback and linebacker. Hewes was a junior end on the same team, and both brothers received All-ABC recognition. The two teamed up as well on the championship basketball team of 1953: Gates as a starting guard and Hewes a frequent contributor off the bench, especially on the play that beat Morehouse in the semifinals. Like Bill, Gates doubled up in the spring in the sprints and on the baseball diamond. In a 1-0 victory over Country Day in thirteen innings in 1953, Gates slammed the one-out double that won the game.

Despite missing virtually all of his senior football season to injury, Hewes was dominant in the sprints when the track season arrived. All three Agnew brothers attended Princeton University where all were varsity athletes. Gates switched sports and lettered in fencing. Bill was a three-year starter in football and carried the highest team batting average in baseball. Hewes, after further knee problems, set the Ivy League scoring record in football his junior year and ranked seventh in scoring nationwide.



The Agnew brothers, from left, Hewes '55, Bill '52, and Gates '53. Little sister Suzanne missed Burroughs because the family moved away from St. Louis.

SOMETHING IN THE WATER

Mike Lane '58 was a fireballing left-hander for five years in varsity baseball through the mid-1950s. These were the days before radar guns to clock the speed of a pitch. So just how fast were his fireballs? In the season opener against Parkway his senior year, Lane struck out the first batter on three pitches:

“What’s he got?” the Parkway coach asked his befuddled batsman.

“I don’t know,” the player replied.

“What do you mean?”

“Well, I could hear it, but I couldn’t see it.”

Lane was elevated to the varsity by Tom McConnell as an eighth grader in 1954, already 6'1" and 220 pounds. Though limited that year by league rules to non-ABC competition, he posted a 4–1 record. The son of Burroughs athlete Jim Lane '33, the easygoing redhead mixed fastballs with a curve, change-up, and an occasional knuckle-curve to whiff countless batters. By junior year, he was pitching Cardinals batting practice at old Sportsman’s Park to Ray Jablonski, Rip Repulski, Wally Moon, Bill Virdon, and, of course, Stan the Man.

Apart from many strikeouts, Lane recalled walking nine or ten in a game—but then he picked off half a dozen. With four-year varsity starter Jud Calkins '59 behind him at shortstop, the pickoff play at second base became routine. The play, instituted by Coach McConnell, was telegraphed by the call, “Let’s go calypso.” As Lane took his stretch position, shortstop and pitcher began a silent count; on 1,002 Calkins broke for the bag as Lane wheeled and threw. The baffled runner was usually out by a matter of yards.

Burroughs baseball was enormously successful in the 1950s, coached by McConnell beginning in 1952. From 1950 to 1959, the Bombers were 50–14 in league play, winning nine ABC titles, only one by tie, and posting perfect league records in 1950, 1951, and 1955. Burroughs had won eight league titles outright in the 1930s and seven more in the 1940s, only two by tie. The 1950s, therefore, brought the total to twenty-four league championships in thirty years—only three by tie. Many began to wonder whether there was something in the water at 755 South Price Road.

The best overall record of 8–1–1 was compiled by the 1950 team, led on the mound by Harry Hughes '50 who blanked Country Day 14–0 on a no-hitter. Bombers named to the All-ABC team were Hughes on the mound; Shelby Pruett, Bill MacCarthy, and Charley Duncker on the infield; Don Pruett at catcher; and Jim Beisman '51 in the outfield.



Saturday Evening Post cover portrays Mike Lane '58, in plaid sweater, handing autograph book to Stan Musial. Bill Hassett '58 leans forward at far left. Hassett's visage was also used for the boy at far right.

In 1951, Bobby Thym pitched a one-hitter against Codosco and a no-hitter against Western in successive games, and Bill MacCarthy held Clayton to four hits in a futile 0–0 tie over ten innings. There was controversy in the return game with the Greyhounds: The score was tied 1–1 with Clayton runners at first and third and one out. On an apparent single to right, Arnold Goldman '51, an All-ABC performer, made a surprise catch and doubled the runner off at first. Tom McConnell, in his last year as the Clayton head coach, contended that his runner at third had scored before the double play was complete. The run was allowed, and Clayton claimed victory.

In 1955, the last perfect season in league play, Ted Greensfelder joined Lane on the mound, and Dave Moran preserved the perfect record by stealing home against Western. Greensfelder and Lane were named All-ABC, along with Mike Murphy, the catcher, and Dave Harding, first base, both '56. Jim Conzelman '56 was an annual standout at shortstop through the mid-1950s.

SILVER SKATERS TURNED BOMBERS

The fall of 1951 witnessed an invasion of Martian speed skaters at Burroughs. The first to arrive was Dave Mars '55, entering in ninth grade from Maplewood Junior High where he excelled on an eighth-grade football team. The second to drop down was Jon Mars '59, four years younger, a seventh grader in 1953.

The brothers were already celebrities in speed skating in St. Louis and beyond. In January 1951, at the ages of thirteen and nine, they were featured in an Amadee Wohlschlaeger cartoon in the *Post-Dispatch* as favorites in the pending Silver Skates at the old

Arena. On arrival at Burroughs, Dave had been crowned national speed-skating champion in the juvenile division. The C football team was eager to receive him. “Dave Mars, a freshman, looks like the boy who will figure in quite a few of the plays this season at tailback,” forecast the *World* in 1951. With Dick Ford '54, he helped lead the team to a 4–1–1 season, exploding for four touchdowns in the opener against Principia. He struck for three more in the second Principia game. An action photo in the yearbook caught him breaking away on a muddy field, with a caption reading “The Man takes off.”

His varsity football career was hampered early by a badly broken leg in a speed-skating fall, and by another broken leg in the fourth game of his senior season. Mars delivered in track, however, particularly in the St. Louis District B meet of 1955 where he blazed to victory in the 100 and 220 and ran the anchor leg on the winning 880-yard relay team. The Man accounted for 18 of Burroughs' 43½ points.



When Jon touched down at Burroughs he was already the national indoor and outdoor skating champion in the midget division, not to mention king of the Silver Skates. As he blazed trails in football, soccer, and track, he continued skating in the winter, dominating the field in his age divisions in weekend competition across the Midwest. In a three-year varsity football career, he was All-Conference each year and ultimately set the career scoring record.

Mars captured the Les Hatchard award junior year for best soccer player in the ABC League. In track as a freshman he ran on the 880-relay team that placed in the state meet. His most dominant performance came in a subsequent year in a dual meet against Brentwood when he won the 100, the 220, the broad jump, and the pole vault and anchored the winning relay team.

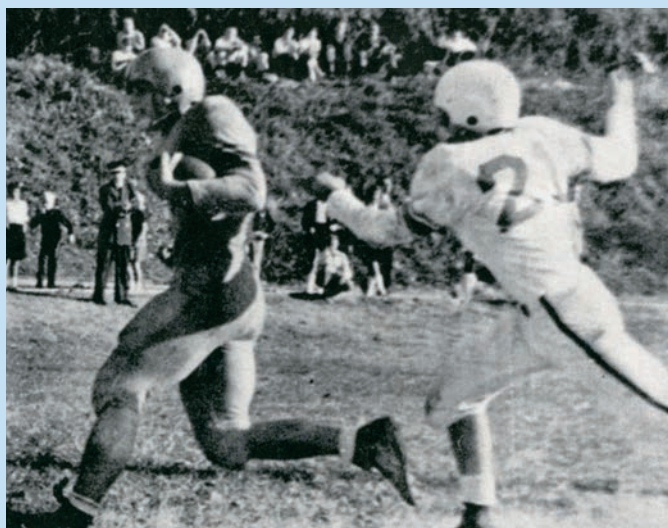
“RACKING THE DAISIES”

Football faltered in 1954 with a record of 2–6. It might have been otherwise without a series of injuries to key personnel. Ted Greensfelder '55 suffered a neck injury in a preseason scrimmage against powerful Webster Groves; Tad Foote '55 dislocated his shoulder in practice; Cam Fordyce '55 suffered a season-ending concussion in the first game; and Dave Mars broke his ankle in the fourth game.

Redemption came the following year. New on the scene was Howard Yerges as a part-time backfield assistant to Tom McConnell. Yerges had quarterbacked Michigan to a national championship and a Rose Bowl rout of USC in 1947. He brought the Wolverines' multiple offense, which remained in use by the Bombers into the 1960s. The team lined up in the T formation and either ran from that or shifted in cadence to the single wing. Burroughs marched to a 6–1–1 record and the first ABC crown since 1951. In the words of the yearbook, “We Racked the Daisies.”

It was the year of fullback John Cotsworth '57, at Burroughs and in the district at-large. In his junior year and his third year of varsity football, Cotsworth had a weightlifter's physique before weightlifting was in vogue among athletes—including him. He began his 1955 scoring spree as the Bombers blunted Ladue High's eleven-game winning streak with a 19–7 victory. Bob Cullenbine and Bill Corrington, '56, also scored and tailback Bill Idol '56 showed solid passing and running form that served the team well through the season.

Burroughs was tied 20–20 in the second game by age-old nemesis Clayton High. Corrington injured his right arm and was out until the last game. The season's only loss was to Chaminade, 20–14. “We had one touchdown called back already and we were on about their ten-yard line preparing to score,” recalled Dave Hardy '56, a tough lineman and the class historian on football. “The referee comes in, picks up the ball and says, ‘That's it boys, time's up.’” Hardy cannot say whether the scoreboard clock was out of order or non-existent.



John Cotsworth '57 rumbles into the end zone against Country Day, 1955.

makes a patented diving catch of a Cullenbine pass to set up a Cotsworth touchdown, and the Bombers lead 13–0 at halftime. “Two passes from Cotsworth to (Barkley) Calkins ('56) highlighted a sixty-seven-yard drive in the third quarter,” reported the *World*, “climaxed by a 10-yard run by Mike McCarthy '57 for the touchdown to make the score 19–0.” Cotsworth scored twice more for nineteen points on the day. The Rams tallied a meaningless touchdown with fifty-two seconds remaining.

Three plays were big momentum builders for the Bombers. On one, Corrington caught Tate Robertson from far behind at the ten, and the Burroughs line held on the next series. On the second, Moran was back to punt on fourth and fifteen but passed to Cullenbine for a first down to set up a touchdown. On the third, Jim Conzelman snared a Jay Soest fumble deep in Burroughs territory and returned it out of the danger zone.

Cotsworth led the district in scoring with 124 points and rushed for a whopping 1,019 yards on 141 tries, an average of 7.2 per carry. Idol followed with 337 rushing yards. Cotsworth was named first-team All-District, and on the All-ABC team he was joined by Cullenbine at quarterback, Calkins at end, and Moran and John Ross '56 in the line.

Their best game was a 21–19 victory over Pembroke and a hard-charging fullback named Pfeffer, Hardy relates. The margin of victory was two blocked extra points by lineman Dave Moran '56, “the toughest guy I ever played with or against,” in Hardy’s words. Cotsworth answered Pfeffer with 256 yards rushing and all 21 of Burroughs’ points.

For the Country Day game, Tom McConnell prepared his players masterfully. He summoned them early Saturday morning to Memorial Gym, there to lounge on floor mats under strict orders to remain silent and concentrate on the task at hand. In lieu of a pep talk, McConnell said a prayer. As the team descended the hill to Leland Field, they were mobbed by supporters on all sides. Resplendent in gold pants and jerseys, they ripped the Rams 32–7 in the most lopsided victory by Burroughs since the series began.

Hardy is quick on the trigger with a video cassette of the game. Corrington, a cast on his right arm, bobbles a pitchout but skirts left end for the first score; Jon Schneeberger '56



SOCCER SURVIVES

The Bombers failed to dominant ABC League soccer in the 1950s as they had in the two previous decades, but they captured one undisputed league crown and two ties. The squad of 1952–53 won the lone outright title with a record of 7–1–3 overall and 4–1–1 in ABC play. Bob Dubinsky '53 recorded six shutouts in goal as Burroughs outscored opponents 25–7. Jim Woods was the high scorer with fifteen goals.

The winningest season was 1958–59 with an 11–0–3 record, although Burroughs shared the crown with Country Day. The squad allowed only eight goals for the year and quadrupled that number themselves, outgunning an unfortunate St. John's team three times by a combined score of 10–2. Bob Willis '60 booted twenty goals from center forward to win the Les Hatchard award as the best player in the ABC League. At 5'6" and 150 pounds, all of it muscle, Willis straightened up larger runners as a linebacker in football and dribbled through and around opponents in soccer as a three-year starter. "He was the best dribbler on the field and a great shot-maker," declared Jon Mars, the Hatchard awardee the previous year who roamed the field at center-half behind Willis.

In the same year, the B soccer team went 14–0–0, outscoring their opponents 28–2 in a season dubbed by the *World* as "Best in JBS History." The players listed as seeing the most action were Brad Stocker '60; Dave Haffner, Bill Berman, Paul Max, Gary Muther, Bill Hardy, Chuck Lowery, Ken Kerckhoff, John Dubinsky, and Bill Lindsley, all '61, and Tom Seddon, Marsh Pitzman, and Dick Rogers, all '62.

TRACK: SPRINTING TO GOLD

In early 1951, the 880-relay team was taking shape for track. Three spots were filled by juniors Bill Agnew, Ken Teasdale, and Bill Peniston, but the fourth was a question mark. To solve it, an all-school runoff was conducted. Hewes Agnew '54, a mere freshman, could already run like the wind. He entered the sweepstakes for the chance to join his big brother on the team. "Probably 15 to 20 guys tried out," Agnew recalled. He won the competition and joined a foursome that captured gold at the Missouri state track meet in the sixth fastest time since the event began in 1927.

Opportunities to shine in track arose in dual meets against ABC League foes or others, an annual ABC League meet, the B District meet, and the state track meet in Columbia. In the 1950s, the Bombers made their presence felt in all.

In 1950, the team placed second in the Class B District meet and fifth in state. Bill Agnew won the 100 in a blazing 10.1 and the 220; he joined Rodney Wagner '50 and Ken Teasdale and Bill Peniston, both '52 on the 880-relay team that finished second. Neil

Maune '50 excelled in the shot put throughout the season. The 1951 team likewise took second in the B District and finished fourth in state in a field of more than eighty schools. Bill Agnew placed in the 100 and 220, and the relay team, with Hewes Agnew as the new man, won the event. Peniston placed in the broad jump, and the mile relay team of Peniston, Teasdale, Bob Jones '51, and Kent McGinley '51 did likewise.

Burroughs won its first state championship and, according to the *World*, its third ABC League crown in 1952. At state, Bill Agnew won the 100 and 220 and took second in another event, unspecified in the account of the yearbook. Neither the yearbook nor the *World* provided further details on the state title, except to say that the Bombers amassed 27.6 points, more than ten above their nearest competitor.

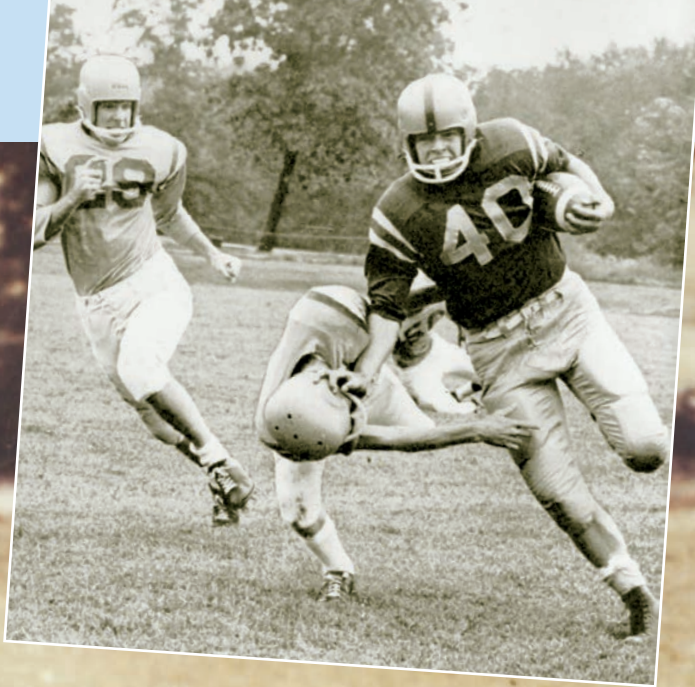
In the joint ABC League meet of 1953 and 1954, various Bombers excelled. Hewes Agnew outran the competition in the 100 both years and the 220 in 1954; Gordon Philpott took the high hurdles in 1953 and Bob Sunnen '54 in 1954, and Bebe Weinrich soared 12'1" in the pole vault in 1953 for a new state record. Lee Woodward '54 won the event the next year at 10'10". Burroughs won the league meet in 1953, one of two times in the decade.

The 1955 Bombers became the St. Louis track and field champions for Class B schools. Dave Mars '55 won the sprints and anchored the 880 relay team with Stan Birge '55, Bill Corrington, and Bob Cullenbine. Corrington won the pole vault at 10'6" and tied with four others, including Tad Foote, for runner up in the high jump. Alan Goldman '55 took fourth in the broad jump. Cullenbine stood out in the ABC meet of 1955 and 1956, winning the 440 both years. John Cotsworth '57 won the shot put in the same meet from 1955 to 1957, his best heave being 45'9", and Lew Portnoy captured first in 1958 with 41'8".

The story of the late 1950s was Doug Reiner '59, tall and lanky with a long stride suited to the hurdles and sprints. In 1959, the second year of the decade that Burroughs won the All-League meet, Reiner was everywhere, winning the 220, the high and low hurdles, and the 880 relay, along with Brig Buettner, Jud Calkins, and Grantham Thomas, all '59. Thomas won the 100, Ben Gardner '59 the 880, and Eric Lemon '60 the high jump and broad jump. At the Maplewood Relays, Reiner set a record in the high hurdles. At the state meet he won the 180-yard low hurdles in one of the best times of the decade, and he placed second in the 120-yard high hurdles.

THE UNKNOWNNS BECOME KNOWN

The Burroughs Bombers opened the football season of 1957 against the Brentwood Eagles as an unknown quantity. Most starters from the previous year were gone. The lineup was studded by juniors, although seniors played a major role, including co-captains Robin Dingwall and Frank Pollock '58 at tackle and end respectively, Terry Croft at center, Bill



Bascom at wingback, Dave Kieffer at end, and Duncan MacRae at guard, all '58. Dan Horner '59 was at guard and a young sophomore, Fred Pitzman '60, started at tackle. The Cotsworth era had ended in a 3–4–1 season in 1956, even though the Bombers shared the league championship with Principia and Country Day.

“Friday night, September 20, 1957, is not a night for Burroughs fans to remember,” wrote the *World*. Indeed not, but the narrow loss to Brentwood would be the last seen by Burroughs fans for twenty games—extending midway through the 1959 season. Burroughs quickly became a *known* quantity as they turned the first half into a virtual track meet by scoring five touchdowns, four by shifty speedster Jon Mars '59; unfortunately, three were called back. Burroughs led 13–0 at intermission, but Brentwood staged a strong comeback in the fourth quarter to win 14–13—their last touchdown scored with nine seconds left.

The Bombers rebounded with a 28–6 win over Clayton at Leland Field in the first of many high-scoring affairs in the next seven games. They often scored at will. Against Chaminade they had a lead, but when the Flyers threatened, Coach McConnell sent Mars and quarterback Jud Calkins in with instructions to score on a 51 pass over the middle. They did precisely that. Chaminade fell 47–13, as did Western 39–13 and Pembroke Country Day 33–13 in bitter cold under the lights in Kansas City.

Jud Calkins '59 clears the way for Jon Mars '59 against Clayton, 1957, at home. Burroughs won 28–6.

Inset: George Roudebush '59 brushes off a Brentwood player, 1958, Leland Field, a Burroughs rout, 45–0.

LP's Big Moment and a League Championship

The Bombers met Country Day in their fifth game. The Rams had beaten a strong Kirkwood team early in the season. Mars was out with flu during the week and was questionable until Saturday. George Roudebush became the big gainer as Burroughs outrushed the Rams 159–118. Calkins completed six passes, Codasco none. Dave Kieffer '58 was a force at defensive end.

Burroughs launched a fifty-yard drive early in the fourth quarter, ending with a touchdown plunge by Lew Portnoy '59 for a 6–0 win. The victory dance on the field was prolonged, and Portnoy was hauled away on the shoulders of his teammates. Photographs of the scene were dubbed thereafter “LP's Big Moment.”

The Bombers overcame a difficult Maplewood team 20–18 on a stirring, last-minute drive spearheaded by Calkins and Mars and capped by a fourteen-yard touchdown dash up the middle by Mars on a broken play. Portnoy scored once, and extra-point runs by Brig Buettner and Calkins provided the winning margin. By now Mars was fourth in scoring in the district with ninety-one points on fifteen touchdowns, scored in multiple fashions.

For the league championship, Burroughs faced Principia, the last undefeated team in the area, at Taylor Field in Overland, little-changed today as Norman Meyer Park, which was the Panthers' home field when the campus was at Page and Union in St. Louis. Principia featured a group of track stars in football uniforms; they jumped out to a first-half lead on a quarterback sneak from the one, but “a pair of third-quarter goal line smashes by husky fullback George Roudebush, one for a touchdown and the other for an extra point, brought Coach Tom McConnell's team the title,” reported the *Post-Dispatch*.



Post-game celebration after 6–0 victory over Country Day, 1957. Brig Buettner '59, upper left; Gordon Thomas '58, no. 11; George Roudebush '59, in helmet to right of Thomas; Doug Reiner '59, no. 25; Dave Kieffer '58, above Reiner; Jon Mars '59, no. 12; Bob McDowell '59, to right of Mars; Bill Schoening '61, no. 21; Frank Pollock '58, no. 20.

Burroughs placed Mars, Calkins, and Frank Pollock on the All-ABC team. Mars landed on the second All-District team as well, and Pollock and Calkins received honorable mention.

EXTENDING THE STREAK

The 1958 Bombers, stocked with seasoned seniors and a hearty batch of juniors, bludgeoned eight opponents by a combined score of 238–33 to extend the school's winning streak to fifteen games. Not a single touchdown by rushing was scored against the first team, and twenty of the thirty-three points allowed came late in the Pembroke game when the outcome was settled. The starting backfield of Mars, Calkins, Roudebush, and Buettner accounted for 202 of the team's points. Chuck Mill '60 and Wally Rist '59 were at the ends; Len Haertter '59, center; and Charlie Lischer '60, Fred Pitzman '60, Joe Ruwitch '59, and Dan Horner '59 rounded out the line, and Bobby Willis '60 was a force at linebacker.

Burroughs opened the season with a 45–0 payback to Brentwood High, outgaining the hapless Eagles 400 yards to 40. Mars exploded for three touchdowns, highlighted by a 50-yard punt return. Dissatisfied with the conditioning of his squad, Coach McConnell order a lap around the practice field after the game. Runaway scores became commonplace: 21–0 against Clayton, 38–0 over Principia, 53–6 against Chaminade and 49–20 over Pembroke. Mars struck for four touchdowns against Pembroke at Leland Field, including the season's longest run of 86 yards, propelling him past the career scoring record of 233 points set by John Cotsworth. The speedster now had 252 over three years.

Great teams usually have their close encounters. The first for Burroughs came against Western in the fifth game. The yellow school bus broke down en route to Alton, causing hurried pre-game preparations. Buettner's touchdown on the opening kickoff was nullified by a clipping call. Trench warfare ensued, and the Bombers left town feeling the hits but with a 7–0 victory on a seventy-yard punt return by Mars.



Returning players from 1957 pause in preseason practice. First row from left: Joe Ruwitch, Jon Mars, Dan Horner, Jud Calkins, Brig Buettner. Second row: Wally Rist, John Weil, Doug Reiner, Fred Pitzman, George Roudebush, Lew Portnoy.

Jeff City and Country Day

The seventh game put Burroughs on the map. Somewhere in the annals of the school lies the answer to how and why Tom McConnell scheduled a two-year engagement with Jefferson City High School. One day it may become known. Nonetheless, when the call went out for alumni input for this book, Jud Calkins visited the state capitol to peruse yearbooks and newspaper microfilm in order to adequately describe the dramatic Burroughs win. He filed the following dispatch:

BOMBERS SPOOK JAYS, HALLOWEEN, 1958

JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Friday, Halloween night, 1958, the Burroughs Bombers spooked the high-riding Jefferson City Jays, securing along the way an important place in mid-Missouri high school football history. Led by experienced seniors in bright but mud-spattered gold, the Bombers prevailed 13-0 in the rain under the lights at Public School Stadium.

Only in years to come would the significance of the victory become clear: it was the last defeat suffered by Jeff City before launching a 71-game winning streak over seven and a half years, a national record that stood for years. The Jays' string was finally broken by Columbia High in 1966. To perpetuate their streak, however, Jeff City had to confront the Bombers again in 1959 at Leland Field, barely escaping with a 19-14 victory.

Some in the Burroughs family questioned Coach Tom McConnell for scheduling the big-time school. Wily McConnell responded with psychology: he posted press clippings of the confident Jays on the locker room bulletin board, and when the Bombers reached their Jeff City hotel by bus on Friday they found in the local *Post-Tribune* that their weights had been pumped up by 10 to 20 pounds per man: end Wally Rist was the greatest beneficiary, up from 135 to 155.

Jeff City had been undefeated in 1956 with future Mizzou star Mel West. Under first-year coach Pete Adkins in 1958, they were 5-0-2 and had just locked up their third consecutive Mid-Missouri Conference title. Burroughs was 13-0 over two years. The *Post-Tribune* ballyhooed the matchup: "Plenty of Prestige on the Line as Powerful Bombers

Invade," read one headline. Each team had an all-state candidate—junior quarterback Keith Weber for the Jays and Burroughs' Jon Mars, "Missouri's most prolific point-maker (101)." The game was to be carried by local radio station KWOS.

Co-captains Mars and Jud Calkins, each 5'9" and 155 pounds, met for the coin toss with their counterparts, each about 6'3" and 185. By halftime Burroughs was up 7-0 on a second-quarter Mars touchdown sweep, capping a sustained drive, and an extra-point dive by Lew Portnoy.

The Jays were befuddled by Burroughs' multiple offense. This night the Bombers relied heavily on the single wing, unbalanced line right, with waves of blockers leading Mars and George Roudebush up the middle, off tackle and around end.

At halftime a female Jays' fan was heard to exclaim, "Wow, those rich boys sure can play football." In the locker room, meanwhile, the Bombers' regulars procured drier jerseys by switching with the substitutes, retaking the field with different numbers. In the third quarter Mars returned a punt 85 yards for a touchdown that was called back for clipping. The Bombers sealed the game in the fourth when Mars, true to form, corralled a bad snap in punt formation and burst 56 yards up the middle to paydirt. As buses carrying Burroughs fans rolled out of town, Dr. Haertter exhorted the crowd to crank down the windows and count off the score.

"Jeff City's Jays were tricked—certainly not treated" by the visiting Bombers, blared the weekend *Post-Tribune*. The Jays, at last word, have never sought a revival of the series.

The ABC title was on the line in the first Burroughs–Country Day game played at the Rams’ new campus. Codasco, 5–2 and building momentum after early season losses, bottled up the Bombers’ breakaway game. Mars scored from the four in the first quarter after he and Calkins led a sustained drive, but Calkins’ extra-point kick was blocked. The Rams countered with a thirty-eight-yard touchdown pass, Tom Singer to Larry Knight, and were up 7–6 at the half. A fierce goal-line stand by the Bombers denied the Rams a second touchdown at the close of the half.

The teams were statistical opposites for the day. Burroughs won the rushing battle 201–42 while Country led in passing 138–31. Yet it was a Burroughs pass play that won the game. The Bombers began their winning drive on Country Day’s forty; less than two minutes remained when they reached the fifteen. Fans began to crowd the end zone, and Coach Howard Yerges scurried down the Burroughs sideline to push them back. The apparent reason was revealed on the next play. Calkins, operating from the T formation, faked a handoff to the right side, whirled, and threw left to John Mabry in the corner of the end zone. The referee’s arms shot up, and Burroughs had a 12–7 victory and an undefeated season.

Six of fourteen slots on the All-ABC roster were filled by Bombers: Mars and Calkins in the backfield; Rist at end; and Horner, Lischer, and Pitzman on the interior line. Mars was first-team All-District, and the other five received honorable mention. In a clear oversight in light of the Jefferson City game, Mars made third-team All-State while the Jays’ quarterback Keith Weber was first.

Mars finished the season with 119 points, bringing his record-setting career total to 270. He led the St. Louis area scoring derby most of the season, well ahead of Ladue High’s Andy Russell, the future Super Bowl linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers. In the last two games of the year, however, Russell, leader of an undefeated Ladue team that was often compared to Burroughs, surged for ten touchdowns and an extra point to nudge Mars by a single point for the scoring crown. Russell recounted these events in his 1998 book *A Steeler Odyssey*. Mars and Calkins were jointly recruited by the Michigan Wolverines. Mars ultimately accepted a full ride to Colorado but ended his career as an All-Conference halfback at Washington University—as Dan Horner’s teammate. Calkins chose Yale and played football there.

1959: SUCCESS AND HEARTBREAK

The 1959 Bombers filled the holes left by graduation and extended the winning streak to twenty games before falling to Jefferson City—but only barely. Burroughs ground up Brentwood, Clayton, Principia, Pembroke, and Lutheran Central by wide margins in their eight-game season. They downed a big Western team 3–0 on a clutch field goal by Ron Riley ’61. Riley topped scorers for the year with Eric Lemon and Bob Willis, ’60, Bob Cranston ’61, and Jack Biggs ’62 chipping in heavily. In a surprise move, Fred Pitzman switched from lineman to bulldozing fullback in his senior season, but he was out intermittently

with injuries. Terry Sale '60 led at quarterback.

The Jeff City Rematch

Burroughs faced Jefferson City in the sixth game of the season. The Jays, in the early stages of their historic winning streak, brought busloads of partisans to town. "They thought that all our good players were gone," recalled Cranston. They were quickly set straight. Cranston, Lemon, and Riley opened with long runs. The Jays' radio broadcaster, according to a second-hand account, was dumbfounded, blurting out words to the effect, "I simply can't understand it, they beat us last year and now they're running all over us."

Riley scored from the seven and kicked the extra point to

THE BURROUGHS MARCHING BAND

It was 1959 and the Jefferson City Jays were coming to town for a return engagement in football. As the story goes, Coach Tom McConnell got a call from the Jays. They were broadcasting the game back home and needed proper sideline facilities. Moreover, they were bringing their big-time marching band and were planning the usual halftime routine.

Not so fast, shot back McConnell: Burroughs had a marching band of its own and needed equal time. McConnell quickly tracked down sophomore George Simmons '62, reason unknown. Simmons picks up the story:

Tom said these guys are coming down with a couple of busloads of band members. We need a band too, and you're it. Go get some guys together and get some instruments and costumes. You're going to lead the band.

I went out and recruited some non-football players. We ended up with a drum, some cymbals, one guy had a horn. There were about four or five us. That was about it—not much of a band. I just went after guys who were willing to put on a spoof. I don't think I knew anyone who was musically inclined, and I don't think we had much in the way of rehearsals. We just met at the goal post. After the Jeff City band played, we were on. They were a hard act to follow.

I had this old West Point cadet marching hat with a brush or foptail that stood up in front. It belonged to my Uncle John Simmons (Burroughs '39). I think I was the only one with a gosh darn hat. We just put together some rag-tag instruments and showed up.

Simmons was the high-stepper out front "with some kind of a stick. I didn't have an instrument—I couldn't do two things at once." Simmons recalled a bit of improvisation as the band marched the length of the field. "We might have even broken into a few formations as we went down, just to give it a little flair. Everybody was on their feet, doubled over with laughter—even the Jefferson City crowd. And McConnell, he thought it was a great hit."

It has now been fifty-two years since the Burroughs Marching Band strutted its stuff. Surely it is time for an encore.



put Burroughs up 7–0. The Jays countered with two touchdowns, one from short yardage and the other on a Burroughs mishap. Cranston fumbled on a reverse, and in trying to corral the ball he inadvertently kicked it into the end zone, where Jeff City recovered. The Jays led at halftime 13–7.

Burroughs regained the lead 14–13 in the third quarter on a Biggs touchdown set up by a seventeen-yard jaunt by Cranston. Riley booted the extra point. The Jays were throttled for the balance of the third quarter “by the strong Bomber defensive line, headed by Lischer, Pitzman, and (Sanford) Rederer ('60), and Terry Sale’s interception,” reported the *World*. A weary Burroughs defense was pierced in the fourth quarter, however, by the Jays’ speedster Delroy Hawkins from short yardage, giving Jeff City a 19–14 victory.

Charlie Lischer had a banner day. Lischer, broad-shouldered and slender in the legs and ankles, was a quiet presence but his tackles made a fierce sound. Against Jeff City those tackles were many. “He had those running backs talking to themselves,” Tom McConnell reported to an alumnus who missed the game. An official who worked the game was even more emphatic, saying that it was the greatest performance he had ever seen by a high school player, recalled Bob Flynn '61.

All-District
linebacker
Charlie Lisher '60
with Coach Tom
McConnell on
the sideline.

The Codosco Ending

In a precise reversal of scoring from the 1958 Country Day game, the Bombers lost 12–7 “to a stubborn but undermanned Codosco team,” in the words of the yearbook, but ended up as ABC co-champions. Lemon scored early and Riley converted to put Burroughs up 7–0, but the Rams responded with two scores through the air for a 12–7 halftime lead. Burroughs was marching in the third quarter but lost momentum when Pitzman dislocated his elbow, and the Rams held on for the win.

The yearbook lauded the yearlong defensive effort of the team, citing Rederer, Pitzman, Chuck Mill, and Jay Hopkins, all '60, and Tom Ryan '61 in the line, and Riley, Willis, and Lischer at linebacker. Lischer was an obvious first-team choice for All-District; he was joined on the All-ABC team by Lemon and center Bob LeResche '60.

Thus a stellar decade for Burroughs ended with another stellar campaign, one in which a mere two touchdowns stood between the Bombers and perfection.





1960s / Pinnacle of a Golden Era



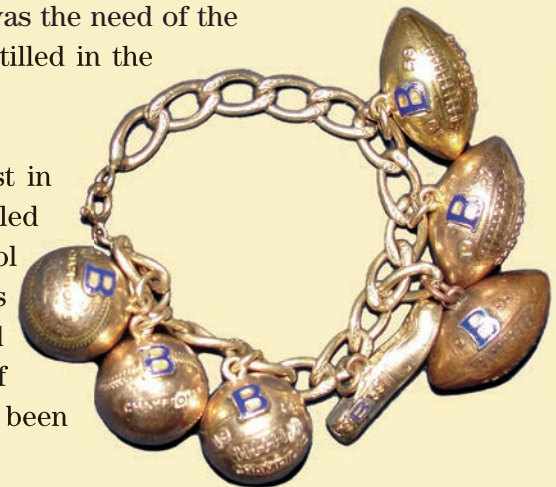
Like a meteor that burns brightly at the finish, the 1960s marked the shining pinnacle of a golden era in which Burroughs had been led academically by Leonard Daum Haertter and athletically by Thomas Marshall McConnell. “Gov” stepped down in 1964 after thirty-eight years as teacher, school director, coach in two sports, and cheerleader in all. McConnell was killed in his prime at decade’s end, but not before adding powerfully in the 1960s to a stunning record of achievement.

Gov began at Burroughs in 1926 as a bubbling math teacher, soon recruited to coach baseball and soccer, which he did with aplomb for many seasons. He was as keen on athletics as on academics and the arts. Burroughs basketball devotees could pick up keys to the Memorial Gym on a Sunday morning at the Haertter home, 600 South Price Road, just up the hill from school. McConnell, meanwhile, hired by Gov in 1951, led Burroughs over nineteen years to records that resonate across the years in football, baseball, and whatever else was the need of the moment. He is equally remembered for the values he instilled in the lives he touched at John Burroughs School.

McConnell’s last years at Burroughs were among his best in the sport of his great passion, football, where he compiled the most dominating record of any decade since the school began, including two powerhouses on which his two sons were instrumental players. As athletic director, he presided over a program that continued to flourish, with an array of new ABC titles in sports where Burroughs had traditionally been strong and others where it had not.

FAREWELL TO THE MUD BOWL

Photographs of football games from the early years at Leland Field frequently show the combatants struggling as much with mud as with each other. Perhaps it was poor drainage occasioned by the sunken playing surface surrounded on all sides by a small hillside; perhaps there was an insufficient crown on the field

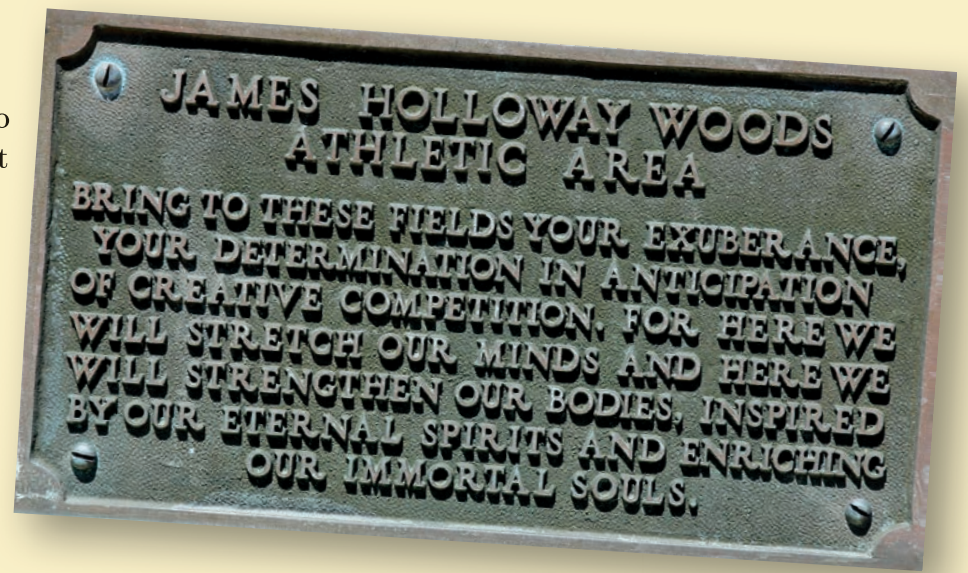


Left: The 1961–62 cheerleading squad leaps into action.

Above: Charms in gold, silver, or bronze were awarded for ABC League championships in the various sports.

itself. Whatever the cause, “Mud Bowl” was the name widely assigned to the Burroughs venue, particularly into the early 1950s when Gov at least ensured that there was a healthy cover of Bermuda grass.

The landscape changed in 1964–65 with the construction of a new field, level with a new track, both of which became part of the James Holloway Woods Athletic Area, so designated by a plaque that still stands on the curving brick wall atop Leland Field next to the science building. The plaque commemorates the generosity of the James H. Woods family and foundation, which made possible the track and field, plus new tennis courts and hockey fields on recently acquired land to the north.



James Woods was a Burroughs athlete and a graduate of 1927. His four children, James H. Jr. '54, John '58, David '62, and Elizabeth Woods were all present for the dedication of the complex in May 1966, together with athletic luminaries from Burroughs' past, such as Dick '38 and Dave Sisler '49, Butch Buchholz '59, and Margaret Cornwell Schmidt '33. The new complex fostered the precept of Burroughs' first director, Wilford Aikin, that “in importance, physical education is second to none.” The inscription on the plaque was penned by Chloe Sue Crone '55, then Mrs. James H. Woods Jr. John Burroughs himself would have been pleased with the message:

Bring to these fields your exuberance, your determination in anticipation of creative competition. For here we will stretch our minds and here we will strengthen our bodies, inspired by our eternal spirits and enriching our immortal souls.

FOOTBALL RUNS ROUGHSOD

Many metaphors would aptly describe Burroughs football of the 1960s: the proverbial steamroller, likewise a jackhammer, perhaps a dynasty. Whatever the name, the statistics are breathtaking. From 1960 to 1969, the Bombers built a record of 63–18–2, capturing six ABC titles, two by tie, and posting undefeated records in four seasons, only one containing a tie game. They suffered a single losing season while waging two other runaway campaigns of 7–1 and 6–2.



The stampede contained a twenty-three-game winning streak early in the decade on the strength of back-to-back perfect seasons, and a third in which the only loss was by six points in the finale to Country Day. Coupling this winning streak with the one that came before, the Bombers were an astonishing 44–4 in the six years from 1957 to 1962.

In their four undefeated seasons, the Bombers won thirty-four games by a combined margin of 1,140–216, an average of 33.5 to 6.4. The season of 1961 stood out above all the rest, although the team of 1965 compiled an extraordinary record as well. In those two years, Burroughs was 17–0 and outscored their hapless adversaries 716–98. In the Burroughs–Country Day rivalry, the decade was a draw at 5–5, although Burroughs had a point advantage of 127–107.

A NEW STREAK BEGINS

No sooner had Burroughs' twenty-game winning streak of 1957–59 ended than the Bombers began again with an 8–0 season in 1960. The yearbook nicely summarized the campaign:

Under the wings of Coaches Tom McConnell and Howard Yerges, the Bombers roared to an undefeated season and have now won thirty-three of their last thirty-five games. Ranked ninth in the St. Louis area, the high-scoring Bombers averaged thirty-two points per game to their opponents' eight. The team was well balanced, scoring on the ground and via the air. The captains of the team, who were all selected for the league team, were Bill Frielingsdorf, Bob Cranston, Ron Riley, and Tom Ryan (all seniors). Juniors Kit Mill, Marsh Pitzman, and Jack Biggs were also chosen for this honor. Ryan and Frielingsdorf were selected to the second team All-District.

The varied Bomber attack was directed by golden-armed quarterback Tom McConnell ('62),



Bob Cranston '61 fires on the run while Ron Riley '61 stands guard, 1959.

who averaged sixteen yards on each pass completion. Bullish fullback Riley, with his talented toe, led the team in scoring with sixty-two points. Halfback Cranston, who averaged nine yards a carry, tallied sixty points. Speedsters Jack Biggs ('62) and Joe Peden ('63) each scored five touchdowns. An unsung hero, Bill Berkley ('63), punted well, ran from the offensive fullback slot and played defensive line.

Tom Ryan '61 and Gary Muther '61 at the ends were praised for their pass receiving and downfield blocking. The interior line of Frielingsdorf, Marsh Pitzman, Dick Rogers '62, Keith Shahan '62, David Haffner '61, Jerry Baird '61, Chuck Lowry '61, Dave Hopkins '62, and Ben Senturia '61 was touted as well. "The defensive backs, who were sparked by (Bill) Berman ('61), Biggs and Riley, intercepted nineteen enemy aerals," reported the yearbook.

The Bombers beat all comers by comfortable margins; the high-water mark was a 55–8 dousing of Priors, featuring two long touchdowns by Cranston and a fifty-eight-yard scamper by Charles Thomas '61. The strongest challenge came from a tough Western squad. Burroughs was down 14–6 at the half but rallied on a third-quarter safety by Ryan and a fourth-quarter McConnell-to-Muther touchdown pass.

The yearbook waxed eloquent on the 16–0 win over Country Day: "With Tom McConnell at the throttle and Riley, Cranston and Biggs shoveling the coal, the Burroughs express rolled on its conquering way, flattening Codasco to complete a perfect season." Berman registered a safety in the first half by tackling a Rams punter in the end zone. "The Bombers added touchdowns in each of the last two quarters (Cranston and Biggs) while the buzz-saw defense held Codasco in check."

BEST OF THE BEST?

There have been many great Burroughs football teams. Times and circumstance make it difficult to compare them, particularly those before and after the watershed of the 1970s when state playoffs were underway and Burroughs had opted in. This much can be said, however: The record of the 1961 Bombers was unrivaled by anything that came before or for many years thereafter. The raw numbers are etched in the minds of Burroughs graduates and sports enthusiasts of the day: 8–0 in games; 400–26 in points, and a 47–0 thrashing of Country Day.

Ironically, the season began with trepidation. A week before the opener against Clayton, the players watched the highly regarded Greyhounds and their quarterback Jim Holden pummel Maplewood on a Friday night. Clayton was considered a contender for the Suburban Little Six title. "We were shaky—we didn't think we could stand up to them," recalled Tom McConnell Jr. '62, the coach's son. The angst was short-lived as Jack Biggs '62 returned the opening kickoff eighty yards for a score, the opening salvo in a 67–6 bombardment.



Top: **1961 football team.** First row from left: Gale, Seddon, Pitzman, McCarroll, Horner, Deem, Stone, Hirth; second row: Toney, Spencer, Hartman, Kennedy, Heitner, Rogers, McConnell, Todd, Macoy, Croft; third row: Mr. Hinrichs, Mr. Cowen, Coil, Charles, Johnson, Guth, Smith, Todorovich, Macoy, Shahan, Naylor, Biggs, Mayer, Mr. McConnell; fourth row: Hoffman, Engler, Wotka, de Riel, Holekamp, Schery, Hicks, Putzell, DePew, Berkley, Peden, Mill.

Bottom: Jack Biggs '62 sets sail against Clayton, and the season-long rout is on.



This was the largest margin of victory of the season, but even the closest games—Priory and Lutheran South—were 39–0 romps. Jim Lemen, as athletic director in later years, reported the extraordinary results to the Records Book of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. There, under “Football, Team Season Records,” Burroughs ranks fifth all-time in scoring with 50 points per game. Wellington-Napoleon leads the way with a 56.4 average in 2006.

Pete Mayer '63, a junior speedster-in-reserve who saw regular action as the first team struck early and often, described the impact of Biggs' game-opening bombshell against Clayton. “The rout was on,” he declared. “That set the tone for the whole season. Those games were more like track meets for us. Of course it was easy to run sixty-five-yard touchdowns all day. There was no one around.”

No one was around because they had been forcibly removed by an athletic line consisting of seniors Paul Hartman, Wes Horner, Kit Mill, Marsh Pitzman, Dick Rogers, Tom Seddon, Keith Shahan, and junior Mike Todorovich, as enumerated in the *World*. Their blocking was augmented by Bill Berkley, a bruising junior speedster at fullback, who was joined in the backfield by McConnell, the captain and quarterback, and Joe Peden '63 and Biggs at the halfbacks. Biggs was often set at flanker to sharpen the passing attack.

As with the 1951 and 1952 Burroughs basketball teams, the entire starting offense was named All-ABC. Yet the team was deep and strong at every position. Racehorse reserves in the backfield included Nelson Spencer '62 at fullback, a fierce linebacker on defense, Mayer, Barry Todd and Sandy Heitner, both '62, and Charlie DePew and Carl Hirth, both '63. On defense, the *World* noted, Spencer, DePew, and Pete Johnson '63 joined various offensive players as starters.

The Bombers, like the C-football juggernauts of 1946 and 1949, scored more than a point a minute. Gentlemanly Coach McConnell tried hard to temper the onslaught. With a huge lead in one game, he dispatched reserve guard Charley Stone to return a punt, threatening that if he scored he would never play another down. Stone carried it back sixty yards to pay dirt—then sprinted to the bench with profuse apologies.

Burroughs' statisticians were forced to work overtime; their findings were contained in a summary of the season in the *World*. Twelve players scored twelve or more points; the defense "yielded 1.4 yards per down and inflicted losses of 365 yards." The Principia game was viewed as "the primary hurdle in a JBS drive to the league championship." Score: 40-7. After murmurings of an upset by Country Day, Burroughs handed the Rams their worst defeat in history, including minus 54 yards rushing. The team averaged 9.5 yards per play for the season; McConnell passed for 650 yards and 9 touchdowns; Biggs averaged 10 yards per carry; Pete Johnson kicked 33 extra points.

The truly outrageous numbers were posted by Joe Peden '63. The junior gained 1,080 yards on 67 carries for an unimaginable 16.1 yards per carry. (The math in the *World* was wrong; it gave Peden an average of 15.5.) He led the district in scoring with 128 points and made the first-team All-District. In both rushing and scoring, he passed the single-season marks of John Cotsworth '57, who scored 124 points and rushed 141 times for 1,019 yards as a junior in 1955—an average of 7.2 yards per touch. (Here the *World* did not mention Jon Mars '59, who scored 119 points his senior year and set the career scoring mark of 270; the Burroughs chronicles of the times do not contain yardage records on Mars.)

Many have marveled at Peden's prowess. "He was a high school version of Jim Brown," asserted Bill Herbert '63, co-captain and high-scorer of the B team of 1962 and an astute observer of Burroughs sports. "He didn't *look* spectacular from the sidelines, but they just couldn't bring him down."



*To coach Tom McConnell
from all the fathers of John Burroughs School*

Dear Tom:

The wonderful records your varsity football teams have compiled have brought many moments of pride and pleasure to the fathers of John Burroughs School. We wish to extend to you our appreciation for your teams' following performances:

- 14 victories in a row to date and who knows how many more.
- 36 victories out of their last 38 games.
- Those two losses by only 5 points each, one due to a fumble behind our goal.
- In the last 38 games your "A" teams have scored 1072 points to their opponents' 243 or an average per game of 31 to 6.
- This year's "A" team has scored so far in its first 5 games more than a point a minute, 250 points to its opponents' 19 or an average per game of 50 to 4, and every boy able to play has played in every game. It is now rated as one of the leading high school or prep teams in the entire area. It has the longest victory string, the most total points, the fewest points scored against it, and the district's leading individual scorer.
- Your "A" teams haven't failed to win or tie for the ABC League Championship for 7 years in a row.

