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11-6-2020

### Earliest History of Xavier Men's Basketball

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# Earliest History of Xavier Basket Ball

It's origins until we were 1-0 vs UC

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William Wester '87




# This project and how it started

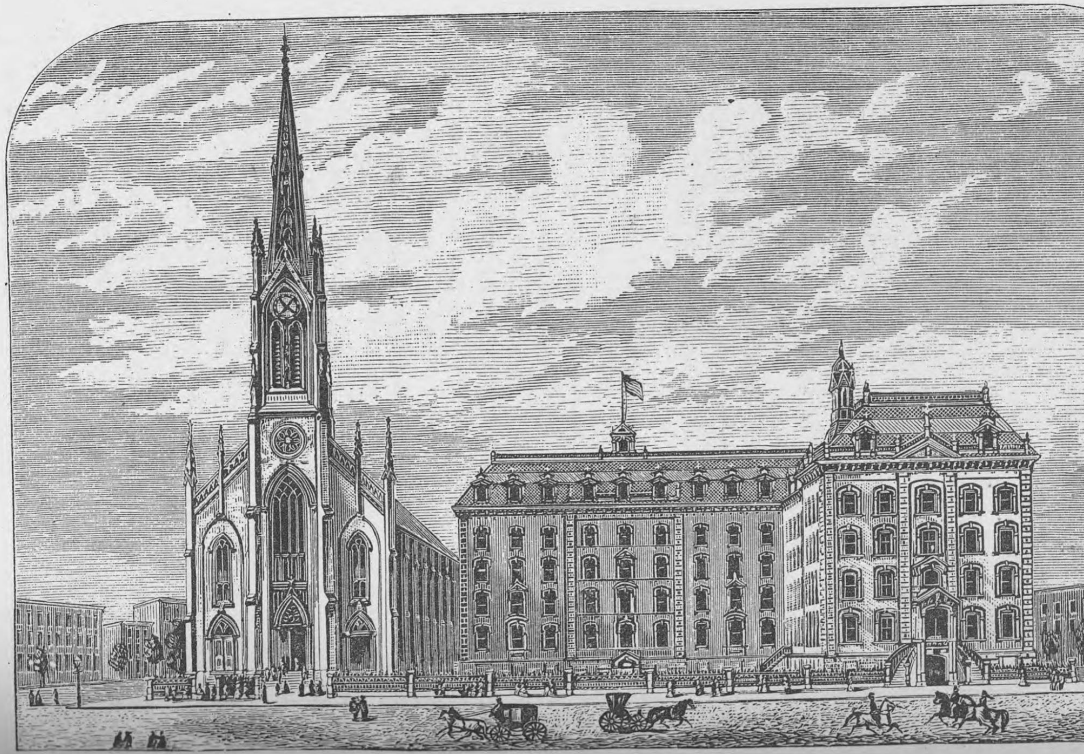
- Saw upcoming plans for “100 years of Xavier basketball”
- I looked at the early records in a MBB media guide
  - One game in 1919-20? • Games vs YMCAs? • Just one game date?
  - Other partial years? • FC = Fenwick club? • U Dayton did not exist in 1919-20 ?
  - Coaches Harry Gilligan and Joe Meyer?
- Thorough examination of the Xavier archives and over 800 Newspaper clippings as well as study of various historical writings and academic theses later ...

*It's how I spent my COVID Summer Vacation*

PRESENTED BY

HEARTLAND BASKETBALL

1919-20 (0-1)		
COACH: HARRY GILLIGAN		
FC	L	18-24 Dayton
1920-21 (1-2)		
		
<b>Joe Meyer</b>		
<b>Head Coach</b>		
	W	21-18 Dayton
FC	L	13-54 Ohio
A	L	16-50 Miami (Ohio)
1921-22 (2-4)		
FC	L	16-28 Ohio
	W	27-13 Dayton
	W	36-9 Hiram
A	L	32-34 Ohio
A	L	20-37 Miami (Ohio)
	L	10-14 Dayton
1922-23 (3-0)		
FC	W	35-15 Ohio
A	W	18-17 Ohio
	W	33-16 Otterbein
1923-24 (12-4)		
A	W	31-13 Circleville AC
	W	25-18 Covington YMCA
FC	W	23-11 Miami (Ohio)



ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER CHURCH AND COLLEGE.



1891

Memorial Hall: five stories at 7<sup>th</sup> and Sycamore and a separation between the Academic (high school) and College Departments

Invention of basketball. Well told story of James Naismith with 18 students and a peach basket. Much deeper story here.

By 1895, the first 5 on 5 college basketball game (Chicago v Iowa)

# Origins of college basketball at Xavier

1912-13

Athenaeum 1913-04-01 p75

## BASKET BALL.

In the beginning of the season, a College Basket Ball Team was organized but no games were played. The small size of the gymnasium proved to be too great a handicap, and later several of the best players were barred by study conditions. However, an admirable Junior Team was developed, and if the youngsters now in the High School only keep on, St. Xavier will in a few years possess a college five worthy to wear the colors of the Blue and White.

*“small size of the gymnasium proved to be too great a handicap ... a College Basket Ball Team was organized but no games were played.”*

1913-14

Athenaeum 1914-04-01 p63

## BASKET BALL NOTES.

With the advent of Spring, basket ball makes its exit from the arena of college athletics to make way for the out-door attractions. No more shall the shrill note of the referee's whistle and the cheering of the supporters of the St. Xavier five be heard in the College gym.

The wearers of the blue and white fought like heroes for the honor of the College. Although they lost about half of the games played, still, when we consider that all the teams they met were much heavier and more experienced, we have every reason to be proud of the St. Xavier Basket Ball Team of '13 and '14. With the development which a year will bring, we have great hopes for next season.

*References to teams being heavier and more experienced suggest this summary is about the high school team as junior teams were classified by average weight.*

1914-15

Cincinnati Commercial Tribune 1914-12-27 p10

## ALL-COLLEGIANS 20—XAVIER 15.

The St. Xavier High School team met its first defeat yesterday afternoon at the hands of the All-Collegians team in the St. Xavier gymnasium by the score of 20 to 15. The defeat of the high school boys was due to the experience of the Collegians.

All-Collegians.		Xavier High School.	
Conway, f. ....	8	Monahan, f. ....	2
Frey, f. ....	7	Brady, f. ....	6
Cloud, c. ....	2	Kattus, c. ....	5
Shields, g. ....	0	Luttmer, g. ....	0
Kelly, g. ....	3	Kiely, g. ....	2
	—	Farrell, g. ....	0
Total .....	20	Total .....	15

Referee—Normile. Umpire—Fierock. Time-keeper—J. Kelly. Scorekeeper—Delay.

