



The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall
St. Xavier High School Campus



Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association

1942-1974

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WHAT HAPPENED TO ST. JAMES?

Paulie Miller had just finished his second year as head coach of the Flaget football team. The team went 5-3-1 in 1947, not bad, but the coach wanted more. During the summer of 1948 his thoughts and actions went into preparing the most ambitious schedule he could for the coming season. He would be doing two things that hadn't been done in the prior years. He designed a ten game schedule, where previously only seven to nine games had been played. Secondly he scheduled out of state teams that were out of the Louisville area to bolster the programs visibility and stature. When the 1948 schedule was released on July 8th, Joliet of Illinois and Holy Cross of Louisiana were on the schedule. A third out of state school, Saint James of Port Arthur Texas was also slated for a November 7th contest at Maxwell Field. St. James was a Texas powerhouse that had done very well the prior year. The game against St. James was listed on the schedule in both the Landmark of October 15, and the football programs which were printed for the October 3rd battle with Joliet, and the October 16th contest against Male. An ad appeared in the Courier-Journal on November 4th, just three days prior to the scheduled contest, by Appels Mens Store noting that tickets for the November 7th game were available for sale at the store. The game was never played. This was another one of those mysteries I have been working to solve for some years. The next issue of the Landmark on November 19th made no mention of the not played game. The answer has now been determined. Around October of 1948, Saint James, a school founded in 1939, suddenly went out of business. More correctly, they merged with Saint Mary High School to form Bishop Byrne High School. The new school played a merged schedule from both St. James and St. Mary; Flaget was excluded from the new schedule. Bishop Byrne indicated they were anxious to play Flaget in the future, but for some unstated reason Paulie did not want to play Bishop Byrne and cancelled the scheduled St. James game at the last minute. Paulie then scrambled to fill the date. He tried to replace St. James with Louisa from Kentucky, their coach was a teammate of his at Morehead, but they had just made a late season commitment to play that weekend. He next tried to schedule Emerson, an Indiana powerhouse from Gary Indiana. Their response was yes, but then backed out when Flaget insisted on a home and home arrangement. So Flaget sat home and didn't play that weekend. The season ended with a 6-1-2 record, quite good, but Flaget was not happy. Manual, which had initially played Flaget in 1945, refused to schedule the Braves for the next two years and again in 1948. Manual was on their way to claiming the city and state championship in 1948. Flaget wanted to know how Manual could claim the city title if they would not play Flaget which had not lost to a city school. Their point was of course that if Manual were to play them, and Flaget had won, Flaget could claim the city title by virtue of not having lost to any other city school. The Braves had tied both Male and St. X. The Tigers had a city loss to Manual, and Male had a city loss to St. X. So without playing the West End boys Manual was able to claim the city title since they did not lose to either Male or St. X. Flaget had to settle for second place in the city race.