However, more than for these great records, we wish to thank you for instilling in our sons the importance of good team spirit, courage, clean living, modesty, self-respect, and good sportsmanship at all times.

We sincerely appreciate the genuine interest you always maintain in each of our sons from the time you start training him as a boy early in the 7th grade until you see him graduate 6 years later. . . much closer to manhood.

We thank you, Tom, for a most important job, consistently WELL DONE.

FATHERS' COUNCIL OF JOHN BURROUGHS SCHOOL

October 27, 1961

Hal C. Macoy, Jr.
Hal C. Macoy, Jr., President

Coach Thomas Marshall McConnell, and the declaration presented from the Fathers' Council in mid-football season, 1961.

A COACH FOR THE AGES

In reviewing the 1959 football season for a new Burroughs publication—the *Reporter*—Tom McConnell proved himself to be a poet of sport as well as a coach for the ages: “If we can teach well both physical and mental skills, if we can impart the value of honesty and excellence in individual as well as team effort, and if we can help our young people ‘to meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat these two imposters just the same,’ we will have accomplished a big part of our job.”

In reporting that the A, B, and C teams had all won league football titles, the varsity in a tie for the crown with a 6–2 record, the coach gave himself a rare pat on the back: “The A team, coached by Howard Yerges and this writer, has now won or tied for five successive titles and in this period compiled a record of 30 wins, 8 losses and one tie in league and non-league play.” He had barely brushed the tip of a giant football iceberg.

“In his 17 years as head coach, McConnell delighted thousands and brought JBS countless laurels,” wrote John Herbert ’66 in a special seventy-fifth anniversary issue of the *World*. “His teams had a record of 104 triumphs, 33 setbacks and five ties. They won or shared 11 league titles and had five undefeated seasons. From 1957 to 1962 the Bombers had winning streaks of 20 and 23 straight. They scored nine decisions over Country Day.” In baseball, “the 1950s and 1960s were the McConnell era” in which “McConnell’s men captured the league crown in each of his first seven seasons.” They won three more titles before his tragic death in early 1970.

McConnell was a multi-sport product of University City High School who played a year of football at the University of Illinois before concentrating on baseball in his varsity career. He captained the team his senior season as a catcher and distinguished himself in an exhibition game against the Cardinals, blasting a home run and two doubles

off the great Paul Dean and throwing out the Gashouse Gang’s Joe “Ducky” Medwick on two attempted steals, according to a proud son, Fred McConnell ’66. He played minor-league ball for a year and then worked his coaching magic at Normandy and Clayton high schools before joining Burroughs in 1951. He earned a master’s degree in physical education from Washington University the same year.

The McConnell name adorns the Missouri Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Yet his exploits on the field only partly define the man. His teachings apart from the game had the most lasting impact on many of his players. “When I think of Burroughs athletics the first thing I think of is Tom McConnell, a tremendous motivator,” said Pete Mayer ’63. For John Wallace ’66 he was instrumental in “helping boys make the transition to men.” In the 1961 season, Mike Todorovich ’63 “learned about developing my potential, about choosing the most challenging situations over the easy ones in order to see how well I could perform. Thank you, Coach McConnell.”

The Fathers’ Council of Burroughs presented the coach with a declaration in October 1961, chronicling his football record of previous years and the great 1961 season then in progress. Then they added: “More than for these great records we wish to thank you for instilling in our sons the importance of good team spirit, courage, clean living, modesty, self respect and good sportsmanship at all times.”

To this may be added McConnell’s own written words in another issue of the *Reporter*, summarizing the undefeated football season of 1960—and his own work in the world. “Burroughs football will always serve, I hope, as a constant reminder of the rewarding experiences which can come to all of us when we meet in common interest and in the tradition of our 1960 football team—with Courage, Confidence and Cooperation.”

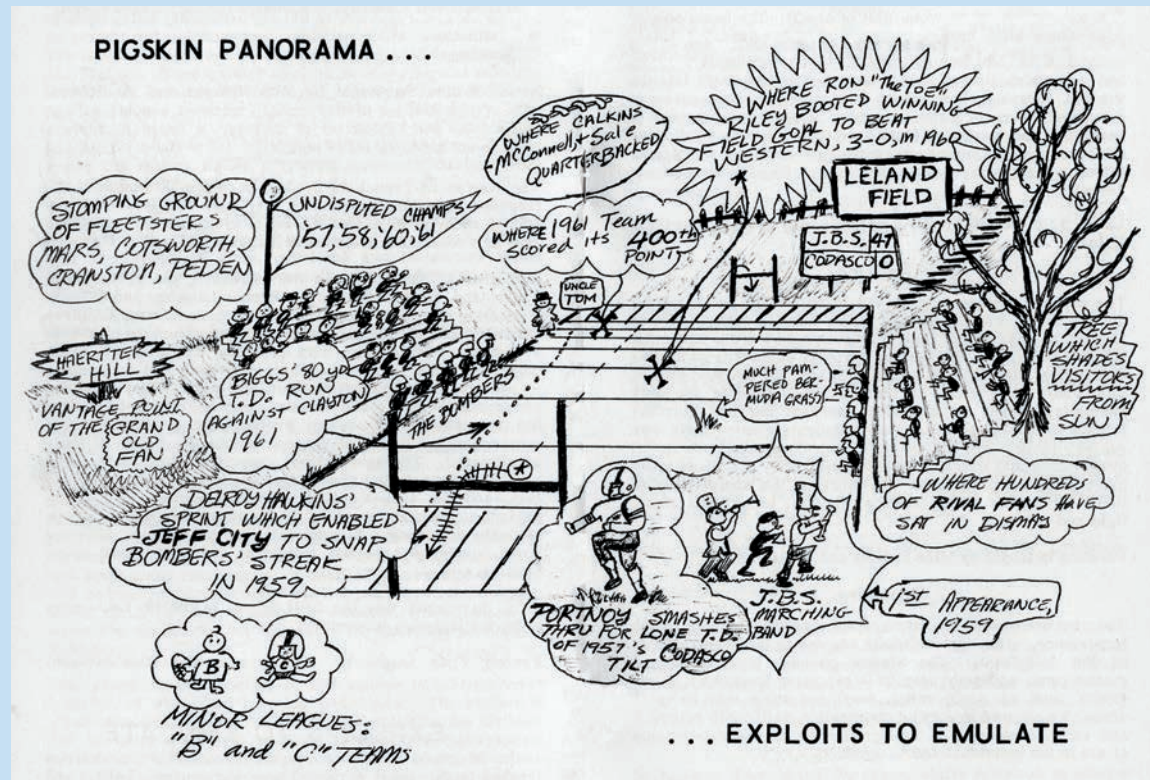
In the 1961 *Burroughs Reporter*, Coach McConnell offered a rare tribute: “Eleven of our players made the All-Star squad of the ABC League, and because these boys will receive ample publicity in the local newspapers, I will mention only one name because of his singular achievement—Joe Peden who, to date, is the leading scorer in the entire district and one of the finest running backs I have ever coached.”

The Bombers were ranked sixth at season’s end in a poll that appeared to reflect a large-school bias. The board of coaches placed CBC first with an 8–0 record, but Normandy, East St. Louis, Belleville, and Beaumont all finished ahead of Burroughs despite imperfect records. As in 1958 with Burroughs and Ladue, there were calls for a post-season matchup between JBS and CBC. Such impromptu bowl games were not easily arranged, however. One is left to wonder whether the Cadets could have stayed on the same field with the awesome Bombers.

The 1961 Bombers sent many on to college football. Biggs began as a receiver at Virginia but returned to Washington U., where he teamed up with quarterback McConnell for record-setting exploits. At Princeton, three Bombers could be seen on the field at the same time: Kit Mill and Dick Rogers at center and interior line respectively, with Bill Berkley handling punting and playing fullback. Spencer played at Lake Forest and Peden at Colgate.

1962—A Narrow Miss

By 1962 Burroughs was on a seventeen-game winning streak and had won seven consecutive ABC League championships (two by ties). In the quest for a third successive unbeaten season, the valiant team fell six points and a few yards short. They fashioned another dominating season nonetheless, with a record of 7–1 and an overwhelming point margin of 223–52. They were led by experienced backs from the prior season, Joe Peden, Pete Mayer, Bill Berkley, Charlie DePew, and



This “Pigskin Panorama,” with Leland Field highlights of recent vintage, was drawn by Bill Herbert ’63. It appeared in 1962 in *Welcome to John Burroughs*, a guidebook for new students and parents.

Carl Hirth; Bill Conzelman '64 was a welcome addition. Returnees on the line included Mike Todorovich '63 and Pete Johnson '63, the latter also the place kicker.

In a throwback to the Burroughs–Jefferson City game of 1958, the Bombers for their season opener confronted a large, out-state public school on a Friday night, this time highly regarded Springfield Parkview. Again the Bombers demonstrated their small-school grit with a 14–7 victory. The Vikings scored on their first possession, but Burroughs tied it on a Joe Peden punt return and won with a second Peden score following a sustained drive. This was the last action Peden would see for five games; in practice the following week he badly injured his knee, requiring surgery. He was back with a brace for the seventh game, the sole loss of the season to Country Day.



Pete Mayer '63 roams free against Lutheran South in 1963 as Bill Berkley '63 prepares to level the last man standing.

Burroughs overwhelmed PRIORITY, Western, Pembroke, Lutheran South, and Lutheran Central—especially Central with a season-ending rout of 60–0 in which the coaching staff alternated the seniors and juniors as playing units. The challenges were Principia, with heralded back Tuck Spaulding, and Codasco. Against the Panthers, Burroughs fell behind quickly on two Spaulding scores but drew to 13–7 at halftime on a Berkley touchdown set up by a long Hirth-to-Todorovich pass play. Conzelman tallied twice in the second half for the victory; one score was set up by a key seventy-yard run on a pass interception by defensive end Tom DePew '63.

A 6–0 loss to Country Day finally ended the area's longest winning streak at twenty-three games and relegated the Bombers to second place in the league. Burroughs controlled the game in the first half and collected fourteen first downs overall compared to eight for Codasco. In the fourth quarter, however, the Rams partially blocked a punt by Berkley, recovering on the Burroughs five yard line and scoring four plays later. A would-be Mayer touchdown on a punt return was called back, and the Bombers were unable to cash in on late-game opportunities. The game ended on a pass completion from Mayer at quarterback to Peden, who went out of bounds at the Codasco ten.

OUTWITTING THE MASTER MOTIVATOR

The football teams of the 1960s compiled sensational records with dominating performances. But even they had their down days. One of those days came in practice in 1964. As the boys bumbled along, Coach McConnell's blood pressure steadily rose. John Wallace '66 recounted how "a master motivator met his match."

As practice went on the coach grew more aggravated. His upbeat shouts and encouraging words just weren't getting through, so he escalated things. Coach McConnell had a paddle he used to get someone's attention—a flat board about two feet long and four inches wide. His paddle found many a backside that day. However, even that wasn't enough. Our collective lack of focus drove him to pull the doomsday option out of his deep bag of motivational tricks.

"All right," he bellowed about halfway through our normal practice. "If you guys don't want to play any harder than this, then just get out of here. Practice is over. Get out!" At that moment you could have heard the grass growing. Coaches just don't stop practice. In our stunned, motionless silence nobody knew what to do—until, that is, we heard some words I will never forget. They came from John Spencer '65, and they rang out crisp and clear in the fall air, resonating all the more because of our shocked sense of quiet. John had heard the coach's words. He just hadn't heard the message. "OK," John shouted, "let's run it in guys!"

With that, like so many Homer Simpsons before there was a Homer Simpson, thirty or so clueless adolescent boys broke into a sprint across the practice field, clattered up the railroad-tie steps, running all the way into the locker room. If the coach wanted hustle, we gave it to him. In the locker room we got over the tongue lashing pretty quickly and were, as I recall, pretty happy. It's not often you get a half day off.

When Tom McConnell finally caught up with us he explained in especially colorful language that, in his entire career, he had never had any team do what we had just done. The disappointment and disgust poured out for a while and, as I recall, the teacher in this coach actually felt compelled to explain what he really had wanted us to do, which was to snap to the challenge and salvage a lousy day with more focus and way more effort. After he was finished we got even quieter than before, but nobody—including Coach McConnell—suggested going back out to practice.

A few furtive grins were shared among the varsity football players who departed the old, dank locker room that day. We had really gotten under the skin of our coach. We had lived to tell about it. We had screwed up beyond belief in every possible way. And we still got to go home early. It was an absolute classic of the right thought applied exactly the wrong way. And for a few footballers from the classes of 1965 and 1966, the words "run it in, guys" never fail to get a smile.

1965—NEW SCHEME, EXTRAORDINARY RESULT

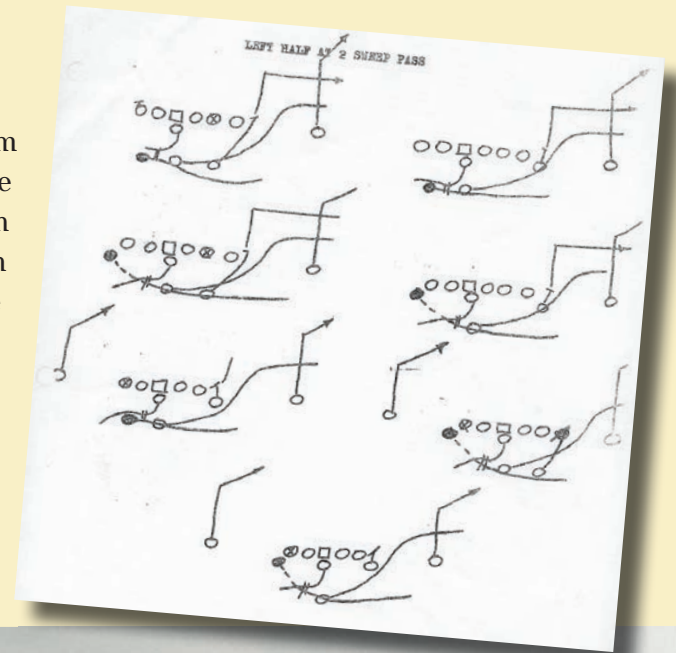
Jim Lemen came to Burroughs as a history teacher and varsity line assistant to Tom McConnell in 1963. He brought a background as a Dartmouth football player under the sophisticated coaching schemes of Bob Blackman. The teamwork and chemistry between Lemen and McConnell was exceptional; it produced steady progress and culminated in the runaway campaign of 1965, an undefeated blockbuster in the school's first nine-game season. It was Lemen's last year before joining the coaching staff at Cornell.

The 1963 Bombers slid to 5–3 but tied for the league championship with Country Day. They beat the Rams 13–0 with outstanding defense and touchdowns by John Wallace '66 and Scott Molden '64, the latter on a forty-one-yard jaunt with an airborne fumble caused by a jarring Byron Charles '64 tackle of the Rams' quarterback. Charles at center and Molden and Bill Conzelman in the backfield were named All-ABC, along with Jim Harvey '65 at quarterback and Steve Biggs '65 in the line. Brax Snyder '67 was already a bull-dozing runner and blocker as a freshman fullback. The 1964 team slid further to 4–3–1, handicapped by the loss of Harvey and running back Bo Drochelman '65, both of whom moved to California, and Snyder, who injured his elbow. With work in progress on a new football field, the team spent its season on the baseball diamond.

In early 1965, Lemen, intrigued by the Nebraska football program, visited Lincoln for spring football practice and returned with the entire Cornhusker offense, which bore similarities to the Blackman approach at Dartmouth. With McConnell's blessing, the system was installed in

Coach McConnell talks it over with four contributors to the perfect season of 1965: from left, Andy Taylor, Carter Smith, John Wallace, and Trippy Bishop, all '66.

Inset: Plays adopted from the Nebraska offense and drawn up by Jim Lemen. Picture and play sheet courtesy of Andy Taylor.



1965. Gone was the multiple offense utilizing the old single wing formation. The Bombers lined up in the T with an unbalanced line to the right or left, with backs flanking to one side or the other and with phalanxes of pulling linemen as blockers. One of those linemen was Fred McConnell '66, converted to nimble guard from quarterback on the 1964 team.

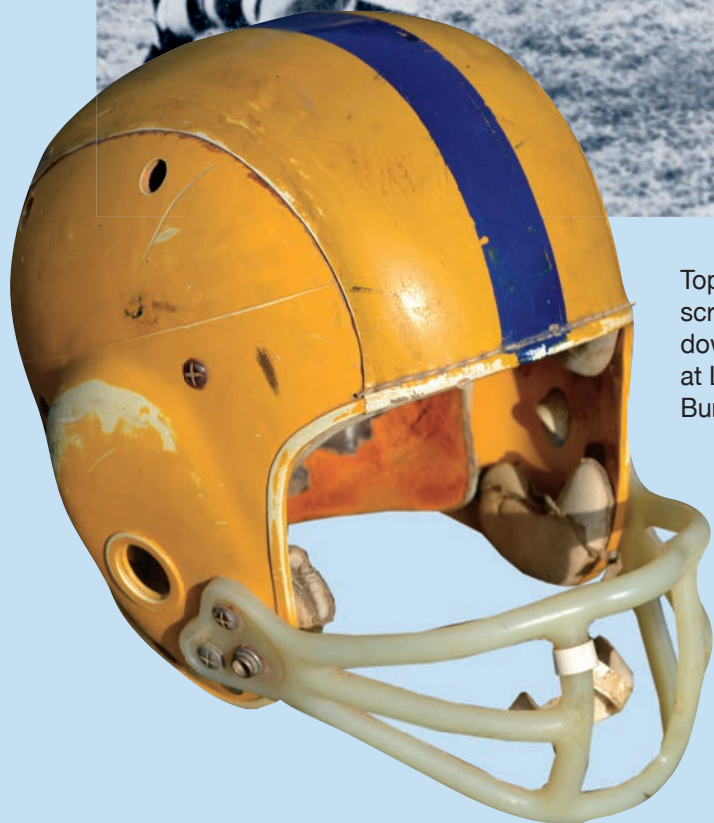
“Taylor and I pulled on just about every play,” McConnell related. Rarely did the interior linemen—none of whom had exceptional size—block straight ahead, he explained; they pulled or slanted instead. Coupled with speed and power in the backfield, the results were devastating. The Bombers outscored their opponents 316–72, an average of 36–8, best in the St. Louis area.

Twelve players made the All-ABC team: senior backs Larry Minkoff, Tom MacLeod, George “Trippy” Bishop, and John Wallace, all '66, and junior fullback Brax Snyder '67. The seniors who were honored as ends and linemen were Ted Walker, Carter Smith, Bill Holekamp, Fred McConnell, Don Early, Andy Taylor, and Craig Schnuck. Mike Israel '66 was another key interior lineman during the year. Bishop scored seventy-nine points, specializing in long touchdown runs, and was named All-District and All-State.

The Bombers used their speed to outflank a huge Western team 32–0. Their lowest margin of victory was 19–7 over Pembroke. Their finest moment was when Hillcrest High of Springfield came to campus with a big team and a condescending attitude for a Friday afternoon game on Father’s Day. Burroughs had lost to the Hornets 39–21 in Springfield in 1964, despite playing a strong game. Hillcrest arrived with a multitudinous marching band, reminiscent of Jefferson City in 1959. Lemen remembers the players laughing at Burroughs track records posted on a plaque in the gym. “They weren’t laughing after the game,” he deadpanned.

Burroughs struck for a huge opening lead and finished 40–19. “Led by Wallace who gained 140 yards and Bishop who gained 126 yards, the Bombers rolled up 462 yards and six touchdowns against Springfield’s number one team,” reported the *Governor*. “Scoring: Wallace, 12; Bishop, 13; (Bob) Bushyhead ('66), 6; Minkoff, 6; (Pete) Barker ('66), 3.” Minkoff was at his quarterbacking best with eight of sixteen pass completions. McConnell intercepted two passes and recovered a Hornet fumble.

The Country Day game at Leland Field was a historic one for the Rams as the last JBS-CDS game for their retiring head coach, Robert “Pop” Hughes. “It would have been nice to win it for Pop,” said Maury Matthews, the big Codasco fullback in an interview for this book. “It was an emotionally charged game for us, but Burroughs had a heck of a team.” The blue and gold scored in the second quarter on a Minkoff pass to Chris Douthett '68. “In the second half, two Snyder touchdowns, one capping a forty-yard drive, the other capping a ninety-yard drive, iced the victory and the ABC championship for the Bombers,” crowed the *Governor*. Pete Barker kicked two extra points for a final score of 20–0.



Top: Larry Minkoff '66 scrambles for a crucial first down against Country Day at Leland Field in 1965: Burroughs won 20-0.

Left: The helmet of Craig Schnuck '66 bears scars from many hits.

TWO MORE TITLES

The 1966 Bombers, with Bill Heitholt as assistant coach and Howard Yerges still lending a hand, rushed to a 6-2 record and a share of the ABC title with Country Day, which handed them their only league loss. Their other defeat was to Clayton. The backfield was propelled by Ken Minkoff '67 at quarterback, succeeding his brother, Larry; Brax Snyder, an All-State selection in his fourth year of varsity play at fullback; and high-scoring juniors Scott Schnuck '68 and Pat Lashly '68. Snyder was selected for the first post-season Missouri High School All-Star game.

In the 7-0 loss to Country Day, the Bombers were mighty on defense, holding the Rams to seventy-two rushing yards, but they fumbled on Codasco's one yard line and were stopped on another series inside the red zone. They bounced back with a 15-0 win over Lutheran North to ensure a tie for the title. Minkoff also ensured his place on the All-District defensive team in this game with four pass interceptions, bringing his season total to ten. "To be honest," he wrote, "I would have gladly traded all my interceptions for a victory over CDS."

Six Bombers made the All-ABC roster, more than any other team: Snyder and Schnuck in the offensive backfield, Allan Mayfield '67 at offensive guard, Minkoff at defensive safety, Chris Douthett '68 at linebacker, and Randy Hess '67 at tight end. Hess was a sure-handed receiver who perfected the pass-and-lateral play known as the "flea flicker."

Last Unbeatens

The team of 1967 won the last league crown of the decade and was the last undefeated squad with a 7-0-1 record and a victory over Country Day. Ron Riley '61, fullback on the 1959 and 1960

Right: **1967 football team.** First row from left: Gaebe, Rothschild, Gale, Sargent, Lashly, Schnuck, Huff, Peterson, Jones, Guze; second row: Reed, Smith, Stiener, Planting, Ryan, Wiese, Kohl, Miller, Klippel, Rider; third row: Mr. Mayer, DePew, Lapin, Paine, McCall, Auerbacher, Sullivan, Goddard, Spitzer, Kerckhoff, Mr. Riley, Mr. McConnell; fourth row: Davie, Perry, Hickey, Biggs, Moser, Domke, Holtz, Wilkinson, Maxeiner.

Below: Three former Bombers played for Cornell when Jim Lemen coached the Big Red's defensive secondary. Standing, from left, Craig Schnuck '66 and Scott Schnuck '68. Kneeling, with Lemen, is Tom MacLeod '66.



teams, assisted in coaching. Clayton, a Burroughs nemesis for three decades, tied the Bombers to thwart a perfect season. High scorers were Scott Schnuck with fifty-four points and Pat Lashly with fifty.

Based on the 1967 track season, Schnuck was now the state champion of high and low hurdles and part of a state record-setting relay team. His speed and agility were put to work at quarterback, where he showed poise as a passer, as when the team manhandled Lutheran North 53–7. Schnuck threw touchdown strikes of forty yards to Lashly, nineteen to fullback Warren Huff '68, and sixty-two yards to end Dan Miller '68.

The Bombers repeatedly surged in the second half of games after fire and brimstone from the coaching staff at the break. Against Principia they were down 3–0 on a field goal by the Panthers' All-District kicker Rudi Losche, but they drove the field repeatedly in the second half for a 14–10 victory. The offensive line opened gaping holes for Schnuck and running backs Warren Huff '68 and Jim Kishlar '69. In the Clayton stand-off, Schnuck scored Burroughs' lone touchdown and Lashly blocked the Greyhounds' conversion attempt to secure a 6–6 tie.

Against Codasco the Bombers trailed at the half 14–6. Schnuck was moved from quarterback to halfback after the break and used his deceptive speed to circle end for a thirty-five-yard touchdown, closing the gap to 14–12. Lashly scored later from the two, and Jim Steiner '69, the steady season-long place kicker, converted for a 19–14 win. Dan Miller sealed the victory with his second pass interception of the day to end the Rams' final drive.

The Bombers placed eight on the ABC team, led by Schnuck, who was voted the league's most valuable player. The *World* likened him to UCLA quarterback Gary Beban, the 1967 Heisman Trophy winner. Lashly, who played through injuries, was also on the offensive team, along with John Peterson '68 at center and Jon Guze '68 at guard. Burroughs placed Miller and Chris Gaebe '68 in the defensive backfield. Gaebe, according to the *World*, "played with the skill of a Larry Wilson and the desire of Pat Fisher" (both members of the St. Louis football Cardinals). Warren Huff '68 was honored at linebacker and Steve Gale '68, a three-year varsity player, at defensive line.

A Milestone Reached

The team of 1968 compiled a 5–4 record and presented Tom McConnell with his one hundredth coaching victory at Burroughs—a 24–14 win over Priory. The season featured an all-star running back who arrived under unusual circumstances. He was Stan Gardner '69, a transfer his senior year from Wellston High, where sports were suffering from a budget crisis. Under eligibility rules, Gardner was allowed to play only in ABC games, where he led the Bombers to an undefeated record except for a 19–0 loss to Country Day, the league champions. He debuted with four touchdowns against Principia, earning back-of-the-week honors, and had eighteen-point outings against Western and Lutheran South. Despite his limited playing time, Gardner earned All-ABC, All-District, and All-State honors, as noted in the *Governor*. He became a four-year starting back at Washington University and is a member of the Bears' Sports Hall of Fame. Gardner coached for a time at Burroughs.

HOCKEY ALSO UNBEATEN

The talent demonstrated in the fall of 1961 was not limited to football. Varsity field hockey was undefeated as well, posting a record of four wins and two ties and captained by Jan Lischer '62. The girls shut out their six opponents and slammed through six goals of their own.

Burroughs opened 2–0 over Sunset Hills on second-half goals by Lischer and Phyllis Riley '64. In their



The hallowed tunic with embroidered names that saw the girls through many successful seasons in a variety of sports.

best outing of the year, they overcame Mary Institute 1–0 as Kathy Browne '62 fired the goal. They had to settle for scoreless ties against Ladue and age-old nemesis Villa Duchesne, but they beat Principia 1–0, with Browne coming through again, and they ended with a 2–0 victory over City House on goals by Jane Stamper '62 and Susan Petelik '62, the latter on a pass from Kathie Sale '62.

The yearbook lauded the goaltending of Judy Stern '62 and the strong defense of Sale, Carol Westerman, Jo Stern, Mary Leyhe, all '62, and Dale Mara, Karen Stivers, Barbara Becker, and Elinor Horner, all '63. The forwards singled out were Lischer, Browne, Petelik, Riley, Stamper, Ruth Schmidt '62, and Judy Chasnoff '63.

The 1965 hockey team was also undefeated in a 7–0–1 season in which they outscored opponents 17–3 and beat Villa for the first time since 1958. The tie was 1–1 with Mary Institute; the Burroughs goal was the first scored against Mary I in two years. Major scoring came from Barb Robins '66 and Nancy Leyhe '66, with other goals by Carol Peden '67, Ann Hahnel '66, Judy Harris '66, and Betsy Lindsley '66, whose goal off a corner shot secured the tie with Mary I.

The varsity waged three banner seasons in 1967–69, and their combined record for the three years was 16–2–5. The big year was 1969 with a record of 7–0–1, a point margin of 26–3, and a victory over Villa, 2–1. The girls crushed Lutheran South 12–0; the tie was with St. Joseph's. The co-captains of the 1969 unbeatens were halfbacks Mimi Eagleton '70 and Joan Yerges '71. Other players noted in the *World* were halfbacks Nancy Sato '71 and Elizabeth Flitcraft '70; fullbacks Barb Shapleigh and Mary Cissel, both '70; and forwards Christy Lee, Alice Walz, Carol Wolfheim, Jeannie Rosenheim, all '70, Marion Davidson '71, and Donna Lockwood '72. The goalie was Liz Ullman '70.

KOPRIVIKA'S KRUSHERS

Paul Koprivika, one of the many lovable characters in the rich history of Burroughs faculty, taught woodworking during classroom hours, but when the bell rang he turned to molding Burroughs boys into grapplers. Sometimes in the fledgling days of the sport he was short of manpower, so he collared the nearest youngster who looked hale and hearty. Christopher “Kit” Mill '62 revisited one such incident.

In the late fall of 1961 our wrestling team needed a heavyweight. Marsh Pitzman '62 took off his soccer gear, went over to the girls' gym where wrestling took place, picked up his opponent, put him on his shoulders, spun him around and threw him to the mat. Pitzman lost because the move was illegal.

Bow-tied Koprivika built his Krushers from a dozen schoolboys in 1959–60 to some thirty by 1969–70. Bad looks were

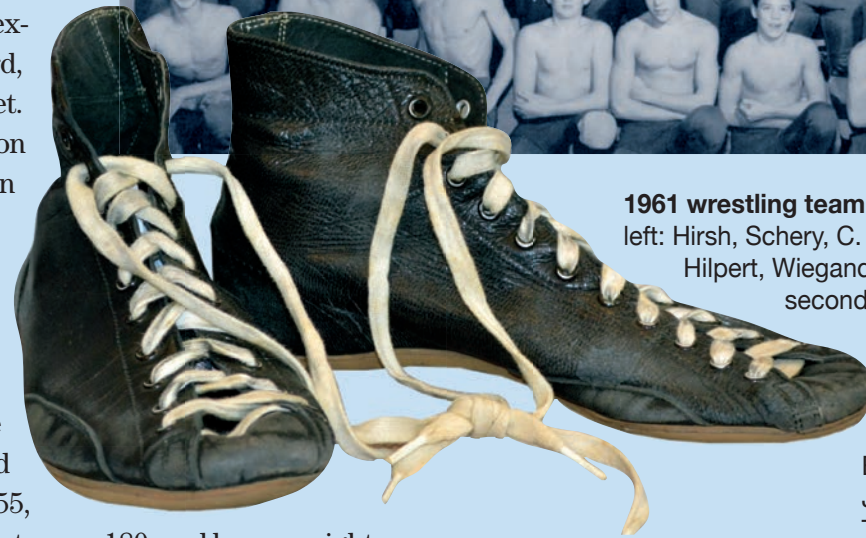
a prerequisite. “Pretty boys don’t win wrestling matches,” he famously quipped. When his 1968–69 team built a solid record, he had the explanation: “When you’ve got boys as ugly as that, you can’t help but win.”

The story of the decade was diminutive Carl “Corky” Burst ’61 who brought distinction to himself and his school with back-to-back state championships in the 103-pound weight class in 1960 and 1961. Burst’s shoes remain at Burroughs as reminders of his exploits. His 1960–61 team turned in a convincing 6–5–1 record, although it failed to repeat as champions of the ABC meet. “Much of the credit goes to departing seniors, state champion Corky Burst, John Morrison, Ron Riley, Bill Frielingsdorf, Ben Wells and Rusty Hensley,” declared the 1961 yearbook.

Burst, George Simmons ’62, Riley, and Frielingsdorf won their divisions for the second year in a row in the ABC meet, and all four earned medals at the district level; Burst and Riley placed first. Riley took third in state in the 155-pound class. “Murderer’s row” was the name applied by opposing teams to Simmons at 145 pounds, Riley at 155, Frielingsdorf at 165, and Hensley and Wells alternating between 180 and heavyweight.

The 1968–69 squad, tri-captained by Keeffe Griffith ’69, Steve Dassler ’70, and Ross Perry ’69 was 8–2–1, tied Principia for the league championship, and for the first time in eight years beat Country Day in a dual meet. “Victories by Mark Wiegand (’71), Tim Barksdale (’70), Pete Kerth (’72) and Steve Dassler, and pins by Keeffe Griffith, (Dale) ‘Skip’ Dassler (’69) and Ross Perry were enough to send the Daisies to the showers,” trumpeted the *Governor*. Jack Mosinger ’71, a sophomore in his second year of varsity wrestling, was already showing the form that would make him state champion in 1971.

In 1962–63, John Miller ’65, at 95 pounds, and Kim de Riel ’64, a heavyweight, were ABC champions and took fourth and second respectively at the district level. De Riel finished fourth in state. In 1963–64, he placed third in state. That year de Riel, Jim Wiegand ’64, and Steve Biggs ’65 were undefeated in league competition, and John Proctor ’65 and Carter Smith ’66 were defeated only once. In 1964–65 and 1965–66, Mason Klippel ’66 carried on the Corky Burst tradition with a string of wins in the 103-pound class.



1961 wrestling team. First row from left: Hirsh, Schery, C. Wilson, Huette, Hilpert, Wiegand, P. Horner; second row: Morrison, Frielingsdorf, Riley, Hensley, D. Dyer, Wells, Simmons, Burst; third row: J. Bushyhead, Todd, D. Scott, de Riel, M. Dyer, C. DePew, Deem, Hart, Mr. Koprivica.

Inset: The wrestling shoes worn by state champion Carl “Corky” Burst ’61.



TENNIS—ANOTHER STAR SHINES

In the 1960s, Burroughs produced yet another tennis star bound to play on a grand stage. She was Carol Hanks '61, widely known in tennis circles as Carol Hanks Aucamp.

At Burroughs, Hanks was known as much for field hockey as tennis. She stood out at center half but liked assigning credit to others. “My inner was Merrill Rensch ('61),” she noted. “She scored five goals in one game.” Hanks took up tennis at the age of six with her parents; by eight she was under the tutelage of Earl Buchholz Sr., whose teaching ties to Burroughs lured her to the school. Through high school she played the tennis circuits in the South and the East at spring break and summer vacation.

Hanks was ten at the time of her first tournament, the “ham and egg” competition at the St. Louis Armory that mixed players of differing talents and ages on doubles teams. She made history in 1961 as the first of two St. Louis women to play at Wimbledon, teaming up with Justina Bricka of University City in doubles. She missed her graduation at Burroughs for the event, but was readily excused by Gov.

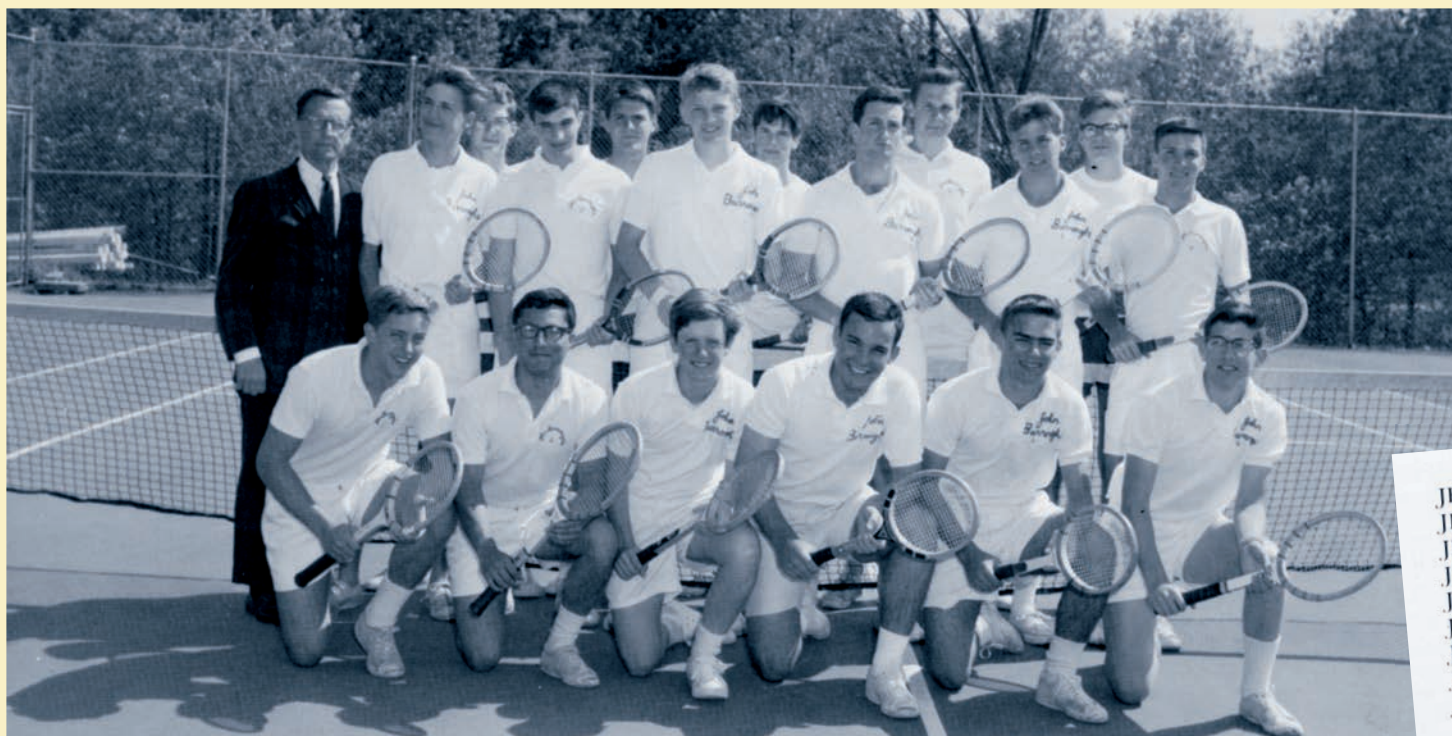
Carol Hanks '61 made history at Wimbledon and on the men's varsity in tennis at Washington University.

Hanks broke more new ground in college. At Stanford as a freshman she doubled up with Linda Yeoman to win the Cardinal's first women's collegiate tennis title. She returned to Washington University and became the first woman to play on a men's varsity team, in this case tennis. The idea occurred to the Bears' athletic director when Roberta Alison, who defeated Hanks for the singles title in the 1962 intercollegiate competition, made national news following the same path at the University of Alabama. “That put me on the front page of the *Post-Dispatch*,” Hanks mused. “The Big Ten wouldn't play us if I was going to be on the court, so I sat out the Big Ten matches. I figure now that this may have helped focus attention on women's sports.”

Hanks compiled career records for the Bears of 19–5 at second and third singles and 17–3 in first doubles. She is enshrined in the Bears' Sports Hall of Fame and the St. Louis Tennis Hall of Fame. Hanks played Wimbledon in 1961, 1963, 1964, and 1967, where her best performances were in doubles. She reached the quarterfinals twice, once in women's doubles with Bricka and again in mixed doubles with Arthur Ashe. Her best tennis year was 1964 when she was ranked fifth in the United States, ninth in the world, and advanced to the semifinals at Forest Hills in what is now the U.S. Open.

The Varsity's Three-Year Splurge

Some say it had to do with country clubs. Whatever the reason, when it came to tennis St. Louis Country Day School owned the ABC League for four decades. Wood slabs hanging in the corridors at Memorial Gymnasium chronicle league



1966 tennis team.

First row from left:
T. Bishop, Goralnik,
Tibbe, Taylor, T. Dee,
Aronson; second row:
Bauer, Barker, Sunnen,
Carafiol, Shapleigh,
Oetter; third row:
Klippel, Weddell,
Wiese, Dahman,
Manion.

JBS	3	-	2	Kirkwood
JBS	4	-	1	Ladue
JBS	3	-	2	Clayton
JBS	4	-	1	Roosevelt
JBS	5	-	0	Western
JBS	5	-	0	Priory
JBS	5	-	0	Principia
JBS	5	-	0	Lutheran South
JBS	4	-	1	CDS
JBS	4	-	1	Lutheran North
JBS	4	-	1	Kirkwood
JBS	5	-	0	Western
JBS	5	-	0	Principia
JBS	2	-	3	SLUH
JBS	5	-	0	Lutheran South
JBS	5	-	0	Priory
JBS	4	-	1	Ladue
JBS	5	-	0	Lutheran North
JBS	4	-	1	CDS

titles in various sports. They show that in the thirty-nine years from 1931 to 1969, Codasco won a staggering thirty tennis championships. Burroughs squeezed in eight and Principia captured one.

Three of Burroughs' championships came in a three-year splurge from 1965 to 1967 when the Bombers compiled a whopping league record of 31-1 and an overall count of 46-11. The common thread binding the three seasons was Bruce Oetter, David Aronson, and Tom Dee, all '67.

In 1965, the Bombers were 12-6 overall and 9-1 in league play, gaining their first victory over Country Day since 1957 and their first league title since sharing the crown with the Rams the same year. In the district meet, J. D. Miller '65 reached the semifinals, beaten only by the eventual state champion Leo Estopare, while Dee and Aronson took second in doubles and advanced thereafter to the state quarterfinals. The *Governor*—the title of the yearbook effective with Gov's retirement in 1964—praised Oetter for consistently overcoming favored opponents in second singles and lauded the play of Andy Taylor '66 and Jack Goralnik '66 in second doubles, particularly their decisive win over Principia with the match score tied at 2-2.

The 1966 season was “the best in the history of Burroughs,” proclaimed the *Governor*. The Bombers were 10–0 in the league and 18–1 overall, losing only to St. Louis University High and taking eighty-one out of ninety-five individual matches. Oetter, Aronson, and Dee handled singles while Goralnik, Taylor, John Shapleigh '67, and Trippy Bishop, Pete Barker and Pete Carafiol, all '66, “provided many crucial victories in doubles play.” The team dominated the ABC tournament, and Oetter advanced to the second round of the state tournament, losing to Bob McKinley, brother of renowned Davis Cup player Chuck McKinley.

The Oetter-Aronson-Dee trio led Burroughs again in 1967 to 12–0 and 16–4 records in league and overall play, winning fifty-seven out of sixty individual league matches and tying for second in the prestigious Country Day Invitational Tournament. The top doubles teams were Shapleigh with Rob Burkham '67; John Bolinger and Warren Gladders, both '67; and Jim Vance and Andy Coultas, also '67.



Larry McMahan '69 on the move in cross-country.

CROSS-COUNTRY AND GOLF EMERGE

“We are happy to see the addition of a cross-country team to the John Burroughs interscholastic program,” proclaimed Tom McConnell in the December 1961 *Reporter*. “Fourteen boys participated and, although we could hardly expect them to win any meets this year, Jim Alverson had them off and running every afternoon.”

The new squad had to settle largely for moral victories in the early years, as in 1961 when McConnell commended Ted Stude '62 for sixth place in the ABC meet “in competition with schools that have been developing cross-country teams for a number of years,” or in 1963 when the yearbook reported that “each Harrier made quite a remarkable improvement in his time for the curving, hilly 1.8 mile course.” All that would soon change.

“Over the past two years a new tradition has arisen at JBS,” announced the 1969 *Governor*. “This tradition is to have winning cross country squadrons. Under the influence of Mr. Sortland and Mr. Snodgrass, we stormed out a record of five victories and one defeat (in the 1968 fall season) and took second in the league, and had a better record than our football friends.”

The combined record for 1967 and 1968 was a stellar 10–3. The leader of the pack was Larry McMahan '69, who placed fourth in the state meet on the Mizzou golf course in 1967 and took third in 1968. He was undefeated in dual meets his senior season. McMahan was backed up that year by Jim McKee and Richard Gordon, both '71; John Boles and Larry Hardy, '70; and Dale Dassler and Bob Eldredge, '69.

In cross-country the lowest score is the best, and by this measure the premier outing in 1968 was against Country Day. “We trounced the Daisies 16–47, and we took seven out of the top eight places,” hailed the *Governor*. “Following this

victory McMahon set a new JBS course record of 9:21.7 as he led the team to a 19–41 win over Priory.” The 1969 team, co-captained by Boles and Hardy, was 4–3, and Boles made the All-ABC team. McMahon, in recollections for this book, described his conversion from football to cross-country:

When I had the privilege of joining the JBS cross-country team in the fall of 1966, I found I was leaving the slightly more regimented world of B team football to sign on with an interesting band of philosopher/athletes. Leading the group was our sensei, Coach James Alverson, who would challenge and inspire us before each meet with a koan, mantra or conundrum. Our sensibilities were further challenged by the leadership of Coach Alverson’s successor Bob “Kahuna” Sortland. I am left with the image of Kahuna standing in a drizzle next to our new red track with his raincoat and a cigarette. He told us to “run some miles and do good.” Then he left. The missing wink told us that whatever success we may achieve wouldn’t be by boilerplate from the coach. Winning is good, but so is having fun.

Burroughs’ Five-Letter Man

Charlie Dee ’65 was a Pistol Pete Maravich look-alike as the floor leader of Burroughs basketball. He also earned varsity letters in football, baseball, and track. A dedicated distance runner, he decided to add cross-country to his resume, despite its frequent scheduling conflicts with football. He had a near-great moment in 1963 when, as a running back on the B football team, he shed his pads at halftime and joined the harriers as the gun sounded at Leland Field. The race completed, Dee returned to the game, but when his number was called in the fourth quarter there was nothing left in his legs. With only green grass and Burroughs blockers ahead, and the prospect looming of a second touchdown for the day, he fell flat on his face. “I got up, gave the ball to the ref, and went and sat on the bench for the rest of the game,” Dee related with a laugh. He did, however, become Burroughs’ Five-Letter Man.

Golf’s Breakthrough

After informal beginnings in the late 1940s and early 1950s, with the emphasis on individual performance rather than team play, golf failed to receive coverage in the yearbooks of 1957 through 1967. The sport erupted in 1969, however, under the direction of Latin teacher Hugh Witscher, recording an undefeated season, an ABC League title, a championship in the St. Louis District tournament, and fifth place in state.

Geoff Simril ’69 provided the details. In 1967, sophomores petitioned athletic director Tom McConnell to compete in ABC play. A faculty sponsor was required, so the group tapped Witscher, “not for his golf prowess, but for his popularity.” Crystal Lake Country Club became the home course, arranged by Jimmy Jackson, a former four-time Missouri state champion and the father of James “Beau” Jackson ’69, “the team’s best player.” The course was not on a par with Country Day’s home course, Bellerive. “Bare-dirt tees were common.” But it served its purpose. The Bombers lost the ABC League title to Country Day in their first year but won it in 1968. Then they broke loose.

MUSINGS OF A RENAISSANCE COACH

Over a fifteen-year career at Burroughs, Yale-educated Stephen Hinrichs established himself as one of the school's premier Renaissance men. He arrived in 1948 as a genteel teacher of American history, but that was only the beginning. Passionate about skiing, he organized the spring trip to Aspen, beginning with eleven enthusiasts but expanding to seventy by the time he departed in 1963.

Hinrichs helped coach the great football teams of the early 1960s. He began, however, as a quiet but pioneering force in other sporting ventures, described in written musings for this book. He believed in football as "the only truly team game in which everyone on the field has to perform on each play for the team to be successful." He realized it was not for all, however, so he organized the Toad Squad to pursue "fugby," a combination of flag football and rugby, "a wide open game, played with no pads, just brush blocking, everyone pass eligible."

The name derived from "the coach's referring to some boys as toads, but making the reference come across as a term of endearment." The squad challenged and defeated Taylor School, and at a celebration of the undefeated season the centerpiece at the banquet table was a wooden sculpture of a toad.

Hinrichs also organized golf as a non-league sport. Ahead of his time, he made it "the only coed sport at Burroughs," as illustrated photographically in the 1952 yearbook. When he selected a girl to compete in one match, the opposing coach was incredulous. "You

can't do that,' he said. 'Why not?' I asked. 'How would the boy feel if the girl won?' was his response. 'No worse than if he had lost to a boy,' I replied." Hinrichs could not recall how the girl, Jere Meisel '51, fared in the outing.

Hinrichs assisted Tom McConnell in football in 1961. Referring to Bob Cowen, the line coach, he wrote: "To encourage his linemen to stay low in their charge he wielded a flat piece of wood shaped like a cricket bat, applying it to the backside of those who sinned in posture." When Country Day met Burroughs in 1962, the stakes were high. The Bombers were atop a twenty-three-game winning streak and the Rams were undefeated for the year. The Bombers moved the ball well in the first half but trailed 6-0.

"JBS floundered in the second half, suffering lost fumbles and pass interceptions," wrote Hinrichs. "As the clock wound down, our high-powered coaching staff from Illinois (McConnell), Michigan (Howard Yerges), Princeton (Cowen), and Yale (Hinrichs) looked desperately at each other and asked, 'What should we do?' No one had an answer."

Hinrichs described how "Burroughs football went high tech the year we got portable radios to connect a coach in the end zone with those on the bench. Coach McConnell took himself to the end zone for the first game after the radios had been delivered. I was on the bench end of the broadcast, and the first exciting message I received from Tom was, 'Tell 78 to tuck his shirt in.'"