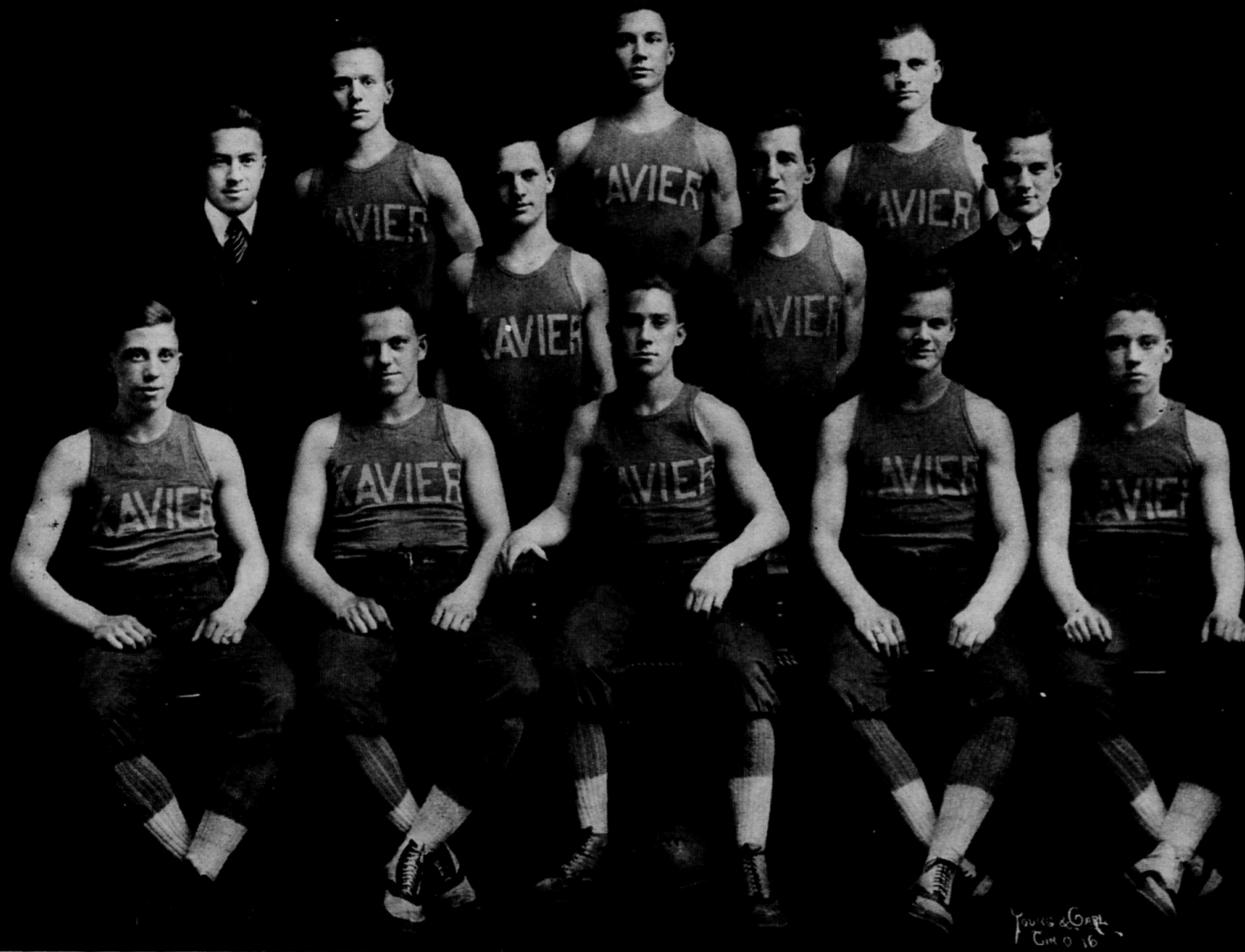
*Currently, earliest record of the college team playing (vs the high school team)*

Cincinnati Commercial Tribune 1915-03-11 p7

The fast St. Mark Marco basket ball team defeated the St. Xavier All-Collegians at St. Mark's school grounds in Evanston yesterday by a score of 13 to 12. The game was closely contested and was featured by the goal throwing of Rissenberg and Oste.

*Currently, earliest record of an external game with the St. Xavier All-Collegians*

# 1915-16 COLLEGE BASKET BALL TEAM



KATTUS                      CLOUD                      BRADY  
 ROUDEBUSH (Coach)      A. FREY                      CONWAY                      WURZELBACHER (Manager)  
 R. KELLY                      SEBASTIANI                      KLEIN (Captain)                      J. FREY                      J. KELLY

## BASKETBALL.

### The College Team.

**First in History.** For the first time in the history of the college we have a college basketball team. With a wealth of players to pick from, players, too, good enough to win positions on the best gym teams around the city, it was decided to ignore the obstacles in the way and launch forth. And we did.

Athenaeum 1916-04-01 p56

**Retrospect.** No one can deny that our first season in College Basketball was a successful one. The difficulties met at the outset would have been enough to discourage all concerned, had there not been a resolute determination to surmount them all. Our first three games were defeats, but once we started winning, six victories were offset by but one defeat. The few faithful rooters who followed the game were recompensed by seeing the team grow steadily in ability and in confidence, and in view of the work done during the latter part of the season could say in all truth, "We have a team."

**The Coach.** Too much credit cannot be given to Coach Roudebush for the success of the team. Despite the necessarily few practices at irregular times and places he developed a team and a team-work that gave the ordinary frequenters of local gymnasiums a new idea of basketball.

