



The Flaget Museum



Xaverian Hall
St. Xavier High School Campus

1942-1974

Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association

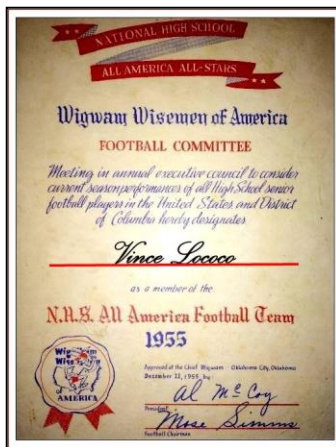
Contact Information

Cindy Chipps, Curator
4027 Brooks Hill Rd, Brooks, KY 40109

502 955-9238
cchipps@iccable.com

The Wigwam Wisemen

When Flaget first opened its doors the local newspapers would often refer to the school as the wigwam. I however want to speak of another wigwam, that being The Wigwam Wisemen of America. It started out with the best of intentions. 1948 saw the benevolent athletic organization located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, start the first national all-star football team for high school players. Unlike local, state or regional teams, this all-star football team would include all the thousands of high schools from all the forty-eight states. This national team would be compiled by the Wigwam Wisemen of America. Each year, some twelve hundred high school seniors would be nominated by six hundred sportswriters, coaches, and other sports related entities. From these nominations the selection committee would narrow the players down to one hundred. Questionnaires would be sent to these one hundred players. From the returned questionnaires forty-four players would be selected. Twenty-two of these would be from east of the Mississippi, and twenty-two would be from west of the Mississippi. These forty-four players would meet in an east-west All-Star football game held in August of the following year. The first game was held in Corpus Christie, Texas in 1949. The game sites were moved around the country with most of the games being held in Memphis Tennessee. Even Louisville was considered for an indoor game after the new Fair and Exposition Center opened in 1956. The last of these games took place in 1962, after which "Sport and Athlete" magazine took over the naming and publishing of this "All-Star" team. With this takeover the number of players selected increased many times over, sometimes



with as many as ten teams chosen. In 1965 Royal Crown Cola became a cosponsor of the team. In the mid 1970s the All-Star team was no longer published free for distribution. At this point the selected players were published in a yearbook with the books being sold at quite a hefty price for the day. Quickly it became apparent to many in the sports field that what was once a legitimate, well-intentioned idea had now become strictly a money making scheme. 1976 saw the end of the Wigwam Wisemen's



BOARDING PLANE yesterday for Memphis, Tenn., where they will play in the Wigwam Wisemen of America All-America high school football game next Wednesday, are, from left, Vince Lococo, Flaget Tackle; Bobby Cravens, Owensboro halfback, and Ronnie Leach, New Albany, Ind., tackle. The three Kentuckiana stars will play on the East team in the annual classic.

All-Star team. With this being a national endeavor the chances of many local boys being named was small. Since locals were seldom named the newspapers almost never published the full team, but only occasionally published the name of some nearby player who was within some newspapers circulation. From examining all available information, it only appears that five Flaget players were ever named to a Wigwam team. Vince Lococo was named to the 1955 team and he played in the East-West game the following August. The other players named were Bob Lehmann in 1958, Paul Hornung in 1953 along with Sherrill Sipes who was an honorable mention. Rick Norton was named to one of the many Wigwam teams of 1962.

As always; the Flaget Museum is seeking both visitors and vintage memorabilia for display. Items can be brought to any alumni luncheon, dropped off at the museum, or pickup can be arranged.