“In the third year the team went undefeated in both league and non-league play, finishing the season at 10–0,” wrote Simril. “The smallest winning margin was an impressive 10 strokes. Team members were seniors Beau Jackson, Allen Goldberg, Jamie Patton, John Evans, and Geoff Simril (all '69), junior Tom Benson ('70), and sophomore Phil Rahn ('72).

“The St. Louis District Championship was held at the St. Charles Golf Club. In the 1960s (before golf was cool) only 28 high school teams participated. There was no distinction between large and small schools. It was a true metro area tournament, and it was a difficult test of golf. Each participant played 27 holes.”



Burroughs entered as an unknown: “Where’s Burroughs, near Ft. Zumwalt?” asked one opponent, as reported the *World*. The Bombers quickly answered. “Three of the JBS team members finished in the top 10,” Simril wrote, “including medalist Geoff Simril at 102, Jamie Patton at 104, and Beau Jackson at 107. JBS won the tournament by 18 shots over its closest competitor.” Simril’s winning score was two under par, by the *World’s* account, and the team broke the state qualifying record by seven strokes.

The 1970 team, a slimmed-down group of four players—Benson, Frank Trotter '72, and Peter Edison and Richard Pershall, both '73—was strong as well with a 7–1 record, although details of the season were absent from the *Governor* and the *World*.

1969 golf team.
From left: J. Evans, G. Simril, A. Goldberg, T. Benson, J. Jackson, J. Patton, P. Rahn, Mr. Witscher

HONORS ABOUND IN TRACK

Although they won a single ABC crown in 1968, the Burroughs Thinclads, as they were wont to be known, peppered the record book of MSHSAA (Missouri State High School Activities Association) in the decade with a string of gold-medal performances in Class B (otherwise known as M), especially in the latter half of the decade.

Jack Biggs '62 opened the cavalcade with a rousing 51.7 first-place finish in the 440-yard dash in 1962 in Columbia, six tenths of a second better than the winning performance by Burroughs’ Bill Scott '46 his senior year. In 1966, Jim Moog '66 won the 180-yard low hurdles in 20.2; Scott Schnuck '68 bested that achievement in 1967 by a tenth of a second; he also took first in the 120-yard high hurdles in 1967 with a time of 15.4.

Burroughs claimed back-to-back gold in 1966 and 1967 in the 880-yard relay, setting a state record the first year in 1:32 and breaking it the next year by a tenth of a second. The 1966 relay team was Schnuck, Moog, John Herbert '66, and Brax Snyder '67. In 1967, the foursome was Schnuck—winning his third gold medal in the meet—Snyder, Fred Goodman '67, and Jim Kishlar '69. In 1969, Larry McMahon '69 capped a superb track career—not to mention cross-country—with a first place in the mile in 4:24.8, the second-fastest time since the beginning of Class B records in 1934.

Of the league championship team, the *Governor* proclaimed: “The 1968 track team for the first time since 1952 was undefeated in all seven dual meets and took first place in the ABC Medals Meet. Scott Schnuck established three new school records in the low hurdles, high hurdles, and running broad jump. Larry McMahon registered two new records in the mile and two-mile runs. Bruce Merrifield '68 set a new 880 record, and Scott Harris '70 tied the present 100-yard dash mark.”

The Bombers placed third in the district meet, the *Governor* reported, and at state, “with only five runners, Burroughs was able to outdistance 35 other high schools for third place.” The season highlight for the *Governor* “was total annihilation of the Codasco track team,” whom the Bombers overcame by fifty points to clinch the league title.

Other years produced strong individual and team performances as well. In 1964, Terry Hess '65 broke the district record in the 100 with a time of 10.15. In a state qualifying heat he equaled the Burroughs record of 10.1. “Kim de Riel '64 was an iron man on the team, running the 880 and either the mile or a leg of the mile relay, while throwing the discus and the shot.” In 1965, from midseason on, Hess and Herbert took first and second in both the 100- and the 220-yard dashes, and Mark Vittert '65 was undefeated in dual competition in the shot put, also according to the *Governor*. The threesome prevailed in the ABC meet as well, where Vittert's heave of 49'8" was one of the better efforts of the decade.

The 1966 team was the first to have use of the new Burroughs track. “Led by John Herbert in the dashes, Craig Schnuck and Jim Moog in the hurdles, and an undefeated 880-relay team, the Thinclads placed second in the Clayton Invitational, the Class M district meet, and the Class M state meet,” declared the *Governor*. They also took first in the ABC meet. Craig Schnuck led the way in the discus

and shot put as well as the hurdles. In the Scott Schnuck show at the 1967 state meet, Burroughs placed third overall. The Bombers set a barrage of new school records in the course of the 1967 season—by Schnuck in both hurdles, McMahon in the one- and two-mile races, and Kaiser Shah '67 in the 880—many of which were broken the very next year.

Early in the decade, Bill Kline '60 consistently piled up points in the 100, the 220, and on the 880-relay team. Jack Biggs, in addition to his state-championship performance, regularly captured the 100, 220, and 440 in his three-year varsity career, and he was one of the group who tied the school record of 10.1 in the 100 set by his father, John Biggs '33.



A familiar scene in 1965. Terry Hess '65, left, finishes first in the 220-yard dash at the ABC meet, with John Herbert '66 only a stride behind.

A PROMINENT JAYHAWK REWORKS A PROGRAM

In 1960–61, Burroughs basketball moved decisively in a new direction under the leadership of Bill Heitholt, who played under Phog Allen at Kansas in the early 1950s, including the 1952 national championship team featuring Clyde Lovellette, of future pro stardom (including the St. Louis Hawks), and Dean Smith, later a basketball coaching legend at North Carolina. Heitholt was a freshman but a letterman on the championship team; he was there the next year when the surprising Jayhawks, depleted by graduation, returned to the finals of the NCAA Tournament, losing by a single point to Branch McCracken's Indiana Hoosiers.

Heitholt was a four-year letterman in both basketball and baseball at Kansas and a member of his Quincy, Illinois, High School Hall of Fame. He learned well under Phog Allen and taught well at Burroughs. In his first three years he led the Bombers to two winning seasons, something novel on campus, captured one ABC League title, and returned Burroughs to competitiveness in post-season play. He changed everything—right down to new uniforms with knee-high socks.

“Bill brought an excellent work ethic and had us concentrating hard on pressure defense, as the great Phog Allen had instilled at Kansas,” observed Bob Flynn '61, a member of the 1960–61 squad. “We had a lot of plays and screens, quick passes and driving to the basket.” Interest in basketball skyrocketed. “At every free period or after lunch everyone would run to the gym, take their shoes off and shoot as many baskets as they could.”

Heitholt's first team of 1960–61 struggled in the regular season but surged in the regional tournament at Valley Park. Applying Heitholt's tight man-to-man defense, the Bombers upended high-scoring, second-seeded Assumption by fourteen points in the first round. After a narrow win over Maryland Heights, Burroughs, like the champions of 1953, stormed back from nine points down in the fourth quarter against Wellston, forcing the game to overtime before losing by a point. As fate would have it, Wellston progressed all the way to the quarterfinals of the state tournament.

The banner year was 1961–62 with an overall record of 14–3, including a fifteen-game winning streak, an undefeated league championship, and third place in the post-season regional tournament. Wade Kennedy '62 and Tom McConnell '62 scored regularly in double figures and were named All-ABC; Kennedy poured in thirty-one in a rout of Country Day. Mike Todorovich '63 joined Kennedy as a second big man, and Kit Mill '62 and Joe Peden '63 rounded out the starting five.

The 1962–63 Bombers, captained by Peden and led in scoring by Todorovich and Carl Hirth '63, continued the winning tradition with a 13–7 season, second place in the league, and another third place in the regional tournament on the strength of a 73–48 pounding of Maryland Heights in the consolation game.

Heitholt developed other superb talent in his Burroughs years, such as high-scoring Gene Pennell '65 and John Wallace '66, rightly dubbed by the *Governor* as “one of the finest players in the area.” The later years of the decade were less successful, however, as ABC League basketball competition escalated dramatically. By the 1960s Lutheran schools were part of the mix—first Lutheran Central and South and later Lutheran North and South. Priory joined the fray in the late 1960s with a potent basketball program of its own.

Lutheran Central and South won seven league titles in the 1960s; Priory captured two late in the decade. Remarkably, in the thirty years from 1959–60 to 1988–89, Lutheran schools won twenty-six league championships, only one by tie, leaving two to Priory, one to Burroughs, and one (the tie) to Country Day. Nonetheless, by the conclusion of Heitholt's tenure after the 1969–70 season, a new and enduring foundation for Burroughs basketball was firmly in place.

SOCCER AND BASEBALL ADD TITLES

A great soccer season in 1960–61 was largely predictable. Many of the mainstays of the ABC League champions were the backbone of a B team two years earlier that was, according to the *World*, the “Best in JBS History.” (The superlative appeared to apply to *all* Burroughs soccer, not just B level.) That B team was 14–0–0 and outscored its opponents 28–2. The 1960–61 varsity was 5–0–1 in league play and 14–3–1 overall, placing fourth in the district high school tournament and outscoring all adversaries by a startling 50–16.

The players seeing the most action, according to the yearbook, were Bill Hardy, Steve Black, Tom Ryan, Dave Haffner, Bill Berman, and Gary Muther, all '61; Keith Shahan (goalie), Marsh Pitzman, Dick Rogers, and Tom Seddon, all '62; and Bill Berkley '63. The high scorers for the year were Berkley with fourteen goals, Seddon with eleven, Muther with eight, and Berman with seven.

The Bombers bombarded St. John's three times by a combined score of 13–4. Their most convincing win was over Priory, 10–1, with six players contributing goals: Berman was high with three, Berkley and Rogers booted two each. The strength of the Bombers' season earned them a second seed in the district tournament and a bye in the first round. They beat Corpus Christi to reach the semifinals but lost there to St. Louis U. High.



Baseball—Three More Crowns

The baseball Bombers added three more league titles in the 1960s, bringing Coach McConnell's career total to ten. The 1961 champions were 8–2 in the league and 9–3 overall. Bob Cranston '61 threw a one-hitter—and added a home run—against Principia and struck out eleven in a rout of Country Day. Bill Berman '61 specialized in multiple-hit games, including a home run against Lutheran Central. Strong hitting also came from Tom McConnell Jr. '62, Tom Toney '62, and Bill Scott '61, and sophomores Pete Mayer and Joe Peden, both '63.

Kit Mill '62, who tripled in two runs in the Lutheran Central game, described the team's prize pick-off play at first. With Cranston on the mound, "Mac (catcher Tom McConnell) would say my name, I'd wiggle my glove in acknowledgment, and Mac would throw to first on a pitch out. I'd sneak behind the runner and block first base with my knee (not legal). I think we picked off 10 or 11 in the spring of 1961."



Pete Mayer '63 hammers a hit in his senior season. Mayer, a shortstop, was one of three pro prospects at the high school level in St. Louis that year.

Tom MacLeod '66 led the Bombers in the seasons of 1965 and 1966. Burroughs shared the crown with Lutheran South in 1965 and won it outright in 1966. In his junior season of 1965, MacLeod compiled a 7–2 record, hurling four two-hitters and striking out fourteen against Augustinian and ten over Lutheran South. He was fierce at the plate as well, hitting for average and power, including two home runs. John Wallace '66 filled in on the mound; he and Bob Bushyhead and Larry Minkoff, both '66, contributed heavy hitting, including home runs.

In 1966, the Bombers posted impressive marks of 9–1 in the league and 15–4 overall. MacLeod threw two no-hitters and a one-hitter, with more clutch hitting as with a game-winning home run in the opener against CBC. Burroughs embarrassed Country Day with a 16–6 rout, requiring imposition of the ten-run rule. Carter Smith '66 smacked a game-winning single against Lutheran South and a game-winning home run over Lutheran North. Bushyhead and Wallace each homered against Principia; they, plus MacLeod and Larry Minkoff, were named All-ABC. MacLeod played baseball and football at Cornell and entered the Big Red's Hall of Fame as a pitcher.



1970s / Dawning of the Modern Age



At nighttime on Saturday, April 4, 1970, Tom McConnell and his wife, Ruth, the dietician at Burroughs, had attended the wedding reception of Dick Rogers '62 and were crossing Gravois Road in South St. Louis County for a second event when they were struck by a car. Tom was killed, and Ruth was seriously injured. The driver accelerated; his identity was never determined.

McConnell's untimely death at the age of fifty-three left an enormous void in the fabric of the school. "Uncle Tom" had transcended his multiple roles as coach, athletic director, and head of Burr Oak Camp to become a beloved institution among alumni, faculty, and friends of Burroughs. McConnell's former player Jud Calkins '59 was a reporter at the time for the *Post-Dispatch* and had the sad privilege of writing the obituary. Calkins wrote in part: "Mr. McConnell came to be known for his devotion to the boys he coached and the enduring nature of the relationships he developed with them. A fierce competitor, Mr. McConnell was always intent on winning. But he was deeply dedicated to principles of good sportsmanship, and he always believed that athletics taught lessons that should be applied in later life."

Of necessity, the tragedy marked the beginning of new coaching leadership at the school. This development coalesced with other powerful forces to awaken the modern era of Burroughs athletics. Those other forces included the growth of the student body, fueled by new construction; the epic event known as Title IX that brought gender equality to high school and college sports; and the opening of state championship play in football in Missouri—followed by similar competition in a multitude of other sports.

Girls' sports exploded over the decade in length of schedules and strength of competition. The school brought home state gold in wrestling, golf, and track. In state football playoffs, where the boys of Burroughs were to compile an extraordinary record in the decades to come, the school was late to the party, yet its title run in its first try in 1975 is one of the enduring stories in the sports history of the school.

1974 baseball, "JBS sports team of the year." Front row from left: Griesedieck, Seddon, C. Cissel, Mathes, Rosenfeld, Martin, S. Stradal; back row: D. Stradal, Hamilton, Sisler, Burslem, Krause, Adams, Hobler, Holekamp.

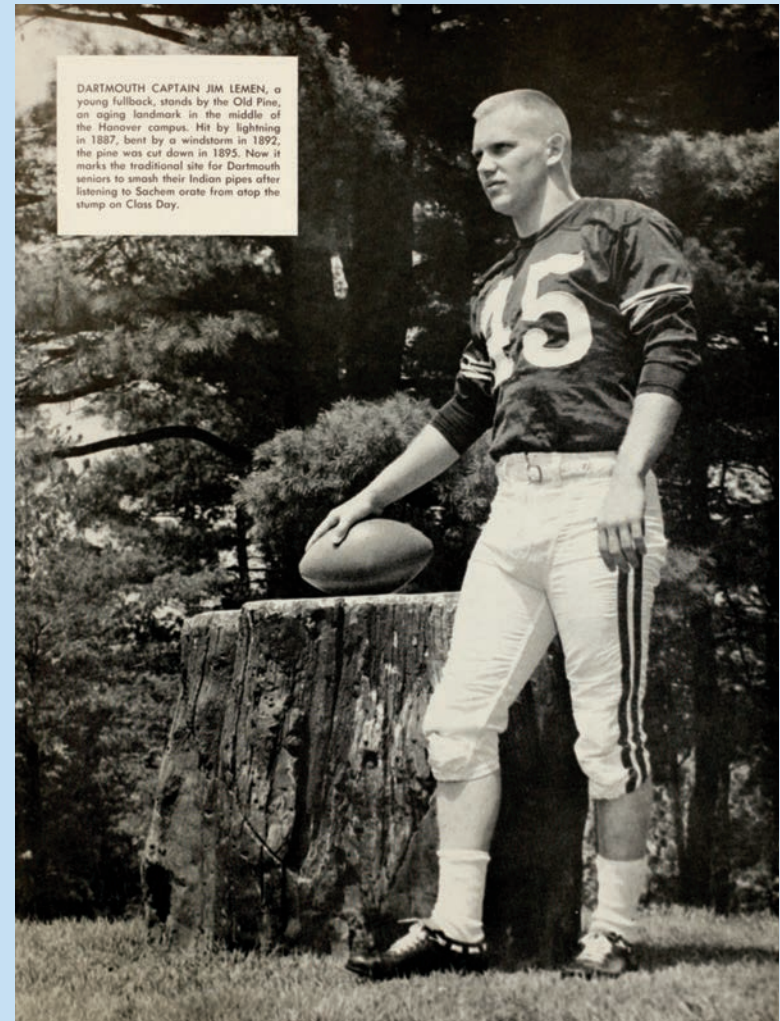
LEADERSHIP WITH LONGEVITY

Tom McConnell's death resulted in an immediate invitation from Ed Cissel, head of school, and Don Schnuck, president of the board of trustees, to Jim Lemen to return to Burroughs to fill the void. By coincidence, Lemen, who left Burroughs in 1966 for a coaching stint at Cornell, was between professional pursuits. He accepted.

As with any new appointment at the top, some existing personnel sought other opportunities, thus creating openings for new coaching talent. With Lemen in place as the new director of athletics for boys, Suzanne "Skippy" Keefer was hired in 1972 to direct the girls. She proceeded to build the girls' program into one of the strongest in the St. Louis area in her three decades at the school.

Tom O'Keefe joined Burroughs and coached football and other sports for more than thirty years. Dennis Moore coached basketball, football, and golf for a similar period, and Jim Hoots worked in football, wrestling, and track—as well as physical fitness—for thirty-one years. Before becoming headmaster at Sandia Prep in Albuquerque, Dick Heath coached football, basketball, and baseball for eleven years, and Ray Beckman became the head coach of soccer, ultimately ending his career at Burroughs with fifty-one years of service and his name affixed to the JBS soccer venue.

On the girls' side, Beth Williams Kinsella oversaw field hockey and track for more than thirty years. Margaret Altvater Clark '73 began her coaching career and by the latter part of the decade was involved in multiple sports. Sue Lowell Greditzer began her field hockey and tennis career in the 1970s as well.



Jim Lemen, in captain's pose at Dartmouth.

THE SECOND MAN FROM DARTMOUTH

Ten years after the First Man from Dartmouth, Ray Wolfe, took leave of Burroughs in 1953, the Second Man arrived from the same Ivy League football power in Hanover, New Hampshire, for the first of two stints at the school. He was James Mahlon Lemen, born in small-town Holton, Indiana, and reared an only child in Cincinnati. There, at Western Hills High School, he was a fullback and defensive end in football, a playmaker in basketball, a 54-second man in the 440 in track, and the president of his junior and senior classes.

Lemen was set on a Congressional appointment to West Point, but the honor was unexpectedly delayed. When clearance came, he had settled on Dartmouth College and Coach Bob Blackman, who took the Big Green to extraordinary heights in Ivy League football. At Dartmouth, Lemen was a three-year football letterman, playing both ways his senior year—in the same slots as in high school—and winning election as captain of the team.

Upon graduation, he promptly married his high school classmate, Carole Gudgeon, now in her thirty-seventh year of teaching at Community School. Lemen enrolled in Harvard's Master of Arts in Teaching program, which was then a path to immediate certification for public school teaching in many states. He was focused on teaching and coaching in a public school, but Leonard Haertter lured him to Burroughs in 1963 to teach history and assist Tom McConnell in football.

Lemen coached the line for three years and was largely responsible for a changeover to the Nebraska Cornhuskers' offensive scheme, implemented in 1965, the first undefeated season for Burroughs in a nine-game schedule. In preparation for the changeover, he paid a spring visit to Lincoln to learn from the Nebraska coaching staff.

Lemen left Burroughs in early 1966 to coach the defensive secondary at Cornell, overseeing the play of Burroughs graduates Craig Schnuck and Tom MacLeod, '66, and Scott Schnuck '68. By April 1970, he had accepted—but not quite begun—a position in sales with Proctor and Gamble in Detroit when history interceded. The death of Coach McConnell prompted an immediate outreach by the school. Lemen returned as athletic director, head football coach, and director of Burr Oak Camp.

Forty-four years later, he bid farewell to Burroughs, much loved by those he influenced and leaving behind a monumental record of achievement and personal leadership:

- In football, through his last head-coaching season of 2004, a record of 238–123–4, including state championships in 1975, 1980, 1985, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1995, and 2001 (six outright titles and two ties), plus five more final-four appearances;
- In baseball, a record of 175–125 in thirteen years as head coach, with a state championship in 1991 and three additional final-four appearances;
- Numerous coach-of-the-year awards and memberships in the halls of fame of the Missouri Football Coaches Association, the Metropolitan Football Coaches Association, and Western Hills High School.

Lemen is quiet, serious, and gentle; he knows his mind and speaks it forcefully. He is as proud of his classroom contributions as his coaching success. Lemen attended programs in Boston and Israel on teaching the Holocaust and established a Holocaust curriculum for seventh graders at Burroughs. The *St. Louis Jewish Light* named him to their first class of Unsung Heroes in 2010. Despite his retirement in 2011, Lemen's name will endure on the press box at Leland Field and on a permanent scholarship for tuition aid at the school.

WINDS OF CHANGE

As the campus expanded in the 1960s with construction of the science building and the Stamper Library, Burroughs began to add about twenty students with each incoming seventh grade. Over time, this increased the number of athletes per team, making it more difficult in some cases to provide playing time for everyone in all the games.

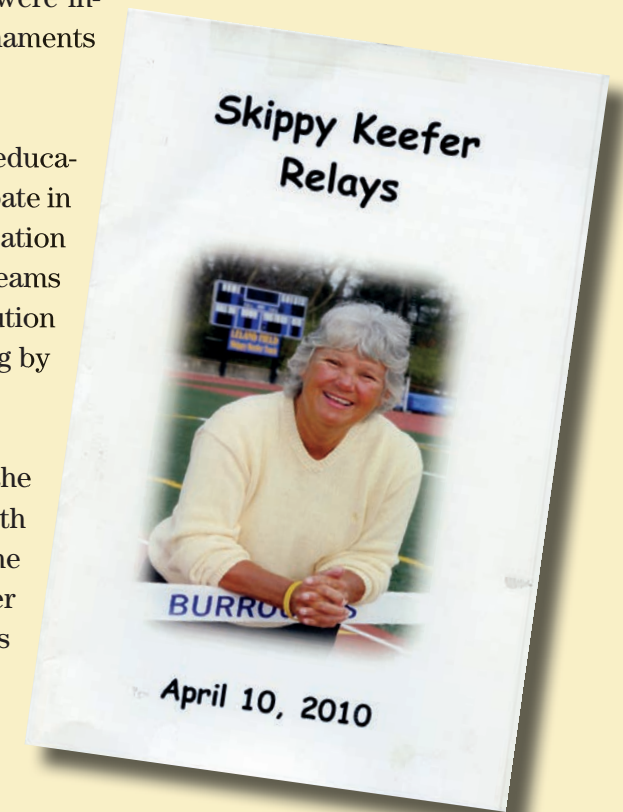
Major change was brewing at the national level aimed at parity in athletic opportunities for men and women. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 transformed the landscape at high schools and colleges. It provided as follows:

No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

The statute made no explicit mention of sports, but that was where it had its primary impact. As a private institution, Burroughs was not directly affected; indirectly, the law cleared the way for Burroughs, under Keefer's leadership, to vastly expand its sports offerings for girls. Public schools now had to develop meaningful girls' programs; this greatly enhanced competition for Burroughs. By the end of the decade, the girls of Burroughs were involved in new sports, playing twice as many games, and excelling in state tournaments closely mirroring those of the boys.

The move toward gender equality also called into question differing physical education requirements for boys and girls at the school. Boys were required to participate in sports in each season; girls, by contrast, were expected to attend physical education classes and could try out for team sports. Another disparity was that on girls' teams players were cut to reach manageable numbers, whereas with the boys substitution was used to deal with the same issue. Debate ensued on these matters, resulting by 2000 in the equalization of sports requirements and treatment for both sexes.

Change came in other forms as well. The ABC League, which had expanded in the late 1950s and early 1960s, felt the impact of antiwar sentiment associated with Vietnam. Western Military Academy, a for-profit institution and a founder of the league, lost enrollment and finally closed. The antiwar movement had another consequence at Burroughs: sharp and continuing questioning of "Bombers" as the name to be carried into competition.



THE KEEFER WAY

“Skippy”—a name suggesting effortless performance on challenging tasks, which aptly describes the leadership of Suzanne B. “Skippy” Keefer in the transformation of girls’ athletics at Burroughs over the course of three decades.

Although a native of Webster Groves, Keefer knew little of John Burroughs School when she got the call from Ed Cissel in 1972 to become the director of girls’ sports. A Mizzou graduate in physical education, Keefer was just finishing an eight-year run as *the* athletic department at Sacred Heart Academy in St. Charles. “I was it,” she quipped. “I coached every sport.” The high school ceased existence in 1972.

She agreed to try the Burroughs position for a year; it turned into a twenty-nine-year run in which she served as girls AD from 1972 to 1988, while Jim Lemen oversaw the boys, and director of all sports from 1988 until retirement in 2001. Keefer arrived during the flux created by Title IX, mandating gender equality in federally funded programs, which indirectly aided the school. “Burroughs had a really good sports program,” she related, “but Title IX improved the girls’ programs at other schools so we could schedule a lot more varsity and JV games.”

Beyond expanding schedules, she added a variety of sports, such as water polo, lacrosse, and swimming. An early goal was equalization of the sports requirement for boys and girls at Burroughs. When she arrived, there was a three-sport requirement for boys, none for girls. Today, it is two sports for everyone, with some relaxation for juniors and seniors. Another abiding interest was a merger in the use of facilities by boys and girls, which occurred in 1986 with construction of the Cissel Center.

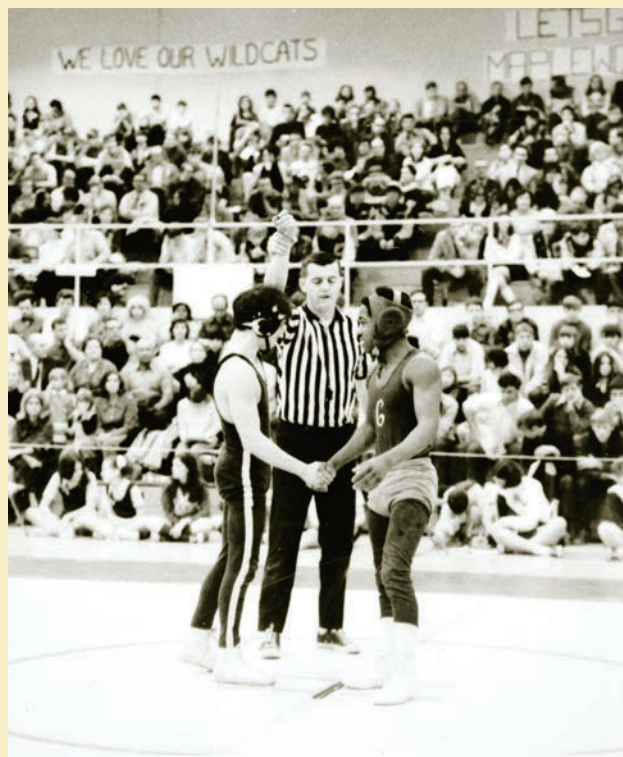
Keefer coached many sports, but a good director is also a good delegator. She recruited talented personnel who left their own mark, including Beth Kinsella (hockey), Sue Greditzer (tennis), Margaret Altvater Clark (dance and cheerleading), Jane Ellen Kuenzle (basketball), Steve Wilcutt (basketball), Chris Bugnitz (cross-country), Jamie Wagner (water polo), Leslie Kehr (swimming), and Ellen Port (golf and hockey). In the late 1980s, Keefer was instrumental in the formation of MWAA—the Metro Women’s Athletic Association, an affiliation of parochial and independent schools—and the Midwest Field Hockey Tournament, the equivalent of a state playoff.

Keefer initiated the girls’ track program at Burroughs, and in 1974 the school achieved a seminal victory in the first St. Louis–area regional meet, held on Burroughs’ all-weather track. Going head to head against ten other schools, the Bombers edged out Northwest and Sumner for the win. She followed up by entering Burroughs girls in winter indoor meets at the St. Louis Armory, thereby gaining a one-month jump on the outdoor season. She quickly involved the junior school as well. “We began by having them run down to Swenson’s ice cream parlor,” she laughed. “They had a treat and we picked them up in a van.”

“She was always going full speed,” Lemen remarked. “Her enthusiasm and support for all sports was extremely important.” The record of achievement by Burroughs girls in track, hockey, and other sports is detailed in the narrative portions of this book. It is fitting, therefore, that the Keefer name should grace the Burroughs track, as well as the popular event held there each spring—the “Skippy Keefer Relays.” Another enduring tribute is the Skippy Keefer Award given annually by MWAA to a senior girl recognizing sportsmanship and widespread sports participation.

Meanwhile, the girls began to explore possibilities for a new athletic conference. The old Girls Athletic Association was now questioned in light of newly expanded opportunities for interscholastic play. By 1988, a new conference would be born—the Metro Women’s Athletic Association, or MWAA.

The beginning of state championship play in football in the late 1960s impacted all sports for both boys and girls. First, it boosted the drive for statewide competition in other sports, and second, because of the creation of multiple classes in football for safety reasons, other sports demanded the same treatment. This included girls as state competition for them began to flourish in mid-decade.



Jack Mosinger '71 (left) wins state.

By the end of the 1970s, multiple classes in state play allowed more and more small schools—such as Burroughs—to harbor playoff aspirations. And as state championships and final-four finishes at Burroughs multiplied over the years, the importance of the ABC League began to wane.

WRESTLING RECEIVES ITS DUE

Wrestling is a team sport in which the scores of each weight class are combined to determine a team winner in dual competition or a team finish in a tournament. Consequently, wrestling honors in the 1970s often went to schools with large numbers of participants.

The team aspect of the sport, however, cannot cloud the intensity and physical exertion for the individual in the ring, which often remains foreign to those outside the sport. Apart from team honors, those wrestlers who have achieved individual success at the state level will always have a special place in the history of sports at Burroughs.

Ten years after Carl “Corky” Burst '61 earned his second consecutive state title for Burroughs in the 103-pound weight class, Jack Mosinger '71 won a state championship at 105 pounds. Matt Kayes '77 captured fifth place in 1976 at 105 pounds, and sixth place in 1976 at 112. Scott Cummins '79 finished sixth in 1978 at 105 pounds.

Mosinger credits his coaches Jerry Maher (pre-1970), Jim Haskins, and Paul Koprivica for his wrestling success. He must have been ugly, he concedes, because of the Koprivica

maxim that “pretty boys don’t win wrestling matches.” Mosinger recalled turning to wrestling partly in response to Coach McConnell’s playful taunts in eighth-grade basketball: “Mosinger, you run like a crippled goose! Maybe you should go out for wrestling.”

Regardless of motivation, Mosinger’s final record at Burroughs was an awesome 57–7. His senior year he was undefeated in the regular season at 17–0, pinning most opponents. He won the state title at Excelsior Springs High School by beating Larry Smith of Charleston 4–1. Including the state tournament, Mosinger’s streak was a stunning 24–0. He continued his wrestling career at MIT where he won the New England Intercollegiate Wrestling Association championship at 118 pounds in 1975. That year he also reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III Tournament. Today Jack volunteers with Burroughs seventh and eighth graders in the prep school wrestling program.

The Mosinger name reappeared in wrestling at Burroughs in 2002 when Jack’s son, Eric Mosinger ’03, earned a sixth-place medal at the state meet.

PAYNE WHO?

One of the early sports to succeed at the state level was golf in 1973. In the St. Louis District Tournament, forty-one schools were represented; only six could qualify for the state tournament; Burroughs finished fifth.

In Columbia, the teams played thirty-six holes over two days. The Bombers foursome of McCarthy “Corky” Hangar ’74 and Larry Smith, Tad Carter, and Peter Edison, all ’73, placed second behind Parkway Central. As the first-place medalist in the meet, Edison beat a freshman who finished second. His name was Payne Stewart, of future PGA fame—a valuable talking point for Edison in years to come.

Edison hailed the abilities of his teammates. “Corky had a sweet golf swing,” he noted, and Smith was “a fierce competitor who could win at anything.” He characterized Carter as “a natural golfer.” Had any of the four been unable to compete in the state tournament, he submitted, Ted Levis ’76,



1973 golf team finishes second in state.
From left: Carter ’73, Edison ’73, Coach Hugh Witscher, Smith ’73, Hangar ’74.



Champions of first district tournament trophy, 1978. From left: Coach Skippy Keefer, Cathy Woods '79, Coach Beth Kinsella.

though only a freshman, was more than capable of filling in.

In an earlier day, Edison had informed Carter of his own golfing prowess, even though he had never played. Carter invited him to a round of nine at Ruth Park, where Edison showed his inexperience by shooting a 69. From such beginnings, a championship player would emerge.

FIELD HOCKEY TAKES WING

Field hockey evolved rapidly in the 1970s: Schedules of a maximum ten games early in the decade expanded to twenty by 1979. In 1978, the first St. Louis District Field Hockey Tournament was held, the forerunner of the Midwest Field Hockey Tournament, which today remains the equivalent of a state championship in the sport—and an event in which Burroughs has thrived.

Profound Success and Fond Remembrances

The Bombers opened the decade with a roar, extending an unbeaten streak that began with the 1969 season. Playing six- to ten-game schedules, they remained unbeaten through 1972, and in 1973 they won every game except their last, a loss to Villa Duchesne, 1–0. Their record for the five years was a stunning 39–1–5.

The hockey schedule expanded to fourteen games by 1977 and to twenty by 1979. The 1978 squad beat University City to win the first St. Louis District



Field hockey stalwarts of 1973.

Front row from left: Carp, Forsyth, Ybarra, Holmes, Bebee; middle row: Obata, Hadders, Brown, Salisbury, Crancer; back row: Pfaff, Clarkson, Renshaw, Burrows, Keller

Tournament; the 1979 team rolled to a 15–2–3 record but lost in the semifinals of the tournament.

Members of the early teams provided fond remembrances for this book. Nancy Sato '71 touted the play of Mary Cissel and Barb Shapleigh, both '70, at fullback and relished teaming up with Joan Yerges '71 at halfback. "Because women's athletics was not a big deal in those pre-Title IX days," Sato said, "the strength of Burroughs' women's teams and the support for women's athletics put us way ahead of the other schools."



Anita Drosten '72 “lived for field hockey” as a release from academic pressures. She described teams laden with good players who worked hard and succeeded as a group—without individual “stars.” Nori Obata '74, who played four years at Wells, likened the team to a family; she recounted trips to Kansas City where the players stayed with their Sunset Hills counterparts. They had fun but remained focused on the games. Her teammate Terry Carp '74, who played four years of hockey and tennis at Princeton, submitted that sports at Burroughs “influenced my whole life,” including her choice of college.

Players from the late 1970s likewise rejoiced in their hockey experience. Kris Samuels '78 chose field hockey over tennis in 1977, lured by “the team, the focus, the people and the passion that was instilled to win together.” She recalled Jenny Woods

'78 “scoring a ton,” Libby Sharp '77 and Ann Drescher '78 as first-rate defenders, Gretchen Grimshaw '78 as skillful in goal, and the speed of Patty Donovan '78.

1978 field hockey champions. Standing from left: Coach Williams, Kopman, M. Kraus, B. Gedney, A. Maritz, C. Woods, J. Hustace, N. Grant, S. Wallace, S. Martin, C. Lemen, S. Graham, Coach Keefer; seated: Davidson, K. McNett, Brooksher, B. Wulfing, Burst, dePenaloza, Manchester, Walters.

Cathy Woods '79, co-captain of the 1978 team, singled out that fall campaign as the highlight of her sports career at Burroughs. “It was one of those seasons where everything clicked,” she noted. Laura Manchester '80 “still wakes up dreaming about trying to score against Villa.” She described the “camaraderie among the team, regardless of whether they were friends off the field.” It was acceptable, she noted, “for a girl to be as aggressive as she wanted.” She attributes her ownership of a women’s fitness club today to the emphasis on physical fitness at Burroughs.

Becky Gedney '81 scored an astounding five hat tricks (three goals in one game) in the 1979 season. “Sports made high school for me,” she pronounced, describing long runs with Beth Williams Kinsella and skill camps with Skippy Keefer. Her teammate Alice Maritz '81, a standout on both the 1978 and 1979 teams, remembers Gedney’s high-scoring ways and the assists of Cathy Hatfield '81. Maritz described herself as being “so happy to be on the field” and called hockey “absolutely the highlight of John Burroughs.”

A RUN TO STATE IN BASEBALL

The baseball team of 1971 finished the season 0–17, a far cry from the familiar success of prior decades. By the spring of 1974, however, the Bombers waged a lengthy run in the state tournament, which had been expanded that year for the first time to four classes of schools. The Bombers finished the season with a record of 10–11 but hit their stride in the playoffs.

With timely hitting, good pitching, and strong defense, reported the *World*, the Bombers won the 1974 district tournament. They reached the district finals with wins over Elsberry 4–2 in eight innings and Principia 1–0 in nine, and needed only a regulation seven innings to beat Winfield in the finals 4–2. The *World* lauded the pitching of Chip Krause '74 and the hitting of Charlie Cissel, Chris Griesedieck, and Bill Seddon, all '74, and Peter Hamilton, Rob Rosenfeld, and David Stradal, all '75.

On to Crocker for the regionals, where Burroughs needed two wins to advance to the final four. The Bombers faced a Crocker squad at 35–4. Despite the imbalance, Burroughs won easily 7–1. “Crocker played like Betty Crocker,” quipped Steve Mathes '74. The Bombers overcame favored St. Francis Borgia 3–1 in the next game behind fifteen strikeouts from pitchers Chip Krause and Peter Holekamp '74. The Bombers' runs resulted from key hits by Seddon and Rick Burslem '75, and from a third-strike squeeze bunt laid down by Randy Martin '75.

In the semifinals against Nixa in Poplar Bluff, the Bombers played well but succumbed 6–3, bringing home a third-place trophy (there was no consolation game). The *Governor* praised the team's performance: “Led by all-league standouts Bill Seddon, Rick Burslem, Chris Griesedieck, and Chip Krause, the 1974 A Baseball team was the JBS sports team of the year.”

SOCCER PERSEVERES IN THE COLD

Soccer at Burroughs remained a winter sport through the 1970s, even after all schools but the ABC League and Duchesne had moved to the fall by mid-decade. Both the boys and girls of Burroughs were reluctant to make the move out of twin fears—that there would be no winter outdoor sport to replace it and that fall soccer would disrupt football and field hockey.

In state play, a single class existed for the boys until the mid-1980s, and in girls soccer there was no state tournament at all until the same time. ABC competition remained the principal focus for boys and local matchups for the girls.

Anita Drosten '72 savors memories of running in the cold and occasionally scrimmaging with the boys. Like Drosten, Cathy Woods '79 vividly recalls “playing in the snow,” a condition that ultimately helped push soccer to the fall season. Drosten characterized Katherine Hoerr as the ultimate “soccer mom” in her support for sons Louis '71 and Walker '72, in addition to the team as a whole. Small wonder that the Hoerr family led the development of the Ray Beckman Soccer Field, dedicated in the fall of 2010.

“Sugar Ray” and “Stanley Steamer”

On the boys’ side, the soccer teams of 1971–72 and 1973–74 stood out. The 1971–72 group won the ABC League and was dubbed by the *Governor* as the best soccer team in a decade. Its ABC record was 7–1–2 and its overall performance 10–5–5. The 1973–74 squad tied with Country Day for the title, but declared themselves outright league champions because Codosco refused an invitation for a runoff. They were 7–1–2 in the league and 12–5–2 overall.

1973–74 soccer

champions. First row from left: Seddon, McGinley. Second row: Lewis, Gerfen, S. Stradal, Miller, J. Martin, D. Stradal, C. Cissel, Johnstone. Third row: Adams, Kallaus, J. Hamilton, Loeb, Beisman. Fourth row: Mr. Beckman, Tichenor, Rogers, Austin, LeBert, Schaus, Hobler, Lind, Siegerist, E. Schmid, Parke, Mr. Gardner.

The players assigned credit to their coaches, beginning with Head Coach Ray Beckman. “Because of his dedication to the team,” declared the 1972 *Governor*, “this ABC League championship was dedicated to ‘Coach Ray by his fellas.’” The 1973–74 squad fell in line when the yearbook declared: “Special thanks go to head coach Sugar Ray Beckman and his assistant Stanley ‘Steamer’ Gardner for putting up with this unruly bunch for the entire season.”

Strong offensive play in the 1971–72 season was provided by John Schaus and Rick McGinley, ’74; Joe Dreyer and Craig Wilkins, ’73; and John Heidbreder, Walker Hoerr, and Bob Ansehl, ’72, according to the *Governor*. On defense, the yearbook cited Heidbreder, Jeff Elzemeyer ’72, Charlie Cissel ’74, Hoerr, Rocky Kistner ’73, Rick Tichenor ’72, and Dave “Mac” McDougal ’72.

Schaus was a leading scorer on the 1971–72 team, and he booted a stunning sixteen goals in 1973–74. Scoring in the 1973–74 season likewise came from Rick McGinley, Steve Lewis, Peter Hobler, all ’75, Earl Gerfen ’76, Shep Parke ’76, and Peter Miller ’75. Bill Seddon ’74 recorded seven shutouts as goalie in that banner year, supported defensively by Peter Hamilton ’75, Dave Stradal ’75, Jim Beisman ’76, Steve Le Bert ’74, and Cissel.



Weather-shortened seasons in the late 1970s also helped propel ABC League soccer to the fall. When the change finally came in the next decade, only the varsity moved to the fall initially; the B and C teams continued winter play, thus allowing the league to make the shift without extensive damage to the football program. Many Burroughs athletes were accustomed to playing both soccer and football; when the seasonal change came for the varsity, therefore, the individual decisions on which sport to play were trying.

TENNIS: MORE STATE SUCCESS

Although state tennis tournaments for boys had been in place for years, such play for girls did not begin until 1975. Until 1980 for the boys, and until 1986 for the girls, there

was a single class in tennis, thus making achievements by Burroughs players especially significant.

Tom Hall '78 went to state four years in a row; he played doubles in 1975 and 1976 with Jon Burst '76, and singles in 1977, finishing second to his close friend from Country Day, Mike Matheis. In 1978, Hall lost in the semifinals to Ken Flach, of later tennis acclaim, to finish fourth. That same year, the doubles team of Chris Johnstone '80 and Jay Saddler '78 also finished fourth. With these successes, the Bombers earned their first state team trophy in tennis—a fourth place.

In revisiting those years, Hall described the mentoring provided by Jon Burst, two years his senior, and the composure on the court of Jay Saddler—a model to behold. Of his semifinal loss to Ken Flach, Hall observed that his erstwhile opponent, only a freshman at the time, would later enter and win almost every major tournament in professional tennis.

The girls likewise excelled in tennis in the 1970s. They did not have state qualifiers in the decade, but both the 1975 and the 1976 teams posted stellar 9–2 records. The 1975 group defeated Mary Institute for the first time in a decade, reported the *Governor*. On the 1976 team, it noted, the “most remembered shots” were “the skillful Morrissey mash” and “the outstanding Sharp smash,” references to Mickey Morrissey '77 and Libby Sharp '77.

BOLTING OUT OF THE BLOCKS

Of all women's sports in the 1970s, track experienced the most vigorous expansion, both statewide and at Burroughs. Regional track meets across the state produced qualifiers for state meets in 1975 and 1976. There was a single class for competition in these years. In 1977 and 1978, the competition was divided into two classes, and in 1979 the modern four-class format was instituted.

With its eight-lane, all-weather track the envy of St. Louis–area schools, Burroughs, under the guidance of Coach Skippy Keefer, seized on the sport's burgeoning popularity. The school hosted the first St. Louis–area regional meet in 1974: This became the clarion call for girls track at Burroughs. The school charged to a first-place finish over Northwest High and Sumner by one and two points respectively, fueled by a number of individual performances:

- *Lauren Woods '77, first in the 880-yard run and the mile;*
- *Jane Krause '77, first in the high jump;*
- *Lee Dassler '75, second in the 440-yard dash and third in the hurdles;*
- *Libby Sharp '77, Kathy Rainey '75, Jinni Clarkson '75, and Mickey Morrissey '77, second as a team in the 880-yard relay.*



Third in state.
The relay teams of the 1980 track squad celebrate.

Pliakos '82, Michelle Pruett '82, Alison Hall '83, and Nancy Keefer '83 powered to gold, shaving thirty-nine seconds off their previous best time, and the mile relay team of Cari Jacobsen '82, Judy Avioli '81, Joanne Larimore '82, and Stella Buder '82 medaled by removing twenty-three seconds from their best.

FASTEST TACKLE IN THE ABC LEAGUE

Although the boys' track team of 1976 was the only one from the 1970s to finish in the top four in state (third place), Burroughs had qualifiers every year and throughout the decade had winners in individual events and relays. The list of individual achievements is long:

- 1971—*Rob Bearman '71, Bob Burke '71, Peter Kerth '72, and Jeff Miller '73 won the 880-yard relay in a time of 1:31:44, and Chip Gerfen '71 excelled in the sprints.*
- 1972—*Peter Kerth—encouraged by head track Coach Tom O'Keefe to run the 440—won the race in an eye-popping 0:50.2, claiming the unofficial title as the fastest tackle in the ABC League.*
- 1975—*The mile relay team of Steve Trulaske and Wes Geissal, both '75, and Evan Wykes and Earl Gerfen, '76, won with a time of 3:29.4.*

In the state meet of 1977, Burroughs finished fifth, featuring gold by Lauren Woods in the 880 with a time of 2:23.29. Holly Perry '78 ran five races, placing second in the 440 and fifth in the 220. Keefer, quoted in the *World*, emphasized the overall effort of the group, calling the team “one of the best I’ve ever had. The girls worked extremely well together and each member pushed herself hard.”

In 1978, Burroughs upped the ante by finishing third at state. This time Perry was first in the 440 in 1:02.00 and third in the 220. She was also on the 880 medley team with Antoinette Odom '79, Sally Martin '80, and Katie Grossman '78 that finished third. With masterful understatement, the *World* predicted a bright future for the track team.

In the spring of 1980, sixteen girls went to state, bringing home another third-place finish. The two-mile relay team of Cathy

- 1976—*Wykes won the mile in 4:30.5, and Jay Hershey '77 took the triple jump with a leap of 45'10.5"—a Bomber record that still stands.*
- 1979—*Phillip Nelson '79 won the 100-yard dash in 10.30.*

Other notable individual accomplishments in the decade were the first fifty-foot shot put in school history by Dan Young '79, and extraordinary multi-event performances by Earl Gerfen, who won, for example, the 100, 220, 440, and the long jump in both the ABC League meet and the district meet in 1976.

Team Success for Boys

A third-place finish at state in 1976 was the pinnacle of team success for the boys, but the Bombers were repetitive winners at the district level, capturing team gold in 1972, 1974, 1975, and 1976. Many names surfaced repeatedly in those years as standouts. Burroughs was particularly dominant at the 1976 district meet, where Gerfen won his four events; Evan Wykes won the mile; Jay Hershey took the triple jump; and Steve Duncker '76, Steve Schmid '78, Shep Parke '76, and Jay Hershey captured the 880-yard relay.

There was steady improvement through the decade at state, with the Bombers finishing ninth in 1974, fifth in 1975, and third in 1976. Part of the explanation lies with the expansion in state competition from three classes in 1973 to the present four classes in 1974. For sheer numbers of state participants, the 1975 squad stands out. The state qualifiers were:

- *John Symington '78 and Terry Rassieur '75—the two-mile relay;*
- *Wes Geissal '75—the two-mile relay, the mile relay, and the 880;*
- *Todd Schnuck '77—the high and low hurdles;*
- *Steve Trulaske '75—the 100, 880 relay, and the mile relay;*
- *Earl Gerfen '76—the 220, 440, long jump, and mile relay;*



1976: third place, state. First row from left: Larson, T. Sharp, Crancer, S. Winkelmeyer, Boyd, Schnuck, Keith, Hecker, D. Young, Wykes. Second row: Hershey, B. Alverson, Lee, Symington, Carp, P. Krause, Gerfen, Sherman, A. Huey, Gutman, Kendall, S. Duncker. Third row: Coach Moore, J. Grady, Hileman, Coach O'Keefe, Coach Carinci, J. Davidson

- *Steve Schmid '78, Shep Parke '76, and Bill Lemp '75—the 880 relay;*
- *Evan Wykes '76—the two-mile relay;*
- *Joe Sparks '77—the shot put;*
- *Bill Knight '75—the pole vault.*

As previously noted, the mile relay team won a gold medal in the 1975 state meet. Earl Gerfen finished second in the 220 and Wes Geissal second in the 880. The two-mile relay team (Geissal, Symington, Rassieur, Wykes) placed fifth.

FOOTBALL 1975: FIRST TRY, FIRST TITLE, PERFECT SEASON

Perhaps no sport was so affected by the death of Tom McConnell as football. Jim Lemen had been McConnell's assistant in the seasons of 1963–65, but when he returned to Burroughs in 1970 all of the varsity players he had coached were gone. Without McConnell, and with Lemen a relatively new face, the program was starting over.