Overall record: 6-4

15-Dec	Away	L	21-35	DeSales
6-Jan	Away	L	18-33	Austin Ideals
18-Jan	Away	L	34-49	St. George
28-Jan	Away	W	25-18	St. Aloysius Gym
31-Jan	Away	W	37-33	Holy Family
3-Feb	Friar Floor	W	32-15	St. Francis College
13-Feb	Away	W	45-28	Norwood AC
18-Feb	Away	L	28-40	Holy Cross
26-Feb	Away	W	34-21	Covington AC
	Away	W	62-28	St. John's



# Coach George Milton Roudebush

*Currently, earliest known Xavier basketball coach*

Grew up in Newtonsville OH (12 mi E of Milford)

Star four-sport athlete at Denison University '15

Often cited as the first to perfect the "forward pass" a year before famed Knute Rockne of Notre Dame

Played with Jim Thorpe of the Canton Bulldogs when he was at Xavier. Plays were mailed to him to study when he took the train up for games

Also played minor league baseball for the Carolinas

Served in the infantry in WWI

Received a law degree and practiced law for 73 yrs in Cleveland OH

Jan 25 1894 - Feb 29 1992

(age 98)

ROUDEBUSH (Coach)	KATTUS	CLOUD	WUZZELBACHER (Manager)
ELLY	A. FREY	CONWAY	J. KELLY
ROUDEBUSH (Coach)	KLEIN (Captain)	J. FREY	

1916-17

College Basketball Team



A. Steinkamp, Mgr.                      J. Frey                      L. Oberschmidt                      I. Kattus  
 J. Kattus                      J. Klein                      A. Conway, Capt.                      R. Fech                      H. Rieckelman

Sweaters donated by the Class of 1905

The schedule included six college teams with currently, the first known Xavier inter-collegiate match vs Moore's Hill (to become the Univ. of Evansville).

Athenaeum 1917-03-01 p75

Xavier 15—Moore's Hill 35.

On January 18, the real work began. It was on that date that we journeyed on the B. & O. to Moore's Hill, where, sad to say, we met defeat. The early morning start and the long wait in the country town took all the life out of the boys and they were no match for the fast "Hoosier" lads on their own big floor.

Record: 4-2 vs college teams

14-Dec	Away			St. John's
22-Dec	Away			Holy Cross
6-Jan	Away	L	26-30	St. Austin
9-Jan	Away	L	17-32	St. George
18-Jan	Away	L	15-35	Moore's Hill
20-Jan		L	19-39	Earlham
25-Jan		W	35-3	Cincinnati Dentals
26-Jan		W	32-22	Moore's Hill
5-Feb		W	40-21	Georgetown
15-Feb		W	40-33	Wilmington



# The Great War and Spanish flu pandemic

**"It's Patriotic To Go To College!"**  
**Give Your Country Your Best!**

It is the wish of the War Department that young men eighteen and over, continue their studies, so as to provide a body of trained leaders and specialists, who both during and after the war, may efficiently meet the Nation's needs.

**SERVE YOUR COUNTRY AS YOUR COUNTRY WISHES TO BE SERVED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY**

**Become A Student Soldier!**

Join The **St. X. Students' Army Training Unit**  
 Full equipment will be furnished by the Government.

**STUDY, WORK, DRILL**  
 in Cincinnati!

**ST. XAVIER COLLEGE**  
 Department of Commerce (Coeducational Night Courses)  
 The Training School for Greater Service

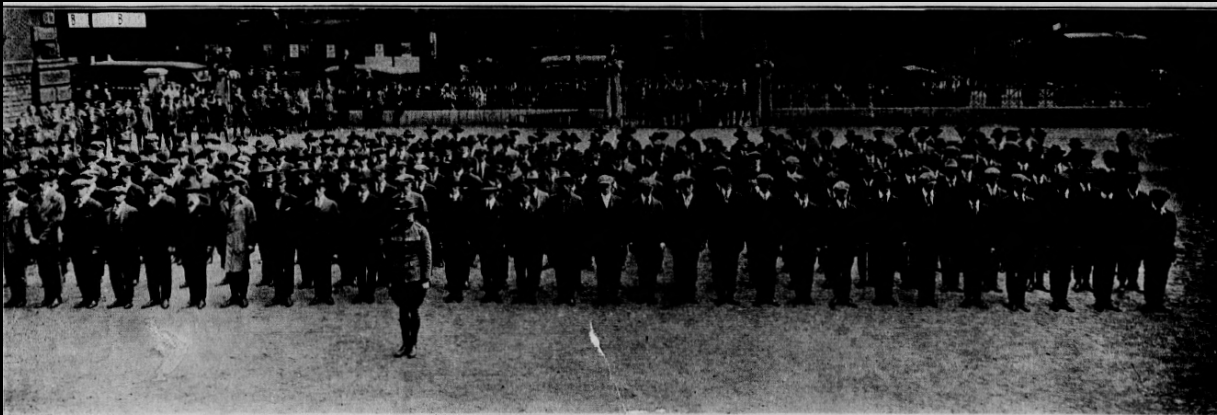
Cincinnati Commercial Tribune 1918-08-29 p2

**INFLUENZA.**

When the epidemic of Spanish Influenza first became a menace to the people of Cincinnati, the St. Xavier S. A. T. C. was quarantined at the Fenwick Club, where the Unit is bar-racked. Every precaution was taken to keep the disease from gaining admittance and spreading. "Gas masks"—cloth masks to cover the nose and mouth—were issued, and antiseptic tablets, to be used as a gargle, were distributed thrice daily.

As a result of these measures only forty-six of the men contracted the disease—thirty-eight cases of which were so mild as to permit the victims to be about in a very short time.

Athenaeum 1918-11-01 p3



Athenaeum 1918-11-01 p4

INAUGURATION OF THE S. A. T. C. OCTOBER 1.

The S.A.T.C. students quarantined before Oct 1918, utilized cloth masks to cover the nose and mouth (familiar?).

With Armistice in Nov 1918, S.A.T.C disbanded but the 240 who were never deployed were encouraged to finish school

The S.A.T.C. group added to the athletes and loyal alums

Records are sparse for the 1917-18:

A key highlight was that there was extensive remodeling and a new St. Xavier gym was finally worthy of hosting games

Similarly, few records exist for 1918-19:

St. Xavier joined a nine-team local league w/12 game schedule

## 1917-18

15-Feb		W	27-20	Cheviot Tours
23-Feb	Home	W	32-14	Wilmington
1-Mar	Away	L	19-26	Wilmington

## 1918-19

23-Jan	Home	W	35-23	Fort Thomas
30-Jan		W	30-18	Hamilton Y
1-Feb	Away	L	28-29	Covington Y
13-Feb	Away	L	26-33	Friars

# Traditional first “season” – 1919-20

1919-20 (0-1)				
COACH: HARRY GILLIGAN				
Feb. 20	FC	L	18-24	Dayton

Xavier 2019-20 men’s basketball media guide.  
First listed in 1964-65 media guide (Jack Cherry)

## Saint Varsity At Cincinnati

The game between the St. Mary varsity quintet and Ohio Northern, which was scheduled for Friday night here, has been cancelled and the Saints will play a road game instead on that date. Coach Soltmano will take the South Parkers to Cincinnati where they are slated to meet the St. Xavier College five.

