



The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall
St. Xavier High School Campus



Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association

1942-1974

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Last month our luncheon speaker, Bob White, reeled off many facts about Flaget. I detected one statement that was in error and that became this month's blurb. Mr. White said "...and your first football coach Paulie Miller...", well we all know that this is not factual, right?

FLAGET'S FIRST FOOTBALL COACH

Irvin Jeffries was referred to in the Courier-Journal as the most talented prep athlete to ever come out of Louisville. He was an All-American basketball player and an All-Southern back in football. He starred at Manual and played at U of K. After one year at Kentucky he joined pro baseball when he was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds. He played most of his 15-year baseball career with the White Sox and Phillies. He continued as pro scout for the Phillies and coached as well as played for the powerful Powdermen amateur teams from Jeffersonville. He has been described as having a colorful and aggressive personality. On August 18th 1944 Brother Clarence signed a two-year contract with Irvin Jeffries to be the athletics coach for Flaget High School. He was the unanimous choice for the job by the Flageteers who were financing the salary of Mr. Jeffries. Jeffries was to coach baseball, basketball and football on the varsity level. He prepared for this by coaching the JV teams in 1944. The JV football team ended up with a three win season having an equal amount of setbacks. When the 1945 school year started Flaget entered into their first year of varsity sports with Jeffries at the helm. Football would be the first varsity sport for Jeffries to coach. His team had won two games and had suffered four defeats when he abruptly broke his contract and left Flaget on November 6th, five days prior to the final game of the season. Now the published story appeared the next day in the Courier-Journal. Very little mention was given to why he resigned. The bulk of the story was given over to heralding the new coach who was named the same day as the resignation. Paulie Miller was of course the new coach. The story cited the time pressures on Jeffries with his other business dealings and his desire to enter politics. The unreported story is that Jeffries was a heavy drinker and gambler and Flaget was not happy with this perception of their coach, so a mutual understanding was arrived at where Jeffries would resign. His political ambitions were never realized and his business aspirations are not chronicled. His later life however was filled with sports activities. Among many other positions, he became the athletic director for the Fort Knox Military Reservation and continued coaching in amateur basketball as well as scouting for the Phillies. He died in 1982 at the age of 76. Technically since Brother Conon coached the final game of the 1945 season, Paulie is listed as the third varsity coach for Flaget football.

As always the Flaget Museum is accepting vintage memorabilia of Flaget for display in the museum. Athletic programs, trophies, jewelry, Landmarks, and just about anything else from the school is sought. Bring anything you may wish to donate to any alumni luncheon, drop it off at the museum, or call me if you need the item picked up.