At the same time, there was excitement in the air about the entering seventh grade—the future Class of 1976. It possessed much athletic talent and contained many legacies. Expectations were high. As the class progressed through school, promise translated into performance at each level, culminating in a perfect season and a state football championship in 1975, the first of eight to be amassed by Burroughs over the years.

Petitioning for Change

State championship playoffs in football had commenced in Missouri in the late 1960s. As a matter of school policy, however, Burroughs had exempted itself from play. This was about to change.



The seasons of 1973 (4–4–1) and 1974 (6–3) showed steady progress. As the fall of 1975 approached, a group of parents petitioned Ed Cissel to allow the varsity to test itself against the best. It worked. Thus began an exciting and successful chapter in the football history of John Burroughs School. The results of this first foray into state play would be chronicled in a three-page spread in the 1976 *Governor*; a highlight film produced by Robert Hagedorn '77, and a booklet of news clippings assembled for a season-ending banquet celebrating the first state title for the school since the basketball season of 1952–53.

The Heavy Lifting: Drey Land

The Class of 1976 was undefeated in C football, prompting Lemen to move a number of the players to varsity the next year. There they experienced what would become a tradition of the 1970s—preseason practice at Drey Land, the rural retreat named for the donor of the land to the school, Leo Drey '34.

Drey Land as the place for preseason practice dated to 1973. Lured by duty and the prospect of fishing in Sinking Creek, Coaches O'Keefe, Heath, and Moore would arrive early to mow the cow pasture that doubled as a practice field. Based on the workouts that occurred, the *Governor* of 1974 dubbed the venue “Die Land.” With humorous overreaching, it described players being jolted by morning wake-up calls to be put through cross-country runs and five torturous practices a day. Coach “Iron Man” Moore “wore many of the players’ hands to stubs with his awesome bear crawl,” it was alleged, and in a final outrage “the players were tricked into pushing their bus up hazardous hills for seventy miles so they could ride 185 more to the school.” Through it all, the players remained healthy, as demonstrated by a picture of “infamous Cabin A” with shirtless boys cavorting outside.

“Die Land” through the years

Top: 1973, infamous Cabin A, from left: Martin, Holekamp, C. Cissel, Seddon, Johnstone, E. Schmid, McGinley.

Middle: Crossing the raging river with Coach Tom O'Keefe in the lead.

Bottom: The rag-tag 1975 Bombers.



Some Necessary ABC Business

To qualify for state, the Bombers first had to deal with Country Day. They did so in a come-from-behind victory which, in the memory of all, was one for the ages. Before a record-setting crowd of 5,000, as estimated by the *Governor*, the Bombers, despite dominating the Rams in every category, were down by seven when they took over with less than five minutes remaining after a missed field goal by Country Day. Burroughs marched eighty yards, capping the drive with an eight-yard touchdown strike from Ted Levis '76 to Ted Holmes '76. Holmes captured the immeasurable emotion of the moment:

It was an honor to be a part of the State Championship team, but I must confess that after that game (Country Day), I was done. Say what you will about your wedding day, the birth of your first child, or an exceptionally good pick on the multi-state lottery. I doubt that any moment in my life will ever compare to that instant when I was the lucky guy in the right place at the right time to catch that pass.

The Bombers were now down by a point. Going for two and the win, in a day when regular-season ties were not resolved by overtime, was never in doubt—regardless of playoff implications. Coach Heath called the play: “Let’s go with what got us here, Earl off tackle.” Earl “The Pearl” Gerfen, winner of the Pop Hughes Award as the ABC League’s most valuable player, dove over for two points—and bedlam ensued.

Earl Gerfen '76 turns the corner against Pembroke in 1975.

The following Monday morning, Coach Lemen appeared before the student body in assembly where he delivered a timeless address on the significance of what had just happened.



Playoffs Bound

In the first round of the playoffs, the Bombers met East Prairie; the beginning was ominous when the opposition swept seventy-five yards to score on the first play from scrimmage. This was their last threat, however, as Burroughs ran away with a 41–9 win. Penn Krause '77 led the scoring parade with twenty-four points; Gerfen chipped in twelve.

Next were the semifinals against South Shelby, played in Hannibal in piercing cold that figures prominently in the collective memories of Todd Schnuck '77, Steve Schmid '78, and Tom Rosenfeld '77. Even powerful torpedo heaters supplied by Lou Dessert, a Burroughs parent, could not cut the cold. Schnuck told of delivering a block to spring Gerfen on a long dash, and coming to the sidelines with his helmet split by the force of the hit coupled with the temperature.

A MOMENT IN TIME

Following the dramatic, come-from-behind win against Country Day in 1975 that cleared the way for a state-title run, Jim Lemen spoke straight from the heart at a student assembly the following Monday morning. In the process, his words, reprinted in the *World*, captured the essence of athletics at John Burroughs School.

There comes a time in some peoples' lives when they experience the indescribable, where for one moment they transcend the physical into what almost amounts to the mystical. This past Saturday, I lived through such a moment as did all of you. To want something to happen so desperately, to work so hard for so long for that one moment, makes it bigger than life when it occurs; makes it an ecstasy which you recognize as a once-in-a-lifetime moment.

What made it so beautiful was the people that made it happen: all the coaches on the staff who worked so hard this year and in years past; all the players who strove for perfection; all the parents who loved their kids so much and wanted that moment for them to enjoy; all the cheerleaders, fans, students, teachers, and school employees who supported the squad with such force.

That moment began at Drey Land this summer when a collection of individuals, each for his own reason, sought to become a football player on the A team. The germ grew when the players emerged from Drey Land with a cohesiveness and respect for each other that is difficult to put into words. It grew with each passing week as each



Rams Coach Ron Holtman and Jim Lemen in post-game exchange.

individual made his own silent sacrifices for the benefit of the group. It reached its climax this past Saturday when that one body, with one single purpose wanted it to happen, believed it would happen, tried to make it happen, and succeeded in making it happen.

Regardless of what comes after this, and I hope that it is a state title, never will anyone take away from this year's A-team players the moment they so rightfully deserved. Never will anyone replace the moment where they became truly one and in that moment approached greatness in the true sense of the word.

Gerfen set the tone with a seventy-five-yard touchdown run for the first score of the game. Burroughs, notably relaxed by all accounts, led at halftime 10–9 on a late Lee Bearman '76 field goal. The teams traded touchdowns in the second half, and Burroughs hung on to defeat a tough opponent 17–15.

The championship game against Seneca was scheduled at Burroughs on Saturday after Thanksgiving, but the game was jeopardized when twelve inches of snow fell on Thanksgiving eve. Coaches O'Keefe and Lemen took turns with the snowplow, and a welcome two-day thaw left the field in good condition.

Lemen recalled Seneca as a much larger team that was able to score quickly when it had the ball, whereas Burroughs seemed to require five- to six-minute drives for its touchdowns. The game was a nail biter. Burroughs trailed 14–9 at halftime but went to the locker room with momentum from a thirty-four-yard field goal by Bearman. The second half saw five lead changes. Gerfen, showing his MVP form, scored his second touchdown of the game to put Burroughs up 15–14, and Levis ran one in from the eight to gain yet another advantage at 21–20. Seneca retaliated to go up 26–21, and with forty-five seconds remaining Levis hit specialty receiver Dave Eiseman '76 for the winning touchdown, although the game remained in doubt until a last-gasp field goal attempt by Seneca missed the mark.

The game-deciding pass play was touted by the *Globe Democrat's* Rich Koster as one of the ten most memorable sporting events of 1975. Koster had been “dragged to the game” by his nephew, Strib Koster '79, later a standout Burroughs athlete in his own right. Todd Schnuck '77, with great emotion, still reflects upon his father's post-game appearance in the locker room “with tears in his eyes.”



Ted Levis '76 goes long against Pembroke, 1975.

Breaking the huddle against Principia, 1975.



Accolades Abound

The Bombers finished their undefeated season as the *Suburban Journal's* number one team, and individual plaudits rained down. The *World* reported that a remarkable twenty-two players had landed on the All-ABC teams or received honorable mention; that six more were cited for All-District—Steve Maritz, Shep Parke, Earl Gerfen, Lee Bearman, Don Wilson, all '76, and David Boles '77—and that All-State recognition was accorded to Bearman, Gerfen, Maritz, and Boles.

As a footnote, by the end of the season Michael Dee '76 and Kurt Holekamp '76 could boast that they had played in thirty-three football games (A, B, and C levels) without suffering a loss.



The 1975 state championship football team.

1976: A NEAR REPEAT

The season of 1976 was a near repeat, with two big exceptions: The Bombers fell to Country Day, snapping a twenty-game winning streak, and they lost to Lexington in the state finals, which were again held at Burroughs and again required snow plows to prepare the field.

Many players on the 1976 squad had been starters on the championship team. The highlight of the season from the team's viewpoint was their playoff win against Brentwood. As recounted by Todd Schnuck, Burroughs established a solid ground attack in regulation time by running at will over Brentwood's best linebacker. Overtime was needed, however, to break a game-ending deadlock. An exhausted tailback, Andy Marsh '77, gathered himself to attempt a field goal after Jake Stromsdorfer '77 intercepted a third-down pass. The *Post-Dispatch* ran a riveting account:

While his teammates huddled, Marsh solemnly looked at the uprights, which seemed to glow in the late afternoon sun as they provided a backdrop for the gray winter sky. The ball was placed down on the eight and Marsh met it with this-is-just-like-an-extra-point confidence. As it sailed through the uprights, the Bombers and their fans leaped for joy while the Eagles and theirs fell limp.

Another Round of Honors

The season as a whole featured an all-out team effort, backed up by noteworthy individual efforts. The passing



Coaches O'Keefe, Moore, and Lemen celebrate another mid-decade win.

combination of strong-armed quarterback Tom Rosenfeld '77 to John Medart '78 stood out. The running backs, due to many factors such as injury, performed as a committee, with Marsh joined by Steve Schmid '78, Paul Reitz '77, John Symington '78, and Penn Krause '77.

The *Post-Dispatch* singled out the Burroughs line, including its designer footwear:

The white-shoed line looks like this: tight end David Boles, tackles Stan Martin ('79) and Jake Stromsdorfer, guards Matt Carp ('77) and Todd Schnuck and center Gino Gabianelli ('77) "They all wear white shoes except for Carp," Rosenfeld said, "Carp's two-toned. One shoe's black, one shoe's white." If the shoe fits. . . .

The team placed fourteen players on the All-ABC rosters and seven on All-District. All-State honors were bestowed on Boles, Carp, and Marsh.

RAISING THE BAR

In the wake of the 1975 and 1976 seasons, recalled Steve Schmid, the bar of expectations at Burroughs was raised to new heights. A state championship was now the coveted goal. Embracing the challenge, the squads of 1977 and 1978 came within a single game of qualifying for the playoffs. And the players of 1975 and 1976 were not soon forgotten. Mike Rosenfeld '79 remembers playing Pembroke and finding that many opposing players knew his name because of his older brother, Tom. Mike cut his own swath in the game, registering fourteen tackles on the day.

Many from the teams of 1975 and 1976 played college football. This too was motivational for the players who came after. Maritz and Boles played for Princeton; Bearman kicked for Washington University, eventually making the school's All-Century Team. Speedster Gerfen chose track over football at Stanford. Gino Gabianelli played for Dartmouth, Krause for Occidental, and Tom Rosenfeld for Colgate. From the late 1970s, Mike Rosenfeld played for Wesleyan, and Eric Porterfield '79 and Ted Doheney '80 for Yale and Cornell respectively.

Siblings in Sequence

Siblings followed one another on the gridiron in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Examples were David Boles '77 and Andy Boles '81; Steve Schmid '78 and David Schmid '82; Penn Krause '77 and Rodney Krause '81; Jim Beisman '76 and Paul Beisman '82; Gino Gabianelli '77 and David Gabianelli '83, and Shelby Pruett '80 and Jamie Pruett '83.

Some of these Bombers could hark back even to a prior generation of Burroughs athletes—their fathers, John Krause '50, Jim Beisman '51, and Shelby Pruett '50.

FLUX IN SPORTS OFFERINGS

As the 1970s progressed, some sports made an introductory appearance while others changed seasons. Some sports lasted, some disappeared, and some disappeared only to return at a later time. Basketball, meanwhile, was hampered during the decade by a lack of facilities. Sub-varsity teams often trekked to Community School to find practice space; few teams except the varsities had full-court work. The boys' team of 1975–76 was the strongest of the decade, finishing the regular season at 16–6, placing second in the league and going on to place second in the district tournament. Notable performances were turned in by Steve Duncker, Ted Levis, Tom Pittman, and Bill Hellmich, all '76, and John Grady '78.

Ice Hockey and Swimming

For two years in the early 1970s, Burroughs experimented with ice hockey. The response was enthusiastic, and some players such as Michael Drennan '73 and David Busse '74 played in college and beyond. But the sport would have to await the 1980s to acquire a permanent presence. According to the yearbook, highlights of the brief run of the Ice Bombers included a hat trick by Sid Symington '74, Captain Drennan's "fine boxing match," and sound goaltending by Busse and Peter Edison '73 that kept the scores "respectable."



Shelby Pruett '80
bypasses a Ram.

In a similar vein, swimming and diving briefly appeared as a coed sport in the winter of 1976–77. Burroughs rented swimming time at Meramec Junior College and competed as a co-educational team against other boys' teams. Thereafter, the sport was in abeyance until the 1980s and construction of the Cissel Center.

Cross-Country

In 1978, Skippy Keefer organized a cross-country team for the girls, performing double duty in the fall by overseeing this sport and field hockey. The girls were thrilled the next season when the cross-country and hockey schedules were meshed.

In boys' cross-country, state competition was divided into two classes in 1975. Steve Bianchi '79 and Les Crancer '79 qualified for state in the fall of 1978. Evan Wykes '76 and Wes Geissal '75 were other dedicated distance runners of the time, according to Steve Keith '77. Keith, another distance man who described himself as a late developer in running, forged a cross-country career at Vanderbilt and today is the head coach of the sport at the university.

Another athlete with a stellar post-Burroughs career was Tony Reed '73, a devoted marathoner who co-

“We’re from Burroughs and we couldn’t be prouder . . .”
Varsity cheerleaders, 1970–71. On ground: Basset; front row from left: Bauer, Shapleigh, McMahan; back row: Davidson, Sato, J. Yerges.



founded the National Black Marathoners Association in 2004 and proudly notes that he is the first black marathon runner to compete on every major landmass in the world, including races in Antarctica and on the Great Wall of China.

Volleyball Moves and “Lemen’s Limes” Debut

In the fall of 1979, volleyball, a popular spring sport for the girls, moved to the fall, bringing itself into line with multi-class competition at the state level, which was introduced that same season. The boys played volleyball on a recreational basis only, in the fall on an outdoor court.

In the spring sport of softball, the girls competed against strong teams from larger Catholic schools. Jim Lemen coached the sport, resulting in a catchy team name. “Jim Lemen’s Limes was lots of fun,” confirmed Bettina Wulfing ’79. “We had a great time playing softball.”

Other activities that continued apace for the girls were gymnastics and dance, both of which attracted large followings in the winter. Additionally, through the fall and winter seasons, the cheerleading squads generated fan support for the football and basketball teams, in keeping with the grand Burroughs tradition of school spirit.

1977 Lemen’s Limes. First row from left: W. Behrens, E. Imster; second row: Coach Lemen, C. Woods, T. Finch, G. Grimshaw, C. Fleming, S. Cohn; third row: S. Bristow, L. Mandel, A. Jones, L. Manchester.





1980s / Establishing State Preeminence



Burroughs established itself in the 1980s as a preeminent force in state competition with a remarkable total of nine state championships claimed in five sports, plus a host of other finishes near the top. Football led the way with three state titles and was a playoff presence almost annually. Golf won two state titles, overwhelming ABC opponents along the way, and girls' tennis captured two team titles, in addition to multiple championships in individual singles and doubles play.

Baseball won a state crown in 1985, and field hockey, strong throughout the decade, surged early with an extraordinary two-year run of 39–1, including a state championship the first year and a near miss the second. Burroughs basketball, meanwhile, staged a long-overdue resurgence—with stellar play by girls and boys—especially late in the decade.

SOCCER—THE PAINFUL CHOICE

Pressure had been mounting over time for a move by soccer from winter to fall. Other schools had made the change, and winter weather in St. Louis was always a looming problem. In 1981, the conversion came at the varsity level, although the B and C teams continued as before to preserve a winter sport offering for the underclassmen and to ensure their exposure to football in the fall. The seasonal change created a painful choice for Burroughs athletes. A number of boys who would have bolstered the cause on the gridiron made the switch, many of whom had bright football careers ahead.

Karl Hoagland '83, a soccer standout of the first two fall seasons, was one who changed over, calling it “maybe the hardest decision of my life to that point.” Hoagland cited classmates from 1983 who were great soccer players—but who chose football: Tim Toole, David Gabianelli, Terry Dee, Jamie Pruett, and Clark Thomas. There were outstanding football players from the same class who went the other way: Matt Estill, Toby Martin, Clarke Jones, Chris Hobler, Tim Philpott, Jim Probststein, and John Melson.

The 1981 team forged a three-way tie for the ABC championship, routing Lutheran South 9–0 in the league opener and downing perennial power Priory 5–2—with

Facing page:
Celebrating the 1989 state championship.
First row from left: Chris Schoenecker (only arm and finger are visible), Jeff Stern, Bill Lochmoeller (arm in sling), Andy Rogers, Rob Rogers; second row, Chip Grace (just above and to left of Andy Rogers), Ken Ikeda (face partially blocked and barely visible, to left of Rob Rogers); upper row, Sanjaya Gupta, Garth Fort, Tom Kouchoukos, Jason Lohr, Brian Schnuck (No. 42), Alex Martinson (above and to left of Schnuck).

Hoagland booting all five goals. The team thumped South County Tech 8–0 to open state play but fell 4–0 in the next round to Vianney, “perhaps the finest team in the country,” according to the *Governor*. Bombers named to the All-ABC team were Karl Hoagland, Tim Philpott, David Hoagland, Matt Estill, and John Melson (goalie), all ’83, and Brian Yager ’82.

The 1982 team was “probably the strongest soccer squad ever assembled at John Burroughs” in the judgment of the *Governor*. The Bombers won an undisputed ABC title with a league record of 9–0–1 and an overall mark of 14–4–2; they clinched the league crown “with a charismatic 2–1 comeback victory over Priory,” but fell in the opening round of state play in a matchup with powerhouse De Smet. Hoagland equaled his 1981 production of twenty-seven goals for the season, “making him not only the most prolific scorer in JBS soccer history, but also in ABC League history,” wrote the *Governor*. Shawn Anderson ’84 scored eight goals and Clarke Jones seven. Melson recorded nine shutouts in goal, and Chris Hobler and Alan Minsky ’83 led in assists with twelve each.

Honors were abundant. Those named All-ABC were Karl Hoagland, Hobler, Estill, Melson, Philpott, Minsky, Danny Plax ’84, Probststein, Martin, Carl Lee ’84, Jeff Schwartz ’84, and Scott Chapman ’84. Karl Hoagland was named second-team All-State and Melson and Estill third-team.

Soccer had other shining moments. The 1986 team went 13–9–1 “with a three-game sweep over the evil Country Day team, a win over state finalist Pembroke Hill, and a second place finish at districts, losing 4–1 to eventual 1A–3A state champion, Kennedy High School,” trumpeted the *Governor*. The offense was powered by Paul “Pele” Wright ’87 and Willie “Nigel” Hogan ’87, scoring eighteen goals each. They shared the captaincy with Chris Pruett and Teddy Metcalf, both ’87. Wright, Hogan, Metcalf, and defenseman Andy Newman ’87 were first-team All-ABC.

The 1985 team compiled a deceptive 5–16–3 record. Many of their losses were close, and the team surged in the playoffs to beat Codasco and Priory before



1982 ABC soccer champions. Kneeling from left: A. Edison, C. Hobler, C. Jones, S. Anderson, M. Estill, A. Minsky, V. Willis, N. Kopitsky; standing: Coach Beckman, D. Plax, C. Lee, T. Well, K. Hoagland, B. Gale, J. Schwartz, J. Melson, J. Probststein, S. Chapman, D. Hoagland, B. Dubinsky, D. Kimball, T. Martin, M. Behrens, C. Junkin, Coach Bascom.



Former Headmaster Ed Cissel, left, and Ray Beckman in 2008 at the Beckman Challenge, an annual alumni soccer game named for the beloved Burroughs soccer coach.

losing in the finals to Kennedy. The *Governor* gave special recognition to Wright for scoring thirty goals, “breaking the all-time record of 27 set by Karl Hoagland in 1982.” Wright and Chris Behrens ’85 were first-team All-Conference. The 1987 Bombers won only three games, but the *Governor* paid tribute to Chris Ottsen ’88, “probably the best goalie ever to play varsity soccer at JBS.”

FOOTBALL—PLAYOFF REGULARS, THREE STATE CROWNS

Burroughs got a heavy dose of state football play in the prior decade with a championship in 1975 and a trip to the finals in 1976. They wanted more, and they got it. In the 1980s, they qualified for the playoffs six times—in 1980, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1988, and 1989. They sprinkled championships through the decade—in 1980, 1985, and 1989, placed second in 1988, and made it to the semifinals in 1986. Needless to say, it was a stirring time for Bombers football.

1980 State Crown: From the Bible and Ancient Greece

After the 1979 Bombers dipped to 3–6, the call went out for a return to championship form. Many players on the 1980 team had brothers on the successful teams of 1975 and 1976. Biblical themes were invoked as motivation, including “Resurrection” emblazoned on T-shirts. Emotion reached a peak at the bonfire before the Country Day game, where the Creation Story was adapted to the rivalry with the Rams and their coach Ron Holtman. A top playoff berth rested on the outcome of the game.

The Bombers trailed 14–3 in the second half, but at the end of the third quarter Roger Mohr ’81, Alex Gorman ’83, and Don Pollnow ’81 tackled the Codasco punter on the four-yard line. David Schmid ’82 scored, and Doug Green ’81 added two points on a sweep. On their next possession, Green, operating at tailback in the single wing, surprised the Rams with an isolation play behind Doug Toole ’82, galloping fifty-five yards for the winning touchdown. (The team was in the single wing due to an injury to the T-formation quarterback, Wes Walker ’81.) The *World*, reaching for a metaphor, likened the game to the battle for Olympus: final score Athens 17, Sparta 14.

In recollections of the triumph, Green described drills in practice designed to teach backs to “high step” when crossing the goal line to avoid tacklers from behind—a technique he used on the winning score. “Of course, the JBS side of the field was bedlam,” Green related. “People were screaming and high-fiving each other. Coach Heath picked me up in a huge bear hug. After he let go of me I saw Coach Lemen with an ear-to-ear grin on his face. He looked me straight in the eye and said, ‘Nice high step.’” Cliff McKinney ’81, a transferee from Country Day, exclaimed, “It was great to beat my old teammates.” Greg Fisher ’81 submitted that the win “made our senior year.”



1980 state champions. First row from left: Gentry Sayad, Charley Wallace, Andy Boles, Greg Avioli, Curt Wolf, Jeremy Goell, David Katzman, Tom Fausek; second row: Coach Jim Lemen, Mike Hampton, Matt Philpott, Todd Gilmore, Jim Koman, Paul Beisman, Wes Walker, Mark McNary, Doug Toole, Tim Toole, Tom Costen, Rob Lucier, Coach Tom O’Keefe; third row: Steve LaPlant, Jeff Raymond, John Lebens, Pax Krause, Rodney Krause, Don Pollnow, Peter Bunge, Philip Tombaugh, David Gabianelli, Roger Mohr, Doug Green, David Schmid, Coach Dick Heath; fourth row: Charley Meyer, Bill Hizar, Greg Fisher, Cliff McKinney, Alex Gorman, Mike Wolff, Jamie Pruett, James Fielder, Brian Vaughn, Greg Lyss, Landon Pate.

In their playoff opener the Bombers overcame Valle of Ste. Genevieve, the toughest of their three preliminary foes; they downed Tipton despite playing without their two leading rushers, and they overcame Knox County by their widest play-off margin, 28–6. They met Lexington in the finals on AstroTurf at Busch Stadium. The Bombers worried about the right footwear for the artificial surface, about rug burns, and about maximizing their speed. They jumped out to a 6–0 first-half lead on an eighty-yard drive; the point after was blocked. The Bombers drove to the Lexington six in the fourth quarter, but the Minutemen intercepted a pass in the end zone and returned it 101 yards for a 6–6 tie.

Overtime was not then in use for a championship game, so the Bombers had to settle for co-champions. The *Post-Dispatch* sought reaction from Wes Walker and Rodney Krause ’81. “That’s a long way to come and end up tied,” Walker responded. Krause took the other approach: “That’s a long way to come and end up a loser.” Krause and Mark McNary ’81 today can

say that “the initial disappointment of tying in the finals has faded away over the years and been replaced by an appreciation of the experience.”

According to Rich Corno in the *Post-Dispatch*, “Linemen Andy Boles ('81), Rodney Krause, Mike Wolf ('83), and Greg Fisher seldom were beaten off the snap, and put hard hits on all three fine Lexington backs. Linebackers Rob Lucier ('82), Mark McNary, Doug Toole, Roger Mohr, Charley Wallace ('81), and Cliff McKinney showed excellent pursuit and backs Jim Koman ('82), Doug Green, Greg Avioli ('82), and Paul Beisman ('82) came up nicely on the corners and permitted just one pass completion in four attempts for 14 yards.”

Of the great struggle waged with his teammates, Fisher observed: “It was like we were at war together.” In the post-season, seventeen Bombers were named to the All-ABC teams, six were All-District, and two gained the wider recognition of All-Metro. Boles, Avioli, and Green were All-State, and Green was co-recipient of the Pop Hughes Award as MVP of the ABC League.

For the season, Green rushed for 987 yards, Avioli caught 28 passes for 624 yards, and Walker threw for 1,090 yards with a completion rate of 44 percent. Avioli credits the team’s success to intense preseason workouts at Drey Land in the Ozarks, noting that Burroughs was “better drilled than the teams we faced.” Krause stressed the importance of the “seniors coming together over the summer and committing to a successful season.”

The 1981 Qualifiers

The 1981 Bombers were 7–2 for the season, losing their first two league games to strong Lutheran South and North teams but gaining necessary victories over Principia, Priory, and Country Day to reach the playoffs. The Bombers earned bragging rights by blasting a strong Country Day eleven 21–0. In the words of the *World*, the offensive line of Mike Wolff '83, Todd Gilmore '82, Steve LaPlant '82, David Kennebeck '82, Scott Lemen '84, and Pax Krause '82 “blew the wilting daisies off the line of scrimmage.” Burroughs met a big Valle of Ste. Genevieve again in the first round and fell 14–6 to the eventual state champions.

Lutheran North featured an extraordinary team with two future professional players, Bobby Joe Edmonds and Thomas Rooks, as well as a future Division I player, Tony Buford. It took this talent and more, however, for the Lancers to defeat the Bombers 14–0 on a wet day. The game was the occasion for a thundering tackle by Jamie Pruett '83: “I knocked over the center, split the double team, and had a huge collision with Rooks,” Pruett noted. He stopped Rooks in his tracks.

At season’s end eighteen players received All-ABC recognition. Greg Avioli, Paul Beisman, David Gabianelli '83, Todd Gilmore, Jim Koman, Phil Tombaugh '82, Doug Toole, and Mike Wolff were chosen All-District, and Koman and Gilmore were named All-State.



1985 state champions. First row from left: M. Shanley, B. Bohlmann, B. Medoff, B. Keys, B. Longstreet, J. McClellan, J. Simpson, N. Medoff, W. Chapman, J. Rowe; second row: F. Charles, J. Oldham, F. Gafford, K. Jacob, G. Mefford, B. Vaughn, K. Mills, D. Goldman, R. Hibbard, B. Lemen, M. Grossi; third row: M. McDonald (manager), R. Hamilton, N. Maune, D. Mill, C. Schaper, T. Stern, T. Plax, W. Rava, D. Prather, B. Dubinsky, S. Lochmoeller, J. Mann (manager); back row: Coach Lemen, Coach O'Keefe, S. Wilkin, G. Walter, C. Jones, R. Brightman, B. McNeil, Coach Heath, K. Berg (manager), M. McGarity (manager).

1985—Keys to the State

For three years the Bombers did not see post-season play—1982 (6–3), 1983 (3–6), and 1984 (7–2). The 1984 team, however, pummeled a heavily favored Country Day 33–11 with a powerful running game stoked by Bryan Keys '86. A controversial photograph showed the victors in a post-game celebration at the Rams' Spirit Board (a poster wall used in pep rallies); the Bombers liked the pose, but their erstwhile opponents were not amused.

Burroughs tied for the ABC crown but was snubbed by a complicated playoff system; they were handicapped by assignment this year to Class 3A instead of 2A. (Playoff categories varied based in part on shifting enrollment.) In addition to thrashing Country Day, the Bombers beat Lutheran North 6–0; both of these teams qualified for state.

In the fall of 1985, the Bombers ended the regular season with a 5–4 record but qualified for the state playoffs. Seven opponents in the season had winning records, and the other two broke even. Three of the team's opponents also qualified for state, and two of them, Country Day and Pembroke, reached the finals of 3A (with CDS capturing the crown). The Bombers, meanwhile, marched unimpeded to a championship in 2A.

Burroughs fell to Country Day and its future Army star Mike Mayweather despite battering the Rams through most of the afternoon; the Rams struck on four big plays for a 25–20 win. The Bombers caught fire in the playoffs, overwhelming four

highly rated teams by a combined score of 99–8. They beat Perryville St. Vincent, undefeated and ranked first in the state, 20–0 and downed California 28–0. Keys slogged through the mud in each game—for three touchdowns in each. In the semifinals against 12–0 Marceline, who had given up only twelve points for the season, Burroughs won 16–0 with scoring that included a Fran Charles '86 touchdown and a Bob Dubinsky '86 safety.

On a cold, misty night at Busch Stadium, the Bombers were tentative early but soared in the second half to smother Plattsburg 35–8. Keys tied the Show-Me Bowl record for touchdowns (three) and broke the record for carries (thirty-six). He rushed 345 times in the season for 1,789 yards, 23 touchdowns, and 142 points—always crediting his linemen. As Rich Corno of the *Suburban Journal* wrote: “So this one’s for Bruce McNeill ('86), Bob Bohlmann ('87), Ben Medoff ('86), Russell Brightman ('86), and Willie Rava ('87), the Slaughterhouse Five at John Burroughs who do all that dirty work that makes Bryan Keys, Rob Hibbard ('86), and Brad Lemen ('87) look so good.”

The defense shined under Coach Tom O’Keefe, especially in the playoffs. Seven defenders received All-League mention; All-State went to Keys, Neil Maune '86, Charles, Scott Wilkin '86, Hibbard, and Trip Stern '87. Keys, Stern, and Hibbard were All-Metro, and Keys was MVP of the ABC League. He, Hibbard, and Coach Jim Lemen were selected for the Lions All-Star game in July, where Keys emerged as the outstanding player. The parade of honors for the Burroughs back foreshadowed the record-setting career that lay ahead at the University of Pennsylvania.

1986—Domination Short of a Crown

The 1986 team finished 10–2 in one of the finest team efforts of the decade. The Bombers scored 315 points in 12 games, recorded six shutouts, and allowed a mere 80 points. Defensive stalwarts noted in the accounts included Charlie Schaper '87, Darcy Prather '87, David Mill '87, Jim Woods '88, Tyler Cassity '88, Kirk Mills '87, and Trip Stern.





1988 state runners-up. First row from left: Vance Wiese, Mark Junkin, Jeremy Deutsch, Jon Simmons, Andy Kerckhoff, Chip Gerfen, Jim Conzelman; second row: Andrew Heitner, Jim Wilson, Doug Bryant, Jon Hamm, Alex Marshall, Victor Williams, Alex Gafford; third row: Chip Grace, Steve Williamson, Bob Cranston, Ryan Lurie, Andy Rogers, Sandy Schenck, Bill Lochmoeller; fourth row: Brian Schnuck, Tom Kouchoukos, Jim Shanfeld, Ahad Sabet, Andy Wilson, David Shyres, Bryan Turken, Jim Edwards; fifth row: Chip Walther, Brandon Williams, Jeff Stern, Tom Danis, Chris Schoenecker, Alex Martinson, John Schaper, Scott Small; sixth row: Coach Todd Small, Coach Jim Lemen, Coach Tom O'Keefe.

The Bombers were undefeated in league play except for a 28–19 loss to Country Day in the final game of the regular season. In the playoffs, they beat Scott City 27–0 at Webster Groves and School of the Osage, played in the Ozarks, 46–7. Down in the semifinals 10–0 to Louisiana, Burroughs, led on offense by Melvin Gaylord '88 and Brad Lemen, and on defense by Schaper and Mike Lurie '88, stormed back to 12–10 before finally bowing 16–12 to the eventual 2A champions.

Country Day was undefeated and won the 3A title, so the Bombers could at least say they lost only to the best. The offensive line of Bob Bohlmann '87, Glen Walter '87, Rich Hamilton '88, Nate Medoff '87, Willie Rava '87, David Lemkemeier '88, Doug Bryant '89, and Greg Mefford '87 enabled Britt Vaughn '87 and Gaylord to combine for 1,559 yards rushing and 24 touchdowns for 146 points, while Brad Lemen threw for 826 yards and gained rushing yards on the option play.

1988—New Rules, Nearly a Title

The Bombers missed the playoffs in 1987, but beginning in 1988 they reached the finals in state play four times and the semifinals once in the next five years. Effective in 1988, qualifying for the playoffs changed from a point system to the modern head-to-head competition; the state association chose playoff opponents in each district for the last three weeks of the regular season. Accordingly, the JBS-CDS game was in the middle of the season.

The Bombers were 4–2 in 1988 going into the first of their district games. After defeating Orchard Farm, Principia, and Cardinal Ritter at the district level, the team made short work of California (35–0), Brentwood (see “A Flair for the Dramatic”), and Warsaw (sixth shutout of the season) before meeting old foe Lexington for the third time in a championship game. Playing

at what is now Missouri State University in Springfield, the Bombers lost 17–14 after spotting the Minutemen fourteen points in the first quarter and waging a fierce comeback in the fourth. Nevertheless, the 10–3 Bombers received widespread plaudits in the St. Louis and statewide press (see “On Display: Sportsmanship and Teamwork”).

Seniors led the 1988 team: On offense, quarterback Andy Kerckhoff ran the option, gaining 1,032 yards, while Victor Williams led the running backs with 622 yards. On the offensive line, seniors Jon Simmons, Jim Wilson, Jeremy Deutsch, and Doug Bryant were a solid front; defensively, a core of seniors led the way to six shutouts: They were Mark Junkin, Jon Hamm, Vance Weise, Jim Wilson, and Chris Gerfen.

1989—Closing the Decade on Top

The 1989 team, taking its cue from the previous season, was a cohesive group that drew on inner strength and often ingenuity in crowning the decade with a final state championship. Entering district play, the Bombers were 3–3, but two of the losses were to Valle of Ste. Genevieve and Lutheran North—both of whom became state champions in their own playoff categories. From that point forward, the Bombers were undefeated and captured their fourth state crown by defeating the Putnam County Midgets 17–6.

A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC

Jon Hamm '89 has earned wide acclaim for his award-winning portrayal of dapper Don Draper in television's *Mad Men*. In a prior life, however, he played feature roles at Burroughs in baseball and as a rugged linebacker on the highly successful 1988 football team.

On the field, he was already demonstrating a flair for the dramatic. In the 1988 football season, the Bombers were on yet another post-season tear and were 8–2 as they met Brentwood in the sectional game of the state playoffs. The setting was perfect. The floodlights were bright for the night game at neutral Parkway North High, and Burroughs had a comfortable fourth-quarter lead. Enter Hamm, with a dashing interception of an Eagles pass and a fifty-yard runback for a score, appearing to apply thick icing to the game cake. In a burst of enthusiasm, he delivered a monster spike of the ball into the end-zone turf—causing penalty flags to fly.



Trotting to the sideline, the future thespian greeted a chagrined Coach Lemen, who demanded to know what prompted the display. The response, delivered with poise, was irrefutable: “Coach (Jim) Hoots said if I ever made an interception and ran it back for a touchdown I could spike it.”

Sometimes dramatic flourishes come at a price. The play, unfortunately, was nullified by a clip, so the ball was brought back to the point of the infraction, where a fifteen-yard penalty was walked off against the Bombers. Adding to the woe, however, another fifteen yards were tacked on for the spike, forcing Burroughs to resume play some fifteen yards behind the site of Hamm's daring initial interception. Despite the penalties, Burroughs won the game and moved on to the semifinals of state play.



1989 state champions. First row from left: Jim Shanfeld, Bill Lochmoeller, Bob Cranston, Jason Lohr, Brian Kim, Eddie Williamson, Andy Rogers, Garth Fort, Tyler Dunaway; second row: Ahad Sabet, Chip Grace, Rob Rogers, Ken Baker, Darren Washington, David Shyres, Bryan Turken, Andy Wilson; third row: Tom Kouchoukos, Brian Schnuck, Tom Bryant, Mylin Johnson, Scott Wright, Jim Edwards, Chris Schoenecker, Tom Danis, Jeff Stern; fourth row: Ken Ikeda, Damon Goode, Cole Thompson, Alex Martinson, John Schaper, Sanjaya Gupta, Mike Brown, Matt Struckhoff, Brennan Mulligan; fifth row: Coach Tom O’Keefe, Coach Todd Small, Coach Jim Lemen, Coach Scott Cornwell.

The game-by-game accounts in the 1990 *Governor* underscored the contributions made by players from various classes to the team effort. For example, Rob Rogers ’92 had twelve solo tackles in a 42–0 pounding of Maplewood; Bill Lochmoeller ’90, Bob Cranston ’90, and Andy Rogers ’90 became “bone brothers” early in the season; an end zone interception by Tom Danis ’90 sealed a 6–0 win over Priory; a pitch from senior quarterback Jim Edwards ’90 to Cranston produced the Bombers’ score in the 12–7 loss to Country Day.

In a 28–0 romp over Orchard Farm in the first district game, the *Governor* continued, sophomore Mylin Johnson ’92 had three interceptions, juniors Eddie Williamson ’91 and Tyler Dunaway ’91 displayed “heavy hitting,” and junior Damon Goode ’91 threw for one touchdown and ran for another. Chris Schoenecker ’90 and Bryan Turken ’90 were strong on defense in a win over California, 14–6, while Cranston galloped for 198 yards and two touchdowns.

The *Governor* complimented the offensive line of John Schaper ’90, Tom Bryant ’91, Turken, Chip Grace ’90, Andy Wilson ’91, and Jim Shanfeld ’90 for their domination of Warsaw in the 35–7 semifinal victory. In the title win against Putnam County, the *Governor* reported, Burroughs struck first with a field goal but later was handicapped when Bill Lochmoeller separated his shoulder running a twelve-yard touchdown from the single wing; in the second half Bob Cranston took repeated handoffs from Jim Edwards for 177 rushing yards and an insurance touchdown.

Post-season honors poured in. Fourteen Bombers were named to the All-ABC teams; four were All-District, and three were named to the wider All-Metro roster. Lochmoeller, Turken, and Grace were named first-team All-State, and Jeff Stern ’90 and Rob Rogers second-team.

ON DISPLAY: SPORTSMANSHIP AND TEAMWORK

Rising to the pinnacle of the state football playoffs and falling short of a crown in the closing minutes can produce a range of negative emotions—frustration, bitterness, despair. Yet the Burroughs Bombers, in their 1988 loss to Lexington 17–14 after a valiant comeback, proved themselves to be victors in the truest sense—graceful in the face of defeat, knowing they had given their very best on the field.

There was no doubt about the effort expended in Springfield. According to the *World*, “they (the Bombers) made the front pages of the Sedalia, Springfield and St. Louis newspapers, often winning the praises of sports writers that included adjectives describing the team as ‘relentless,’ ‘classy,’ and above all ‘determined.’” Andy Kerckhoff ’89, the quarterback, described the gallant behavior of Burroughs as they watched the victory celebration on the field:

We came up short, but we had nothing to be ashamed of. We stood and applauded the Lexington Minutemen for defeating us, but in our hearts we knew that on another day, we could have hoisted the championship trophy.

That was not all. There was a sense of shared sacrifice and effort by the boys of 1988 that was not lost on the student newspaper. “Above all, the attitude of this team helped it go as far as it did,” wrote the *World*. “From day one no player considered himself more important than any other, and the seniors on this team decided they would treat the juniors (and the lowly sophomores) as equals.” It was a lesson well-learned by the underclassmen, one that would boost the fortunes of succeeding teams.

“Teammates for Life” – The True Meaning

The championship run generated many enduring memories for the team, such as preparing to play for the title on artificial turf in Columbia by practicing at Busch Stadium, or deepening personal ties by spending a post-Thanksgiving day and night together awaiting the game. The bonds created were best captured by the words of Jim Edwards—which describe not only the season but Burroughs sports in general:

There is one memory that stands out most when I think of Bomber athletics. It is a memory that has nothing to do with a scoreboard, an opponent or a particular game. The memory is that of looking around the huddle at my teammates; remembering every face, every player and every friend. At the time, it did not seem unusual that we were all friends, as well as teammates. However, as I look back on my days wearing the blue and gold, what has proven to be unique and most enjoyable is that the friendships made on the JBS field last a lifetime.

GOLF—A CONSISTENT STATE PRESENCE

The 1980s was the decade of the Bombers in golf. They were utterly dominant in the ABC League, winning five league titles from 1980 to 1984 and compiling a forty-two-match winning streak along the way. They tacked on two more league crowns in 1987 and 1988.

Burroughs excelled in state tournaments as well. In the spring of 1980, MSHSAA divided schools into two classes for state play; between 1986 and 1996 they expanded it to three classes.



Top: **1982 state champions.** From left: Tom Friedman, Steve Schengber, Clarke Jones, Jay Williamson, Coach Dennis Moore.

Bottom: **1990 state champions.** From left: Chad Crystal, Mike Todorovich, Mike Brown, Andy Rogers, Coach Dennis Moore, Bob Cranston.

The Bombers sent teams to state every year but two—1981 and 1985. They won the school’s first state championship in 1982, placed second in 1983, third in 1986, and won their second state crown in 1990. Medals were given to boys who finished in the top fifteen of the state tournament. Those players were as follows:

<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>
1982	Steve Schengber '82	5
	Jay Williamson '85	7
	Clarke Jones '83	13
1983	Toby Martin '83	8
1984	Andy Ries '84	8
1986	Rob Kouchoukos '88	5
1988	Bill Moore '88	6
	Bob Cranston '90	8
1989	Bob Cranston	8
1990	Andy Rogers '90	8
	Bob Cranston	9

First Run to Gold

Steve Schengber, Tom Friedman '83, Clarke Jones, and Jay Williamson went to state in 1982. Their two-day total of 644 placed them first by four strokes. In the words of the *World*:

A rousing second-day comeback sparked by freshman Jay Williamson and junior Tom Friedman helped Burroughs move from third place to first place. Steve Schengber and Clarke Jones played two days of consistently good golf to help pace the stokers.

In 1983, Burroughs was undefeated in ABC play for the third year in a row and beat MICDS for the district title. Friedman, Jones, and Williamson returned to the state tournament with Toby Martin. Martin was the team medalist. The squad shot the same score as in 1982, but Helias posted a 636 to leave the Bombers tied for second with Kirksville and Nevada.

Reflecting on his four years of golf at Burroughs, Jones said, “Athletics were a big focus for the class of '83.” Addressing his relationship with Charley Wallace '81 and Steve Knight '81, who helped him with his game, he called it “a big deal to be accepted by the older kids

in athletics.” Speaking of his relationship with Williamson, whom he remembers as a superb athlete, he noted that it was just as important “to pass it on when you were the older kid.”

Finishing with a Flourish

After an absence of three years from the final four, Burroughs returned in 1986 to capture a third-place trophy. Rob Kouchoukos, David Mill '87, Bill Moore, Russell Brightman '86, and Harry Orchard '87, constituting the top five golfers, shot a two-day combined score of 640.

The Bombers won their second state championship in 1990. In district play, freshman Mike Todorovich '93, Mike Brown '92, Bob Cranston, and Andy Rogers won the title and were named to the All-District team. At state, in a rain-shortened tournament, the Bombers shot a 306, good for first place. Chad Crystal '93 replaced Vincent Georges '91, who was injured. Cranston and Rogers concluded their four-year run on the golf team as medal winners; for Cranston, it was his third medal in state competition.

TENNIS—GIRLS AND BOYS EXCEL

The present format for state tennis competition was adopted by MSHSAA beginning in 1987–88. The new system called for a state tournament for individual singles and doubles play, and a second tournament for team play; advancement to the state tournament in both was to be based on performance in district competition. Previously, a team’s ultimate finish at state was based purely on success in the individual singles and doubles tournament.

1988 tennis state champions. First row from left: Carolyn Strassner, Blair Strassner; second row: Coach Ian Frederick, Megan Kopman, Becky Irwin, Sarah Melson, Siri Eklund, Coach Leslie Kehr.





Leading the way.
Sarah Melson '89 and Megan Kopman '90.

Ian Frederick became the boys' tennis coach in 1981; by 1986 he oversaw the girls as well. Girls competed in the fall, boys in the spring. Although the boys did not finish in the top four in team play in the 1980s, they excelled in the individual tournaments. The girls experienced major success beginning in 1986, culminating in state titles both in individual and team play in 1988 and 1989.

In 1984 and 1985 the boys won the ABC League for the first time since a three-year run in the mid-1960s. They compiled records of 11–2 and 10–5 respectively in the two years. In 1984, Jason Mudd '87 and Shawn Anderson '84 placed third in the state doubles tournament, and Mudd was second in singles the following year. In a strong finish to the decade, Tom Kouchoukos '90 and Andy Sharon '89 finished third in doubles in the state tournament of 1988.

1989 tennis state champions. From left: Theresa Jones, Tiffany Frimel, Blair Strassner, Megan Kopman, Becky Irwin, Liz Longstreet (standing), Siri Eklund, Carolyn Strassner, and Coach Leslie Kehr.



Team Trophies for the Girls

In girls' competition, meanwhile, Sarah Melson '89 and Megan Kopman '90 won the state doubles championship in 1986. On the strength of this performance, and that of Alice Cohen '87 and Terry Weinstock '90 in singles, and Kelly Loeb '87 and Gina Doisy '88 in second doubles, Burroughs claimed a second-place team trophy in the final year of the old format.

Under the new system in the fall of 1987, Melson and Kopman continued their strong individual play with a second place in doubles. By 1988 and 1989, however, Burroughs as a team had arrived with back-to-back state championships. The 1988 team of Melson, Kopman, Becky Irwin '90, Siri Eklund '92, Blair Strassner '90, and Carolyn Strassner '91 defeated Pembroke 5–2 for first place. In the state tournament highlighting individual performance, Melson and Kopman placed first in doubles for the second time, and Blair Strassner finished third in singles.

In 1989, with Tiffany Frimel '92 replacing Melson, who was lost to graduation, Burroughs again overcame Pembroke for the team championship. In the state singles tournament, meanwhile, Blair Strassner finished first; in doubles, Siri Eklund and Megan Kopman won the championship, and Carolyn Strassner with Tiffany Frimel finished second. (The same year, Mary Ellen Strassner, the third of the Strassner sisters and a student at Ladue High, won the singles championship in the state tournament for large schools, making it a big year for the Strassner family, including Leigh Strassner '53, the father of the girls and a Burroughs tennis standout in the early 1950s.)

TRACK MEDALS IN ABUNDANCE

Coach Skippy Keefer for the girls and Greg MacIntosh for the boys guided Bomber track in Class 2A to eminent success in the 1980s. The girls finished in the top four in state competition in 1984 and 1985, and the boys made it four times. In doing so, Burroughs athletes won an array of gold medals—individually and in relay events.

A Heroic Finish in 1981

In 1981, the same girls who had won the 1980 two-mile relay (Cathy Pliakos '82, Michelle Pruett '82, Alison Hall '83, Nancy Keefer '83) made the shift to the metric system to win the 4 × 800 relay at state and claimed a new state record. The team won the event in a riveting come-from-behind finish. Pliakos, who ran the first leg, recalls “watching our team methodically pass one girl after another until Nancy (Keefer) sprinted to the finish in first place, and we had won the state title.” Dave Dorr of the *Post-Dispatch* was duly impressed: “Keefer crossed the finish line a step and half ahead in as stirring and as gutsy a piece of running as anybody at Burroughs has ever turned in at the state meet.” The experience remains vivid for Keefer: “I still get butterflies at a track meet whenever I hear the final call for the 4 × 800 relay,” she confessed.



Two-time state champs. From left: Michelle Pruett '82, Alison Hall '83, Cathy Pliakos '82, and Nancy Keefer '83.

As a team, the girls of 1981 claimed victory at the Brentwood Invitational (second year in a row) and placed first at the district level, amassing 129 points to 79 for the second-place finishers and qualifying 17 performers for the state meet, where they scored 25 points for eighth place. In 1982, Burroughs moved up to fifth place at state. This year, the famous 4 × 800-relay team, with Laura Gartland '85 running in place of Alison Hall, placed third.