Dayton Daily News 18 Feb 1920 p11

*First game filled in an open date.*

*St Mary Saints v St Xavier Saints*

St. Xavier College moves to Avondale Hinkle and Edgecliff (Alumni) Halls

Athletics Council now headed by alumni rather than being student run

Newspaper records show at least four games:

Jan 23	Home	W	55-26	Covington KC
Feb 14	Home	L	22-26	St John’s (Toledo)
Feb 20	Home	L	18-24	St Mary’s (Dayton)
Mar 5	Away	L	14-21	St Mary’s (Dayton)

### Xavier basketball players during 1919-20

*William J “Bill” “Slim” Bechtold ‘23 - Insurance*

*John A Bien – GE Jet Plant Inspector / Realty broker*

*James J. “Yabe” “Yabby” Cushing ‘23 (S.A.T.C) – Realty Firm*

*Louis E. “Speed” Eberts ‘23 (S.A.T.C.) – Cinti. Milling Machine Exec.*

*J Bernard Grause Jr ‘22 – Cincinnati Solicitor’s office*

*William I “Irv” “Red” Hart ‘23 – lawyer (war crime trials)*

*Michael A Hellenthal (law ‘22) – attorney Western & Southern life*

*John A. “Nopy” Noppenberger (S.A.T.C) (Commerce) –*

*(Coach and Xavier Ass’t Athletic Director / Notre Dame + Spalding + Peoria coach)*

*George J “Shorty” Normile ‘20 - public service, a founder of Cincy Knothole baseball*

*Leo E. Oberschmidt ‘18 (S.A.T.C) (law ‘21) – VP Trust Officer First National Bank*

St. Marys.	Pts.	Xavier.	Pts.
Matsoff, l. f.....	12	Eberts, l. f.....	4
O’Hern, r. f.....	8	Cushing, r. f.....	2
Eruck, c. ....	0	Bechtold, c. ....	0
Somers, l. g.....	2	Noppenber’r, l. g..	10
Manchester, r. g..	2	Bien, r. g. ....	0
		Oberschmidt .....	2
Total .....	24		
		Total .....	18

Substitutes—Normile for Eberts, Oberschmidt for Bien.

Cincinnati Commercial Tribune 21 Feb 1920 p7

*Tough break as team captain Irv Hart*

*“had an attack of the grip” (flu)*

# Coach Harry Gilligan '12

*Harry Gilligan was an active alum. He wrote letters from France in WWI. He served on the Athletics Council, lead fund raising efforts, was President of the Alumni Assoc. Served on the President's Council. Awarded an honorary degree in 1963.*



**HARRY J. GILLIGAN**

Harry J. Gilligan was born January 4, 1895, and followed his collegiate course at St. Xavier College where he received the A. B. Degree in 1912, and St. Xavier College of Commerce and Sociology where he was awarded the B. C. S. Degree in 1915. He has been active in the promotion of college athletics and other projects at that institution and during one year acted as coach of the college basketball team.

Catholic Telegraph 28 Oct 1926 p45

**XAVIER'S NEXT OPPONENTS.**  
The St. Xavier College basket ball team will play the representative five from St. Mary's College, Dayton, next Friday evening. The game will be staged on the Sycamore street floor and Coach Gilligan of the local team is confident of a victory.  
Although his team lost last week, he was not at all disappointed with their showing, as the St. John's quintet, their conquerors, are State champion prospects. Gilligan claims that the game is anybody's until the last minute, St. John then caging two goals and winning by the narrow margin of 4 points. He says that if his team shows up as well this week no difficulty will be experienced in beating the Gem City lads.  
A return game on March 1 is scheduled for Dayton.  
The Xavier line-up: Eberts, r. f.; Cushing, l. f.; Monahan, c.; Hart, r. g. Capt.; Bien, l. g.

Cincinnati Commercial Tribune 19 Feb 1920 p9

At present we cannot tell you more about the coach than this: He is an alumnus, a first-class basketball player, member of a team which is always a contender for city championship honors, and twice the holder of that title. He is a driver and a fighter, so keep your eye on the team and that coach.

Xavierian News 15 Dec 1919 p7

JOHN J.  
GILLIGAN

Funeral Director  
AND  
Embalmer



Office and Mortuary Chapel:  
315 EAST EIGHTH STREET

Harry J. Gilligan '12

Athenaeum 1914-10-01 p58

*The Gilligan family is one of the famed Cincinnati families. A funeral home business from 1877. Son, John J Gilligan, Ohio governor 1971-75.*

*Currently the strongest references to Gilligan being the coach of the 1919-20 team.*

# Coach Joseph A “Chief” Meyer

## Meyer Policy

“For when the One Great Scorer  
Comes to write against your name,  
He writes—not that you won or lost  
—But how you played the game.”

1924 Xaverian Yearbook

derived from poem: Grantland Rice, 1908, “Alumnus Football”

- Cincinnati native
- St Xavier High School grad
- Notre Dame captain of basketball/baseball teams
- Short stint playing professional baseball.
- Registered architect (important later!)
- Xavier football coach, basketball coach, baseball coach, and athletics administrator 1920-1937
- Coached at UC 1938-1944 (WWII)
- Worked in real estate, President of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, and as a building inspector

# Ohio Athletic Conference

- Third oldest collegiate conference from 1902
- 10 current NCAA Div III members / ~30 historical
  - Case Tech, Kenyon, Oberlin, Ohio State, Ohio Wesleyan, Western Reserve, Denison, Heidelberg, Wooster, Wittenberg, Cincinnati, Ohio, Miami, Mount Union, Akron, Baldwin Wallace, Ohio Northern, Hiram, Otterbein, Xavier, Muskingum, Marietta, Capital, Ashland, John Carrol, Kent State, Toledo, Bowling Green State, Wilmington, Wooster
- Uniform playing rules derived from the Western Conference (Big 10), amateurism and allowable expenses, eligibility, sportsmanship, practice periods, officials, and the very limited/no recruiting
- Despite the breadth of issues, the conference was mostly passive, and schools were to take care of their own house and have faculty representatives resolve issues between schools
- Scheduling meetings took place but schools could schedule whomever they wished
- Newspapers covered the conference, but no conference champion was conferred at this time



Former and current (red) members of the OAC  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio\\_Athletic\\_Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Athletic_Conference)

# Teams of the early 1920s

- Xavier OAC membership began in 1921
- Helped move to a collegiate schedule
  - Reports of difficulty getting opponents
  - Not described, but no games vs UC and Xavier did not join splinter Buckeye AA



1921-22 Xaverian News Pictorial Issue – Basketball team photo

## DEMON CAGER



YABBY CUSHING

In Yabby Cushing the Xavier College team has a forward who comes as near being a demon basketballer as can be found in all Ohio. Cushing, tho not very large, is possessed of almost unlimited stamina that enables him to go at top speed all the time. He also is a remarkable shot, a good passer and full of the spirit that makes winning athletes. He'll make his next local appearance Monday night when Xavier plays Wilmington College at Xavier Hall.

