



# The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall  
St. Xavier High School Campus



*Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association*

1942-1974

Contact Information

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## THE RECREATION BOWL

In 1943 the East-West Shrine game was changed from a format where athletes from different schools were selected for an annual post-season football game to that where two entire teams were picked to play each other. This marked the first of the post-season football games involving full teams in Kentucky. Five years later, in 1948 the Mt. Sterling Chamber of Commerce was looking for a way to finance a community swimming pool. They came up with the idea of a post-season high school football game to be played on Armistice Day matching two Kentucky teams. This was only the second post-season bowl in Kentucky. By the time 1952 rolled around the teams to play in what had become an annual affair were invited very early in the season, making the game a sometimes risky gamble in that the two teams that were picked in September would be teams which would have a good record and attract a crowd in November. On September 28 of 1952 it was announced that Flaget would play Lexington Lafayette in the fifth annual Recreation Bowl, making it the first Jefferson County team to play in the Recreation Bowl. Flaget started the season with seven straight easy victories with Paul Hornung at quarterback. The next two games were against powerful Tennessee teams; the results were a tie against Chattanooga and a close loss from Oak Ridge. So Flaget entered the bowl game with a 7-1-1 record, rated number one by the Lit Ratings. Lafayette entered the game with a perfect 9-0 record, rated fifth. Lafayette left 9-1. Flaget demolished the Lexington team 39 to 7 with Paul Hornung gaining MVP honors, thereby dashing the hopes of the Lexington school for a perfect season. Hornung, who did the kicking chores, put the ball thru the uprights and over the fields' wall on a kickoff. Bear Bryant who was in the stands said it was greatest kick he had ever seen. Thus started Bryant's quest to obtain the services of Paul Hornung to play for Kentucky. Hornung kicked so many footballs over the wall on extra point tries during the game that the officials ran out of game balls and had to borrow one from Flaget. Flaget went on to handily beat St. X by 27 points in their last game of the season. In 1963 the Recreation Bowl changed to a preseason bowl format and one year later they went to a double-header game. It would be some 48 years after the Flaget victory until another Jefferson County team would be picked to play in this bowl.

The Flaget Museum is currently seeking vintage memorabilia from the school. Trophies, athletic programs, Landmarks, jewelry, and just about anything else from when the school was open will be accepted. Just bring the items to any alumni luncheon, drop them off at the museum, or call me if you need the items picked up. Special thanks to Terry Meagher '66 for his recent donation of items that helped fill in some missing issues in our Landmarks and athletic programs collection. If you have not visited the museum, think about doing so, it will be worth your time.