Two Gold Medals, 1982

Cari Jacobsen '82 contributed to the fifth-place showing in 1982 by winning the 400-meter dash in a photo finish—with .09 seconds separating first and second and .02 seconds between second and third. She had qualified for the 440-yard dash in

1979 and was winning the race when she was eliminated for a lane crossing. In 1980, Jacobsen qualified again, and in 1981 she captured the bronze medal. Her gold-medal finish in 1982 crowned a remarkable career.

Individual gold in 1982 was earned for the boys when Philip Tombaugh '82, an athlete of football note, won the shot put with a heave of 51'02", thereby bringing back memories of Dan Young '79, who had broken the fifty-foot barrier in the prior decade.

1984–85: Strong Team Finishes, Girls and Boys

The girls tied for fourth in state with Willow Springs in 1984, missing third place by only three points. They were strong in the relays, winning the 4 × 100, the 4 × 200, and the 4 × 400. Speedster Ellen Bakken '84 anchored all three races and finished sixth in the 300-meter hurdles. She was joined by Jennie Baker '86, Lisa Oldham '87, and Helen Douthit '84 in the 4 × 100; Baker, Shireen Khan '85, and Marena Gatewood '85 in the 4 × 200; and Laura Gartland, Gatewood, and Baker in the 4 × 400.

The Bomberettes, as they were frequently known in the *World* and the *Governor*, placed fourth again in 1985 in a three-way tie with Centralia and Monroe City, fueled once more by their relay teams, which won four gold medals. The races, and the winning teams, were the 4 × 400-meter—Kahn, Gartland, Baker, and Gatewood; the 4 × 100—Caroline Kraus '85, Baker, Michael Willis '87, and Oldham; the 4 × 200—Khan, Baker, Gatewood, and Oldham; and the 4 × 800—Gartland, Katie Hizar '86, Beth Dunaway '86, and Ann French '85.

The boys, meanwhile, tied for second in 1984 with Palmyra. They were powered by Brian Small '85, who took first in the 100 and 200; Kris Keys '85, third in the 100; and Scott Chapman '84, seventh in the 300-meter hurdles. Lee Newman '85 joined Small, Chapman, and Keys to capture a silver medal in the 4 × 200 relay. In 1985 the boys tied with Hayti for runner-up, finishing a single point behind the gold medalist Cardinal Ritter. Small won the 100 meters in record time and also captured the 200. Keys placed second in the 100. Small and Keys teamed with Britt Vaughn '87 and Melvin Gaylord '88 to win the 4 × 100 relay, and with Vaughn and Newman to claim the 4 × 200.

Burroughs set a state record in the 4 × 100 and a school record in the 4 × 200. By the close of his career, Small, who became a *Post-Dispatch* Scholar Athlete, had won six gold medals in track. In a review of the 1985 season, *The Governor* reported that “Andy Newman ('87), the rookie phenom of the 1984 track Bombers, turned in sensational mile times all year but was edged out of the state meet by one man.”



From left: Brian Small and Kris Keys, both '85, exchange the baton.

1987–88: More Success for the Boys

The boys finished third in state in 1987, and in 1988 they won the ABC and district meets and placed fourth behind Lutheran North in state. Strong performances both years came from many of the same athletes. Chris Riley '88 won the 200 and finished second in the 400 at state in 1987 while finishing third in the 200 in 1988. Riley was part of the 4 × 400 relay team (Riley, Andy Newman, Mark Junkin '89, James Grove '88) that qualified for state in 1987, and the 4 × 200 relay (Riley, Andy Kerckhoff '89, Melvin Gaylord, Chris Gerfen '89) that placed fourth in state in 1988—despite a dropped baton—and set a school record in the district meet.

Brad Penniston '87 helped the Bomber cause in 1987 with sixth place in the 300-meter hurdles. Rich Hamilton '88 finished third in the shot and second in the discus the same year. In 1988, Hamilton set Burroughs records in the shot and the discus in winning gold medals in state in both events.

Worth the Risk

Many Burroughs alumni, such as Lisa Oldham, praise the school for encouraging every athlete to reach his or her full potential. Two graduates—Ellen Bakken and Andy Kerckhoff—submit that Burroughs also taught the value of taking risks, even if they led to unsuccessful results. Speaking of her inability to win a state title in the 300 hurdles, despite her success in the relays, Bakken wrote:

Ask me now what I remember about JBS athletics and it's not the awards or the trophies, it's the challenge of, in my case, that uncertain race that taught me to take a risk. Thank you JBS for giving me the opportunity to compete, even when it was no sure thing.

Similarly, Andy Kerckhoff described how the 4 × 200 relay team took the risk of stretching their handoffs in an effort to maximize their performance—and possibly set a state record—in 1988. The team had won at the district level, but in the state meet they dropped the baton on the handoff from Kerckhoff to Melvin Gaylord, thereby placing fourth. “To this day I do not regret it,” Kerckhoff declared. “It was worth the risk. So my experiences playing football, basketball, and running track at JBS taught me how to win and lose with honor. I hope my son learns the same lesson in his youth, for it is a gift that makes life richer.”

BASEBALL'S FIRST STATE TITLE

Burroughs baseball made a huge comeback in the 1980s and into 1990 under Head Coach Dick Heath through 1986, with Jim Lemen as assistant, and Lemen as head coach thereafter. The Bombers won three ABC League titles (1982, 1985, 1990) and four district crowns (1985, 1987, 1989, 1990). They reached the quarterfinals of the state tournament twice (1987, 1989), finished fourth once (1990), and won the state championship in 1985.

The decade was filled with big moments. The 1981 team defeated Country Day four times and potent Lutheran South for the first time in seven years. The 1982 Bombers won the ABC League for the first time in fifteen years; in 1983 they won the ABC League Tournament and defeated big-school powerhouses Ladue, Parkway South, and Chaminade. The 1987 team posted a hefty team batting average of .359.

Common to all teams was a blend of classes and a number of players who competed in summer baseball. At least nine players started as freshmen and many more as sophomores; widespread summer play established a pattern for younger players. Many Bombers—Karl Hoagland '83, Matt Estill '83, Scott Lemen '84, Jay Williamson '85, Mike Ottsen '84, Andy Katzman '85, Greg Mefford '87, Brad Ulrich '91, and Cole Thompson '91—went on to college baseball.



1985 state champions.

First row from left: Andrew Birge, Greg Mefford, Trip Stern, Corey Jones, David Kimball, Michael Pruett, John McRoberts, John Helmkampf, John Carpenter, Rob Hibbard; second row: Coach Dick Heath, Mike Shanley, Randall Pass, Bryan Keys, Kirk Mills, Bill Longstreet, Brad Lemen, Jay Williamson, Mike Millner, Andy Katzman, Coach Jim Lemen.

The 1985 Champions

The 1985 state champions rang up a lofty 19–4 record. Catcher Jay Williamson was All-Metro, hitting .521 with 7 home runs and 34 RBIs. His most important home run came in the playoffs in what loomed as a pitching duel with Winfield. The opposing pitcher made the mistake (against his coach's wishes) of throwing a fastball, which Williamson belted over the fence, contributing to a 6–1 Burroughs win.

In the district finals, Greg Mefford drove in Andy Katzman with a single in the bottom of the seventh inning for a 6–5 win over Brentwood. Once at the state tournament, pitchers Rob Hibbard '86 and Katzman took over. Katzman pitched the last two innings of the semifinals in relief and also hit a triple to lead the Bombers to a 7–3 win over Pembroke. In the finals, Katzman was on the mound again, limiting Licking to two hits and two runs as the Bombers won their first state championship 4–2.

Talent of the Later Years

Although the teams of 1987 and 1989 lost in the quarterfinals of state play, they were loaded with talent. The 1987 team was led by Mefford with a batting average of .569. Brad Lemen '87 and Nate Medoff '87 batted over .400. Medoff led the team in RBIs with thirty-four, but Trip Stern '87, Bill Lochmoeller '90, Mike Lurie '88, Lemen, and Mefford drove in more than twenty runs each.



1990 baseball team. First row from left: Jim Edwards, Chris Schoenecker, Bill Lochmoeller, Steve Williamson, Mike Scafati, Bryan Turken; second row: Coach Jim Lemen, Will Birge, Josh Levey, Jason Lohr, Damon Goode, Tyler Dunaway, Peter Engelsmann, Scott Wright, Cole Thompson, Chip Walther, Andy Wilson, Jason Goode, Brad Ulrich, Jon Schoenecker, Coach Andy Katzman.

1990 team in pregame ceremonies, state playoffs. From left: Bryan Turken, Damon Goode, Chris Schoenecker, Cole Thompson, Andy Wilson, Bill Lochmoeller, Steve Williamson, Chip Walther, Scott Wright.



In 1989, Steve Williamson '90, Jon Hamm '89, and Andy Wilson '91 batted over .400, while Lochmoeller, Jon Simmons '89, Brian Turken '90, and Scott Wright '91 hit over .300. The pitchers of the future—Cole Thompson '91, Damon Goode '91, and Jim Edwards '90—were introduced to varsity baseball.

The 1990 team, fourth in state, was 20–4, won the ABC League, and downed Country Day three times. “Senior leadership was the key from Chris Schoenecker, Bryan Turken, Jim Edwards, Mike Scafati, and four-year starters Bill Lochmoeller and Steve Williamson,” reported the *Governor*.

Williamson, Lochmoeller, and Edwards all batted over .430. Lochmoeller and Edwards, together with juniors Wilson, Thompson, and Wright, each chipped in more than twenty RBIs. Junior pitchers Damon Goode (10–1) and Cole Thompson (6–2) showed the form that would fuel another state championship in 1991.



1983 state champions.

Holding trophy, from left: Ellen Bakken, Robin Lonsbury; others kneeling: Lisa Chipongian, Laura Gartland, Ellen Rava, Christine Sterkel, Helen Douthit; standing: Coach Beth Kinsella, Cathy Yates, Jane Grossman, Shireen Khan, Caroline Kraus, Tracey Corrington, Rosalie Rosenthal, Carly Gomez, Meegan McNett, Coach Skippy Keefer.

FIELD HOCKEY—SEEDS OF A DYNASTY

Field hockey at John Burroughs School imposed utter dominance over the competition in the 1990s. But the seeds of that dynasty were planted in the 1980s. The teams of 1983 and 1984 were historic, but strong teams stormed the pitch throughout the decade, traveling deep into post-season tournament play nearly every year.

The 1980 Bombers opened with a record of 15–2–3. The 1986 group was 12–4 with an eight-game winning streak; in 1987 the team was 9–3 in the regular season and won three games in the playoffs of the Midwest Field Hockey Tournament before finishing second to always-powerful Villa. The 1988 team likewise reached second place, bowing to Edwardsville. The 1989 edition, captained by Beth Breckenridge '90 and Allison Todorovich '90, finished at 15–4, despite crucial injuries. The two captains were picked for post-season play

outside the state on Team Missouri, and Breckenridge was named to a national team.

The girls of 1983 and 1984 compiled an outrageous cumulative record of 39–1, winning the Midwest Field Hockey Tournament in 1983 and placing second in a heart-rending loss in 1984. Leaders from the Class of 1985 who bridged the two seasons were Lisa Chipongian, Laura Gartland, Shireen Khan, Caroline Kraus, Meegan McNett, Ellen Rava, Rosalie Rosenthal, and Chris Sterkel.

The 1983 champions compiled a record of 20–0 and a remarkable goal margin of 76–6. Coaches from throughout the area arrived to study their unusual 5–5–1 alignment, which was made possible, according to Skippy Keefer, by the speed and conditioning of the players. Ellen Bakken was fast enough, Keefer noted, to retreat from forward positions as needed to protect the goal. The *World* proclaimed that each team member was to be commended—and it obliged by applying descriptive tag lines:

Helen Douthit ('84), "quick reflexes in the circle"; Shireen Khan ('85), "speed and stickwork"; Laura Gartland ('85), "sprinting to get loose balls"; Ellen Bakken ('84), "always staying on the St. Joe inner"; Janie Grossman ('84), "miraculously stopped two shots on goal"; Robin Lonsbury ('84), "always rushed the defense"; Carly Gomez ('84), "stopping shots coming into the circle";

Cathy Yates ('84), "always keeping the wing on the outside"; Chris Sterkel ('85), "speed and all out exertion"; Caroline Kraus ('85), "persistence and team work"; Tracy Corrington ('84), "always following up her plays."

The 1984 Bombers finished 19–1, their only loss coming in the finals of the Midwest Tournament at the hands of St. Joseph's, 1–0. The team boosted scoring to an unthinkable 106 goals for the season—an average of 5.3 per game. Entering the final week of the season, reported the *World*, Kraus was the high scorer with 31 goals, Kahn had 17, and Sterkel 16. Gartland, Khan, Kraus, Barbie Larimore '85, and Sterkel qualified for Team St. Louis for play over Thanksgiving in Southern California. In remarks for this book, Kraus had high praise for her teammates:

Laura Gartland was an amazing left wing on the field hockey team. . . . Lisa Chipongian was a terrific half-back. . . . Ellen Rava was our impenetrable goalie. . . . Ellen Bakken had afterburners for legs. . . . Shireen Kahn stands out as one of the most graceful, generous, and naturally gifted field hockey players I have ever seen.

The Lessons of Sport

In the loss to St. Joseph's, shot after Bomber shot missed the mark. Kraus voiced the supreme disappointment in words that captured with eloquence the larger meaning of events on the field:

Athletics has the capacity to teach many things, not the least of which is humility. And in the best moments, it also forges a rare kind of bond among teammates, coaches and spectators. All these years later, I still recapture the screaming crowd and the powerful sense of unity, support, and elevated effort that took place on the field that day. It's the intensity of emotion that lingers, the beauty of going all out, and the sense that regardless of our differences off the field for a little while nothing mattered more to any of us than moving a little white ball in a forward direction—toward that shining elusive goal.

EMERGENCE OF WATER SPORTS

Water sports debuted at Burroughs in the spring of 1979 with a girls' swim team that practiced by pool-hopping at welcoming area schools. The system for state competition was the same then as today: a daunting single class for all schools; swimmers and divers qualifying for state based on performance during the year; and individuals earning medals—as well as All-State honors—by finishing in the top six. That number expanded to eight in 1999 due to eight-lane pools. Those in the consolation slots at seventh through twelfth—later ninth through sixteenth—earned points for their team and honorable mention All-State.



State-qualifying medley relay team, 1989. From left: Kate Moran '90, Tracy Stamper '89, Lucie Garnett '90, Tiffany Frimel '92, Coach Leslie Kehr (in front).

Facing: The Cissel Center was named in honor of longtime headmaster Edward W. Cissel, an honorary member of the Class of 1946.

JBS was qualifying swimmers for state by the early 1980s and finishing in the consolation tier in various events. Virginia Moore '82 (1981, tenth in backstroke, 1982, eleventh) and Brooke Wallace '85 (1982, eleventh in butterfly) broke first ground. The team, coached by Beth Williams, peaked in 1985 with an eleventh-place finish fueled by strong swimming from qualifiers Wallace, Mary Lammert '86, Chris Sterkel '85, Leigh Earls '85, Katy Forsyth '86, and Chris Johnson '86, and second- and third- place diving medals respectively by Jennie '86 and Melissa '88 Graviss. Melissa was fourth and Jenny fifth in 1986, and Melissa medaled at fourth again in 1987.

Completion of the Cissel Center and Olin Field House in the winter of 1985–86, with a six-lane pool, coincided with the arrival of a new girls' diving coach, Leslie Kehr, a varsity diver at Mizzou who, since 1988, has led the entire swimming program. Kate Moran '90 excelled in the late decade with a fourth-place medal in 1988 in the 100 backstroke in a time that still stands on the Burroughs record board, current as of spring 2011 (see page 252), and a ninth place in the individual medley. Moran repeated in 1990 with seventh and twelfth in the same two events.

Boys' swimming began as a winter sport in 1986–87. Clad in Speedos and dubbed the Lemmings, the team posted a respectable 6–8 record under captains Willie Rava and Welles Chapman, both '87. "Dilettantes who joined the team expecting an easy winter sport were in for a rude awakening," announced the *Governor*. In 1987–88 promising freshmen emerged, led by Craig Suffian '91. By the following season, under Captains Jose-Manuel de Castro '89 and Vance Wiese '89, the Lemmings were 9–6 in dual meets, including victories over Westminster, CBC and Ft. Zumwalt North, and they qualified five swimmers for state.

Water polo began auspiciously in the fall of 1988, led by Captains George Lappas '89, Jose-Manuel de Castro, and MVP Craig Suffian, and coached by Jamie Wagner, a former high school All-American, who guided the sport into the twenty-first century. Vincent Georges '91 was captain in 1989.

Elevating Cross-Country

Cross-country came under the vigorous leadership of a new teacher-coach, Dan Barton, a successful runner himself. In 1985, the *Governor* proclaimed that Barton, in only his third year, had elevated the image of the cross-country runner to "over achiever, and, above all,

to winner.” Paul Kass ’85 was All-ABC in ’83; David Drebes ’89 qualified for state in 1985; and Mark Jeter ’90 was a state qualifier four years in a row. Cross-country for girls began in the 1980s, and Tracy Kim ’89, Kim Kepchar ’90, and Jessica Schultz ’91 all qualified for the state meet.

Ice Hockey and Lacrosse Reappear, Volleyball Succeeds

Two sports made a reappearance—ice hockey and girls’ lacrosse. Burroughs and Country Day combined to form an ice hockey team in 1982–83 and in what the *World* dubbed a “practice season” skated to a 20–1–1 record. By 1983–84, the Ice Bombers were holding their own with the likes of Kirkwood and St. Louis U. High in the Mid-States High School Hockey League, led by Captains Scott Lemen ’84 and Jay Williamson ’85 (who later played on an NCAA championship team at Trinity College). Kevin McKone coached the teams of 1988–89 and 1989–90 to a combined record of 30–13–2.

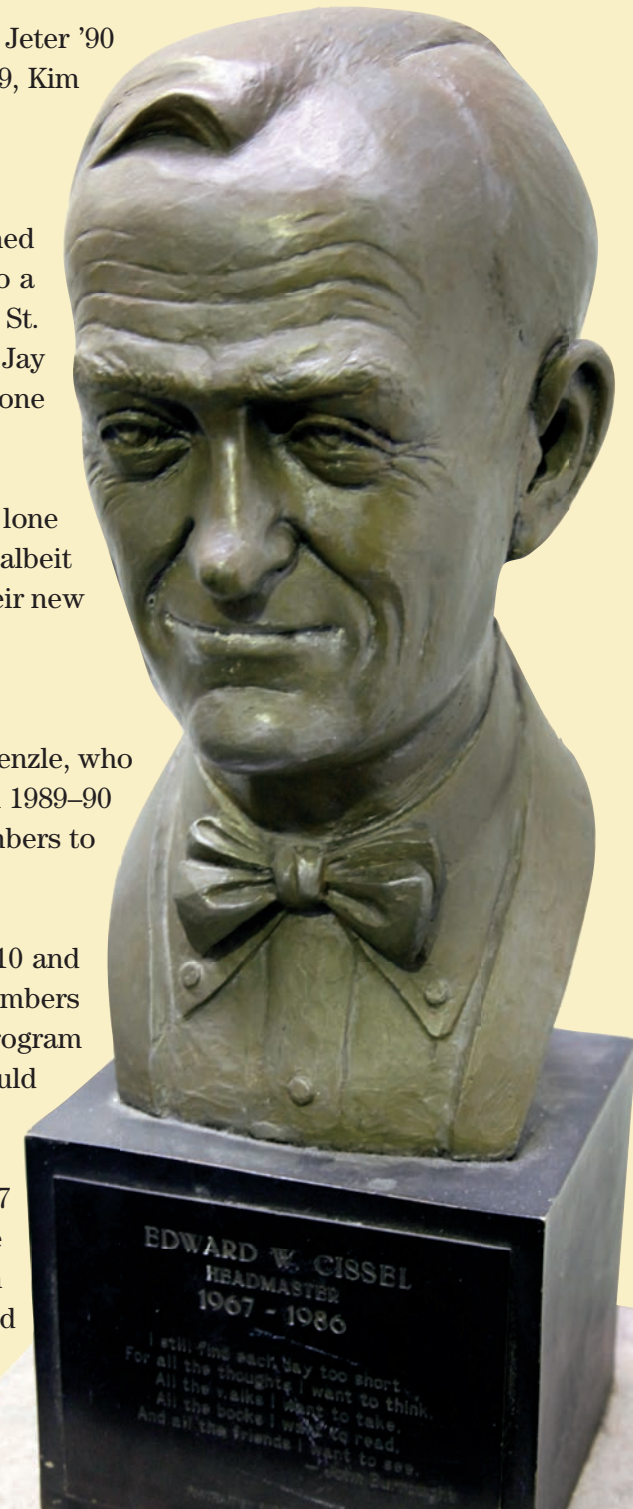
After a long absence, lacrosse reappeared for the girls in the spring of 1988, with Mary Institute the lone available opponent. Girls’ volleyball began to find ways to win. By 1983 they claimed a district title, albeit with a losing record, and by 1986 they posted a winning season. Much of their success was due to their new coach, Claudia Decker.

Basketball Resurgence

Girls’ basketball received a huge boost from the new facilities—as well as from Coach Jane Ellen Kuenzle, who began in the 1983–84 season. Kuenzle developed winning teams immediately; her best record was in 1989–90 when the team finished 18–7. Martha Fischer ’91, a member of the team, would later coach the Bombers to second place in the state tournament.

The boys, under Jim Lemen in 1984–85 and Mark Nicholas in 1985–86, had winning records of 15–10 and 16–11 respectively. Steve Wilcutt became head coach in 1988–89 and opened the modern era of Bombers basketball. Andy Kerckhoff ’89, a member of Wilcutt’s first team, was asked where the basketball program was headed. “It’s definitely on the way up,” he replied. “Coach Wilcutt knows what he is doing and should bring success to Burroughs if he gets the right players.”

Kerckhoff was prescient. The next year the Bombers reversed the previous 8–14 season with a 20–7 record, tying Lutheran North and South for the ABC League championship and finishing second in the district playoffs. The team leaders were talented sophomores Chip Walther and Mylin Johnson, both ’92, and both first-team All-ABC. Other “right players” were on the way as well. The B team finished 15–5 and the C team was 18–0. The future held distinct promise.





1990s / State Titles Abound



State championships rained down on 755 South Price Road in the 1990s. In seven different sports (counting tennis separately for girls and boys), the school won an astounding twenty titles—seven in field hockey alone, four in girls’ tennis, three in football, three in golf, and one each in boys’ tennis, baseball, and ice hockey.

Apart from this shower of team titles, there was a steady flow of individual medal winners in state competition in tennis, golf, track, and cross-country.

FIELD HOCKEY—CREATING A DYNASTY

The word “dynasty” is a strong one. In the art of sportswriting, it should be used sparingly. Yet how else can one characterize a field hockey team that wins seven state championships in a decade and features a four-year varsity player who scores 145 career goals?

Field hockey, historically strong at Burroughs, reached rarified levels of achievement with first-place finishes in 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997, and 1999 in the Midwest Field Hockey Tournament—the equivalent of a state championship in the fall sport. The enthusiasm and emotion generated by the extraordinary success resulted in players from the era returning to Burroughs as coaches.

In 1990, with future basketball coach Martha Fischer ’91 in goal, Burroughs finished the season at 14–0–2. Their best game, asserted the *Governor*, was in the regular season against Villa, even though they tied after overtime. They reached the finals of the Midwest Tournament with victories over Cor Jesu, Nerinx Hall, and St. Joseph’s, the latter on sudden death strokes. They defeated Clayton 1–0 for the championship on a score by Christina Iwane ’92. Post-season honors poured in: Diliane Charles ’91 and Amy Bohigian ’91 made first-team All-MWAA (Metro Women’s Athletic Association); Sarah Burke ’92 and Valerie Mills ’91 made second team. Mills, Bohigian, and Charles were selected to play for Team Missouri in Florida over Thanksgiving.

The 1991 squad, with only three underclassmen on the team (Jane Peacock ’93, Sam

1992 field hockey state champs. First row holding plaque from left: Jane Peacock, Marni Ash, Samantha Schutte; second row: Coach Beth Kinsella, Meridith Thorpe, Sally Peacock, Tabby Ahmed, Elisa Vitale (with goalie mask); third row: Ryan Thomas, Maggie Kissel, Elisa Silva, Mary Thach, Annie Beattie, Lynne Chou, Lissy Goralnik, Coach Matt Winter.

Schutte '93, and Meridith Thorpe '95), made it two titles in a row. In tournament play, the Bombers defeated Edwardsville, Cor Jesu, and Villa to reach the finals, where they again defeated Clayton 1–0. Honors again were abundant. Katie Liebe '92 was selected as the *West County Journal's* MVP, Sarah Jost '92 and Jessica Musgrave '92 made MWAA All-District Team II, and Sarah Burke, Christina Iwane, Jane Peacock, and Meridith Thorpe all received first-team honors. In addition, Burke, Iwane, and Peacock played on Team Missouri over Thanksgiving break.

With a record of 18–2–0, the Bombers of 1992 made it a three-peat under the leadership of Captains Peacock and Schutte, with strong contributions from Elise Silva '93, Marni Ash '93, and Thorpe. In the tournament the team defeated Edwardsville, Nerinx Hall, and Mary Institute before toppling Villa 2–1 in the finals. Thorpe as a sophomore scored forty-one goals with an astounding seven hat tricks for the season.

In 1993, the team was denied a four-peat, but Thorpe continued her torrid pace with thirty-four goals, including six hat tricks. Annie Beattie '94 and Thorpe were named to MWAA's first team, and Sally Peacock '95 and Mary Thach '94 made second team. Megin Wehmueller '95 gained valuable experience in goal.

1994 championship.

From left: Aiko Eto '97 (partially blocked), Beth Kinsella, Meridith Thorpe '95, Lissy Goralnik '95.



In 1994, led by Captains Thorpe, Peacock, and Lissy Goralnik '95, the Bombers were back with a fourth state title in five years. Wehmuller recorded twelve shutouts on the season and shut down all opponents in the tournament as Burroughs romped over Edwardsville 4–0, Nerinx Hall 3–0, MICDS 1–0, and Visitation 2–0. For the season, Thorpe scored an unfathomable forty-eight goals with eight hat tricks. For the first time, she played with Carrie Goodloe '98, a future teammate at the University of Virginia.

Extraordinary Careers

With 145 career goals over four years, Thorpe was named a high school All-American and was selected to national teams and the Olympic development program. At the University of Virginia, she was a four-year All-American, the Atlantic Coast Conference Rookie of the Year, and the university's Female Athlete of the Year. She remains the all-time leading scorer at Virginia and in the ACC.

After coaching stints at Ohio State, Virginia, and Iowa, Thorpe joined the coaching staff in field hockey at Burroughs in 2009. She commented for this book on her years at Burroughs:



Poised to strike, 1992. From left: Annie Beattie '94, Samantha Schutte '93 (crouching, partially blocked), Meredith Thorpe '95 (bending forward), Marni Ash '93, Mary Thach '94.



1996 field hockey champions. First row from left: Carrie Goodloe, Aiko Eto, Sabrina Lohr, Jenny Veraldi, Coach Beth Kinsella; second row: Ellie Kemper, Liz Dacey, Carrie Rogers, Carolyn Schnuck, Brittany Curby, Anna Goralnik, Gigi Greenwood; third row: Lia Dowd, Moira Adams, Kirsten Anderson, Emily Strobel.



1997 field hockey champions. First row from left: Ellie Kemper, Carrie Goodloe, Jenny Veraldi, Kirsten Anderson, Julia Claggett; second row: Brittany Curby, Jane Klinger; third row: Liz Dacey, Anna Goralnik; fourth row: Coach Beth Kinsella, Dawn Williams, Lia Dowd, Emily Strobel, Gigi Greenwood, Carolyn Schnuck, Carrie Rogers, Allie Lintz.

Six years at John Burroughs was not nearly long enough, based on the fun times experienced with friends, faculty, coaches and parents. Time spent in the classroom, the quad, morning assembly, Drey Land, the hockey field, performance gym, and yes, even the track had such an incredibly positive impact on my life then and now. Although my years of roaming the halls of JBS have well passed me by, fifteen years to be exact, the memories are still vivid and full of joy. Each team that I played on, each coach that I played for, was special. The relationships and bonds made with teammates and coaches were so significant that, to this day, I consider them my strongest. Burroughs as we all know is a very special place, and for many reasons. athletics was simply icing on the cake!

Carrie Goodloe '98 played with Thorpe for one year at Virginia; she was an Academic All-American for two years and a second-team All-American her senior year. The two were among fifty players named to the fiftieth anniversary team of the Atlantic Coast Conference. Goodloe likewise relished her time at Burroughs:

The most meaningful part of my JBS athletics experience was all of the friendships I made through team sports.

Some of my best friends to this day (Liz Dacey, Lia Dowd, Courtney Docter, Meridith Thorpe) are people I played hockey with. My teammates taught me to give up part of myself for the betterment of our team, a lesson that has served me well in all aspects of my life!

Three More Titles

After tough losses in 1995 prevented another championship, 1996 and 1997 brought additional titles. Seven members of the Class of 1998 played all three seasons—Kirsten Anderson, Liz Dacey, Carrie Goodloe, Anna Goralnik, Gigi Greenwood, Ellie Kemper, and Emily Strobel. They were joined by classmates Brittany Curby, Lia Dowd, and Jenny Veraldi on the championship teams of 1996–97 squad. Ellie Kemper wrote of playing varsity in 1995 as a sophomore:

Liza Grote ('96) and Courtney Docter ('96) were our captains my sophomore year. In my mind, they were absolute celebrities. They were these beautiful women who were also scary good at field hockey. Their dedication and intensity was unparalleled. Going on team runs with Liza was incredibly rewarding once it was over, but extremely difficult because she wouldn't let you slow down. I remember 95-degree practices with Courtney when I felt as though I were on the brink of death, and then I would see her calmly smiling as she lined up for her 507th corner drill. Even through the sweat, they were somehow elegant. And on top of everything else, they were really nice.

The state champions of 1996 and 1997 compiled a two-year record of 41–1–3. The team blanked fifteen opponents in 1996 and twenty-two in 1997, a remarkable achievement for goalie Kirsten Anderson and the defensive players Aiko Eto '97 and Carrie Rogers '99 and the Class of 1998's Brittany Curby, Anna Goralnik, Jenny Veraldi, and Gigi Greenwood. Goodloe led the scoring in 1997 with thirty-five goals. In the Midwest Tournament finals of 1996 and 1997, the Bombers beat Villa and Cor Jesu respectively by the same score of 1–0.

Burroughs won its last title of the decade in 1999. Led by Captains Allie Lintz, Lindsay Reither, and Claire Thomson, all '00, the team overcame mid-season injuries to be seeded fourth in the Midwest tournament. After defeating St. Joseph's with a series of tie-breaking strokes following two overtimes, the Bombers met the No. 1 seed Whitfield in the semifinals.



Former Bombers. From left, Liz Dacey '98, Courtney Docter '96, and Ellie Kemper '98, at a 2010 alumni hockey game.

They held Whitfield shot-less in a 1–0 win. The Bombers defeated the Saints of Villa 2–0 in the finals to cap a memorable season and decade.

Through these remarkable years, the Burroughs athletes showed great respect for Coach Beth Kinsella and Athletic Director Skippy Keefer. They also demonstrated appreciation for their parents and affection for each other. Lissy Goralnik said it best:

When I see Skippy or Beth now, I feel that we're friends, that they trust that I am working hard in the world and contributing; they always treated us that way, and like they wanted to be there with us playing hard, having fun, and enjoying the experience. Team play and teamwork were the emphasis, and along with the coaches I picture all of our parents on the sidelines or at dinners, a giant community of participation. Pretty cool, especially as an educator now, because I see very little of that in the learning and sports communities in the colleges where I've worked.

Lia Dowd '98 had special memories of her junior varsity coach Ellen Port:

She was my coach my sophomore year. I always helped her with the equipment and talked to her about our games and many other things. So at the end of the season she gave me a card with the following quote: "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give," Sir Winston Churchill. It's ironic that she gave me this when she was the one who was always giving so much as a coach but also as a friend. She was so inspiring, she was successful in all she did—coach, mother, golfer.

FOOTBALL BARELY MISSES A FOUR-PEAT

The team of 1990 harbored high hopes for a second successive state crown, and with a little luck it might have happened. If so, the high-flying Bombers would have achieved an unimaginable four-peat—because they won back-to-back championships in 1991 and 1992. But, as with field hockey in the early 1990s, it was not to be.

The aspiring 1990 Bombers, by now thoroughly accustomed to state play, forged a strong 8–4 record with regular-season losses to Priory,

Illinois powerhouse Mascoutah, and perennial state champion Lutheran North. They downed Blair Oaks and Scott City in the playoffs before a semifinal loss to a tough, well-prepared Warsaw team in overtime 13–7. (In retrospect, Coach Lemen and some players regret not going for a two-point conversion and a win in regulation time rather than forcing the overtime.)

Despite the sting of defeat, Burroughs could take great pride in having traveled far—and in another singular victory during the season, a 9–6 win over the Rams from Warson Road, one that was particularly satisfying for the seniors. In fact, Damon Goode and Eddie Williamson, both '91, combined for a detailed account of the victory, as set forth on the following pages.

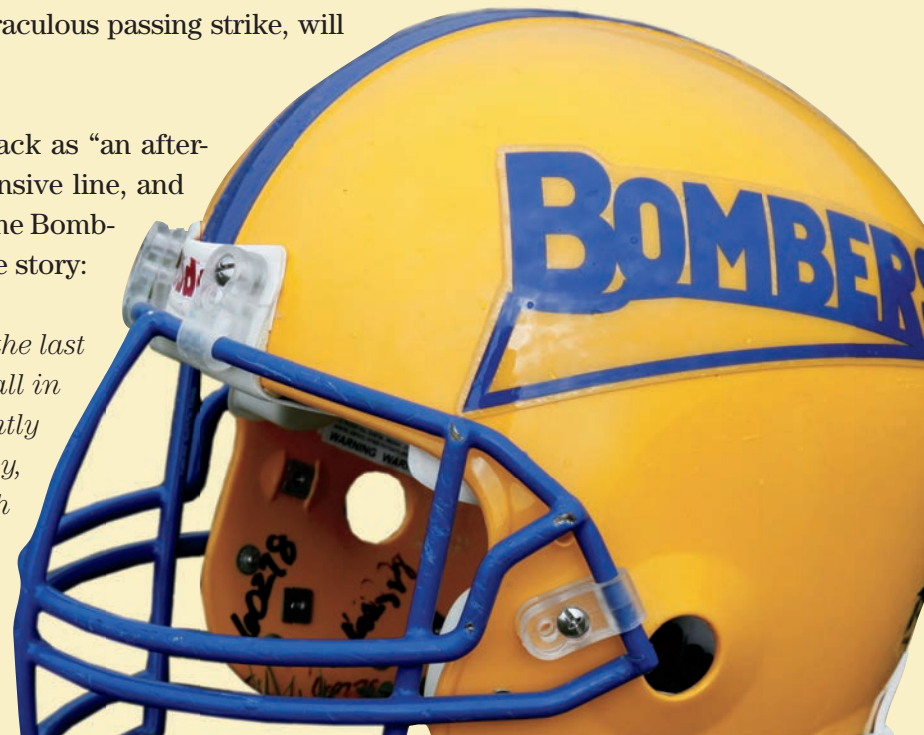
1991—First of Successive Titles

With a stingy defense and a ball-control offense, the Bombers brought home championship trophies the following two years. In 1991 they built an 11–2 record on stunning statistics: Rob Rogers '92 rushed for 863 yards and Greg Smith '93 for 1,082—a total of nearly 2,000. Chip Walther '92 augmented the ground game with the quarterback option and passed for 529 yards. On defense, Nate Storch '93 entered the record books with 18 quarterback sacks; Brennan Mulligan '92 led in tackles with 123. Bobby Dunn '94 remembers the “stud” offensive line of Mulligan, Medley Gatewood '92, Matt Simmons '94, and Andy Wolff '92 that terrorized him and his fellow sophomores in practice.

The Bombers dominated Pembroke 21–7 in the title game, but the true highlight was a 13–8 come-from-behind victory in the semifinals against Seneca, which was still smarting from its loss to Burroughs for the 1975 championship. Of the Seneca game, Mulligan wrote: “The memory of struggling through a game on a slightly frozen, muddy field with our entire season on the line in the playoffs, and having the game and the season saved by a miraculous passing strike, will remain with me forever.”

That strike went to Swope Clarke '93, who described the team’s passing attack as “an after-thought” because of a coach who loved “smash-mouth football,” a huge offensive line, and the best running back in the state in Greg Smith. The miracle play came when the Bombers had fourth down and ten at their own thirty yard line. Clarke picked up the story:

Coach Lemen sent me in for a passing play—a bootleg right where I was the last option for quarterback Chip Walther. . . . When Chip actually threw the ball in my direction, I hastened to it only to have a Seneca cornerback confidently bat the ball away thinking he had secured victory. Like a frightened puppy, I dove blindly for the ball . . . and caught it. It happened to be just enough for the first down, and it kept our drive alive. On the very next play, Greg (Smith) ran the ball 45 yards down the field setting us up to score.



A MOMENT WORTH REMEMBERING

Written recollections of Damon Goode '91, with input from Eddie Williamson '91 and other teammates, produced an extraordinary account of an extraordinary football victory over Country Day in 1990. Apart from the action, it described a rare bond of trust between coach and team:

In my first five years at Burroughs, varsity football had never beaten Country Day. That meant that in the fall of 1990, no current JBS student had experienced a win over our rival in the big game. And we'd had very good teams in the recent past, including a Class 2A state championship team just the year before. I played quarterback my senior year when the game was played at Country Day. The game was decided on the final play in overtime.

In the second quarter, JBS linebacker Tyler Dunaway ('91) thwarted a Ram drive by recovering a fumble. In the locker room at halftime, someone innocently remarked, "Guys, remember last year" (when we lost a gut-wrenching game to Country Day). Coach Lemen exploded: "Screw last year! We are going to win this year and we are not thinking about the past." Coach quickly calmed down and added, "Just thought I'd say that." Back on the field, Jon Schoenecker ('92) kicked a field goal for JBS. Country Day retaliated with a field goal. We went into overtime tied at 3-3.

In high school football overtime, each team got a possession on the opposing team's ten yard line with the chance to score a touchdown, kick a field goal, or be stuffed for no score at all. Our captains Eddie Williamson, Tom Bryant ('91), Rob Rogers ('92), and Tyler Dunaway met the Rams at midfield for the coin toss. Country Day was awarded the ball first and proceeded

to go the wrong direction as a result of a quarterback sack by Ken Ikeda ('91), a screen pass thwarted by Brennan Mulligan '92, and a failed double pass. The Rams kicked a thirty-three-yard field goal to take a three-point lead.

We got the ball knowing that a touchdown would win the game. We had four plays to go ten yards. On first down we ran "Double Blast Left" to running back Greg Smith '93 for a five yard gain. Second down was a veer option to the right that I kept for three yards. Now we had two plays to go two yards and win the game.

A strength of our team the entire season had been our offensive line. We had huge, strong guys that pushed defenses around for our power running game. Our interior five linemen were Tom Bryant, Sanjaya Gupta ('91), Josh Roman ('92), Brennan Mulligan, and Medley Gatewood ('92). Our tight ends (who blocked a lot more than they caught passes) were Scott Wright ('91), Cole Thompson ('91) and Jason Lohr ('91). "Wedge Left," a Burroughs staple beginning with C football, had been Coach Lemen's preferred call all season on short-yardage plays. The linemen would interlock feet, basically announcing to the defense that we were about to jam the football down their throats. Wedge Left had been effective all season, getting us short yardage behind Mulligan and Gatewood. So in the biggest game of the year, it was no surprise that Coach Lemen called Wedge Left when we needed two yards for a win. Behind our surging line, running back Rob Rogers powered for a yard and a half. The ball was placed on the one foot line. Fourth down.

Coach Lemen called timeout and ran on the field to join the

huddle. We could kick a field goal to tie, thereby sending the game into a second overtime. But if we went for the touchdown, the game would be decided on the next play. Score, we win—get stopped, we lose. With all eyes fixed on our coach, he told us with a grin, “Guys, this is the moment that you will remember for the rest of your lives, so make it something worth remembering.”

Coach Lemen said we were going to run Wedge Left again to Rob Rogers for the final foot to win the game. What happened next was remarkable for any football huddle, let alone one with the game on the line. Ken Ikeda asked, “Doesn’t it make more sense if Damon just runs it instead of risking the handoff?” Rather than dismissing the suggestion, Coach Lemen considered the merits of altering the play and agreed. He said to us, “That does make sense. Damon, you just run it in.”

And so at the last moment, the play was changed. I always thought that this conversation in the heat of the moment was

special, and made possible by the trust and open communication between the players and coaches on our team. This was true of my experience on many teams (and classes) at Burroughs. At the end of our timeout, Coach Lemen trotted back to the sideline and we huddled again. I called the play, we broke the huddle, and walked slowly to the line of scrimmage. With everyone set, I took the snap on a quick count. The surge from the JBS offensive line overwhelmed the Rams, our running backs slammed against the pile pushing it even farther forward, allowing me to take two steps into the end zone before a Country Day player laid a hand on me. We won the game and pandemonium ensued.

As if a dam burst, people streamed onto the field. Our team, coaches, and fellow students bounced up and down in one enormous group hug. The Burroughs community in the stands went crazy. It was absolute euphoria for our team, our coaches, our fans, our families, and our school. The memory of our win that day still elicits a smile and even chills. JBS over Country Day, 9–6.





1991 champions. First row from left: Matt Danis, Chip Walther, Bobby Dunn, Brandon Williams, Lawrence Park, Aaron Zwicker, Shea Goggin, Micah Roufa, Derek Doughty, Geoff Ratliff; second row: Joe Mitchell, Chris Bradburn, David Reis, Clayton Saulka, Patrick Conway, Andy Wolff, Rob Rogers, Tim Liebe, Scott Buschmann, Greg Smith; third row: Todd Haskins, Colin Mulligan, Karl Jacob, Josh Roman, Matt Simmons, Swope Clarke, Devin Green, Mike Gafford, Will Robinson; fourth row: Bryan Jones, Nate Storch, David Kantrovitz, David White, Medley Gatewood, Brennan Mulligan, Jacob Langan, Brad Reay; fifth row: Coach Jim Lemen, Coach Tom O’Keefe, Coach Todd Small, Coach Scott Cornwell



1992 champions. First row from left: David Kantrovitz, Matt Fischer, Greg Smith, David White, Matt Simmons, Nate Storch, Swope Clarke, Brad Reay; second row: Coach Jim Lemen, Tim Liebe, Brandon Williams, Karl Jacob, Matt Danis, Shea Goggin, Todd Haskins, Joe Mitchell, Billy Ray; third row: Derek Doughty, Alec Denes, Carter McDonnell, LaRonn Williams, John Carleton, Aaron Zwicker, Bobby Dunn, Devin Green; fourth row: Tony Lemon, Matt Fischer, Gordon Southern, Vern Wellington, Steve Leskovsky, Scott Buschmann, Michael Fischer, Nate Haskins; fifth row: Don Gladders, Rahul Nayak, Peter McDonnell, Colin Mulligan, Bryan Jones, Geoff Ratliff, Jacob Langan, Coach Tom O’Keefe, Coach Todd Small

The champions were eloquent in remembrances of their teammates. “The cast of characters was without question the most integral part of that period,” Mulligan observed. “It has always been natural to me that the cherished friendships from those days have endured throughout the years.” Chip Walther echoed the sentiment: “Burroughs has always had such a great sense of community. And since the number of kids in each class is relatively small you often play sports with many of the same teammates in each sport. You really get to know someone when you compete with them, and it also creates a bond that truly lasts forever. At Burroughs it extends well beyond your teammates to their families, the coaches, and even their families.”

1992—A Nearly Perfect Encore

The only blemish on Burroughs’ 12–1 championship run of 1992 was a 9–4 loss to the Rebels of Priory. The Bombers believed they had scored what would have been the winning touchdown from the one yard line, but the officials ruled otherwise. In the season opener the Bombers defeated Jackson 35–14 in a game that opened with a bizarre twist: The opponents laid down a challenge in the form of a spear stuck into the ground in front of the Burroughs bench.

Burroughs overcame Country Day 23–21 for the second time in three years. Nate Storch ’93, sports editor for the *World*, wrote of

quarterback sacks by Colin Mulligan '95 and Bobby Dunn; strong runs by Greg Smith; a long pass reception by Swope Clarke; a touchdown on a reverse by Bryan Jones '94, and another on a two-yard run by David White '93. "The Bombers, behind the strong blocking of the offensive line of Swope Clarke, Matt Simmons, Nate Storch, Carter McDonnell '94, Kurt Jacob '93, and the Fischer brothers (Matt '93 and Michael '94) ran out the clock to put an end to one of the most exciting games in recent memory," Storch declared.

After polishing off district play, noted *World* football writer David Kantrovitz '93, the Bombers, in the sectionals against the Van-Far Chiefs in Vandalia, "racked up thirty-two points while the defense allowed one fourth quarter touchdown." Against Malden, "Tim Liebe ('94) hit three clutch field goals, including one to tie the game late in the fourth quarter and one in overtime for the victory." The score was 9-6. In the semifinals at Leland Field against Brookfield, the Bombers "sent the Bulldogs home with a 17-0 defeat as the defense posted its third shutout."

Now in their fourth title game in five years, the Bombers faced undefeated Plattsburg (13-0), who scored on a sixty-five-yard run on the opening play. Unfazed, Burroughs "dominated the Tigers," wrote Kantrovitz, "and proved that they had the ability to drive the football on anyone in the state." Quarterback Aaron Zwicker '94 scampered sixty-two yards for a touchdown, and Greg Smith added two scores for a 21-7 victory. Smith recorded a remarkable 2010 rushing yards for his senior season.

1995—SLOW START, CHAMPIONSHIP FINISH

The Bombers missed the playoffs in 1993, but the 1994 team, on the strength of running backs Billy Ray '95 and Kirby Mack '96, the passing of Geoff Ratliff '95 and Ryan Tarantola '97, and the receiving of Steve Leskovsky, Brian Swift, and Ryan Gable, all '95, advanced to the quarterfinals of state play before bowing in overtime to East Prairie. On defense for the season, seven players had between forty and forty-nine tackles each. They were Mack, Gable, and Marc Hoffman '96, Greg Toumayan '96, Colin Mulligan '95, Barry Albrecht '96, and Craig Albrecht '98. Thirteen players earned All-League honors.



1995 champions. First row from left: Joe Shifflett, Matt Schnuck, Daron Greene, Jeff Molden, Brandon Young-Fountain, Jason Kaplan, Evan Walters, Brian Ebel, Darren Sargent; second row: Mike Johnson, Kirby Mack, Marc Hoffmann, Jud Dieffenbach, Chris Elitt, Kevin Joyce, Taylor Brodarick; third row: Tanner Mueller, Spence Spencer, Zach Fay, Greg Toumayan, Mathias Sommer, Patrick Carleton, Bob Clark; fourth row: Craig Albrecht, Ben Wolf, Barry Albrecht, Clayton McDonnell, Kyle Chapman, Ryan Tarantola, Grant McCall, Robert Holley; fifth row: Coach Jim Lemen, David Hamsher, Trainer Connie Baker, Coach Fred Remmy, Coach Todd Small, Coach Tom O'Keefe, Coach Lee Keefer.

Honor forever the fall,
The game, and this field where,
Branded by blood and tears,
Heartened by brotherhood,
Your boys emerge as men.

In honor of Barry '96, Craig '98 and Teddy '01 Albrecht,
their teammates, and all the men who
played football for John Burroughs School.



The returning players in 1995 were poised for another state title. They achieved it in a 13–13 tie with Lexington. Their 0–3 start might have discouraged many teams, but not this one. Matthias Sommer and Mike Johnson, both '97, addressed the courageous campaign in a *World* article titled “Football Notebook: The Year in Review”:

Through outstanding, hard-nosed football from the varsity squad, the Bombers tied for the state championship. . . . Some viewed the tie as an anti-climactic end that lacked closure, but the Bombers should be proud of their accomplishment. No Bomber fan will forget the sight of Kirby Mack ('96) upending hapless linebackers, or Jason Kaplan ('97) wading through undulating defenses. Long remembered will be Greg “Crazy Legs” Toumayan and Marc “Ogre” Hoffman. Zach Fay ('96) and Joey Shifflitt ('96) showed that pass defense is possible for high school teams, while Barry Albrecht played injured for most of the season. Though Ben

Wolff ('96) and Chris Elitt ('96) lost much playing time due to injuries, they provided quality support.