## SAINTS START COURT PRACTISE TUESDAY

Basketball practise at St. Xavier College will start Tuesday evening, Joe Meyer, coach of the Saints announced Saturday.

Meyer will call for candidates Monday and expects a liberal response.

Starting with basketball the Catholics will adhere strictly to the Ohio Conference eligibility rules. Meyer said. This will bar all freshmen off

the team.

Meyer as yet has not much of a line on the material, but expects Yabby Cushing, Jim Hart and Lou Eberts to help out quite a bit in forming the team.

The Saints have games here with Mt. Union, Ohio U and Heidelberg. and one at Alliance with Mt. Union. Meyer also expects to get games with Miami and other Ohio schools.

Cincinnati Post 11 Dec 1920 p8

## Documented games, conference

record and home court:

- 1920-21 3-7 (1-4), Memorial Hall
- 1921-22 9-9 (1-3), Memorial Hall
- 1922-23 14-5 (7-3), Memorial Hall
- 1923-24 12-4 (7-1), Fenwick Club
- 1924-25 6-7 (2-2), L.B. Harrison Gym

ST. XAVIER			ALUMNI				
	G.	F.	P.		G.	F.	P.
Reynolds, f.	3	0	6	Bechtold, f.	2	0	4
Wiener, f.	4	0	3	Gushing, f.	3	0	6
Weisek'el, c.	10	4	24	Brady, g.	0	1	1
Marnell, g.	1	0	2	Hart, g.	0	0	0
Bartlett, g.	0	0	0	Grause, g.	0	0	0
Sullivan, g.	0	0	0	Eberts, g.	0	0	0
Bien, g.	0	1	1	Normile, f.	0	0	0
Musslo, f.	3	0	6	Flerock, f.	1	0	2
Totals	21	5	47	Totals	6	1	13

Enquirer 14 Mar 1924 p40

## ST. X. PLAYER WEARS MASK IN BASKETBALL GAMES



Mike Hellenthal

Cincinnati Post 23 Jan 1922 p11

Player "personalities" and continued alumni involvement

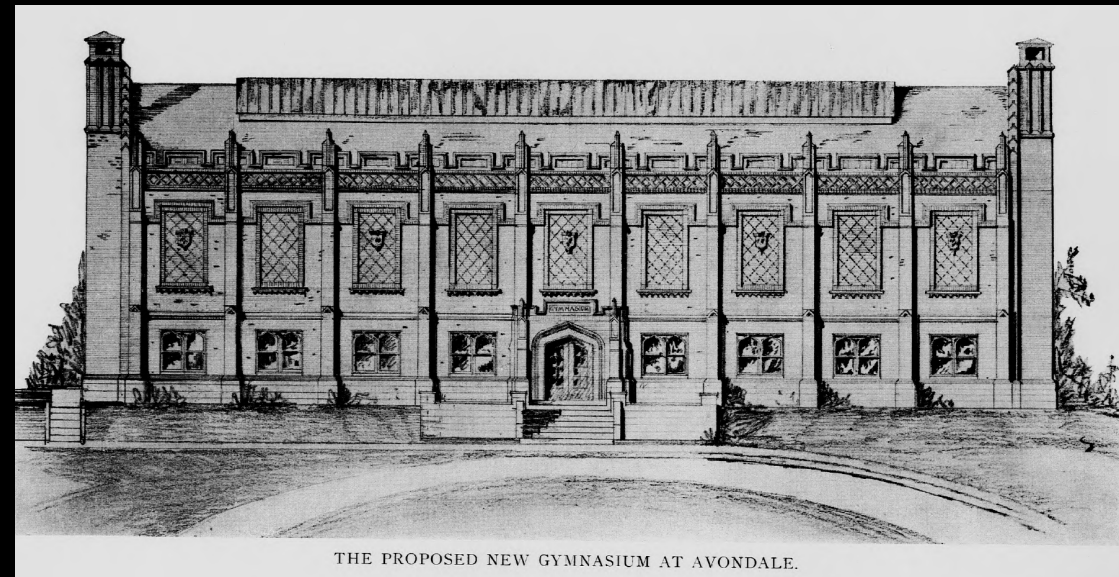


Irv Hart

Cincinnati Post 2 Mar 1923 p20 Cincinnati Post 18 Feb 1922 p8

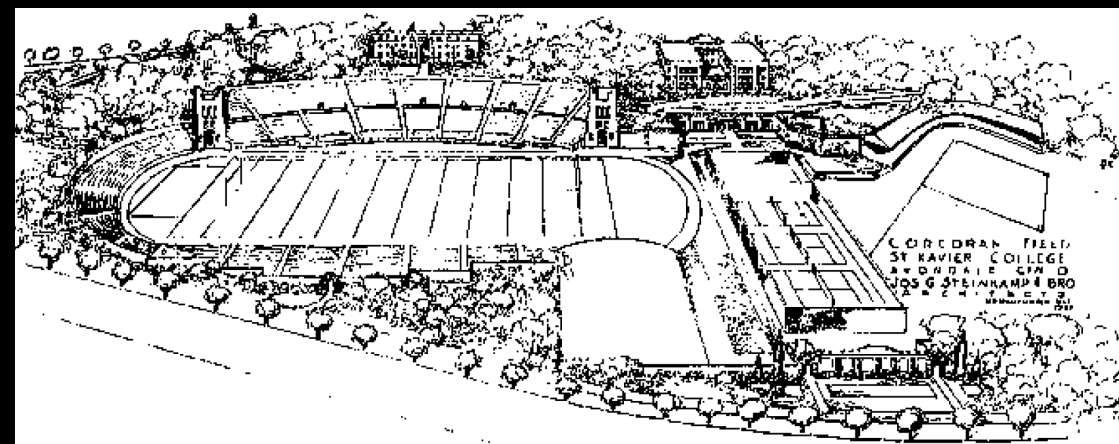
# Bricks and Mortar Period

- Avondale Athletic Club club house
  - Classrooms to Library Building to Recreation Hall
  - “Union House” (1928) or the “Red Building”
- Alumni Science Hall (dedicated Nov 1920)
  - Classrooms and science laboratories
- Hinkle Administration Building (Nov 1920)
  - Jesuit living quarters, dining, chapel
- Corcoran Field (former Avon Field)
  - Concrete bleachers seat 5000 for 1922 season
- Elet Hall (dormitory) (Sept 1924)
  - great importance to re-establish Xavier as a college beyond local Cincinnati
- Library Building (1926)
  - Chapel for St. Xavier College and Bellarmine parish
  - Lodge Reading Room after Mary Lodge
  - To become the Schmidt Library Building
- Plans to realize a gymnasium, to enhance Corcoran, and construct a Biology Building



THE PROPOSED NEW GYMNASIUM AT AVONDALE.

Athenaeum 1915-02-01 p29



Xaverian News 1921-06-01 p15

# From Saints to Musketeers

- Track student interest in athletics through the Xavierian News etc.
- Issues are discussed including
  - Athletics for all students or select few
  - Fan support and sportsmanship
  - Who can wear the “X” varsity letter
- Xavierian News ran a contest to rename athletics teams in the Spring of 1925 but there was no satisfactory winner
- Over the summer, former faculty and current board member, Rev Francis J Finn S.J. suggested Musketeers – a name adopted beginning with the Oct 3 1925 football game vs Transylvania

## ***Money Prize Offered For Best Nickname For All Varsity Athletic Teams***

The “Xaverian News” is offering a five dollar cash prize to the student, alumnus or old student submitting the best suggested nickname to be applied to St. Xavier College athletic teams.

The contest will close May 11. Competent judges will decide the winner.

St. Xavier teams of the past have been dubbed “The Saints,” “St. X.,” “the Catholics,” “the Avondalers,” “the Xaverians.” All of those nicknames lack the force and virility for which St. Xavier teams have been famous.

Xaverian News 8 Apr 1925 p2

## **Nickname Contest Continued Indefinitely**

The “Xaverian News” nickname contest for a name for athletic teams will be continued indefinitely because of the small number of suggestions received to date. The money prize of \$5 will be held for the best name. Suggestions should be mailed to Nick Name Committee, Xaverian News, St. Xavier College. The contest was originally scheduled to close May 11.

Xaverian News 13 May 1925 p2

## ***Trustee Wins Prize For Athletic Name; “Musketeers” Selected As Best For Teams***

Xaverian News 7 Oct 1925 p2

*One for All and All for One*



# The First *Musketeer* Teams

1925-26 10-8 (1-3), L.B. Harrison Gym

## Basketball Results—1926

Xavier, 28	W	Circleville A. C., 24
Xavier, 20	L (OT)	C. G. A. C., 28
Xavier, 45	W	Wilmington College, 27
Xavier, 33	L (OT)	Centre College, 34
Xavier, 40	W	Transylvania College, 35
Xavier, 28	W	"Y" Wildcats, 23
Xavier, 28	L	L. B. Harrison, 33 <b>34</b>
Xavier, 18	W	C. G. A. C., 15
Xavier, 38	W	University of Louisville, 18
Xavier, 43	W	L. B. Harrison, 17
Xavier, 22	L	Muskingum College, 48
Xavier, 29	L	Otterbein College, 44
Xavier, 63	W	Transylvania College, 9
Xavier, 24 <b>23</b>	L	Wilmington College, 26 <b>24</b>
Xavier, 19	W	Heidelberg College, 16
Xavier, 16	L	Ohio Northern U., 18
Xavier, 17	L	"Y" Wildcats, 31
Xavier, 49	W	Centre College, 19

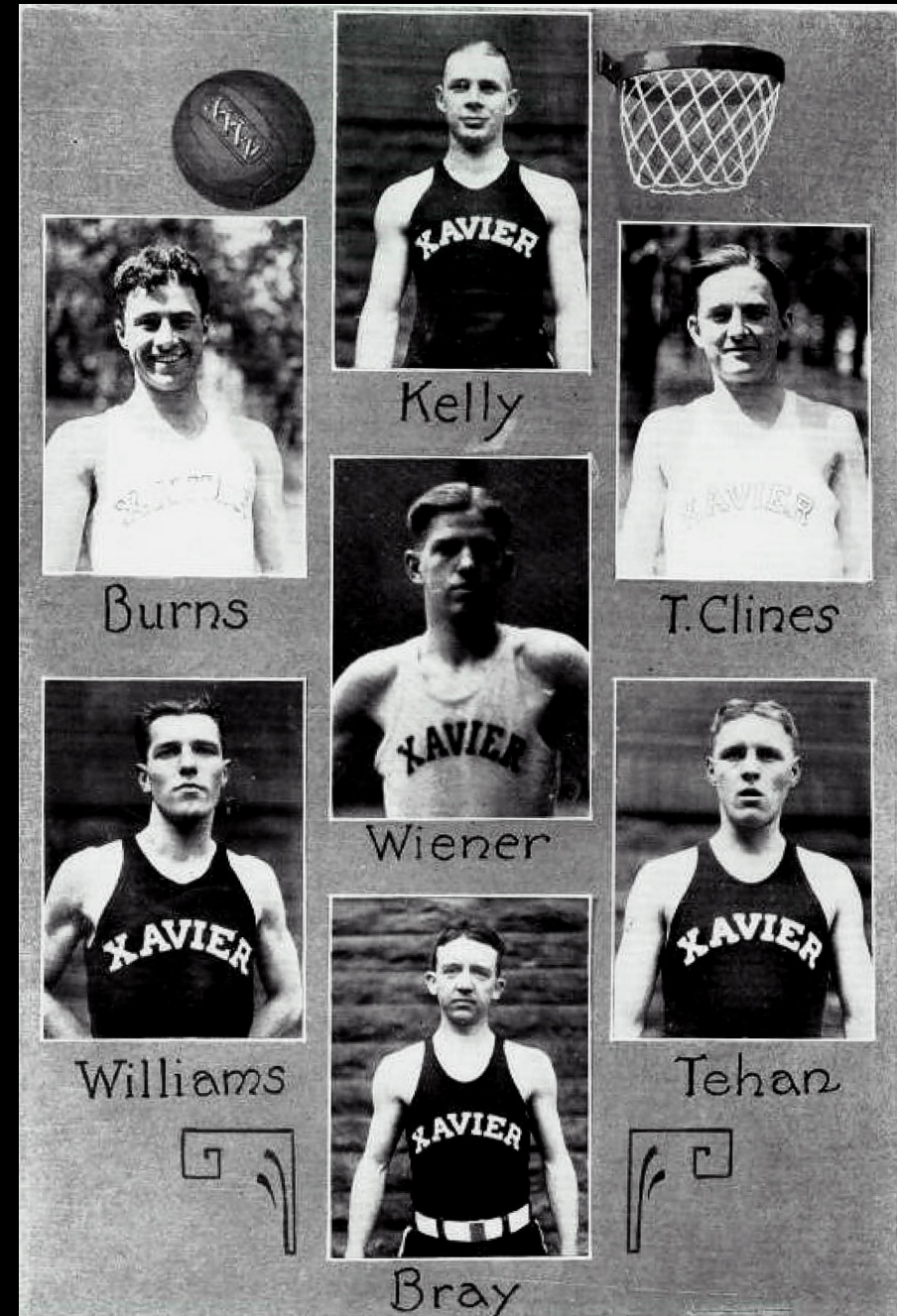
Won, 10; Lost, 8.