Ryan Tarantola '97 described the year in similar terms:

This team hung together despite losing our first three games and managed to win eight straight before tying for a state championship. We had great senior leadership from Kirby Mack, Marc Hoffmann, and Barry Albrecht. Craig Albrecht established himself as a dominant lineman on both sides of the ball despite only being a sophomore. We never gave up. Even when we were losing games early in the year, we knew that we were a very good football team. We proved it later in the season.

Daron Greene '97, whose reverse against Palmyra made the difference in that semifinal game, remembered the earlier playoff victory against Portageville as the Bombers' greatest achievement in the championship season:

That team (Portageville) had 356 points for the season against 0. They were easily the best and fastest defense that we ever played against. At halftime, the score was 0–0, and we had held on two goal line stands. We were begging the offense at halftime for one touchdown and promised them that we would win the game. On 4th and goal from the 1-yard line, Jason Kaplan took the snap, tripped a little bit, and luckily stumbled forward into the end-zone for the only score of the game.

Late in the fourth quarter, Kirby Mack, who was experiencing leg cramps throughout the fourth quarter, took a draw left on 3rd and 10 to extend our drive. With about two minutes left on 3rd and 10-plus again, Kirby ran the same play for another first down. Jason downed the ball three straight times and the game was over. In the video, you see Coach Lemen run up the sideline pumping his fist on the final first down. I had never seen Coach get that excited. Greatest football game that I have ever participated in.

Kirby Mack '96, who rushed for 1,553 yards for the season and later had a successful college career at Virginia and Columbia, wrote of the season as well:

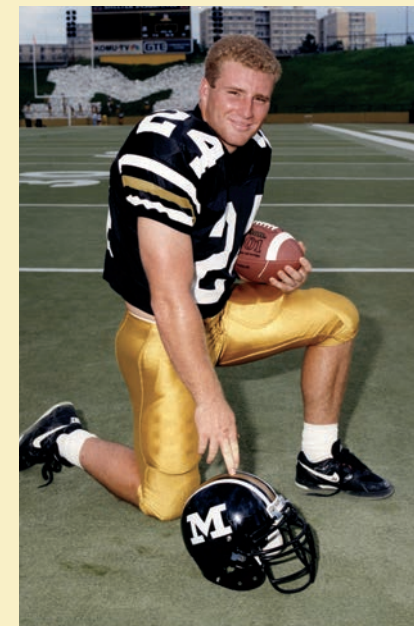
The Bombers came back from an 0–3 start to defeat the No. 1 and 2 ranked teams in the state to reach the finals. It was a season that tested the character and the faith of all involved and forever bonded a group of coaches and young men. The Bombers earned a tie in the state championship game against Lexington and, although not quite the storybook ending many had envisioned for Bomber Nation, it was a playoff run that placed John Burroughs back in its rightful place in Missouri 2A football, on top. I am proud to be part of the rich tradition of Bomber football.

1996—FINAL RUN OF THE DECADE

The Bombers' last state-title run of the decade was in 1996—all the way to the state semifinals and an overtime loss to Monroe City, the eventual 2A state champion. The team, talented on both sides of the ball, lost four games, all by close scores to strong teams—North County of Bonne Terre (a 4A semifinalist); Country Day (the 3A state champion); Charleston (a 3A power who lost to Country Day by one point); and Monroe City.

Craig Albrecht '98, a Parade High School All-American, is shown making a sack against UCLA while playing for Stanford in 2001. He was the defensive MVP for the game. In 2001 and 2002, Albrecht was first-team Academic All-Pac-Ten.

Greg Smith '93 (shown in Missouri uniform) received a full scholarship to Missouri where he played for two years. He finished at Dartmouth and was selected a captain his senior year.



Many players who were instrumental in the 1995 campaign were returning starters in 1996, such as seniors Kaplan, Tarantola, Green, Brandon Young-Fountain, Kyle Chapman, Bob Clark, Nelson “Spence” Spencer, Boyd McDonnell, Jeff Molden, and Kevin Joyce, all ’97, and Craig Albrecht ’98.

The seniors on the team developed particularly close bonds. “More important than any individual play or game are the friendships that were cultivated during this time,” said Tarantola, a three-year player. “Nearly every one of my closest friends fifteen years later was my teammate on the 1996 Bombers. We were a really good football team, we had numerous members that contributed, and we had a great time competing together. Despite the overtime loss in the state semifinal against Monroe City, this season was one of the most memorable times of my life.”

Against Monroe City, the Bombers were playing as much against the town as the team. The *World* on December 4 described the remarkable scene: “The town’s venom was visible from the beginning as Burroughs fans were met in the Monroe City parking lot by a sign saying ‘Sorry, Burroughs, no valet parking.’ The town’s police car, evidently present to maintain order, sported a sign stating eloquently, ‘Kill Burroughs.’ Additional seating was brought in to accommodate the overwhelming presence of Monroe City residents.” At least it can be said that the Bombers avenged the 1996 loss in the season of 2001.

Casting a Wide Net on College Gridirons

The talented players of the 1990s left their mark on college football. Those who carried on the Burroughs tradition included Craig Albrecht ’98 (Northwestern, Stanford), Derek Doughty ’94 (Amherst), Mike Elitt ’00 (Middlebury), Michael Fischer ’94 (Grinnell), Medley Gatewood ’92 (Williams), Graham Goldwasser ’00 (Williams), Sanjaya Gupta ’91 (Grinnell), Kirby Mack ’96 (Virginia, Columbia), Tim Mack ’00 (Tufts), Brennan Mulligan ’92 (Pennsylvania), Colin Mulligan ’94 (Virginia), Will Robinson ’92 (Davidson), Alex Robinson ’00 (DePauw), Rob Rogers ’92 (Princeton), Matt Simmons ’94 (Brown), Greg Smith ’93 (Missouri, Dartmouth), and Nate Storch ’93 (Harvard). This was an extraordinary list for any school—large or small—in any decade.

BASEBALL—AT HOME IN COLUMBIA

In 1991 the baseball Bombers made their second successive trip to the final four in Columbia, this time winning the championship to cap a 19–3 season. Head Coach Jim Lemen received strong assistance from Andy Katzman. When Burroughs won its last state title in 1985, Katzman was on the mound and was credited with both wins in final four play.

1991 champions. First row from left: Willie Birge, Torre Tyson, Jon Schoenecker; second row: Chip Walther, Michael Handleman, Andy Wilson, Josh Levey, Clayton Saulka, Jason Lohr; third row: Coach Andy Katzman, Scott Wright, Damon Goode, Michael Gafford, Cole Thompson, Will Robinson, Jason Goode, Brad Ulrich, Coach Jim Lemen.



Bomber pitching through the season was superior: Cole Thompson '91 compiled a 10–0 record, grudgingly giving up ten earned runs for an average of 1.41. He struck out seventy-three batters and walked only fifteen. Damon Goode was 7–2 with a 2.76 ERA, fifty-three strikeouts, and twenty walks. Goode was on the mound in the state semifinals in a close win over Willard; Thompson hurled the championship game, a 12–1 win over Park Hills in which the ten-run rule was invoked.

Team batting averages were among the highest in the area: Scott Wright '91 led the way with an average of .500 and 26 RBIs; he was followed by Clayton Saulka '92 (.444, 14 RBIs), Torre Tyson '94 (.430, 19 RBIs, 15 stolen bases), Andy Wilson '91 (.409, 21 RBIs), Adam Ward '92 (.400, 5 RBIs), Goode (.396, 19 RBIs), Thompson (.350, 15 RBIs), Jason Lohr '91 (.339, 12 RBIs), Chip Walther '92 (.324, 21 RBIs), and Will Robinson '92 (.285, 7 RBIs).

The 1994 team faltered in state play but waged a proud campaign: 14–4 overall, 8–2 in the league, and an ABC championship. The team was studded with individual talent: Davey Desloge '94 caught and batted over .400 and later became a Bomber coach. Torre Tyson, a future Mizzou star and Yankee minor-league coach, batted .500. Two other college-players-to-be, Chris Loving '94 and Bobby Allen '94, also stood out on the team.



1997 final four. First row from left: Jeff Price, Jason Kaplan, Danny Kantrovitz, Jeff Zuckerman, Woody Cheuk, Dan Conzelman; second row: Ken Simpson, Arj Arjunan, David Heltibrand, Kyle Blake, Vahe Ayvazian, Jeff Molden, David Drum, Coach Andy Katzman; third row: Coach Damon Goode, Coach Lee Keefer, Grant McCall, Graham Goldwasser, Josh Yoselevsky, Tanner Mueller, Kyle Chapman, Matt Scherrer, Coach Bob Forsch, Coach Jim Lemen.

1997—A Final Four Return

In 1997 the Bombers surged at the right time for a return to Columbia, this year finishing fourth but ending up third when the second-place team was later disqualified. The Bombers pitched by committee under the watchful eye of Cardinal pitching great Bob Forsch. Kyle Chapman '97, Danny Kantrovitz '97, Matt Scherrer '97, David Drum '98, and Tanner Mueller '97 all contributed to the cause.

As in 1991, the batting numbers were eye-popping: Jason Kaplan led the parade (.487, 22 RBIs), followed by Danny Kantrovitz (.410, 20 RBIs), Jeff Molden (.373, 13 RBIs), Jeff Zuckerman '97 (.357, 7 RBIs), Kyle Chapman (.323, 27 RBIs), and Vahe Ayvazian '98 (.313, 22 RBIs). Kantrovitz played four years at Brown and in the minor leagues with the Cardinals before joining their front-office operations.

1991 golf champions. From left: Coach Dennis Moore, Andy Plax, Mike Brown, Chris Brod, Mike Todorovich, Chad Crystal.



GOLF—AN EXTRAORDINARY DECADE

Bombers golfers matched their state title of 1990 with another in 1991 and won back-to-back crowns again in 1996–97. Over the eleven years from 1990 through 2000, Burroughs finished in the top four eight times—in first place four times, second twice, third once, and fourth once. The bar was now raised to dizzying heights. Beyond team success, individual performances were profound. The list of state medal winners grew long:

<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>
1991	Mike Brown '92	4
	Mike Todorovich '93	11
1992	Mike Todorovich	6
	Mike Brown	9
1995	Greg Curtiss '98	4
1996	Greg Curtiss	6
	Nick Stiritz '97	11
	Greg Curtiss	1
1997	Ace Marriott '97	4
	Nick Stiritz	9
	Charlie Felker '02	3
1999	Ryan Rochat '99	8
	Lanny Benson '03	14
2000	Matt Corcoran '01	15



1996 golf champions. From left: Ace Marriott, Greg Curtiss, John Mackey, Matt Schnuck, Nick Stiritz, Coach Ellen Port.

Seventeen Strokes Up

Under the tutelage of Dennis Moore, the Bombers won their second consecutive championship in 1991 with a two-day total of 617—seventeen strokes ahead of the runner-up. Mike Brown '92 and Mike Todorovich '93 were medal winners; Andy Plax, Chris Brod, and Chad Crystal, all '93, played key roles. The same group placed third in 1992, Moore's last year. Todorovich paid tribute to his coach: "Coach Moore's passion and humor kept us in line," he asserted.

Ellen Port assumed the coaching reins in 1993. Todorovich commended her leadership as well. "Coach Port's deep knowledge of the game (swing and mental) was a huge lift for all of us," he said. Port coached the Bombers in 1995 to a first-place finish in the district tournament and second in state. Greg Curtiss '98, Ace Marriott '97, Matt Schnuck '96, Mike Pozsgay '95, and Bill Hauk '96 led on day one in Columbia, but despite dropping three strokes they fell to Clearwater.

Two More State Firsts

The Bombers of 1996 won it all. The fivesome of Curtiss, Marriott, Nick Stiritz '97, Schnuck, and John Mackey '99 prevailed in a rain-shortened, eighteen-hole match. They spent rain delays “huddled in Matt Schnuck’s Chevy Tahoe entertained by the Rolling Stones’ ‘You Can’t Always Get What You Want,’” Curtiss reported.

The same group was in place for the 1997 state title except for Schnuck, who was lost to graduation and was replaced by sophomore Ryan Rochat '99. This tournament covered the normal thirty-six holes over two days. Curtiss became the first Bomber since Peter Edison '73 to win the first-place medal. Burroughs was supremely confident, Curtiss recalled, having set a team record for nine holes in the regular season; they reveled in relegating MICDS to a distant third in state play. Three Bombers finished in the top ten. In a submission for this book, Curtiss accorded thanks and credit to Port for her tutelage through the championship period.



Burroughs missed the state tournament in 1998 but returned in 1999. Led by seniors Mackey and Rochat, and supported by freshman Charlie Felker '02, sophomore Matt Corcoran '01, and junior Cameron Docter '00, the team shot a 667 for second place behind Pembroke Hill. In 2000, paced by Felker, Corcoran, and newcomer Lanny Benson '03, the boys reduced their score by twenty strokes but placed fourth.

1997 golf champions.

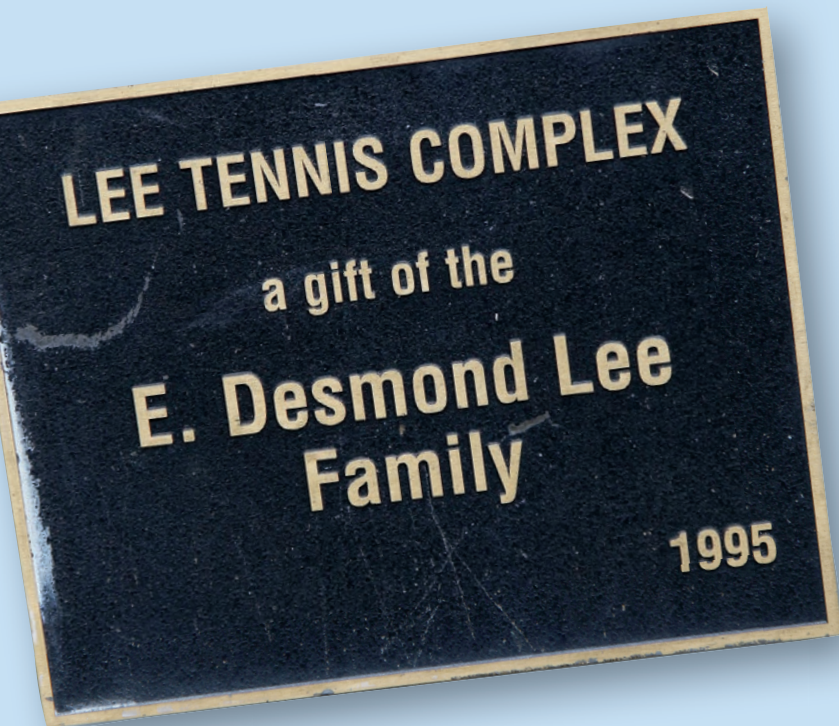
From left: Coach Steve Wilcutt, John Mackey, Greg Curtiss, Ace Marriott, Ryan Rochat, Nick Stiritz.

TENNIS ALSO PREDOMINATES AT STATE

The tennis teams of both girls and boys were a constant state presence in the 1990s. The girls matched the golfers with four championships—two of them back-to-back—and finished third in two other years. The boys won the title in 1999, placed second three times, and took third once.

Burroughs also dominated the field in individual play. Girls who stood out in the state singles and doubles tournaments were as follows:

<u>Singles</u>	<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>
	1990	Siri Eklund '92	2
	1991	Siri Eklund	1
	1993	Allison Flynn '95	3
	1995	JoAnn Moolsintong '97	4
	1997	Jackie Mendillo '01	3
<u>Doubles</u>	<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>
	1990	Tiffany Frimel '92/Carolyn Strassner '91	2
	1991	Tiffany Frimel/Allison Flynn	2
	1992	Hilary Oertli '93/Thirza Sayers '95	3
	1993	Jenny Mendillo '95/Thirza Sayers	3
	1997	Sandhya Gupta '98/ Molly Williams '98	2
	1998	J. J. Krane '99/Jackie Mendillo	3



1991 tennis champions. First row from left: Jenny Mendillo, Allison Flynn, Thirza Sayers, Carrie Krane; second row: Hillary Oertli, Tiffany Frimel, David Grand, Coach Ian Frederick, Coach Leslie Kehr, Siri Eklund, Annie Beattie.

The boys' record was as follows:

<u>Singles</u>	<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>
	1992	Nate Storch '93	3
	1993	Nate Storch	2
	1996	Michael Laycob '99	4
	1999	Michael Laycob	1
	2000	Taku Noguchi '00	1

<u>Doubles</u>	<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>
	1995	Blake Thompson '96/Steve Wohlford '96	3
	1996	Matt Crystal '96/August Felker '99	3
	1997	Anish Parikh '97/Taku Noguchi	2
		Matt Sharon '98/August Felker	3
	1998	Taku Noguchi/Todd Saligman '01	3
	1999	August Felker/Taku Noguchi	3
	2000	Kolby Loft '02/Todd Saligman	4

Ian Frederick guided the girls to third place in the state tournament of 1990 and to a championship in 1991 with a 5–2 victory over Visitation. Siri Eklund, Allison Flynn, Carrie Krane '95, and Hillary Oertli all won their singles matches at state. Eklund at first singles did not lose a set all year. Tiffany Frimel and Flynn excelled as a doubles team throughout the year.

Enter Toby Clark

Toby Clark became the coach of girls' and boys' tennis in 1992–93 (girls competed in the fall, boys in the spring), leading Burroughs to an astounding nine final four finishes (four girls, five boys) with four state team titles (three girls, one boys) for the decade. “Coach Clark always taught us to do the right thing and shaped us not only into better tennis players, but better people,” wrote Jackie Mendillo '01. August Felker '99 expressed similar sentiments: “Toby taught all of us the meaning of sportsmanship, discipline, and mental toughness. . . . I wanted to win more for Toby than for myself (even though it felt pretty darn good to beat Country Day!).”

Girls—Repetitive Excellence

In 1993 and in 1994, the girls posted identical scores of 5–4 against Pembroke Hill in claiming their second and third team titles in four years. Girls who spanned both seasons were Flynn, Krane, Jenny Mendillo, and Thirza Sayers, all '95, and JoAnn Moolsintong and Lori Wolfson, both '97.



1993 tennis. First row from left: Jenny Mendillo, JoAnn Moolsintong, Lori Wolfson, Carrie Krane; second row: Coach Leslie Kehr, Allison Flynn, Thirza Sayers, Suzanne Moore, Coach Toby Clark.



1999 tennis. From left: Coach Toby Clark, Allison Laycob, Sarah Bush, Jackie Mendillo, Brookling Gatewood, Allison Walsh, Anita Devineni, Annie Truetzel, Erica Jehling.



1994 tennis. First row from left: Carrie Krane, Lori Wolfson, Jenny Mendillo, JoAnn Moolsintong; second row: Coach Toby Clark, Thirza Sayers, Molly Williams, Allison Flynn, Jan Moolsintong, Coach Susan Greditzer.



1999 tennis. From left: Coach Scott Heinzl, Taku Noguchi, Dan Carlin, Todd Saligman, August Felker, Michael Laycob, Robert Orthwein, Kolby Loft, Coach Toby Clark.

The girls were undefeated in the regular season of 1993 and lost only a single match in 1994. The 1993 state tournament at Lake of the Ozarks was a drawn-out affair with only three courts in use. Burroughs persevered nonetheless. Flynn, Mendillo, and Moolsintong won their singles matches, but Pembroke tied it with singles victories of their own. The first doubles team of Flynn and Mendillo won, but the No. 2 team lost. In the deciding match, which was moved indoors, Wolfson and Krane faced two girls who had won in singles. Under heavy pressure, the pair carried the day for Burroughs 6–2, 6–2.

Wolfson and Krane were in the spotlight again in 1994. The Bombers opened the state finals against Pembroke Hill with singles wins in the 2, 3, and 6 positions but lost at 1, 4, and 5 to produce a tie as doubles began. When the 1 and 2 doubles teams split, the championship was again in the hands of Wolfson and Krane, playing in the third spot. The match was decided in a tiebreaker, won by the clutch-performing duo, 7–4.

After finishing third in 1998, the team captured gold in 1999—yet again over Pembroke Hill. Anne Truetzel '03, Erica Jehling '03, and Jackie Mendillo '01 won in singles to begin the day. Mendillo, despite battling a serious ankle injury, paired with Truetzel to win at first doubles. The championship was sealed by Jehling and Allison Laycob '02 in second doubles with a three-set, six-hour victory.

Boys Flourish Late

The boys won a state crown in 1999 in the culmination of a four-year journey. “It should be noted that this state title (1999) is the result of many years of hard work by players from teams of the past as well as the 1999 team,” declared the *Governor*. The Bombers had finished second in 1996 and 1998 and third in 1997. MICDS was the preseason favorite entering 1999 on the strength of five successive state team titles. Yet confidence was in the air at 755 South Price Road. The Rams had barely squeezed by Burroughs 5–4 at the state meet the previous year.

Seniors Michael Laycob '99 and August Felker '99, junior Taku Noguchi '00, and sophomore Todd Saligman '01 were veterans of state competition, but junior Dan Carlin '00 and freshman Kolby Loft '02 were playing varsity for the first time. One of the highlights of the regular season was Carlin's victory in No. 6 singles against MICDS, which gave the Bombers a team victory and secured a 12–0 record.

In the semifinals of the state tournament, the Bombers blanked Logan Rogersville in singles to move into the finals against MICDS. Laycob, Felker, Loft, and Saligman were victorious in singles. In doubles, just as Laycob and Noguchi were losing, Saligman and Carlin prevailed by a score of 5–3 to secure the state crown. “This is as good as it gets as far as I'm concerned,” said Coach Clark in the *Post-Dispatch*. “This is the day we've focused on all season. I'm so excited for our guys and for our team.”

In a letter to the team on June 13, 1999, Clark wrote in part:

Remember the feeling of being on a team that accomplished something that your school never has. Remember how much sweeter it was that we wanted it so bad and did everything in our power to be prepared. Remember how joyous a journey we took together, and what an awesome thing you were able to accomplish with good old-fashioned effort and the love and support of your teammates and families. And finally, remember the way we did it. Conscientious mental preparation, a quiet “team” before each match, composed intensity on the court, winning with respect for your opponents and losing with dignity and class, and then celebrating the most deserved state title I have seen.

First Singles Champions Since Buchholz

The end of the decade saw Michael Laycob and Taku Noguchi become the first Bombers to claim state singles championships since Butch Buchholz '59 won back-to-back titles in 1955 and 1956. Laycob's achievement came in 1999, yet the team victory proved more satisfying to him. “Winning the team title was so much more important,” he told Bill Hester of the *Suburban Journal*. “I have people to share that title with. I know it meant so much to everybody, including Coach Clark. We could not have won as a team, or I as an individual, without him.”

In the spring of 2000, Noguchi, Saligman, Carlin, and Loft returned to state for a fourth-place team finish. At the same time, Noguchi duplicated Laycob's feat by capturing the individual title in singles. Playing the No. 1 player from MICDS for the fifth time in the season, and having split 2–2 previously, Noguchi admitted he was shaky. By the third set his teammates and Clark had gathered to watch. Feeding off their energy, he took a 6–1 lead when the match reached a tiebreaker. Noguchi described the scene—and his emotions—after placing the winning shot:

The crowd seemed to erupt. I looked at my parents, my coaches, and my teammates, and then ran up to the net to shake my opponent's hand. I thought that, perhaps one day, I would forget the feeling of pure elation the moment I won, but even today, when I think hard about it, that feeling comes back.

“MORE THAN RUNNING IN CIRCLES”

Cross-country was on the move in the 1990s. The boys, under Coach Dan Barton, sent runners to the state tournament throughout the decade, bringing home a second-place trophy in 1992. The girls, guided first by Don Bene and after 1995 by Chris Bugnitz, likewise were consistent state participants, finishing third in 1992 and 1997 and fourth in 1996.

Boys—Strong in 1992

The boys broke new ground in 1990. Their second-place finish at the district meet allowed them to go as a team to state for the first time in school history, reported the *Governor*. The following year, Kevin Cloud '93 and Ryan Anderson '94 competed in the state meet, gaining valuable experience.

In 1992 the team upped the ante by finishing first in the district and second in the state meet. This was their best season until 2006, when the Bombers won it all. The seven runners, in order of their finish at the state meet, were Cloud, Anderson, Blake Thompson '96, Dan Molden '93, Jeff Gilbert '95, Chris Loving '94, and Dip Banerjee '94. The top five made All-ABC League and All-District.

In remembrances of the 1992 season, Molden emphasized the need in cross-country for a solid corps of runners. He noted that while he and Cloud ran for four years, other solid runners made the difference in 1992:

From the beginning, that season felt really special because all of us could tell that everything had finally come together. We were locked in on the goal of state from the moment the season started. When we made it to the state meet, at about the 2K mark of the 5K race all five of us were running next to each other pretty close to the front of the pack, and you could hear the panic in the voices of the other coaches calling out to their runners to move up and do something about us.

1992 cross-country, second place in state. First row from left: Dan Molden, Kevin Cloud, Ryan Anderson; second row: Dip Banerjee, Jeff Gilbert, Blake Thompson, Chris Loving; third row: Peter Chang, Nathan Williams, Coach Dan Barton.



THE RYAN THOMAS FILE

In a day of increasing specialization, it is refreshing to read about an athlete who competes in multiple sports. Ryan Thomas '94 participated in *four* sports and contributed to state championships in three. Noted here are her accomplishments in cross-country, track, field hockey, and basketball:

CROSS-COUNTRY

Third in state meet in 1991
Third in state meet in 1992
First in state meet in 1993

TRACK

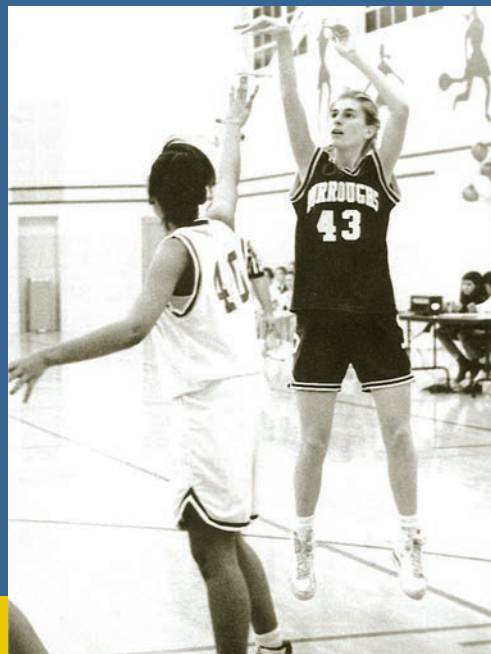
Third in 1600 in 1991
Second in 1600 in 1992
Second in 3200 in 1992
Third in 4 x 800 relay in 1992
First in 1600 in 1993
Third in 4 x 800 relay in 1993
Second in 1600 in 1994

FIELD HOCKEY

State champions in 1992

BASKETBALL

Team record of 25-5
in 1992-93



Winning state cross-country in the fall of 1993 was a very memorable moment. The course in Jefferson City was covered in snow that year. I was primed to be a leader in the race, but was having a tough time for the first half. I wasn't feeling very well and fell to about tenth place or so in the beginning of the race, and then at some point after the second mile, I finally started to feel strong. I remember suddenly feeling good on a significant uphill and slowly started "picking off" runners in front of me, one by one. The finish was also a long gradual uphill and when I rounded the hairpin turn in the course that marks the beginning of the home stretch, I realized I had only one more runner to catch in order to take the lead. At that point, nothing was stopping me, and I pushed into first place with about a hundred yards still to run. It was the most rewarding race I've ever run, to this day, and one in which I learned a lot about pushing my own limits.

Winning the Midwest Field Hockey Championship was an incredibly exciting moment for our team, which was a very tight-knit group, both on and off the field. Field hockey was always as much fun as it was work, and winning together was a milestone we wanted very much to reach.

That race is definitely one of my most lasting memories of Burroughs. The experience I had every season for four years is as responsible as anything else for my enduring fondness for the school.

The boys remained competitive in league and district competition for the balance of the decade. In 1993, Anderson broke the school cross-country record. Thompson qualified for state in 1994 and 1995, and Chris Haughey '98 did so in 1996 and 1997.

Girls—Strong in Multiple Years

The girls broke from the gates with a third-place district finish in 1990. In 1991, Ryan Thomas '94 qualified for state and finished third. In 1992 the captains were Molly Nowotny '93 and Karen Drake '93; the other runners were Megan McCarthy '94, Heather Heath '95, Thomas, Susan Little '95, Emily Grandstaff '94, and Catherine Herdlick '96. This group finished third in state, with Thomas again placing third.

The 1993 harriers finished fifth in state, and this year Thomas earned a gold medal. Her multi-year achievements were all the more impressive because she played on the dominating Burroughs field hockey teams of the early 1990s.

In 1995, Chris Bugnitz assumed coaching duties with a strong emphasis on team performance over individual success. She led Burroughs to fourth place in state in 1996 and third in 1997. The *Governor* reviewed the successful 1996 season by noting that cross-country was more than running in circles:

The girls team this year found that nothing could be more true. Every weekend nineteen of us suited up in our practically-non-existent shorts for an event we knew could be filled with both laughter and tears.

Very few people understand what motivates a runner. Is it the medals? The names in the paper? No; rather, it's the camaraderie, the friendship and understanding that inevitably forms, and the unbelievable feeling of personal and group accomplishment. Race after race we all came back because we cared for each other and depended on each other; and because we knew that there would never be anything quite as wonderful as crossing the finish line, creating a new personal record, being surrounded by teammates that recognize you for your achievements (both mental and physical), and simultaneously helping these people to bring home trophies—symbols of your efforts.

This is what guided our teams all year. This is what floated through our heads when we ate humus and endless bowls of pasta. This is what kept us going when we ran our repeats at Shaw, did our “swing-things,” and listened to bad music at Queeney. This is what we thought of when we bought rabbit slippers at Venture, and when

we cut our time, when we won Districts, when we beat the “Suns,” and finally, when we took fourth place in State out of all 64 schools in our division! Some ran faster than others, but we did all of this together as one team. We laughed and rejoiced and cried together because this INCREDIBLE group of women learned what the “meat and potatoes” of life are . . . and that is a whole lot more than running in circles!

TRACK: INDIVIDUAL EXPLOITS

The boys and girls of track produced many strong individual and relay performances in state competition in the 1990s, even though they fell short of cracking the top four as teams.

On the girls’ side, Ryan Thomas of cross-country renown had a superior career, as catalogued in “The Ryan Thomas File.” She won state in the 1600 in 1993; finished third in the same event in 1991; second in both the 1600 and 3200 in 1992; and second in the 1600 in 1994. Ryan also finished third as a member of the 4 × 800 relay in 1992 and 1993. In 1992, she was accompanied by Molly Nowotony ’93, Sally Peacock ’95, and Meridith Thorpe ’95, and in 1993 by Peacock, Thorpe, and Susan Little ’95.

Ryan Woolsey ’01 burned up the track late in the decade in the 800 meters with first-place finishes in state from 1999 to 2001. Claire Shapleigh ’02 excelled in the 800 as well to give the Bombers a great one-two punch.

In boys’ competition, Daron Greene ’97 won the 200 and finished second in the 400—setting a new school record—in 1997. In 1999, Adam Sherman ’99 won the 100 and finished second in the 200, setting new school records in both races. Sherman also ran on the 4 × 100 relay team that captured gold. He wrote this reminiscence:

The 4 × 100m relay team, consisting of Adam Sherman, Tim Mack (’00), Albert Huebner (’01), and Adrian McDaniel (’02), had been



1999 gold medal relay team. From left: Albert Huebner, Tim Mack, Adam Sherman, Adrian McDaniel. Sherman took gold in the 100-meter dash.



Atop the pyramid. Ryan Woolsey ’01 won three gold medals in the 800 meter run. She also played on the championship field hockey team of 1999.

performing well all season and remained consistent until the end, ultimately winning the state championship gold medal in an unforgettable come-from-behind victory.

BASKETBALL REBOUNDS—GIRLS AND BOYS

With the completion of the Cissel Center in the late 1980s and the development of a more competitive program in seventh and eighth grades, basketball, a proud Burroughs sport in decades past, rebounded strongly in the 1990s, especially in girls' play where the early teams compiled impressive records and three teams late in the decade reached the final four of the state tournament.

Under two different coaches in the four seasons from 1991–92 through 1994–95, the girls compiled an awesome record of 90–21. Jane Ellen Kuenzle coached the teams to 18–9 and 25–5 records in 1991–92 and 1992–93. Dennis Moore began in 1993–94 and guided the team to successive 25–1 and 22–6 records.

Players in the early years who helped turn the program around included Annie Beattie '94, Sarah Puro '95, Meridith Thorpe '95, Leah Gregory '92, Nicole Gregory '94, and Erica Shiffitt '93. Thorpe ended her career with 582 steals in 101 games, sixth on the all-time MSHSAA list in average steals per game.

The Championship Runs

The teams of 1997–98, 1998–99, and 1999–2000 reached the final four in the state tournament, finishing fourth in the first two years and second in the third. The 1997–98 team won the Metro Women's Athletic Association title for the fifth year in a row and claimed Burroughs' first district title with a 40–30 win over Principia. The Bombers overwhelmed Valley of Caledonia 68–31 in the sectional game and beat East Carter 56–35 in the quarterfinals to advance to the final four for the first time in girls' basketball.

At Columbia, the Bombers lost to Monroe City 56–48 in the semifinals and 29–27 in the third-place game against Pierce City. Krista Small '98, in her third year as team captain, averaged 15.4 points per game for the season. Amy Argetsinger '01 averaged in double figures. Rounding out the starting five were Kirsten Anderson '98, Christine Edwards '99, and Megan McGill '99.

Small was a four-year starter who had a record-setting career—at Burroughs and beyond. She finished third on MSHSAA's all-time list for three-point shooting percentage in a season (1997–

Krista Small '98, daughter of Coach Todd Small, had record-setting careers as a Bomber and at Missouri Western.





1997–98, first girls final four. From left: Erin McGaughey, Megan McGill, E. B. Little, Amy Argetsinger, Coach Nicole Gregory, Krista Small, Kirsten Anderson, Kristina Watkins, Rebeca Davila, Christine Edwards, Kate Naunheim, Carrie Morris, Clancy Moore, Coach Dennis Moore.



1991–92 basketball quarterfinalists. First row from left: Scott Schlesinger, Chip Walther, Adam Ward, Will Robinson, Brandon Williams; second row: Coach Steve Wilcutt, Kevin Cloud, David White, Matt Fischer, Mike Todorovich, Swope Clarke, Alvin Bisarya, Coach Jim Lemen.

98) at .4924. She ranked twenty-fourth in career three-point shots made, and ninth in career three-point shooting percentage with .3894. Her senior season, Small made first-team All-State and first-team All-Metro. She attended Missouri Western University on a basketball scholarship and appeared in four NCAA tournaments, setting school records in various categories.

The 1998–99 Bombers reached the final four again. After an exciting 31–30 win over Principia in the district finals, they defeated Caledonia 47–37 in the sectionals and Cape Notre Dame 63–56 in the quarterfinals, where Amy Argetsinger '01 sank nineteen free throws. After losing to Pembroke Hill in the semifinals 48–37, the team fell to Monroe City 55–47 in the consolation game. Argetsinger was selected first-team All-League and second-team All-State. Christine Edwards '99 and Megan McGill '99 were second-team All-League and E. B. Little '99 was honorable mention.

After starting slowly against tough opponents, the 1999–2000 team went on a 16–3 run to finish second in the state tournament. Two junior captains—Argetsinger and Carrie Morris '01—led the team of young players. Argetsinger broke Small's single-season school scoring record with 558 points, and Morris broke the rebounding record.

In the state playoffs, Burroughs defeated Caledonia 47–32 for the third year in a row and Cape Notre Dame in the quarterfinals for the second consecutive year. The Bombers beat East Newton 58–53 in the semifinals, but they lost in the finals to their nemesis, Monroe City, with its Missouri Player of the Year, marking the third loss in three years to Monroe City in a playoff game.

Boys Thrive at District, and Against MICDS

Beginning in 1988–89, the Bombers were under the direction of talented Steve Wilcutt, from a basketball-coaching family. Although the boys did not reach the final four in the 1990s, the teams from 1991 to 1996 won the district title a stunning five out of six times. Teams from 1990 to 1997 defeated MICDS nineteen times in a row.

The team of 1991–92 battled its way to the quarterfinals of the state tournament, where they fell to Troy. Chip Walther '92 (1,588 career points) and Adam Ward '92 (774 career points) led the team; both played in college, where they were the captains of their respective teams—Walther at Missouri, Ward at Richmond (where he also played water polo). Matt Stone '99 also broke the 1,000-point mark with 1,004 career points.

By the end of the decade, Wilcutt's record stood at a stellar 207–104, with six seasons of twenty wins or more. Boys' basketball was back.

WATER SPORTS ACCELERATE

The swimming girls of Burroughs evolved over time from the Froggies to the Fishies, to the Bomber Babes and the Swimmin' Women. Regardless of name, they were a force in the early 1990s led by the *Governor's* “Fab Five” of Mary Noel George, Emily Grandstaff, Wendy Jones, Megan McCarthy, and Penny Vongsvivut (“Vongs”), all '94. As freshmen in 1991 they qualified in multiple events for state, where they were competitive in the medley relay and where Grandstaff placed eleventh in the 100 breaststroke. In 1992, the team beat Nerinx Hall and Villa for the first time in dual meets. The Five qualified again for state, where the medley and 400 free relay teams placed.

All-Staters. From left: Mary Noel George '94, Penny Vongsvivut '94, Coach Leslie Kehr, Megan McCarthy '94, and Liza Grote '96.



In 1993 George, Vongs, McCarthy, and Liza Grote '96 became All-Staters by medaling at sixth in the 200 free relay. The Bombers placed ninth in the 200 medley relay, and George placed eighth in the 100 butterfly, all of which powered the team to a twelfth-place finish. The 1994 team lost to only three rivals and placed third in MWAA behind Mary I and Villa, who finished in the top five at state. The original Fab Five qualified again, and Burroughs placed in the top ten in all three relay races. This time George medaled at fourth in the 100 butterfly and finished tenth in the 50 free, propelling the team to twelfth place again.

“The 1993 and 1994 teams still hold all the relay records for the school,” observed a proud Coach Leslie Kehr. The marks were set by George, Jones, McCarthy, Vongs, Grote and Sarah Peterson '97, in varying combinations (see swimming record board, page 250, current as of spring 2011). More state swimming and diving success came in the late 1990s: Lilly Schonwald '96 excelled in diving in 1995 and 1996, and Kris Thanavaro '00 from 1997–99. Thanavaro placed seventh and eighth in 1997 and 1998 and won a sixth-place medal in 1999. Kristy Cole '99 flew in the 100 butterfly in 1996 and 1997, placing eighth in 1997. In 1996 she joined Sarah Peterson, Courtney Docter '96, and co-captain Sabrina Lohr '97 for seventh place in the 200 medley relay.

The team ended the decade with a fourteenth place at state in 1999 and a three-way tie for tenth in the spring of 2000 with super-sized Blue Springs and Parkway West. This remains the best swimming finish in school history—boys or girls. Jenny Buck '02, a freshman, joined her sister Kelly '00, already a team leader, in 1999. Jenny medaled that year at sixth place in the 200 freestyle and at seventh in the 500 free. She was back in 2000 for medals at seventh in both events.

Boys' Swimming

The boys began a surge in the 1989–90 season. Captained by Alex Martinson '90 and Sandy Schenck '90 (the latter being the first boy to qualify for state in 1986–87), they vanquished such big dogs as Ladue, De Smet, and Vianney; broke nearly every school record; and accumulated seventeen points at state to finish eighteenth out of forty-nine teams. The team was eighth in the 200 medley relay, and Glen McDonald '91 and Martinson placed eighth and eleventh respectively in the 100 back stroke. New school marks were set during the season by McDonald, Schenck, Craig Suffian '91, “wonder freshman” Kurt Jacob '93, and Matt Brokaw '92.

The 1990–91 team upped the ante to twenty-one points at state for a seventeenth-place finish. McDonald medaled at fourth in the backstroke in a time that remains the JBS record. Suffian broke the existing school record in the individual medley, and Jacob broke school records while placing in the 50 and 100 free. In 1992 Jacob placed in the same two events, and in 1993 he placed in the 50 free.

The 1997–98 Bombers, captained by Eric Kim and Geoff Baldwin, both '98, notched the best record in school history

at 9–3, according to the *Governor*, and the 1998–99 team returned to state, where they placed in both the 200 and 400 freestyle relays. The 200 relay team consisted of Charlie Felker '02, John Fries '99, Ryan Pevnick '99, and Jason Walcott '01; the 400 team was Felker, Fries, Walcott, and Graig Peterson '01. Jeff Barton '00 closed the decade in 1999–2000 by becoming the first of only two boys in school history to qualify for state in diving.

Water Polo

The Aqua Bombers in their third year of play in 1990 pulled even at 8–8 with a starting six of Craig Suffian '91, Matt Brokaw '92, Brad Spencer '91, Josh Pevnick '92, Matt Thayer '92, and Adam Ward '92. Advancing at warp speed under Coach Jamie Wagner, the Bombers of 1991 leapt to 16–5 and third place in the state tournament, led by Ward, first-team All-State with 114 goals, and Rob Whiteside '93 and John Guenther '93, both second team.

The team of 1992, captained by Whiteside and Clay Kossmeyer '93, was better still: 18–6 and second in state. Guenther and Kossmeyer earned first-team All-State, and Whiteside and Jason Bell '94 second team. Bell moved up to first-team All-State in 1993. A factor in the squad's success, according to Wagner, was off-season play by Kossmeyer, Whiteside, and Bell on select teams in regional and national tournaments.

The 1996 team, led by co-captains Matt Scherrer and Tate Greditzer, both '97, and by Eugene Luning and John Fries, both '99, was back with a fourth-place finish at state. The Burroughs cause was advanced over the years by strong goal play from the likes of Heath Luedde '96, Woody Cheuk '98, and Jeff Tillinghast '00. Coach Wagner's leadership was instrumental in achieving stirring success in a short time.

SKATING TO STATE

After finishing the regular season of 1996–97 at 17–5, the Bombers of ice hockey skated to a 22–5 finish and first place in their Tier II Division—thereby claiming a state championship. When Thomas Daake '99 scored twenty-eight seconds into the title game against Clayton High at Kiel Center, it looked like easy going; such was not the case. The teams were deadlocked 2–2 at the end of regulation play. In the second overtime, Brent Bowers '99 scored the go-ahead goal to create bedlam on the ice.



1996–97 ice hockey champions. Front row, from left: Brian Weygandt, Woody Cheuk, Jeff Gaskin, Joe Leonard, Caleb Weaver, Dan Conzelman, John Krettek, Ricky Watel, Jake Leonard; back row: Thomas Daake, Brent Bowers, Kyle Blake, Rand Sepplin, Boyd Geary, Jeff Toce, Mike Elitt, Spencer Gaskin, Ted Wilson, Brian Herr, Louis Brunel, Jon Fee, Adam Riedel, John Stamaris.

According to the *Governor*, Captain Caleb Weaver '97 led the defense of Jeff Toce '97, Brian Herr '98, Ricky Watel '99, and Ted Wilson '00. Brian Weygandt (a non-Burroughs pool player) and freshman Jake Leonard '00 split time in the net and allowed the fewest goals in Tier II play. Assistant Captains Dan Conzelman '97 and Joe Leonard '98, along with leading scorer Jeff Gaskin '99, led a corps of forwards that included Daake and Bowers. Mike Elitt '00, Jon Fee '98, Woody Cheuk '98, Kyle Blake '97, and Adam Riedel '00 also had strong seasons. The team was well drilled by Coach Boyd Geary. The Ice Bombers recorded good seasons in 1997–98 and 1998–99, but no more state championships were in the picture until the following decade.

SOCCKER SOARS

Soccer in the 1990s returned to its form of early decades, soaring to six ABC titles, seven trips to the district finals of the state tournament, and utter domination over Country Day. The Bombers claimed four outright league championships, in 1991 and 1993–95, compiling a stunning record in those years of 72–17–3. They tied with Lutheran South in 1992 and with Principia in 1997.

Even in off-ABC years the team was strong. In 1990, for example, led by All-League selections Dan Bomze '92, James Peniston '92, Josh Levey '93, and Torre Tyson '94, the Bombers posted a 15–7–1 record with nine shutouts; they placed second to St. Mary's in the district finals. St. Mary's proved to be a constant nemesis in the district championship game, downing Burroughs in 1991, 1994, and 1995 as well, thereby denying the Bombers advancement each year to the semifinals of state. In the regular season of 1996, however, Burroughs beat the state-champion Dragons for the first time in school history on a penalty kick drawn by Andy Schlichter '98 and converted by Brian Milder '97.

The *Governor* labeled 1993 a “transition year” with many new players, primarily freshmen, yet the Bombers booted their way to a 15–5 record, won the league title, and pushed Affton to four overtimes and two rounds of penalty kicks before losing in the district finals. The 1992 team, led by Andy Plax '93 and David Shahan '93, forced Kennedy to triple overtime before succumbing in the finals. In the rivalry with the Rams, the Bombers were brutal. By the end of the 1993 season, in which they trampled CDS three times by an average score of 6–0, the Bombers were 11–0 against the Daisies over four years. In 1992, when the school beat their rival 9–0 in one of their victories, the *Governor* reported that “eight seniors can now say they never lost to Country Day as long as they were on the team.”

The two top years were 1994–95. The 1994 team finished 21–6, including a fifteen-game winning streak, and was led by seniors Patrick Cahan, Brad Burgess, and Tim Farquhar, all '95; juniors Jake Rosenfeld, G. R. Lloyd, and Tom Alcivar, all '96; and sophomore Matt Thomson '97, reported the *Governor*. The 1995 Bombers, led by captains Rosenfeld and Jeff Burgess '96, topped out at 19–4–2 and was consistently ranked in the *Post-Dispatch*'s top ten. Burroughs was coached early in the decade by Kevin McKone and, from 1992 through 1997, by Christopher Hinshaw.



CLASS 2A
DISTRICT
FOOTBALL
FIRST PLACE

1990

CLASS 2A
DISTRICT
FOOTBALL
FIRST PLACE

1990

CLASS 1A-4A
FIELD HOCKEY
FIRST PLACE

1990

BOYS CLASS 1A-2A
DISTRICT
GOLF
FIRST PLACE

1990

CLASS 3A
DISTRICT
BASEBALL
FIRST PLACE

1991

CLASS 3A
DISTRICT
BASEBALL
FIRST PLACE

1991

CLASS 3A
DISTRICT
BASEBALL
FIRST PLACE

1996

BOYS CLASS 1A-3A
DISTRICT
TENNIS
FIRST PLACE

1996

CLASS 2A
DISTRICT
FOOTBALL
FIRST PLACE

1996

CLASS 1A-4A
FIELD
HOCKEY
FIRST PLACE

1996

GIRLS CLASS 1A-2A
DISTRICT
CROSS COUNTRY
FIRST PLACE

1997

BOYS CLASS 1A-4A
DISTRICT
TENNIS
FIRST PLACE

1997

CLASS 3A
DISTRICT
BASEBALL
FIRST PLACE

1997

BOYS CLASS 1A-4A
DISTRICT
TENNIS
FIRST PLACE

1997

CLASS 3A
DISTRICT
BASEBALL
FIRST PLACE

1997

BOYS CLASS 1A-4A
DISTRICT
TENNIS
FIRST PLACE

1997

CLASS 3A
DISTRICT
BASEBALL
FIRST PLACE

2002

GIRLS CLASS 2
DISTRICT
CROSS COUNTRY
FIRST PLACE

2002

BOYS CLASS 2
DISTRICT
CROSS COUNTRY
FIRST PLACE

2002

BOYS CLASS 1
DISTRICT
SOCCER
FIRST PLACE

2002

BOYS CLASS 1
DISTRICT
SOCCER
FIRST PLACE

2002

CLASS 2A



2000s / New Millennium, Continuing Tradition

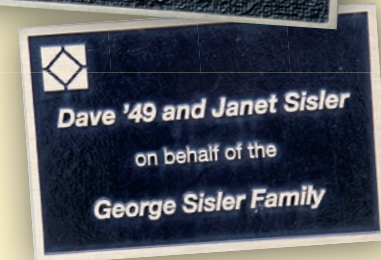
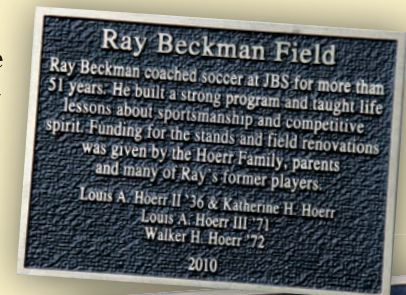


The torrid acquisition of state titles that characterized the late twentieth century slackened somewhat in the first decade of the new millennium, curbed in part by new state rules applicable to private schools. At the same time, however, four sports at Burroughs experienced the exhilaration of a state championship for the first time—girls' lacrosse, boys' cross-country, and soccer for both boys and girls. Other sports, meanwhile, continued their steady march forward: football, field hockey, baseball, and boys' tennis each added a state title to their historic records, and there was sustained individual and team excellence in other athletics.