A season of mixed results, Win some, lose some. Star center Bob King was out for the season with a broken leg (football). Joe Kelly G was injured and out the last three games

Jan 20 vs "Y" Wildcats – Xavier "brought out the best passing game ... froze the ball for 9 minutes"

Feb 5 Opening of athletic relations vs Louisville was a victory! 38-18

Jack "Jakie" Wiener G was captain and only senior



# The First *Musketeer* Teams

1926-27 11-3 (0-0), Cincinnati Club Gym

## Basket-ball Scores

L	St. Xavier...	22	Circleville.....	28
W	St. Xavier...	25	Loyola.....	21
W	St. Xavier...	58	Circleville.....	27
L	St. Xavier...	26	Y. M. C. A.....	43
W	St. Xavier...	54	St. Louis.....	31
W	St. Xavier...	39	St. Louis.....	5
W	St. Xavier...	29	Y. M. C. A.....	25
W	St. Xavier...	29	Wilmington.....	21
W	St. Xavier...	56	Wilmington...	40
L	St. Xavier...	13	Loyola.....	17
W	St. Xavier...	22	St. Viators.....	17
W	St. Xavier...	48	Marshall.....	22
W	St. Xavier...	35	Davis-Elkins...	28
W	St. Xavier...	63	Transylvania...	30

1927 Musketeer yearbook p233

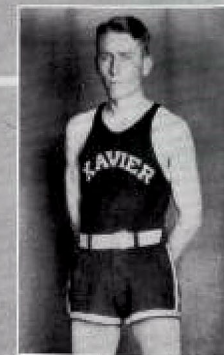


Captain Joe Kelly

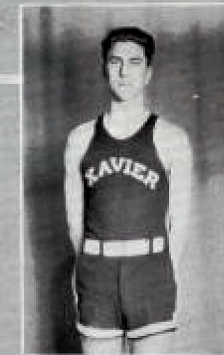
**Earliest BB member  
of Hall of Fame**



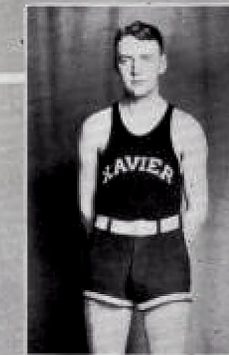
McGRATH



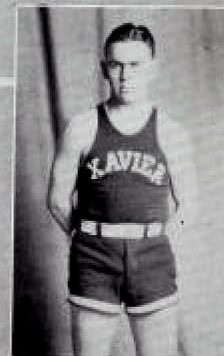
KING



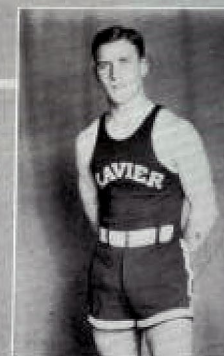
STERMAN



LEEDS



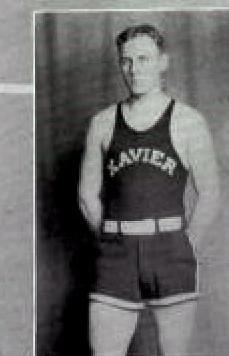
EAGEN



CAIN



BURNS



TEHAN

1927 Musketeer Yearbook p231-235

WILLIAMS + DAUGHERTY

A season with only one collegiate defeat ... the return game vs Loyola. In the first game vs Loyola, Captain Joe Kelly hit a game winning shot. Notable victories include a 39-5 romp after an all-day trip to St. Louis. The Musketeers were victorious 35-28 over 15-1 Davis-Elkins (WV).

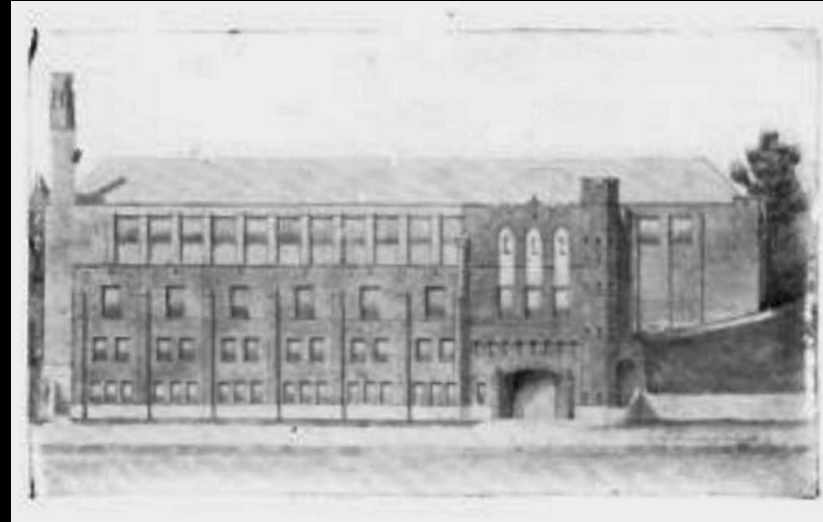
# The Field House and the 1927-28 Season