UPGRADING FACILITIES

Dramatic improvements in facilities were undertaken to match the performance of Burroughs athletes. In 2000, the Albrecht family funded permanent football bleachers dedicated to the three Albrecht boys—Barry '96, Craig '98, and Ted '01, topped by a press box named for Burroughs' longest-serving football coach, Jim Lemen. The baseball field was re-graded the same year, and new screens and permanent baseball dugouts were added. Permanent baseball seating was installed in 2005 thanks to the beneficence of the Sisler family. A gift from the Steve Trulaske '75 family financed a new surface for Leland Field in 2005, fit for use by multiple sports, and a new all-weather track, appropriately named for the former coach and athletic director, Skippy Keefer.

After Burroughs bought the Brauer property on Clayton Road south of campus, an anonymous donor funded a new field hockey venue, with artificial turf. It was put to use in the spring of 2007. In the spring of 2010, a new soccer field, with accompanying grandstands and a rich blanket of Bermuda grass, was dedicated to Ray Beckman, the former St. Louis fireman and Olympic soccer player who coached at Burroughs for fifty-one years. The improvement was made possible by a challenge gift from the Hoerr family. At the same time, the Desmond Lee Tennis Courts were resurfaced.



2008 state soccer champions. Lying: Franks; first row from left: Townsend, Fletcher, Witt, Essner, Nguyen, Boldt, Emmenegger, Brasher, Vogt, Martin; second row: Lach, Miller, Trapp, Sudekum, Siwak, Zatlín, Carney, Strassner, Grossberg, Guyol, Ettinger, Fischer, Coach Trzecki; third row: Coach Davey Desloge '94, Coach Barry Gale '85.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The new millennium also brought major changes in athletic leadership. Keefer retired as the athletic director in 2001 and was replaced by Todd Small, who held the position until 2005 when he became head football coach. Jim Lemen stepped in from 2005 to 2010, and after a nationwide search Burroughs turned inward to tap Peter Tasker, a Burroughs teacher and coach, as the new AD in the fall of 2010.

By the end of the decade, coaching veterans Jim Lemen, Tom O’Keefe, Todd Small, Dennis Moore, Jamie Wagner, Beth Kinsella, Toby Clark, Scott McDoniel, Scott Heinzl, and Nando Fernandez retired or took up other pursuits. Younger coaches (many of them Burroughs graduates) such as Meridith Thorpe ’95, Carrie Goodloe Chapman ’98, Martha Fischer ’91, Megan O’Malley, Alan Trzeci, Davey Desloge ’94, Steve Beauchamp, Barry Gale ’85, Ray Thorpe, and Flennard Thorpe joined the staff. Andy Katzmann ’85 continued to lead baseball, and Gus Frerotte, the former pro quarterback, took over football effective with the 2011 season.

By 2000, a long-considered change was implemented in athletic policy. The number of sports that boys and girls were required to pursue was equalized (previously it had been more stringent for boys). The new guidelines called for participation in at least two organized sports per student, regardless of gender, with a relaxation to one in junior and senior years. This coincided with continuing augmentation of the sports offerings. Both developments contributed to growing specialization by Burroughs athletes in a few sports—in keeping with national trends—and decreased the pool of talent available for each sport.

SUCCESS CARRIES CONSEQUENCES

The resounding success of Burroughs and other non-public schools (both private-nonsectarian and parochial) in statewide competition ultimately raised a wary eye among public schools, especially outside the urban areas, and the call went out for the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) to act. In the early 1990s, MSHSAA appointed a task force to examine whether private schools held an undue advantage over their public-school counterparts. Skippy Keefer was a member of the group, which was heavy on outstate representation.

In an interview for this book, Keefer and Lemen looked back on the results. One public school concern was a perceived recruiting advantage by the non-publics. What emerged was a MSHSAA rule that transferees to a non-public school from beyond a twenty-five-mile radius would be ineligible to compete at the varsity level for a year. Additionally, effective in 2002, the “multiplier” was implemented by which enrollment, a prime factor used to determine state playoff classifications, would be increased by a factor of 1.35 where private schools were concerned.

“The rule changes had a dramatic effect,” Lemen observed. “For example, in cross-country in 2010, because of the multiplier, Burroughs was borderline between 2A and 3A. We were assigned to 3A and were the smallest school in that class. We have 400 boys and girls in grades 9–12, yet we were competing against schools that may have had 1,000. In football, in a three-year stretch from 2004–06, we had 7–2 records each year but never got beyond the district level in the playoffs. We were in Class 3A rather than 2A.”

An even more far-reaching change had been promoted in some quarters to establish a wholly separate private school playoff system. Catherine Brown '98 reported in the *World* in March 1997 on a petition drive underway by various public school athletic directors calling on MSHSAA to implement this very step for state competition in certain sports.

“Public schools’ main complaint against the current system is that private schools have an unfair advantage because they draw from a larger geographical area,” Brown wrote. “They also complain that some private schools recruit and . . . keep enrollment low to stay in smaller divisions and win more games.” Separate playoffs for private schools has never been approved by MSHSAA, but to this day discussion continues within the organization on the public-private-school dichotomy in state competition.

“WHO CAN BEAT US?”

The first decade of the twenty-first century became the epoch of the distance runner at Burroughs—among both boys and girls. “Who can beat us”? the boys asked rhetorically, before the state meet of 2006. The answer was, “No one,” as the Bombers carried home the school’s first state championship trophy in cross-country.

Girls: Dominating the District Meet

In a remarkable show of force, the girls finished first annually in district competition from the fall of 2003 through the fall of 2007. Although their best finish in the state meet was sixth in 2005, many runners earned medals (which were awarded to the top twenty-five finishers): Rohini Sankaran '04 (nineteen in 2000), Sarah Lampen '05 (fourteen in 2003), and Anne Kerth '07 (fifteen in 2003, ten in 2005, sixteen in 2006). Of her cross-country experience, in particular the district meet of 2005 when the Bombers finished third, fourth, and sixth through tenth, Kerth wrote:

JBS cross-country was one of the best experiences of my life. I don't know if I'll ever find such a group of different people who so thoroughly enjoyed being together, or two coaches who were so dedicated and understanding. Under Coach (Chris) Bugnitz and Coach (Flennard) Thorpe, we moved beyond a team and became more like a family, and it showed in every race we ran.

Boys: And a First-Year Runner Shall Lead Them

The boys sent qualifiers to the state meet early in the decade—Danny Maurer '01 (a number five finisher in 2000) and Robbie Molden '02 (twenty-four in 2000). In 2003 the boys won the district meet, and in 2006, led by Derek Cheng '07, a senior and first-year cross-country runner, they enjoyed unparalleled success.

The 2006 Bombers won the ABC Meet for the first time and captured the Priory Invitational as well. “It was magic,” Chris Bugnitz, head coach, said of the season. “Every member played their role for the sake of the team.” In Class 2 at state the Bombers defeated Osage by twenty points; the runners finished in the following order: Cheng—3; Jay Devineni '07—20; Justin Westfall '08—24; Austin Allison '09—25; Nick Evens '09—33; Davis Camp '08—46; and Wyn Ferris '09—132. (In cross-country, seven runners compete; the finishing places of the top five runners are combined to reach the team score; the lower the score the better.)

Apart from his third-place finish at state, Cheng took first at the district level. He credits the guidance of his teammates Devineni and Evens for much of his success, together with Coach Bugnitz. “She always said, ‘Play your role,’” Cheng related. “To me that meant taking responsibility for the outcome of the race, whether being the top runner or the seventh runner. She believed I could do things that I didn’t think I could do, and she encouraged me to shoot for high goals.”

Nick Evens chronicled the magical season of 2006 as follows:

(After winning the ABC Meet by a close margin), we realized that it was a state title or bust. The next week was our district meet where we wanted to send a message to all other Class 2 schools in Missouri that we meant business. Our pack took the

Running in a pack at the 2006 Priory Invitational. From left: Devineni, Allison, Evens, Westfall.



lead about halfway through the first mile, and up to the 2-mile mark we were in places 1-5. That last mile, Steve Liggins, a many-time all-stater, managed to pass four of us, but we scored 19 points, which was almost unheard of for a district meet.

With that performance our confidence was sky high as we went to the state meet. I vividly remember walking the course the day before and Austin (Allison) saying, “Really guys, who can beat us?” Looking back, this sounds cocky, but the mindset we had as a team meant just that. The next day our pack went out in about 30th place for the first mile, and then right on cue at the mile mark Derek (Cheng) put in his surge and we just followed.

Derek’s last mile was faster than anyone in our race by more than 15 seconds as he made his way up to 3rd place and led us to top 35 finishes. As we finished, and turned to see our teammates finishing, we knew we had won even before the scores came out. That bus ride back from the meet was one of the most fun times I had at Burroughs. I was with my closest group of friends, celebrating something we had earned as a team.



Derek Cheng '07, in his first year as a member of the Burroughs cross-country team, finished third in the Class 2 state race. His finish, along with outstanding performances by the rest of the team, gave Burroughs its first-ever state title in the sport.

A CULTURE OF SOCCER

Two soccer professionals instilled at Burroughs a virtual culture of soccer in the first decade of the new century, which in turn produced extraordinary results on the field. Along the way, Scott McDoniel and Nando Hernandez, known for their play with the St. Louis Ambush, became revered figures on campus for their approach both to the game and to life. The results obtained were breathtaking:

- The girls owned the district tournament with first-place finishes from 2001 through 2006. They took second in the state tournament in 2001, and won it all in 2003.
- The boys, not to be outdone, won the district championship every year from 2001 to 2008, with the exception of 2004. They placed second in state in 2003 and 2006, third in 2007, and became state champions in 2008.

On the personal side, Jessica Fowler '02 expressed the prevailing sentiment:

Coach Scott had a way of reaching every player on the team. He knew us individually and it was clear that he genuinely cared not just about our doing well on the field, but in everything we did. He often took extra time to talk with players on topics not related to soccer.

He wanted me as a captain to be sure I understood that the system he was teaching us (what positions to be in, how to defend, how to cover for one another) was really an analogy for how he wanted our relationships to be off the field. He helped me understand what it meant to care for my teammates beyond their athletic skills. He made every player feel important, and really was the inspiration for our hard work.

Taku Noguchi '00 wrote similarly of McDoniel and Hernandez—and also of his boys' tennis coach Toby Clark:

Toby, Scott, and Nando poured their hearts into their teams' success and the development of their players as competitors and as people. They taught me how to respect sport as something greater than a game, and to win and lose the right way. Burroughs had a way of attracting tremendous coaches whose competitiveness drove our success and whose integrity shaped us as people. Toby, Scott, and Nando exemplify what makes Burroughs athletics special.

GIRLS: SOCCER'S FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

2003 girls' soccer state champions. For McDoniel, the tangible launch of girls' soccer at Burroughs was the district championship win over Villa in 2001. The Bombers had reached the game with a semifinal victory over School of the Ozarks, fueled by a three-goal outing from

Jamie Greenwald '04. They overcame their historic adversary Villa in difficult weather by employing maximum effort and superior teamwork—and dedicated the game to Skippy Keefer, then in her last year as athletic director.



Although the Bombers lost in triple overtime to St. Dominic in the state finals, they “concluded the best girls soccer season in the history of John Burroughs,” pronounced the *Governor*. The path forward had been established. Leadership was provided by seniors of the Class of 2001: Lauren Brophy, Stephanie Ackerman, Jess Huebner, Mary Stranghoener, and Lana Wald.

In 2003 the girls won the school's first state soccer title, finishing the year at 19–6–3. After winning the district title for the third year in a row, the Bombers vanquished Villa in the sectionals 1–0 on a score by Greenwald. In the quarterfinals against Rosary, a perennial power, Greenwald netted three goals and Erin Lingle '04 one for a 4–2 win.

Burroughs downed Springfield Catholic in the semifinals and Cape Notre Dame 3–0 for the championship. The *Governor* heaped praise on the seniors, Class of 2003—Laura Liberman, Jessica Trotter, Anne Truetzel, Lindsay Williams, and Stacey Watkins—and lauded the strong support from the juniors of 2004, Greenwald, Lingle, Kim Kennedy, Ellie Bucholz, and Amelia Simoncelli. “Alex Blake (’06) played amazingly as a freshman goalie,” the *Governor* asserted.

A Continuing Force, 2004–06

The Bombers of 2004 compiled a record of 18–3–3 and were ranked in the top five in small schools all year. They overran MICDS 4–0 in the district finals and downed Trinity 3–1 in the sectionals before bowing to Visitation in the quarterfinals 1–0 in triple overtime. Greenwald scored six goals over the three-game span, and Lingle one.

Jamie Greenwald ended her career as the *Post-Dispatch*’s Player of the Year for the second consecutive season, the Gatorade Missouri Player of the Year, and a McDonald’s All-American. She earned fourteen notations in the state record books, and finished her high school career of 88 games with an astonishing 112 goals and 74 assists for a total of 298 points.

The Bombers cruised to district titles in 2005 and 2006. In the 2005 district championship game, they faced MICDS, to whom they had fallen in the regular season. Max Zarin ’06, sports editor of the *World*, described the action:

The girls prepared both physically and mentally as they pondered what the game meant for themselves, the team, the school, and ultimately the future of the Burroughs soccer program. The girls took the field with a glint of determination in their eyes and adrenaline pumping through their veins. The game’s intensity was more than apparent, and the game began to appear more like a battle than a soccer match.

Suffice it to say things became personal. The game only intensified when Burroughs took a 1–0 lead on a goal from Maggie Kistner ’08. As the clock approached zero, the intensity magnified as MICDS made one last desperate attempt to score, but due to the consistent defense by the Bombers’ back four, the team was able to ward off the Rams and clinch the victory.

Many Bombers from these glory years played college soccer, such as Jamie Greenwald, Laura Liberman, Stephanie Ackerman, Maggie Kistner, and Kim Kennedy. Greenwald reflected on her Burroughs soccer experience thusly:



Jamie Greenwald ’05, Burroughs’ first All-American soccer player, blows past a Villa defender.

I will forever apply the same principles and perspectives that my soccer coaches advocated throughout each season to every team, group, or project that I am part of in the future. I no longer remember the number of goals against MICDS my senior year, or even our opponent the year we won the state championship in soccer, but I do remember, and will always remember, the qualities, achievements, and other unique subtleties that made my teammates and coaches who they were, and furthermore what made my Burroughs' athletic experience what it was, unforgettable, inspiring, and so much fun!

BOYS: SURMOUNTING THE CURSE OF THE DISTRICT FINALS

Despite superb post-season play over two decades, a victory in the district soccer finals had eluded the boys of Burroughs. But 2001 brought change—a district title in a high-stakes game with Clayton. The Greyhounds had narrowly defeated the Bombers in the district championship game the previous year, and had pummeled them by a four-goal margin in the 2001 regular season. “The odds were stacked against us,” Jeremy Garbutt '04 observed in the *World*, “and the trends predicted we would lose, considering our recent record with Clayton. I think that’s why it meant so much to us to come out the victors.”

The 2006 soccer team on a happy bus ride after a win.

Bomber goals by Jason Dupont '03 and Parker Seidel '04 put the match into overtime. After four ten-minute periods the game went to penalty kicks: The Bombers converted all five of theirs, Clayton made only four. The celebration was on. Scott McDoniel was jumping up and down with the rest of the team, the *World* reported. The Bombers fell in the sectionals against Rosary 2–0, but the curse of the district finals had been broken. As with the girls, the path forward was set.



Breakthrough to the Finals

The 2003 Bombers broke through to the finals of state play on the strength of an overall record of 19–8–3. They captured their third straight district title with a 5–1 win over Lutheran North behind goals from Sergio Tripodi '04 (two), Jay Redd '04, Clayton Bury '04, and Miles Seidel '07, a freshman. Next, the team beat Brentwood in a dramatic brotherly act: Parker Seidel scored with two minutes remaining so that younger brother Miles could win the game in overtime with skillful play off a corner kick.

Burroughs beat College Heights Christian 3–2 in the semifinals on goals by Redd, Ben Zatlin '05, and Ben Clements '06. In the finals, the Bombers lost to Whitfield 2–0, due in part to the play of Rebels' goalie Matt Koenig, who shut out every opponent in the playoffs. Based on this trip to the final four, the Bombers were more focused than ever on a state title.

Eleven seniors from the 2003 team were lost to graduation. It was time to regroup. The ultimate march to a state championship, according to Coach McDoniel, began, ironically, with a quarterfinal loss in 2005. After defeating Lutheran North 2–0 in the district finals, the team faced St. Pius X, who had upended the Bombers 4–0 in the regular season. Coach Hernandez returned for the game after seeing his father for the last time on a visit to his native Colombia. His presence inspired the players; in an emotion-laden game, Burroughs fell 3–2 in double overtime, but new seeds of team unity and determination had been firmly planted.

Final Four Regulars

Beginning in 2006, the Bombers reached the final four three years in a row. They rang up a record of 16–7–6 in 2006 and won the MICDS Soccer Tournament. They beat Lutheran North 2–1 to advance to the district finals, where they defeated Trinity, a ranked team, on penalty kicks. Burroughs viewed the game as the true state championship matchup—and they were primed. Bobby DesPain '07 remembers the game as the most thrilling of his Burroughs career:

Finally with a few minutes left in the game, six maybe, Angelo Gentile ('08) receives a pass in the corner from Miles Seidel, and crosses it to Michael Vogt ('09), who buries it in the back of the net. I still get chills. I remember hugging my fellow center back Jack Fischer ('09) while yelling not to give up. After Michael scored, the minutes and seconds ticked by. I remember thinking this is just like Al Michaels reporting on the 1980 Olympic Hockey Team: with seconds ticking down, Michaels asks if everyone believes in miracles. And then it was over, and we had just beaten the best team in the state. I went wild, Scott and Nando went wild, our parents went wild. It was a great bus ride home. I have played in countless games in several sports, but this is the only one that gives me chills.

DesPain joined Bill Kistner '08 in scoring as the Bombers defeated Bayless in the quarterfinals, and Seidel, Gentile, and Peter Cohen '08 led the Bombers over Belle 3–2 in the semifinals. Whitfield again prevailed in the championship game 1–0, leaving Burroughs as the runner-up. McDoniel was the Class One Coach of the Year. Miles Seidel was the leading scorer with fifteen goals and eleven assists.

The 2007 Bombers were 17–10 with a third-place finish at state. They beat Trinity 2–0 in the district finals and St. Pius X in the quarterfinals by 2–1. Whitfield, by now a genuine Burroughs nemesis, was again the stumbling block, this time beating Burroughs in the semifinals 2–0. In the third-place game the Bombers beat Crocker 4–0. Tim O'Hara '08 and Nick Turner '08 shared time in the goal for the season and combined for sixteen shutouts.



Miles Seidel '07 leads the charge.

2008: The Final Chapter

In 2008, McDoniel and Hernandez left to work with the Scott Gallagher club soccer team and an emerging women's professional team. McDoniel helped pick his successor, Alan Trzecki, who, all the while acknowledging the solid groundwork laid by his predecessors, coached the boys to their first state title.

Led by captains Jack Fischer, Wade Martin '09, and Michael Vogt, the Bombers rebounded from a late-season slump to reel off six consecutive wins in the playoffs. On an early goal by Michael Ettinger '09 and a shutout by goalie Winston Boldt '11, they finally brought down Whitfield for the district championship. They humbled Missouri Military in the quarterfinals, and defeated Springfield Catholic in the semifinals on goals from Martin and Ettinger.

The state finals were held on a school day at the Soccer Park in Fenton. Excused by Headmaster Keith Shahan '62 to attend, the student body boarded fourteen buses bound for the event. Boldt achieved his eleventh shutout of the year, and Martin blasted a goal for a 1–0 win over Trinity Catholic and the Class 1 championship. The season ended with a 19–10 record. The leading scorers were Wade Martin (eleven goals, ten assists), Drew Miller '10 (five goals, ten assists), Michael Ettinger (nine goals, one assist), Jake Siwak '10 (seven goals, four assists), and Jack Fischer (six goals, one assist).

LACROSSE: CROWNING A YOUNG CHAMPION

In the burgeoning sport of high school lacrosse, the girls of Burroughs burst forth early in the decade into the thick of competition in the Missouri State Lacrosse Association (MSLA). Though the sport was still in its infancy at the school, the Bombers, coached by Margaret Altvater Clark '73, forged a winning season in 2002 and powered to the semifinals of the MSLA tournament, losing in double overtime.

Lacrosse had reappeared at Burroughs as a girls' sport in the late 1980s after a long hiatus. It is currently classified by MSHSAA, together with water polo, boys' volleyball, and field hockey, as an “emerging sport”—one that lacks at least fifty schools competing in at least three districts. Lacrosse for boys debuted in 2008–09 in the winter physical education program, and enthusiasm is running high as it moves to a varsity sport under the aegis of MSLA in the spring of 2012.

Reporting on the season of 2002, the *Governor* quipped: “While they may have had fun at practice, the Lacrosse team sure knows how to win games. Led by Roz Schulte, an All-American, and other seniors, Carrie Kemper, Katie Bumb, Shannon Murphy, Kate Keefe, Janie Mackey, Julie Fries, Elisabeth Fulling, and Sam Greenwald (all '02), they are one of the powerhouses of St. Louis.”



Emily Valli in 2009.

Joining the Ranks of Championship Sports

In 2009, girls' lacrosse joined the legion of sports at Burroughs with state-championship crowns by winning the MSLA tournament. Their only loss came in the regular season at the hands of MICDS. In 2010, the Bombers were 17–4–1 and placed third place in the tournament with a consolation victory over MICDS. These two seasons helped produce the springtime grip that lacrosse holds on the student body at Burroughs.

The 2009 Bombers won ten of their games by a whopping ten goals—and one by eleven. The scores might have gone higher, but Peter Tasker, head coach as of 2006, instructed his team instead to work on stall techniques for use in close games. On May 26, 2009, Jim Lemen reviewed the last week of the season in his on-line “Coaches’ Corner”:

The lead story has to be the Bomber lacrosse team, which won the school's first MSLA championship by defeating Nerinx Hall 6–4 on Wednesday. This was preceded by a Bomber victory over Lafayette (9–2) in the semifinals on Monday. The Bombers ended the season with a 20–1 record and played before the largest lacrosse crowd in my memory at John Burroughs. In the two games this week, leading scorers were Emily Valli '11, Erica Barnell '09, Emily Smith '10, Charlotte Martin '12, Jordan Schott '11, and Rebecca Malzahn '10.

But as everyone knows, it was another fine team effort as the defensive skills of the Bombers were outstanding. It was a real treat when seniors Erica Barnell, Christie O'Hara '09, and Sarah Townsley '09 presented the winning plaque to the school on Thursday morning. Perhaps the words of Peter Tasker cover the season: “So, how did we win it all? Simple: heart, soul, commitment and a healthy dose of imagination. So proud to be a Bomber!”

Barnell, Malzahn, O'Hara, and Valli were named All-Conference; Barnell, O'Hara, and Martin were chosen All-State. Valli led all scorers with 72 points, and O'Hara in goal limited opponents to an average of 3.25 scores per game. Tasker was quick to recognize assistant coach Megan O'Malley for, among other things, creativity with new plays and strategies.

Aspirations were high in 2010 based on the strength of returning players and the success of 2009. To heighten competition, the team entered the Windy City Classic in Chicago featuring schools from across the Midwest. The Bombers were 1–1–1 in the event. They lost just two games the rest of the season—to MICDS 7–3 and Nerinx Hall 7–5. In the May 24, 2010 “Coaches’ Corner,” Tasker recounted the playoff run:

After a terrific state quarterfinals game against Villa, in which the Bombers controlled the game in a 12–2 victory, the team fell just short in the semi-final game against Ursuline. The Bombers faced MICDS in the consolation round, playing for 3rd place in the state, and it should be noted that the Bombers had not beaten the Rams in recent memory.



Celebrating a first state title. Kneeling from left: Schnuck, Townsley, Lund, O'Hara, Smith; second row: Collins, McDonald, Williams, Barenholz, Valli (with arm and finger extended forward), Malzahn; third row: Coach O'Malley, Dupont, Coach Tasker, Martin, Sudekum (face partially blocked by victory finger), Schott (below and behind trophy), Hatfield (partially blocked by raised arm and fist), Foley (upper right, mostly obscured).

The Bombers would not be denied, and after facing a 4–2 deficit with 12 minutes left in the 1st half they came storming back to take a 7–4 half-time lead. The Bombers came out firing in the second half and built a 10–5 lead before a goal was taken away retroactively for a missed call at the start of the second half for too many players on the field. The Bombers were undaunted and came storming down the field to tally another score in a matter of seconds. The Bombers held on to win the game 12–9 in what proved an exclamation point on a terrific season.

As the decade closed, Tasker was named athletic director, and Megan O'Malley took over as head coach of lacrosse.

“THE PERFECT SEASON”

Bombers football claimed a state title in the first decade of the new millennium in what was christened “The Perfect Season” by Dan Dierdorf, who narrated the highlights of the 2001 campaign. Dierdorf asked Jim Lemen on the video whether the Bombers had expected to be so good. “I guess we thought we were going to be this good last year when we were 4–5,” came the reply, “and that probably explains why we were as good as we were this year.”

The 2001 team featured talent, mental toughness, intensity, and a good coaching staff; it decided to take one game at a time and let the results flow. Defensively there was a balanced contribution from all positions. The defensive linemen, Bob Scott, Grant Gelner, Charlie Felker, and John Sternberg, all '02, made 164 tackles; the linebacking corps of Matt Crane '03, Nathan Keller '02, and Tien Chusak '02 recorded 108 tackles; and the defensive secondary of Jordan Fields, Curran Clark, Tommy Schnuck, and A. J. Van Slyke, all '02, had 173 tackles and 15 interceptions. In addition, players such as Bob Miltenberger '02, Scott Van Slyke '05, Will Hardy '03, and Henry Felker '04 filled in solidly off the bench.

The offensive line of Miltenberger, Scott, Charlie Felker, Keller, Gelner, and Sternberg cleared the way for A. J. Eads '02 (190 rushes, 1,353 yards, 20 touchdowns), A. J. Van Slyke (118 rushes, 538 yards, 12 touchdowns), and Brian Jump '03 (39 rushes, 226 yards), and it protected Van Slyke at quarterback, allowing him to throw for 1,741 yards (108 completions in 195 attempts, with 25 touchdowns and four interceptions). The prime receivers were Tommy Schnuck (25 catches for 332 yards), Miltenberger (22 for 417), Jump (14 for 217), Eads (14 for 128), Ben Kline '03 (13 for 266 yards), and Adrian McDaniel '02 (11 for 145 yards). Curran Clark scored 72 points on 45 PATs, three field goals, two touchdowns, and two receptions for two-point conversions.



The 2001 state championship football team.

A Historic Comeback

The Bombers achieved huge victories over MICDS 20–7 and over Lutheran North in the district finals 47–27. Two other wins, however, stand out above all else—the televised semifinals of state play against Monroe City at Leland Field, and the state-championship victory over Warsaw at the Dome. Trailing Monroe City 19–0 at halftime, the Bombers staged a second-half surge that Lemen called “the most remarkable comeback I have ever been associated with.”

Curran Clark surprised the Panthers in the second half with an onside kick that was recovered by Burroughs; six plays later Eads bolted into the end zone to make it 19–7. The Bombers’ defense then came to life: Scott Van Slyke intercepted a pass, and Eads went back to work on the ground, ultimately skirting left for twenty-two yards for another score.

Down 19–14 in the fourth quarter, A. J. Van Slyke swiped a Monroe City pass, setting up a Curran Clark field goal that closed the gap to 19–17. Eads added to the comeback romp with his third and fourth touchdowns on runs of 25 and 88 yards. A pair of two-point conversions on passes from A. J. Van Slyke to Clark brought the final score to 33–19 and earned the Bombers a trip to the Dome. Eads had 218 rushing yards—200 of them in the second half—to go with his four touchdowns.

“It was fun to see,” said Jim Lemen in a post-game interview, employing masterful understatement. “That’s what football is all about. It’s like life. You get down; you have to get up. . . . That’s what champions are made of.” Fans have never forgotten the scene—and they talk about it still. In the runaway second half, A. J. Van Slyke appeared to be everywhere on defense and Eads seemed to score every time he touched the ball.

“The Best High School Football Game I Have Seen”

The championship game brought the Bombers head-to-head with Warsaw for the fourth time in the state playoffs: The Bombers held a 2–1 edge. The teams featured different styles of play. Warsaw ran the triple option and emphasized a ground game; Burroughs had a more open offense, running and passing from pro sets and the shotgun formation.

The game was a thrilling, seesaw affair that saw three lead changes. The Bombers were down 12–0 with a minute to go in the first half when A. J. Van Slyke scored following the first of two fumble recoveries by Tien Chusak '02. The Wildcats boosted their lead to 18–7 on the second play from scrimmage in the third quarter, but Burroughs seized control 29–18 with a trifecta—a deceptive A. J. Eads to Curran Clark touchdown pass, a forty-yard scoring run by Eads, and a touchdown bomb from Van Slyke to Brian Jump.

Warsaw then regained the lead with fourteen unanswered points of its own. With a little over three minutes to play, Eads scored, and a successful conversion put Burroughs ahead by four. Warsaw marched to the Bombers' five, where they decided to throw for only the fourth time in the game. (Jordan Fields '02 had intercepted one, and the other two were incomplete.) Burroughs was not fooled by the play-action pass. Chusak tipped the ball, and Bob Miltenberger intercepted and ran it back to midfield, where pandemonium erupted.

Post-game reactions from Burroughs' partisans were varied—but all euphoric: A. J. Van Slyke: “All I have to say, that was the biggest gut check I've ever seen.” A. J. Eads, who ran for 153 yards on 16 carries: “It's not even sinking in yet—what we've really accomplished. It's so incredible to go 13–0—state champions—I don't know how much more you can ask for.” Miltenberger, the game-presenter: “That was the greatest game I've ever played in.”

An Illinois assistant football coach called it “the best high school football game I have seen.” Nathan Keller, a three-year varsity player and a captain for two years, wrote this in a letter: “As time goes by and my JBS years fade further into memories, the 2001 season, with all the players and coaches, will always be an experience I will treasure.”

Many athletes on the 2001 team were multitalented and contributed to championships in track, tennis, or baseball. Twelve players—Clark, Crane, Jordan Davis '04, Eads, Ian English '04, Charlie Felker, Jon Hoeven '04, Jump, Keller, Ben Rassieur '04, Scott, and Schnuck—played college football. Although no other team in the decade experienced the challenge of state playoffs, the 2004 squad (Jim Lemen's last) and the teams of 2005 and 2006 (Todd Small's first two seasons) forged solid 7–2 records. Both teams were challenged by assignment to Class 3 under the multiplier rule by then in effect for non-public schools.

TENNIS CONTINUES TO THRIVE

The Burroughs tennis juggernaut continued to roll in the twenty-first century. The statistics are striking. In state team tournaments, the boys and girls registered eleven final four appearances, bringing home one state championship (boys, 2004), with six second-place showings and four thirds.

In the individual tournaments, the record was overwhelming: more than twenty final four appearances by girls and boys combined. Burroughs boys captured one championship in singles and three in doubles; the girls claimed *ten* state championships in singles (through the fall, 2011) and made the final four in doubles four times.

The boys who made their mark in individual play were as follows:

<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Singles Player</u>	<u>Place</u>
2003	Charles Howard '04	1
2005	Ted White '07	2
2007	Ted White	4

<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Doubles Players</u>	<u>Place</u>
2001	Ted Felker '04/ Todd Saligman '01	1
2002	Ted Felker/ Charles Howard	1
2003	Ted Felker/ Ned Sears '03	2
2004	Ted Felker/ Ted White	1



State doubles champions Ted Felker '04 and Ted White '07, with Coaches Heinzl and Clark.

The girls who won honors are listed below:

<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Singles Player</u>	<u>Place</u>
2000	Anne Truetzel '03	2
2001	Anne Truetzel	1
2002	Anne Truetzel	4
2003	Susan Sullivan '06	1
2004	Susan Sullivan	1
2005	Susan Sullivan	1
2006	Alex Lehman '09	1

2007	Alex Lehman	1
2008	Alex Lehman	1
	Sydney Lehman '12	2
2009	Sydney Lehman	1
2010	Sydney Lehman	1
2011	Sydney Lehman	1
<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Doubles Players</u>	<u>Place</u>
2000	Erica Jehling '03/ Jackie Mendillo '01	2
2002	Josephine Pang '06/ Susan Sullivan	2
2003	Josephine Pang/ Ali King '05	2
2009	Katy Barenholtz '12/ Katie Smith '11	4

Boys: The 2004 Culmination

The 2004 state title for the boys fit the pattern of the late 1990s—a state championship crowning a progressive march of four years. The Bombers in the new decade finished third in 2001 and moved up to second in 2002 and 2003 before decimating Thomas Jefferson 5–0 for the championship in 2004.

The truly dramatic story of 2004 was the semifinal match against Pembroke Hill, who had beaten Burroughs in the finals the two previous years. In 2003, Pem Day had prevailed 5–4 in a marathon six-hour match. Ted Felker '04, Ted White '07, Steve Shaner '04, Mike Goralnik '05, and Henry Sears '05 gave Burroughs a 3–2 edge in singles play; Charles Howard '04 increased that to 4–2 with a 7–5 win in the third set of his singles match. Strong in doubles as well, the Bombers overcame Pembroke 5–2 and beat Thomas Jefferson handily in the finals.

Senior leadership was important on the 2004 team. In this category, the *Governor* cited Felker, Howard, Shaner, Charles Tompkins, Kaiming Wu, and Mitchell Bornstein. Felker won three state doubles titles over his career with three different partners and finished second with a fourth. Howard partnered with Felker for the doubles crown in 2002 and was the state singles champion in 2003.

Of the four-year run to the top, Ted Felker had the following reflections:



Top: Anne Truetzel '03, with state medal, poses with coaches Scott Heinzl, left, and Toby Clark.

Bottom: **The 2004 team celebrates.** From left: Howard, Shaner, Coach Clark, White, Bornstein, Sears, Felker, Lehman, Goralnik, Coach Heinzl.

It took my brother's (August Felker '99) team four years to walk away with a state championship, which was very similar to my experience. We came in second multiple times, and the losses were devastating, usually coming down to the last match. Because of the players we had throughout the years—Todd Saligman ('01), Kolby Loft ('02), Ned Sears ('03), Charlie Howard, Teddy White—our goal every season was always the same—win state.

We were finally able to accomplish that feat my senior year, under the leadership of Coach (Toby) Clark. We learned from our past losses and became a tougher team mentally, and a lot of that credit goes to Toby. He's an incredible motivator; not to mention a fabulous person, making all of us better players and people.

White, the freshman on the championship team, held similar thoughts:

Toby Clark was the most intense and inspiring coach I have ever had. We would not have won the team state championship without his unbelievable tenacity pushing us along. He commanded our respect because he cared so much about the team's success, and he was a terrific person.

Girls: It Takes a Team

The performance of Burroughs girls in state tennis singles, as chronicled in "Four Girls, Ten Years, Nine State Tennis Crowns," was unparalleled in school history. Anne Truetzel '03, Susan Sullivan '06, Alex Lehman '09,



Left: **The 2004 tennis team.** From left: Min, King, Shah (in front), Sullivan (with baseball cap), Stroganova, Coach Heinzl, Coach Ward.



Right: **A celebratory march.** Sullivan carries King.

FOUR GIRLS, ELEVEN YEARS, TEN STATE TENNIS CROWNS

As of the publication of this book, the girls of Burroughs have won the state tennis crown in singles in ten out of the last eleven years—from 2001 to 2011. For the last nine years, the string has been unbroken; Sydney Lehman '12 made sure of that with her third successive title in the fall of 2011, losing a single set in the course of the year.

Four girls are responsible for this extraordinary run: Anne Truetzel '03 was the state champion in 2001 (and the runner-up in 2000, the fourth-place finisher in 2002). Susan Sullivan '06 was state champion from 2003 to 2005, and Alex Lehman '09 won successive titles from 2006 to 2008. Sydney then captured the title from 2009 through 2011. (In 2003, Charles Howard '04 added to the Burroughs luster by winning the singles championship for boys.)

Sydney Lehman's victory in 2011 created a classic tennis trilogy: three girls, three years each, three titles each. The threesome lost only four matches in achieving their remarkable feat. Sullivan lost once in the regular season as a junior, as did Alex Lehman, and Sydney lost in the district finals and state finals—both times to her sister—as a freshman in 2008. (Sidney advanced to state as the district runner-up.)

While proud of their success in singles, the girls have relished the

rewards of high school team tennis. After winning the singles title in 2003, Sullivan was quoted on the subject in the *West County Journal*: “We obviously wanted to win as a team, and the team part of high school tennis is what I like so much. But it was nice to come back and win individually and do it against a player from Pembroke.” (Pembroke had won the team title that year.) In *Rise Magazine*, Alex Lehman remarked: “Playing as part of a team was something I hadn't really done before, and I really enjoyed it. I work so hard on my game during the off-season and with all the national tournaments in the summer. The state tournament is a chance for me to relax with my teammates and just have fun.”

The 2011 team won the district championship for the second year in a row, with a big assist from four-year standout Katy Barenholtz '12, but lost in the sectionals to Visitation, the eventual state champion, also for the second year in a row.

Of Sullivan, her coach Terry Ward observed in the *Post-Dispatch*: “Susan is such a deserving champion, and she is a champ much more than on a tennis court. She is a champion academically and with her character.” Coach Steve Beauchamp praised the Lehman sisters: “Alex Lehman was a relatively reserved person who really led by example.

The way she conducted herself on the court was a big part of why the other girls looked up to her. At the same time, she was very competitive and would always find a way to get the best out of herself. Sydney has followed in her footsteps.”

From left: Susan Sullivan '06, Alex Lehman '09, Sydney Lehman '12.



and her sister Sydney Lehman '12 ruled the singles court through the decade and beyond. As a team, the girls traveled far as well. Toby Clark, in his last year at Burroughs, took the girls of 2003 to a third-place finish at state. Under Terry Ward in the next two years, the Bombers finished second in 2004 and third in 2005. Ward turned over the reins to Coach Steve Beauchamp (Ward continued as an assistant), who led Burroughs to third place in 2006 and second in 2007 and 2008. Thus, for six years in a row the Bombers ended the season in the top four of the state in team tennis.

Success in team tennis derives in part from the talents of those girls who excel in individual tournament play. To be successful as a team, however, strong support is necessary from others. In the years of strong Bomber team finishes, many players were instrumental—and often the same ones in multiple years. Among the players singled out by their coaches were Jo Eichhorn '05, Ali King '05, Meghana Roy '05, Suzanna Stroganova '05, Lara Gershman '06, Jaspur Min '07, Josephine Pang '06, Supriya Shah '07, Emily Kim '08, Sarah Soffer '08, Madi Holtzman '10, Emily Smith '10, Katie Smith '11, and Katy Barenholtz '12.

The fate of Burroughs in team play was intertwined with Notre Dame de Schion over a two-year span in which the Bombers came up short. In 2007, the girls lost in the finals to Notre Dame 5–2 despite wins by Alex Lehman in singles and Alex Lehman–Emily Smith in first doubles. In 2008, Burroughs overcame MICDS 5–1 in the semifinals on wins by Alex Lehman, Sydney Lehman, Smith, Holtzman, and Barenholtz in singles. They confronted Notre Dame again in the finals, but lost again 5–4 despite wins by the Lehman sisters and Barenholtz in singles and Alex Lehman–Emily Smith in doubles.

BASKETBALL'S IMPROBABLE RUN

Girls' basketball distinguished itself in the new millennium with a second trip to the finals of the state tournament in 2002–03. Unlike 1999–2000, however, this run was utterly improbable.

The Bombers of 2000–01, in Denny Moore's final year as coach, lost in the state quarterfinals. Disappointment prevailed, but there was pride in finishing among the top eight teams in the state. Co-captains Carrie Morris '01 and Amy Argetsinger '01 concluded remarkable careers: Morris broke the school rebounding record and Argetsinger topped the scoring mark.

Martha Fischer '91 became the coach in 2001–02, enlisting Jim Lemen as her assistant. The team promptly recorded their fifth district title before bowing again in the quarterfinals of the playoffs. Catherine Daake '03 finished high on the list of three-point shooters in the state for the season: fifteenth in three-point shots made (86), tenth in three-pointers made per game (3.19), and fourth in such shots attempted (250).

Packing for Columbia?

The team of 2002–03, bumped to a 3A classification, was hampered by the graduation of Aileen McGill and Shannon Murphy, both '02, and an early season injury to Daake. They were carrying only eight players, reported the *Governor*, so major contributions were required from everyone. By early January, the team was 2–10 and looking like anything *but* state contenders. “Packing for Columbia was not on the things-to-do list after the first dozen games,” quipped Tom Wheatley in the *Post-Dispatch*. Nine of the ten losses, however, were to teams that finished the year highly ranked.

Burroughs entered district play seeded third with a 9–14 record. They defeated Maplewood 62–15 and Bayless 44–38 to reach the district finals, where they employed great defense to upset Hancock 68–57. Scoring leaders were Beth Argetsinger '05 with nineteen, Alex Blake '06 also with nineteen, and Alana Fields '03 with fourteen.

The Bombers reached the .500 mark in the sectionals with a victory over Crystal City 54–44 and a pounding of Kelly 60–36. Against Hermann in the semifinals, the Bombers were down by five with two minutes remaining when Burroughs rallied on a Beth Argetsinger three pointer for a 51–49 win. The team was led by Alex Blake with twenty points, Argetsinger with fourteen, and Kristen Southworth '03 with eleven.

A taller and more experienced Stockton five overcame the valiant Bombers in the finals 80–51. Alana Fields, a senior, saved one of her best games for last, noted the *World*, pouring in eighteen points. Senior captain Katie Powers '03 summarized the remarkable year:

In the four years I played basketball at JBS, we won the district championship every year and placed second in state twice (my freshman and senior seasons). Despite all the incredible moments, the playoff run my senior season really stands out. We had lost some great players from the previous years and had struggled through the regular season, finishing with a fairly dismal, sub-.500 record.

No one expected much from us in the playoffs. While we didn't have any superstars, what we did have was solid talent, dedication, and a lot of experience playing together. Kristen (Southworth), Alana (Fields), and I had been playing together for four years. Moreover, there was a high level of commitment and respect among



Basketball, second place, 2003. Kneeling from left: Liberman, Fleming, Woods; second row: Sullivan, Galgani, Argetsinger, Powers; third row: Coach Eller, Southworth, Blake, Fields, Coach Lemen, Coach Fischer.

THE ONLY POINTS THAT MATTERED

Amy Argetsinger '01 played in 126 basketball games in her four varsity years at Burroughs—the fourth highest number in the state. She scored 2,208 points in her career—the most in school history. She looks upon Dennis Moore, who coached her teams to three final four appearances (her freshman through junior years) “as one of my first great coaches, and I am honored to have played for him.”

Of her four seasons of basketball, Argetsinger remembers her freshman year as the most significant. First, she was excited to make the varsity as a freshman. Second, in her first varsity game, she scored two points—her only two points of the game since she fouled out before she could add any more. Most important, however, was the following, which she submitted in writing for this book:

My mom was at that game. She sat on the sideline and watched, with pride and excitement, from her wheelchair. She saw me in my debut game, she saw me score my first basket. That was the only varsity game she saw me play. Those were the only two points she saw me score. She passed away a few short days after the first basketball game.

After Argetsinger reached two thousand career points, a reporter asked if she remembered any as being more significant than any others. She “told him, without hesitation, that the only points that mattered to me were the first two that I ever scored, because those were the only ones my mom ever saw.”

In remembering that first year, and how much she was helped by her “mentor and role model,” Krista Small '98, and by the team as a whole, Argetsinger concluded:

The team and basketball is what allowed me to forget about the sorrow of my mom (if only for a short time) and escape to a place where everyone had my back, no one judged me or looked at me with pity. We had fun, we laughed, we cried, and we won! That was the first year we made it to state, and it was such an amazing experience. I felt as if I were part of something bigger than just basketball. The camaraderie with those individuals, that team, cannot be put into words. It is a special experience that I will fondly look back on.



Amy Argetsinger '01 with Coach Dennis Moore.

the entire team. We exemplified teamwork; the person who scored the most points, scored the winning basket, made critical defensive plays, or had the most assists was rarely the same person from one game to the next. We all contributed what we could, whenever we could, and that collective strength is what got us to that championship game.

Boys Remain Competitive

In 2008–09 the boys won their first ABC championship since 1996–97. As the Steve Wilcutt era continued through the decade, however, the Bombers remained strong with an impressive 184–123 record, even though they did not emerge from the district round of state play.

Four players surpassed the 1,000-point threshold in career scoring: Larry Cunningham '06 with 1,127 points, Scott Van Slyke '05 with 1,483, and Grant Wallace '11 with 1,106. Wallace added 488 in the season of 2010–11 for a total of 1,594 to break the career mark of Chip Walther '92 of 1,588 points. Cunningham and Brian Cusworth '02 played at Rhodes College and Harvard University respectively. Cusworth continued with a stellar European pro career that continues today.

TRACK: DISNEY PROVIDES A BOOST

Fun in the sun and volleyball at the beach gave way over spring break early in the decade to crunches and wind sprints at Disney's Wide World of Sports complex in Florida. Such seriousness of purpose by the boys and girls of Burroughs track contributed to strong finishes in state competition in 2001 and 2002. With the Florida outing and the merging of practice sessions generally for boys and girls, Coach Daniel Harris energized the sport while maximizing the use of staff and facilities.

Boys: State Runners-Up – Twice

The boys had a big year in 2001. For the second year in a row they won the Orchard Farms Invitational, and they won the district meet. "One of the junior leaders, Adge McDaniel ('02), pushed himself and qualified for state in all of his events," the *Governor* boasted.

At state, McDaniel finished first in the 100 meters and second in the 200, and Vernon Chaplin '03 took fourth in the 800 meters, all of which helped power the Bombers to a second-place finish. Three relay teams were heavy contributors:

GIRLS RECORDS		
NAME	TIME	YEAR
R. FORSYTH	15.26	2006
T. FERRELL	12.42	2011
E. EBINNE	25.8	1994
R. FORSYTH	45.25	2005
C. JACOBSEN	59.94	1982
R. WOOLSEY	2:18.00	2001
R. THOMAS	5:04.94	1993
R. THOMAS	11:27.77	1993
T. FERRELL		
A. TATUM	49.53	2009
H. HEARD		
J. PLEGG		
T. FERRELL		
A. TATUM	1:44.02	2009
H. HEARD		
J. PLEGG		
C. SHAPLEIGH		
K. KAYEMBE	4:02.31	2001
E. LINGLE		
R. WOOLSEY		
R. THOMAS		
M. THORPE	9:49.16	1993
S. PEACOCK		
S. LITTLE		
K. SCHONWALD	5'2"	1999
T. AFUWAPE	16'	1998
M. NIESEN	32'1"	2007
L. JOHNSON	36'7"	2009
L. JOHNSON	130'8"	2011
A. MIZELL	10'0"	2008

EVENTS		
100/110 H HURDLES		
100 METER		
200 METER		
300 L/H HURDLES		
400 METER		
800 METER		
1600 METER		
3200 METER		
4X100 METER RELAY		
4X200 METER RELAY		
4X400 METER RELAY		
4X800 METER RELAY		
HIGH JUMP		
LONG JUMP		
TRIPLE JUMP		
SHOT PUT		
DISCUS		
POLE VAULT		

BOYS RECORDS		
NAME	TIME	YEAR
E. ELLIOTT	14.13	2011
A. McDANIEL	10.68	2002
A. McDANIEL	21.9	2002
E. ELLIOTT	38.53	2011
D. GREENE	49.51	1997
M. JETER	1:58.66	1990
T. WEPPRICH	4:35	2003
N. EVENS	10:02	2008
A.J. EADS		
B. JUMP	43.49	2002
I. ENGLISH		
A. McDANIEL		
R. RODGERS		
D. WASHINGTON	1:28.2	1991
L. HENDERSON		
G. SMITH		
M. JETER S. STUART		
L. HENDERSON/M. OBATA	3:26.63	90/04
J. PENISTON R.J. WILLIAMS		
D. WASHINGTON/M. BROWN		
J. GARBUTT		
M. BROWN	8:10	2003
T. WEPPRICH		
J. PASSANANTE		
J. FIELDS	6'6"	2002
C. PERKINS	21'3"	2006
J. HERSHEY	45'10.5"	1977
R. HAMILTON	55'7.25"	1988
R. HAMILTON	158'11"	1988
L. SANDBERG	14'	2004



Track, second place, 2001. From left: Coach Harris, Fields, Townsend, Chaplin, McGowan, Huebner, Stuart, Mosley, English, Brown, Jump.

the 4 × 100 (Jason McGowan '01, Albert Huebner '01, Brian Jump '03, McDaniel)—fourth; the 4 × 200 (K. G. Mosley '01, Holiday Douglas '01, Jump, McDaniel)—second; and the 4 × 400 team (Kellen Townsend '03, Jump, Huebner, Chaplin)—fifth.