Xaverian News 24 Mar 1926 p2

## DONATION OF \$200,000 WILL GIVE ST. XAVIER GYMNASIUM

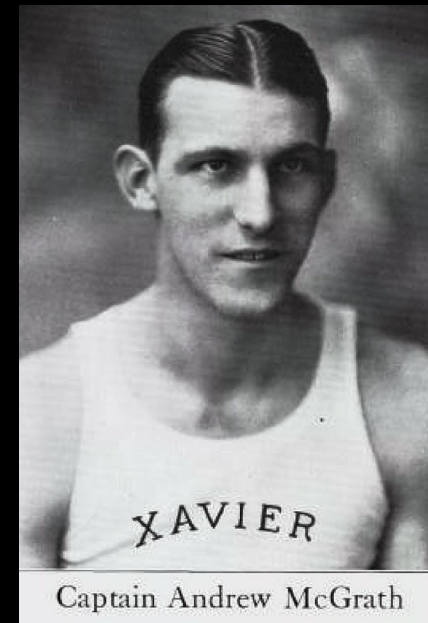


Walter Seton Schmidt '05  
President, Athletics Council

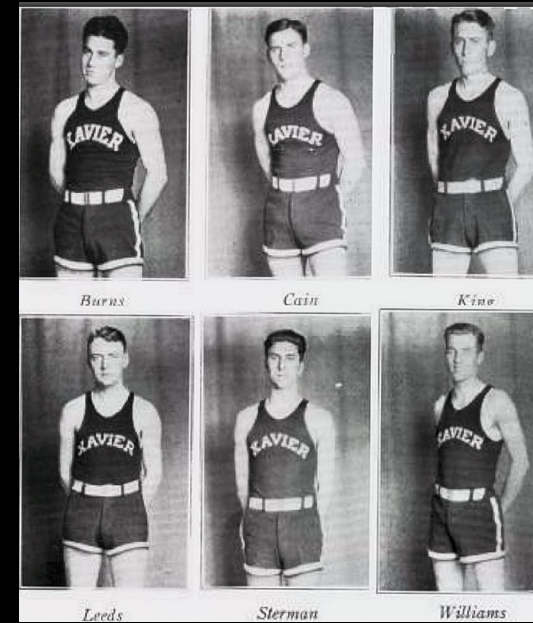


All photos from 1928 Musketeer yearbook pp193-223

Coach Joe Meyer, who studied architecture, drove the inclusion of a removable three-layer floor system – unique at the time. Permanent seating for 5000 plus ability to add seats. Running track, multiple locker rooms, support for other sports including intramurals.



Captain Andrew McGrath



Burns

Cain

Kino

Leeds

Serman

Williams

**All home games were at the new field house**

The team started with 8 straight wins: Centre, St Louis, Cedarville, Alumni, Loyola, Marshall x2, @St Viator. The loss was @Loyola. Then there was the dedication game.

# The Dedication Game



CINCINNATI UNIVERSITY'S athletic department has done a fine thing by scheduling a basketball game with St. Xavier College to be played in St. Xavier's new field house on Winding Way the night of March 7.

The game will serve as a dedication of that wonderful building and no other attraction could be scheduled by Xavier that would form a more fitting background for the dedication.

This game is not to mark an opening of athletic relations between the two local schools. The athletic heads

Cincinnati Post 26 Jan 1928 p8

UC graciously agreed to extend their season and be a part of the dedication game. Another story spoke of the mutual Xavier-UC connections outside of athletics.



1928 Musketeer yearbook p195

CINCINNATI	PTS.	HGT.
Dick Deal (C)	74	6
Dill Papp (C)	117	6
Red Bottom (C)	149	6-3
Mark Johnson (C)	25	5-9 1/2
Dan Finley (C)	85	6-2
Substitutes:		
Dick Franz (C)	80	5-10
B. Moskowitz (C)	5	5-9
Dick Bryant (C)	2	5-11 1/2
Doc Alms (C)	34	6-4
Robt. Abrams (C)	3	6-1

ST. XAVIER	PTS.	HGT.
Chip Cain (C)	59	5-8 1/2
Ray Lyds (C)	33	5-10 1/2
Andy McGrath (C)	24	6-1
George Sherman (C)	10	6-1
Eddy Burns (C)	47	5-9 1/2
Substitutes:		
Tom Egan (C)		5-9 1/2
John Williams (C)	26	5-11 1/2
Roger Cowen (C)		5-8
Bob King (C)	22	6
Lou Arizen (C)	2	6
Dan Tahan (C)		6-1 1/2

Cincinnati Post 5 Mar 1928 p6

# The Xavierian News

Published Weekly by Students of St. Xavier College

VOL. XL.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1928

NO. 24.

## MUSKETEERS WIN DEDICATION GAME

NEW FIELD HOUSE PRESENTED TO COLLEGE;  
ST. XAVIER-U. C. GAME CLOSELY CONTESTED

The odds were against St. Xavier College even with 9000+ fans packed into the new field house. UC finished as champions of the Buckeye Athletic Assoc. Their main concern was Xavier's speed. Bands from both schools played and a short pregame dedication ceremony started things off.

The game started in UC's favor, up 6-1 early on. Xavier kept fighting and kept it close. Score at the half 14-11 in favor of UC. Five minutes into the second half, UC matched its largest lead 20-15. **Coach Meyer had a plan – he had scouted UC and realized the large floor of the field house gave an advantage as UC did not play man-to-man defense. On more than one occasion, a Xavier player slipped in underneath to score the easy bunny.** With the score, 25-23 in favor of Xavier, Chip Cain took a pass wide open to extend the lead 27-23. Two UC free throws made the score 27-25. Finally, another "sneak" and captain Andy McGrath made the easy one. Final: 29-25.

### VICTORS

Hugged By Fans

In Wild Demonstration on Basket Ball Court.

College's New Field House Dedicated

As Xavier Fights Uphill Battle Successfully.

Varsity Leads, 14-11 as Half Is Ended.

Pandemonium Reigns as Musketeers Spurt

And Show Way To University Cagers—Faint Hope Is Realized By Avondale Team's Backers.

Enquirer 8 Mar 1928 p1

# Final Thoughts

- Amazing 14 year period 1914-15 through 1927-28 for Xavier basketball
  - From student-run athletics with teams playing local church and gym teams
  - To being 8-1 vs a regional collegiate schedule with a premier field house
- During this time, St. Xavier College itself transformed
  - From a downtown campus shared with the high school and study focused on classics
  - To a new campus in Avondale with room to continue to grow with relevance to society
- Athletics and basketball evolved
  - Strict role of amateurism
  - Unified rules as collegiate athletics emerged
- The country likewise progressed
  - Despite the Great War and a global pandemic
  - Cities, businesses, new freedoms and a new lifestyle for many people
  - An expanded role for the United States in the world
- As today, success has required the entirety of dedicated players, coaches, university leaders, student body, and loyal alumni and friends of Xavier