The boys finished second in state again in 2002—only three points behind always-strong Berkeley. Luke Sandberg '04 finished tenth in the pole vault, and Jordan Fields '02 placed ninth in the high jump. McDaniel bettered himself this year with a first in both the 100 and 200; Matt Brown '04 took fourth in the 800.

The relay teams again were strong. In the 4 × 800 relay, Brown, Joey Passanante '03, Adam Eichner '02, and Robbie Molden '02 finished sixth. The 4 × 100 relay team (A. J. Eads '02, Jump, Ian English '04, McDaniel) and the 4 × 200 relay team (Eads, Jump, Townsend, McDaniel) both took firsts. With four gold medals in

hand, McDaniel was chosen the Metro Track Athlete of the Year.

Girls: Not Far Behind

The girls were close behind the boys, finishing sixth at state in 2001 and fourth in 2002. The first year brought strong performances in the relays and the 800 meters. The 4 × 800 relay team (Anita Devineni '02, Erin Lingle '04, Ryan Woolsey '01, and Claire Shapleigh '02) and the 4 × 400 team (Kathleen Kayembe '04, Lingle, Shapleigh, Woolsey) finished first. Ryan Woolsey ascended the victor's stand for the third successive year in the 800 meters; Shapleigh placed second.

In 2002, many girls excelled. Alana Fields '03 was tenth in the shot and seventh in the discus; Anna Hoeltzel '04 finished fifth in the pole vault. Shapleigh finished second again in the 800 meters. All four relay teams sprinted to strong finishes: the 4 × 100 (Kayembe, Melissa Sher '04, Elizabeth Yoselevsky '04, Allison Spector '02)—seventh; the 4 × 200 (Sher, Yoselevsky, Spector, Veronica Sudekum '02)—third; the 4 × 400 (Kayembe, Katie Ferris '03, Shapleigh, Spector)—second; and the 4 × 800 (Lingle, Ferris, Devineni, Shapleigh)—first.

Track remained strong for the balance of the decade, but a reclassification to level 3 in state competition made championships more difficult. From 2003 to 2010, five boys and six girls won medals at the state meet. The boys were Adam Sandberg '03 (pole vault in 2003), Chris Perkins '06 (triple jump in 2005), John Meehan '06 (discus in 2006), Myles Moody '09 (triple jump in 2009), and Ezekiel Elliott '13 (110 hurdles in 2010).

Medal winners for the girls included Alana Fields '03 (discus in 2003), Kathleen Kayembe '04 (100 dash in 2003), Rosemary Forsyth '06 (100 and 300 hurdles in 2005 and 2006), Jane Plegge '10 (300 hurdles in 2009 and 2010), Hannah Heard '11 (100 hurdles in 2009 and 2010), and Lea Johnson '11 (discus in 2010).

BASEBALL: THIRD STATE CROWN

Track was not the only team to head south at spring break for a head start on spring sports. Baseball added to the Burroughs presence in Florida when Andy Katzman '85 initiated spring training in Cocoa Beach in 2002. It was Katzman's second year as the head coach, and the trip helped produce the school's third state baseball championship.

Katzman, himself a Burroughs baseball standout, took over from Jim Lemen as head coach in the spring of 2001. He was assisted by Lee Engert, a former coaching great at Ritnour High School. Katzman's first team of 2001 compiled a 24–5 record, won the ABC League, and reached the semifinals of the state tournament, losing to Iberia in what became a motivator for the many underclassmen on the team. The *Governor* praised the 2001 senior leadership of D. J. Gelner, K. G. Mosley, and James Feuerbacher. It lauded the pitching of John Sternberg '02, Jason DuPont '03, and Andrew Emory '04, plus the hitting of juniors A. J. Van Slyke, Andy Kantrovitz, Grant Gelner, Chris Lange, and Bob Miltenberger, all '02.

The 2002 Bombers were 3–1 in Florida. They won another ABC title, and also the ABC League Tournament. The Bombers stormed through district play, where their closest game was a 9–2 victory over Lutheran North in the finals. In the sectionals, they staved off Elsberry 8–7 to advance to the quarterfinals against Palmyra. With home runs by Sternberg and Emory, and four-for-five batting performances by Curran Clark '02 and Miltenberger, the Bombers powered to a 20–6 victory for a second successive trip to Columbia.

Following a 5–2 victory over Cape Notre Dame in the semifinals, the *Columbia Tribune* commented on the team's strong defensive play—but also its size. Cape Notre Dame senior Jeff Brosley was likewise impressed: “They were huge,” he was quoted as saying. “Bigger than what I normally see. It seems like they got bigger and bigger every time another guy came up there.” In the game's key defensive effort, Emory threw out a runner at the plate, and catcher A. J. Van Slyke rifled to second base to complete a nifty double play.



Top: Jane Plegge '10 shows her form.

Bottom: Coach Katzman and pitcher Chris Lange '02 after the final out, 2002.



The 2002 state championship baseball team.

Sitting from left: Shea, Gelner, Curley, Kline, Mendelsohn, Emory; kneeling: Kantrovitz, Lange, Clark, S. Van Slyke, Dupont, Shea, Caldwell; standing: Coach Katzman, A. Van Slyke, Miltenberger, Sternberg, Scott, Coach Engert.

In the 2A championship game against St. Pius X of Kansas City, Sternberg, who had missed most of the regular season with an arm problem, pitched a strong six innings before Lange came on in relief. Freshman Scott Van Slyke '05 belted a home run and Emory drove in three runs with an off-the-wall double in the Bombers' 9-3 victory.

"We had four goals," Katzman told sportswriter Jim Inghram of the *Post-Dispatch*. "We wanted to win league, the two tournaments we were in, and we wanted to win state. We accomplished all four." Senior Chris Lange added: "This is an unbelievable feeling, to accomplish what you set out to do is hard to put into words."

Baseball players from the decade who played at a higher level included the Van Slyke brothers, A.J. and Scott, both of whom turned professional, and Curtis Adams '10, Curran Clarke '02, Andrew Emory '05, Grant Gelner '02, Chris Lange '02, David LeResche '07, and John Sternberg '02. LeResche's Burroughs exploits earned him the Rising Star award of the St. Louis Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame.

FIELD HOCKEY CONTINUES TO DAZZLE

The Bombers of field hockey continued their dazzling play in the 2000s, pocketing their tenth Midwest Field Hockey championship in 2000 and reaching the quarterfinals of the tournament or better in six other years. They would wait no longer than the fall of 2010 to claim state title number eleven.

The 2000 Midwest Champions

The Bombers played the regular season in the competitive Metro Women's Athletic Association (MWAA), which existed for the various varsity sports at Burroughs. MWAA consisted of a number of St. Louis-area private schools, plus Edwardsville from the Metro East in field hockey. (Skippy Keefer was instrumental in MWAA's founding in the 1980s.) The annual end-of-season Midwest Field Hockey Tournament was open to public schools as well, and it was played over the course of a week with first and second rounds, quarterfinals, semifinals, and the championship game.

The 2000 Bombers tied for their league championship and downed Villa Duchesne 2–0 for their second Midwest championship in a row. “Captains Ryan Woolsey and Mary Stranghoener (both '01) led the team both on and off the field,” trumpeted the *Governor*. The team raced to a 19–2–1 record in Beth Kinsella's twenty-fifth year with the team. Kinsella shared head-coaching duties with Nancy Keefer Schmer '83, daughter of Skippy Keefer: Kinsella ran the offense, Schmer the defense.

The Bombers were seeded third in the tournament. They had beaten MICDS for the so-called district title on a game that went to strokes, and they overcame Nerinx Hall in the semifinal round. In the victory over Villa (seeded number one), Claire Shapleigh '02 scored in the first half and Janie Mackey '02 iced the game with a shot off a corner play with 9:04 remaining in the game. Jessie Fowler '02 was a standout in goal: She won the first Skippy Keefer award presented by MWAA in recognition of participation and sportsmanship in the various MWAA sports. The team dedicated the season to Keefer, who was retiring as athletic director.

Final Four Fixtures

From 2001 through 2006, Burroughs made the final four of the Midwest Tournament five out of the six years—every fall but 2002. In 2001, captained by Mackey and Fowler, they reached the semifinals but fell 2–1 to Villa to claim second place. The Bombers posted a hefty 16–3 record in a season highlighted by a 1–0 victory over MICDS.

2003: The Bombers “dominated all season long to get to the Midwest Field Hockey Championship game against St. Joseph's Academy,” reported the *Governor*, falling in a game that “came down to the last minute of overtime, and JBS dominated for much of the game.” The team played with a balance of juniors and seniors. Goalie Gena Miller '05, Beth Argetsinger '05, and Kim Kennedy '04 made first-team All-Metro.

2004: The 2004 team was 16–3–1, won an MWAA title, and reached the Midwest semifinals. They ran up a stunning 62–12 goal margin, including 7–0 routs of Lutheran South and Edwardsville and a gratifying 5–1 pasting of MICDS. The captains were Argetsinger and Ashley Benson '05; other senior leadership came from Miller, Nicole Shen, Allison Barnett, Molly Naunheim, Kate Murphy, and Jessica Rubin, all '05. Despite a 3–2 win over Cor Jesu in the regular season, the Bombers

Field hockey celebration following the 2005 victory over MICDS in state playoffs.



lost a heartbreaker 1–0 to the same team in the semifinals of Midwest play. With twelve shutouts during the year, Miller was named a field hockey All-American. Argetsinger and Rosemary Forsyth '06 were number one and two in league scoring.

2005: The 2005 Bombers reached the championship game after finishing the season at 15–0–3 with a squad of six seniors, eight juniors, one sophomore, and two freshmen. “Ranked second for state play,” reported the *Governor*, “the Bombers beat Rosati-Kain, Visitation and rival MICDS to make it to the state final. Although the Bombers lost in the final game to Cor Jesu, second place felt really good.” The semifinal win over MICDS is ingrained in the memories of Captain Rosemary Forsyth and junior Dena Soffer '07. In Soffer’s words:

One of the most exciting moments in my Burroughs field hockey career was in 2005 when we beat MICDS in double overtime and penalty strokes to go on to the state finals. We had been playing those MICDS girls since 7th grade, when they’d taken the Gateway Field Hockey Junior Classic Championship away from us. Four years later, they were still good, but so were we.

We fought hard the entire game, but the ball just wouldn’t go in the goal. We had what felt like a million fans, but during those final penalty strokes the field was completely quiet. After the last stroke went in to win the game, everyone piled on to each other in the middle of the field. We took a photograph in front of an MICDS sign that read, “Beat Burroughs.” I’d never seen Coach Kinsella look so happy.

2006: In 2006 the team of eight seniors, five juniors, and three sophomores made it to the semifinals, but MICDS struck back this year for a victory in overtime. “The seniors provided the team with experience, and new, younger players brought a lot of energy to the field,” said the *Governor*, underscoring regular-season victories over Pembroke Hill, Nerinx Hall, and Ursuline Academy.

2008: In the final year with a post-season run, the 2008 Bombers compiled an eye-popping 18–4 record and pushed hard for a state title to celebrate the final year at Burroughs of Beth Kinsella and Keith Shahan. “Unfortunately they were knocked out in the quarterfinals in a double overtime loss to St. Joe,” lamented the *Governor*, “but they still look back on their season with positive thoughts.”

In the latter half of the decade, Alex Tremayne '06, Tricia Clark '07, Liesl Schnuck '09, Elena Crosley '09, Christie O’Hara '09, and Jennifer Hatfield '10 distinguished themselves in hockey and moved on to the college ranks. A glorious era ended when Kinsella stepped down as coach after the 2008 season. Of her thirty-four years in hockey at Burroughs, Kinsella reminisced:



Beth Kinsella and Nancy Keefer Schmer '83 monitor the hockey action from the sidelines, 2005.

The kids, their parents, and the coaches I worked with will all stay in my heart forever! I am especially thankful for the opportunity to be mentored by Skippy (Keefer), a legend in her own right! She taught me everything I know about coaching, from how to prepare a lesson plan to how to win a state championship!

Plaudits poured in, evidencing the deep love and respect for Kinsella by her players. Following is a sampling:

Beth Argetsinger '05: *I never touched a field hockey stick except in gym class before 9th grade. I became the player I was because she was my coach. She turned me into a field hockey player. I am so grateful she was my coach.*

Caroline Kraus '85: *As a freshman, I recall Beth Kinsella pledging to take anyone who scored a hat trick out to lunch. As fond as all the players were of Beth, this was a very appealing incentive to score. Over the years I had the opportunity to be part of some of those lunches, and during those special afternoons she went above and beyond her role as coach, showing interest in us and our lives outside of school and offering her time and attention in ways that helped us through some of the challenges we invariably experienced on the road through adolescence.*

Ryan Thomas '94: *Beth Kinsella—a great coach, motivator, team leader, and athletic role model.*

Shireen Khan '85: *Beth was always patient with us but was able to motivate us to work hard and be the best.*

The season of 2009 opened an equally promising era. Meridith Thorpe '95, a former standout for Kinsella and an All-American at the University of Virginia, returned from college coaching to lead field hockey at Burroughs, joining her father Ray and her uncle Flennard Thorpe on the coaching staff in a true family affair. Thorpe wasted no time in taking Burroughs to the pinnacle of field hockey success in her second coaching season of 2010.

WATER SPORTS: MUSICAL SEASONS, MORE SUCCESS

Musical seasons struck water sports in 2006–07: Girls' swimming moved from spring to winter; boys' swimming from winter to fall; and water polo from fall to spring. Despite the upheaval, success carried forward. In another change, a new state rule allowed students to swim for their schools and for independent swimming clubs in the same season.



Top: Scott Steinhouse '11 fires away.

Chris Lee '10 (middle) and Madison Qualy '12 (bottom) compete in the Bomber pool.

Thus, athletes who had previously chosen a club to the exclusion of Burroughs (example, Henry Felker '04) could carry the Bombers banner as well.

Burroughs swimmers, competing against all comers in a single class, qualified regularly for state and sometimes captured medals—and thus All-State honors—by finishing in the top eight. Jenny Buck '02, already having medaled twice each in 1999 and 2000, did so again in 2002 with eighth place in both her specialties, the 200 and 500 freestyle. In 2010, Madison Qualy placed sixteenth—thereby winning team points and honorable mention All-State—in the 200 individual medley, and she medaled at eighth in the 100 breaststroke.

The boys opened the decade in winter 2000–01 with an 8–3 record in dual meets and, at state, twenty-six points for twenty-first place. They placed in the top sixteen in both freestyle relays; Graig Peterson '01 medaled at eighth in the 50 free and placed eleventh in the 100 fly; and Jason Walcott '01 placed in the 50 and 100 free. In 2001–02, Paul Salomon '02 became only the second Burroughs diver (through the present time) to qualify for state, where he placed at sixteenth.

The Bombers were strong from 2001–02 through 2003–04, improving annually to compile a combined record of 32–10. The best year was the last when seniors Craig Dull, Andrew Emory, Gordon Forsyth, and Luke Sandberg, all '04, led the team to 12–2. In 2004–05, another Dull—this one Kyle '05—showed true Burroughs grit by breaking the school record in the 500 free while competing at state with an injured ankle. His record still stands. That same year the 200 medley relay team of Nick Llewellyn '05, Dima Galkin '06, Hao Ding '06, and Mark Gaioni '05, placed at state. Galkin placed individually in the breaststroke in both 2004–05 and 2005–06 and has the school record today.

Chris Lee '10 was dominant in the fall seasons of 2006–09. He qualified every year for state: as a sophomore he did so in six events, and as a senior, reported the *Governor*, he “essentially rewrote half of the school’s record book.” The 2011 team splashed to an 11–1 record and sent seven swimmers to state, where the medley relay team of Chris Bach and Scott Steinhouse, both '11, and Brad Riew and Robert Beckles, both '13, shaved three seconds off the previous school record, and the 400 free relay team of Beckles, Steinhouse, Jack Blethroad '14, and Jacob Waterman '12 set a new mark as well. Steinhouse placed thirteenth in the 100 freestyle and also set a new school record.

GIRLS RECORDS			EVENTS	BOYS RECORDS		
NAME	TIME	YEAR		NAME	TIME	YEAR
W. JONES			200 MEDLEY RELAY	C. BACH		
M. McCARTHY	1:58.44	1993		B. RIEW	1:41.61	2010
P. VONGSVIVUT			200 FREE	R. BECKLES		
M.N. GEORGE				S. STEINHOUSE		
J. BUCK	1:59.67	2000	200 IM	J. WALCOTT	1:51.31	2001
M. OUALY	2:13.89	2011	50 FREE	C. LEE	2:04.38	2009
M.N. GEORGE	25.53	1994	DIVING	C. LEE	22.24	2009
M. GRAVISS	258.10	1988	100 FLY	J. BARTON	235.40	2000
M.N. GEORGE	1:01.51	1994	100 FREE	C. LEE	55.50	2009
M.N. GEORGE	56.18	1994	500 FREE	S. STEINHOUSE	49.10	2010
J. BUCK	5:20.60	2002	200 FREE RELAY	K. DULL	5:09.45	2005
L. GROTE				J. FRIES		
P. VONGSVIVUT	1:45.02	1993	100 BACK	C. FELKER	1:32.28	1999
M. McCARTHY			100 BREAST	J. PEVNICK		
M.N. GEORGE			400 FREE RELAY	J. WALCOTT		
K. MORAN	1:03.63	1988		G. McDONALD	56.81	1991
M. OUALY	1:08.17	2010		D. GALKIN	1:00.96	2006
P. VONGSVIVUT				S. STEINHOUSE		
S. PETERSON	3:51.35	1994		J. BLETHROAD	3:25.20	2010
M. McCARTHY				R. BECKLES		
M.N. GEORGE				J. WATERMAN		

Water Polo: A Founders' Cup Force

The Aqua Bombers posted a 14–10 record in 2002. They climbed to 17–9 in 2003 with a second-place finish in the prestigious Founders' Cup, an eight-school tournament featuring the original water polo teams of the area, plus others—such as Burroughs—by invitation. Jamie Wagner earned Suburban Central Conference Coach of the Year, and Peter Sauerhoff '06 and Ben Vandiver '05 were All-Conference. The season of 2004 was stronger still: The Bombers won the Founders' Cup and finished fourth in the state tournament, falling to MICDS. The captancy was shared by Nick Llewellyn, Scott MacArthur, Mark Gaioni, and Vandiver, all '05, and the *Governor* cited strong play from Sauerhoff, Kyle Dull, and Logan Finerty '05.

In 2005, Sauerhoff as captain, Dima Galkin '05, Austin Walsh '06, Chris Lubniewski '07, and Ben Woods '06 (in goal) led the way in Wagner's last season as coach. The *Governor* issued a special thanks to "Da Wags." As Sauerhoff forged a record-setting career at Johns Hopkins, Steve Stiffelman became head coach in the new spring season of 2007. In 2010, he led the Bombers, now in the Suburban West Conference, to a 17–9–1 record, another Founders' Cup championship, and second place in the maiden John Burroughs Invitational. The captains were Chris Lee '10, Beni Kovacs '10, and Scott Steinhouse '11.



Left: Mitch Stromsdorfer in 2008.

Bottom: Cory Lester in 2010.



WRESTLING ADVANCES—TEAMS AND INDIVIDUALS

Wrestling at Burroughs steadily advanced in the new millennium—both in team and individual accomplishment. Whereas there were only thirteen wrestlers and no state medalists in the program in 2001, by

the end of the decade the team consistently claimed twenty members and strong state performances. The number of qualifiers increased from two in 2002 to eight in 2010.

The Bombers won the ABC League three years in a row at the close of the decade—2007–08 through 2009–10. The last of these years was the best ever, according to the *Governor*. In addition to winning the league, they won the JBS Tournament for the first time and finished sixth at state. It was a time for state champions. Mitch Stromsdorfer '08 won a title at 152 in 2006 and at 171 in 2008, and finished second in 2007 at 160. Cory Lester '12 won a championship in 2010 at 112 after finishing third at 103 in 2009. Noted below are those wrestlers who received medals at the state meet:

<u>Tournament Year</u>	<u>Wrestler</u>	<u>Weight Class</u>	<u>Place</u>
2002	Eric Mosinger '03	103	6
2003	Alex McDonnell '03	160	6
2006	Mitch Stromsdorfer '08	152	1
2007	Mitch Stromsdorfer	160	2
2008	Mitch Stromsdorfer	171	1
2009	Cory Lester '12	103	3
	Adam Datema '11	215	6
2010	Cory Lester	112	1
	Adam Datema	215	3
	Kyle Feldman '11	145	6

Coach Dean Tiffany took the sport to impressive new heights. Through a new seventh and eighth grade program, young wrestlers have been encouraged in the sport under the guidance of a past Burroughs state champion, Jack Mosinger '71. Tiffany has recruited top wrestling coaches as his assistants, Joe Bingham, Ed Mueller, and Jim Ott.

ICE HOCKEY'S “WILD PLAYOFF RUN”

Ice hockey continued to play a prominent role as a club sport at Burroughs. In years when turnout was small, the Bombers could borrow from a pool of players available to all competing schools. Andy Leonard, father of Joe '98 and Jake '00, took over the program early on, producing impressive results.



The Bombers of 2001–02 reached the semifinals of the Wickenheiser Cup, a tournament of the Mid-States High School League. The Cup is named for Doug Wickenheiser of the St. Louis Blues, who died prematurely in 1999. The competition is viewed as the equivalent of a state championship in the sport. The *Governor* reported that the team “made a strong run into the semifinals of state playoffs on the play of our great senior goaltender Geoff King ('02). Our explosive offense was led by the senior captains Andy Kantrovitz and Curran Clark, as well as seniors Ryan Walsh and Ralph Dacey (all '02). Senior Captain Pete La Pierre ('02) led the defense in stopping the offensive power of our opponents.”

In 2004–05 the Bombers brought home the Wickenheiser Cup for display in the Cissel Center in their strongest finish in a decade. Coach Leonard chronicled the playoff run in detail:

The team was led through a wild playoff run by senior captains Brian Bowers '05 and Alex Hubb '05 and the sensational play of sophomore star Jimmy Martin '07 and goalies David Bosner '07 and Alec Rosen '06. A key quarterfinal game against Eureka was tied by Hubb in the final seconds with a baseball-swing goal on the final faceoff. Senior assistant captains Matt Elitt '05 and Will Chapman '05, along with freshmen Justin Westfall '08 and Zach Weisenfelds '08, combined for clutch goals to complement the high-scoring Bowers and Martin. In the semifinals against St. Mary's, freshman Andrew Hubb '08 chipped a perfect lead pass to Bowers for the winning breakaway goal. The final game at Savvis against St. Charles West was the best game of the season. Bowers, Martin, and Hubb rotated in a wheel at defense and center, each double shifting until the game was won. Chapman put a perfect feed from Martin into the top corner for the first goal. Elitt scored in the second period on a penalty kill. Bowers stole a pass on another penalty kill and gave the Bombers a three-goal lead. Bowers later added the fourth goal on a laser from the blue line.

Leonard received the Ray Hanson Memorial award in 2006 for his contributions to youth ice hockey. Jimmy Martin pursued hockey at Yale as captain of the team, and David Bosner became an Air Force Academy recruit in the sport.

VOLLEYBALL'S THREE ACES

Girls' volleyball at Burroughs served up three powerful aces in the decade—the seasons of 2000 through 2002 in which they compiled combined regular-season records of 71–13 and forged deep into post-season play each year.

The “Volley-Bombers” of the fall of 2000 spiked to a 26–3 season led by seniors from the Class of 2001: Amy Argetsinger, Stephanie Ackerman, Erica Chapman, Jen Leving, and Meredith Deal. They became the first volleyball team to win a district championship. At the sectional level, they overpowered Crystal City to advance to the quarterfinals, where they fell to the Hermann Bearcats.

The 2001 group fell off only slightly to 21–7 and again bowed in the sectionals to Hermann. “It was an awesome season,” Mary Younger ’02 said in the *World*. “We started out with three losses in a row, and this was disheartening. We were determined to win, however, and after that we had a sixteen-game winning streak.” Kate Sauerhoff ’02 added: “The Lutheran-St. Charles game was certainly our best one, but our whole season was great, and we ended it with no regrets. Everyone gave 110 percent, and that’s all we can ask.”



The girls of 2002 powered to a 24–3 season—and then came face-to-face with the multiplier. Moved up a class under the state system, the Lady Bombers fell in the district finals to Visitation, who had beaten them in the regular season as well. Courtney Bishop ’03 and Heather Blake ’04 were first-team All-Conference, Alex Blake ’06 was second-team, and Stacey Maurer ’03 was honorable mention.

“The past three years have been an incredible experience for the Burroughs Volleyball program,” proclaimed Jennifer Smith, the assistant coach, in the *World*. True enough. And hopes were high for the future, despite the multiplier, an imposing opponent in itself.

GOLF MEETS STIFF COMPETITION

The Bombers achieved lesser results in golf in the 2000s than in earlier decades, but they were a factor in state competition nonetheless. Charlie Felker ’02 finished thirteenth at state in the spring of 2001, while Lanny Benson ’03 finished third in 2002 and tenth in 2003. As a team, Burroughs shot 619 for third place at state in 2004, behind Mount Vernon and Pembroke. Russell Murphy ’04 led the Bombers with scores of 75 and 77 in the two-day event. He was followed by Matt Ruck ’06 (78,76), Phil Wyse ’05 (78,76), Mark Zimmer ’04 (83,76), and Spencer Gordon ’07 (86,80).

“Next year we expect to make it back to state, and I for one feel good about the chances of victory,” Wyse told the *World*. He was partially correct. The strokers of 2005 and 2006 did at least qualify for the state tournament. The teams of 2009 and 2010 sent individuals to state, but neither the team nor any individuals reached the elusive trophy or medal stage.

For the girls, some history was made. Lindsey Jubel ’04 and Rebeca Davila ’01 in 2000, and Jubel and Jeanne Trulaske ’03 in 2001, became the first women to qualify for the state meet, but no team qualified in the decade.

The Cheerleaders.

First row from left: Fort, Selke, Smith, Bassman, Schmid; second row: Barnell, Fowler, O’Connell, Albus, Wright, Fleming; third row: Edwards, Finnerty, Sky, Barenholtz, Plegge, Murphy, Renner.



Epilogue / Boding Well for the Future



The opening of the second decade of the twenty-first century found the Burroughs Bombers comporting themselves just as they had in the preceding eighty-eight years—piling victory upon victory and bearing defeat, when it came, with equanimity. Fittingly, the new decade brought fundamental change. The ABC League, in place for boys since 1928, gave way in the fall of 2011 to an expanded Metro League, and the girls transferred their allegiance from the Metro Women’s Athletic Association, where they had competed for decades, to the same group. Metro for the boys consisted of Burroughs, MICDS, Principia, Lutheran North, Lutheran South, Westminster, and Priory; it was the same for the girls except for Villa Duchesne in lieu of Priory.

THE 2010–11 ACADEMIC YEAR

The 2010–11 year produced ever more team and individual titles at the state and league level in an array of sports. There were state championships in field hockey and girls’ lacrosse—and a near miss in football. As teams were brandishing the Burroughs name, individuals continued to accumulate medals. Sydney Lehman ’12 extended the extraordinary family run in tennis by winning her second state singles championship in a row in the fall of 2010. The girls’ team as a whole advanced to the sectional round of the state playoffs, bowing to Visitation.

In swimming, Madison Qualy ’12 placed at state in the 200 individual medley and the 100 breaststroke—thereby achieving honorable mention All-State—and in the process broke her own school record in the 100 IM. In track, Ezekiel Elliott ’13 captured state gold in the 110 hurdles and second in the 300 hurdles. Lea Johnson ’11 was the state runner-up in the discus, and Tiffani Ferrell ’11 placed ninth in the 100 meters. In wrestling, the Bombers won the ABC League for the fourth consecutive year, and Winston Boldt ’11 placed fifth in state, Adam Datema ’11 second, and Corey Lester ’12, medaling for the third time since his freshman year, also second.

The 2011 swim team in advance of their successful fall season.

Field Hockey—Near-Perfection

The Bombers of field hockey posted a 23–1 record in 2010 and won the Midwest Field Hockey Tournament for an astounding eleventh state championship. In the playoffs, they overwhelmed Clayton 8–0, Cor Jesu 5–1, and Lafayette 2–0 to face MICDS in the finals. The Rams struck first, but Burroughs responded for a 3–1 win. Coach Meredith Thorpe described the phenomenon:

Field hockey celebrating number eleven. First row from left: Longley, Frerotte, Hicks, Sweetman, Rill; second row: L. Yost, T. Yost, Goodloe, Trotter, Yamada; third row: Coach Thorpe, Coach Schmer, Fischer, Chapman, Philpott, Schneider, Grady, Martin, Valli, Schnuck, Fox, Martone.

This was a team on a mission. From opening day in mid-August until the very last whistle that was blown on a beautiful November Saturday, these young ladies were focused, determined, and simply refused to be denied what they had worked so very hard to accomplish. Never looking ahead and never looking back, this squad truly adopted the philosophy of staying in the moment, taking things one play at a time, one skill at a time, one game at a time.

The leading scorers were Charlotte Martin '12 with ninety-seven points (thirty-eight goals, twenty-one assists); Mackenzie Grady '11 with forty-eight points (twenty-two goals, four assists), and Maggie Chapman '11 with thirty-one points (six goals, nineteen assists).

Football—Second Place in a First

In Todd Small's final season as head coach, the football Bombers had an equally close brush with perfection, falling barely shy of a ninth state championship. Still it was the first Burroughs team to win a district title in Class 3A and travel to the state finals in that category. The Bombers compiled a 600–186 point margin in fifteen games, including a thrashing of MICDS 21–0 and Priory 28–12 to seal their first ABC crown in eight years. Sam Van Doren '11 completed 227 passes out of 347 attempts on the season for 3,201 yards and 42 touchdowns. Grant Wallace '11 led the scoring with 146 points and was the league MVP for the second consecutive year. The defense was led by Bear Kaminer '12 with 119 tackles, Nick Rassieur '11 with 105, and Fade Oluokun '11 with 102.



The Bombers roared through the playoffs, downing Cardinal Ritter 28–19, Lutheran North 34–7, and Dexter 42–6. They beat Bowling Green in the semifinals, launching an eight-play drive for a go-ahead touchdown with thirty-one seconds remaining. An eighteen-yard reception by Wallace had placed the ball on the one, and Van Doren ran it over. In the finals at the Dome, however, Richmond turned the tables. The Bombers were up 20–7 in the fourth quarter when the Spartans rebounded for a 21–20 victory, the last score coming with sixteen seconds to play. The disappointment was palpable, but at Monday morning assembly the team took the high road, focusing on the positives in one of the greatest seasons in school history.

Peppering All-Metro

Burroughs was well represented in the *Post-Dispatch*'s All-Metro section for fall sports. Explaining the significance of the honor, the newspaper wrote: "Because all classifications are included on All-Metro, and because the team includes athletes from Missouri and Illinois coverage areas, selection to All-Metro is more prestigious than selection to All-State."

Charlotte Martin, still a junior, merited half a page of photographic and print coverage as a second-year *Post* All-Metro selection in hockey and its 2010 Player of the Year. Abby Frerotte '13 made the second team as goalie and Maggie Chapman '11 as a midfielder; Margaret Schnuck '11 made the third team as a defender. Junior Sydney Lehman '12 likewise received a half-page spread as the *Post*'s Player of the Year in tennis. In football, two Bombers

Football after Bowling Green thriller. Lying from left: Maritz, Wright, Krewson; kneeling: Fade Oluokun, Datema, Trulaske, Fort, Smith, Boldt, Van Doren, Torno, Palan, Hill, Rassieur, Elliott; standing: Coach Thorpe, Coach Nicholas, Coach Albrecht, C. Bledsoe, Hefler, Bratkowski, Datema, Wood, Hanrahan, Coach Frerotte, Holmes, Adams, Moon, Raza, Vance, Foye Oluokun, Fruchter, Schnuck, Ruwitch, Gerard, Yee, K. Bledsoe, Gilbert, Sandiford, Kaminer, Barnett, Riley, Wallace, Ceesay, Grady, Coach Small.





Lacrosse wins second title. Front row from left: Sudekum, Valli, Schnuck, Schott, Malzahn, Rill; second row: Collins, Longley, Martin, Kelly, Hicks, Martone, Frerotte, Shinkle, Souers, Barry, Hurster, Williams, Coach O'Malley, Coach Morrison.

made the All-Metro first-team offense—Van Doren at quarterback and Wallace as a wide receiver. Joe Bratkowski made the second team on offense. Closer to home, the *World's* Vikram Chauhan '11, for his Superb Fall Male Athlete, tapped Winston Boldt '11, who excelled in goal for boys' soccer—but also led the scoring with six goals off free kicks.

Bombers Basketball

Boys' basketball drove to a 15–10 record and second place in the final year of the ABC League, including an eight-game winning streak in mid-season and a thrilling win over North County Tech in district play. In a remarkable first at Burroughs, Grant Wallace, the two-time league MVP in football, received the same honor in basketball. The girls posted a winning season at 11–10 under Head Coach Martha Fischer '91 in her first year back at Burroughs. She was assisted by Meridith Thorpe '95.

Lacrosse Reprises 2010

In the spring of 2011, girls' lacrosse launched a dramatic late-season run to capture a second state championship in as many years. Versatile Charlotte Martin led the scoring with fifty-eight points (forty-nine goals, nine



Top: **Water polo happy with a win.** First row from left: Waterman, Diemer, S. Steinhouse, Emmenegger, Biethroad; second row: Nickerson, Zhou; third row: Gusdorf, Hicks, K. Steinhouse, Hoatling, Sheth, Burnes.

Bottom: Vanessa Asaro '11, Sydney O'Neal '13, and Kate Koby '13 celebrate a soccer goal.

assists) and followed Roz Schulte '02 as the second Bomber All-American in the sport. She and Emily Valli '11 earned All-Metro, even though Valli missed most of the season with injury. The state title was made possible, wrote the *World*, in large measure by the additional senior leadership of Jordan Schott, Christina Malzahn, Margaret Schnuck, and Sean Sudekum, all '11.

In the championship game, played at Lindenwood University, the Bombers avenged a mid-season loss to Ursuline (14–13) when Rahney Longley '13 scored from short range with eight seconds remaining for a 15–14 victory. Coach Megan O'Malley and Lexie Morrison, her assistant, wrote the following for this book: “The 2011 girls’ lacrosse season was the definition of heart, believing in each other as teammates and the hard work they had put forth all season long. We as coaches are so proud to have been a part of this team where each player contributed to our journey to the top as state champions!”

Water Polo and Girls’ Soccer—the Quarterfinalists

Both the water polo and girls’ soccer teams advanced to the quarterfinals of their playoffs. The soccer Bombers upended top-seeded Brentwood 2–0 to claim the district title; they downed Crossroads 6–1 in the sectionals before falling 2–0 in the quarterfinals to St. Vincent’s, the state runner-up. The *World* lauded seniors Vanessa Asaro, Maggie Chapman, and Mackenzie Grady, all '11.

Water polo had its strongest finish since moving to the spring season, going 19–6 and compiling an impressive goal margin of 278 to 154. Leading scorers were Scott Steinhouse '11—215 points (81 goals, 53 assists); Jason Gusdorf '12—189 points (72 goals, 45 assists), and Jacob Waterman '12—137 points (42 goals, 53 assists). The team placed second in their conference and ranked seventh in the season-ending coach’s poll. They placed second in the Summit Invitational, and second again in the Burroughs tournament (losing for the second year to Parkway South). Steinhouse made All-Conference and Steve Stiffelman was Coach of the Year.

FALL 2011

The fall season brought historic accolades to the boys' swimming team. The Bombers won their second successive Show-Me Conference Invitational by fifty points. At state, competing against schools of all sizes, they earned their first-ever relay medals, taking fifth place in two events—the 200 medley relay with Kevin Steinhouse '14, Brad Riew '13, Robert Beckles '13, and Jacob Waterman '12, and the 200 free with Steinhouse, Beckles, Waterman, and Daniel Diemer '14. The teams set new school records in both events and earned All-State honors by medaling. Steinhouse, a mere sophomore who swapped his soccer cleats for swimming trunks in order to hone his water polo skills, broke the JBS record in the 50 free based on his opening split in the 200 free relay. The team placed 13th overall in the meet.

Two More Quarterfinalists—Field Hockey and Boys' Soccer

The hockey team lost five seniors to graduation but returned five others, Sandra Yamada, Charlotte Martin, Maddi Hicks, and Libby and Tess Yost, all '12. Alenna Schneider '12 was a first-year varsity senior. They led the Bombers to a 14–6–1 record before falling to Nerinx Hall in the quarterfinals of the Midwest Tournament on penalty strokes. Honors were abundant: Martin, with sixteen goals, including a buzzer-beater against Marquette, was a *Post-Dispatch* first-team All-Metro for the third year; Abby Martone '13, with thirteen assists and two goals, was third team. Martin, Martone, and Hicks made first-team All-Metro League, and Yamada, second in scoring with eleven goals (four game-winners), was second-team All-League and, together with Martin and Hicks, a senior All-Star, a statewide honor.

The soccer Bombers earned the top seed in their district on the strength of a 15–9 record that included a second-place finish in the MICDS Tournament. The vacancy in goal left by Winston Boldt's graduation was superbly filled by Alex Spencer and Josh Gollub, both '12. Burroughs defeated Whitfield 1–0 for the district championship in Class 1 but fell

Top: Abby Martone '13 takes aim against MICDS; Charlotte Martin '12 provides the backup.

Middle: Robert Beckles '13 flying to new records.

Bottom: Player of the Year Houston Sudekum '12 goes against Brentwood in the district final.



to Crossroads in the sectionals. Honors rained down: Houston Sudekum '12, Joe Renner '14, and Francisco Sanchez '14 were named first-team All-Metro League, All-State, and All-St. Louis Region. Sudekum was Player of the Year for the region and Renner Defensive Player of the Year. Spencer was first-team All-Region and Goalkeeper of the Year, and Coach Alan Trzecki was Coach of the Year.

Football—Another Trip to the Dome

The football Bombers, absent eighteen seniors from 2010, were a thrilling work-in-progress under first-year coach Gus Frerotte despite narrowly missing the state title again. Combined, the 2010 and 2011 teams were a stunning 27–3. The early motto became, “What does it take?” Weekly rituals included Friday night dinner at a player’s home, and school spirit was high. The team’s sole loss before the state finale was to an MICDS juggernaut that barely missed a 4A state crown. Burroughs pounded Priory 42–21 for the district championship. In the playoffs they dominated McCluer South 28–8, Lutheran North 42–12, and Ste. Genevieve 49–7. At 13–1 and ranked sixth statewide, they faced undefeated Osage, ranked third, in the semifinals at Leland Field. Osage struck quickly on a blocked punt, but Burroughs answered with a sixty-three-yard touchdown by Ezekiel Elliott '13, his first of three for the day, and cruised 48–28.

Facing a strong Logan-Rogersville in the title game, the Bombers were hampered in a seesaw battle by penalties and turnovers, but with seconds remaining Elliott was end-zone bound when a defender jarred the ball loose to preserve a 21–14 win for the opposition. With forty-two touchdowns and 1802 rushing yards, Elliott was named first-team All-Metro in the *Post-Dispatch*; All-State; and Co-Player of the Year in the Metro League. Four others—Nathan Adams '12, Christian Bledsoe '13, Bear Kaminer '12, and Foye Oluokun '13—were first-team All-Metro League. A host of players made the second team, including quarterback Davey Holmes '12, who threw for 2,403 yards and thirty-two touchdowns and was named first-team All-State by the Sports Writers Association.



Senior captains march to midfield against Lutheran South, 2011.

From left, Steven Trulaske, Nathan Adams, Bear Kaminer, and Sam Hefler, all '12.

Members of the 1991 state championship football team were honored on the field before this year's Class 3 state championship game, at which Burroughs earned a second-place trophy.

First row of players and coaches, from left: Coach Scott Cornwell '85, Coach Todd Small, Chip Walther '92, Clayton Saulka '92, Andy Wolff '92, Rob Rogers '92, Greg Smith '93 and Coach Jim Lemen; and second row: Tim O'Keefe '85 (son of Coach Tom O'Keefe), Will Robinson '92, Geoff Ratliff '95, Brennan Mulligan '92, Colin Mulligan '95, and David Ries '93.



Tennis, Cross-Country, and Golf

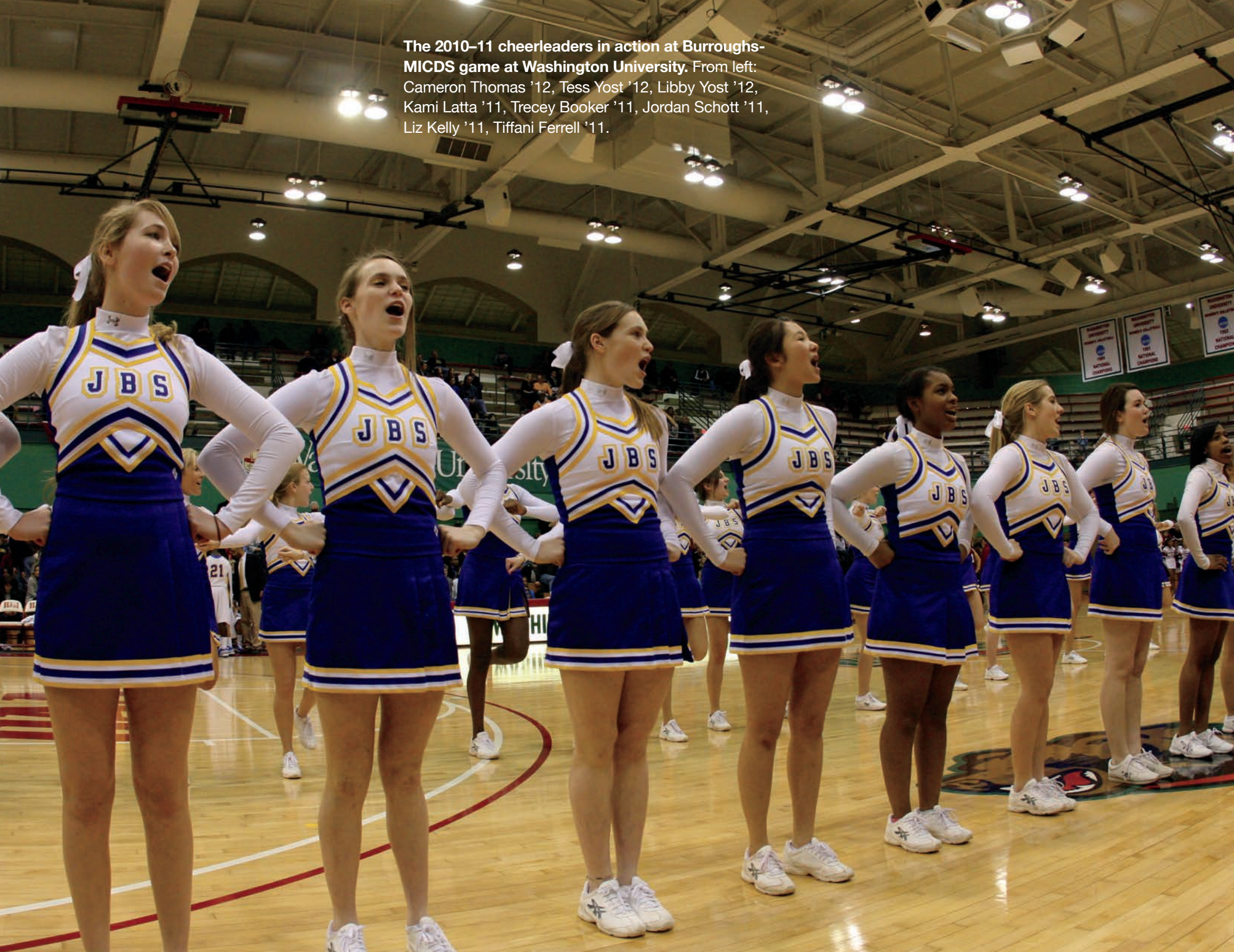
In tennis, Sydney Lehman '12 won her third straight state singles championship in straight sets to complete an undefeated season, earning the *Post-Dispatch* Co-Player of the Year. Her three-peat gave Burroughs an astonishing nine straight singles titles and ten over the last eleven years. (See page 239 for details.) Team JBS advanced to the sectionals, where they fell again to Visitation. Katy Barenholtz '12 joined Lehman on first-team All-Metro League.

In cross-country, Kirk Smith '13, Annalise Wagner '14, and Eileen Williams '12 qualified for state where Smith, gaining strength throughout the season, medaled at fifth. Wagner and Williams finished twenty-ninth and forty-seventh respectively. The three earned All-Metro League. Girls' golf was led for the first time by Ellen Port, the longtime head coach of the boys, a top amateur player, and a 2012 inductee of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. The team placed fifth in the district tournament. In promising signs for the future, freshman Logan Otter '15 placed ninth at state and sophomore Jordan Leonard '14 finished twenty-first.

On opening day at John Burroughs School, Director Wilford M. Aikin emphasized the theme of a school “family.” He chose the perfect word. Burroughs has now begun to welcome its fourth generation of families—familiar names echoing from the earliest days of the institution. The student-members of these families, like those who went before, will join the tradition of teammates for life.

As this book goes to press in January 2012, the Burroughs athletic beat goes on. The efforts of all at the school are now amplified by the presence of a dedicated strength coach on a mission to develop a faster, stronger Bomber. On the drawing board, meanwhile, lies a comprehensive campus overhaul, including a new athletic center for the likes of basketball, volleyball and wrestling. Positive results undoubtedly will flow for years to come, all to be chronicled at the appropriate time in a subsequent rendering of *Teammates for Life*.

The 2010–11 cheerleaders in action at Burroughs-MICDS game at Washington University. From left: Cameron Thomas '12, Tess Yost '12, Libby Yost '12, Kami Latta '11, Trecey Booker '11, Jordan Schott '11, Liz Kelly '11, Tiffani Ferrell '11.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

When the Dartmouth Indians made their annual trip to the Yale Bowl in the early 1960s to play the Yale Bulldogs, Jim Lemen, Dartmouth '62, and Jud Calkins, Yale '63, were on opposite sides of the ball. The two later reconnected, this time in the same cause, in 1964–65 at John Burroughs School. Jim was in his second year as a teacher-coach, and Jud joined the school for a one-year stint in the same capacity. From gridiron opponents to faculty colleagues, they have now graduated to teammates for life through co-authorship of *Teammates for Life*.

Jim Lemen was a multi-sport athlete and president of his senior class at big Western Hills High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is enshrined in the school's Athletic Hall of Honor. He was a three-year letterman in football at Dartmouth and the captain of the team his senior year, a highly prestigious honor in the Ivy League. Jim obtained a master of arts in teaching at Harvard and joined Burroughs in 1963 as a history teacher and assistant to Tom McConnell in football. He became a treasured fixture at Burroughs for forty-four years. The rich details of his life and achievements are contained in a profile appearing in the decade of the 1970s.

Jud Calkins, Burroughs '59, was a four-sport athlete for the Bombers and an All-Conference selection multiple years in each. At Yale, he helped quarterback the freshmen to an undefeated season in 1959, receiving a game ball in the victory over Harvard. Jud earned two varsity letters as a Yale halfback and was a sophomore member of the celebrated Yale varsity of 1960 that was undefeated and untied, ranked thirteenth in the country, and co-recipient with Navy of the Lambert Trophy as the best team in the East. Following graduation from Yale, Jud taught English in India at the university level on a Fulbright fellowship before returning to Burroughs as a Spanish teacher and head coach of B football and basketball and assistant in track. He received a master's degree in international relations from American University, then became a reporter for the *Post-Dispatch* for eight years, earning a law degree on the side. He was a trial attorney for twenty-four years. Today he remains a regular gold medalist in the football throw at the Senior Olympics.



“There is one memory that stands out most when I think of Bomber athletics. It is a memory that has nothing to do with a scoreboard, an opponent, or a particular game. The memory is that of looking around the huddle at my teammates; remembering every face, every player, and every friend. At the time, it did not seem unusual that we were all friends, as well as teammates. However, as I look back on my days wearing the blue and gold, what has proven to be unique and most enjoyable is that the friendships made on the JBS field last a lifetime.”

—Jim Edwards '90, quarterback

“Athletics has the capacity to teach many things, not the least of which is humility. And in the best moments, it also forges a rare kind of bond among teammates, coaches, and spectators. All these years later, I still recapture the screaming crowd and the powerful sense of unity, support, and elevated effort that took place on the field that day. It’s the intensity of emotion that lingers, the beauty of going all out, and the sense that regardless of our differences off the field for a little while nothing mattered more to any of us than moving a little white ball in a forward direction—toward that shining elusive goal.”

—Caroline Kraus '85, on 1–0 loss to St. Joseph’s in finals of the 1984 Midwest Field Hockey Tournament

“I cannot provide an anecdote per se—suffice it to say athletics at Burroughs was the catalyst to friendships which I treasure to this day.”

—Jim Beisman '51

