



The Flaget Museum

Xaverian Hall
St. Xavier High School Campus



Under the auspices of the Flaget Alumni Association

1942-1974

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TEN LITTLE INDIANS

Agatha Christie wrote a story some time ago entitled "Ten Little Indians". I want to tell you another story about ten Indians, or perhaps more appropriate, ten braves. The year was 1953 and the Flaget Braves were entering the 25th district basketball tournament facing Ahrens Trade School in a game to be played at the Armory. On paper this did not look to be much of a contest and not too many Flaget fans were worried about a loss. Flaget had a 24-win record with only 2 losses for the year and had beaten Ahrens handily earlier in the season. Much to the dismay of the few in the know, Flaget came close to losing this game before it ever started. It all began with Sherrill Sipes. He had missed school the day of the game because of illness. He had recovered later in the day and reported to the school to go to the game. He was a senior guard on the team and was one of Flaget's best scorers. Jim Huter, coach of the Braves was not aware that Sipes had missed school that day. Sipes was prevented under school rules from participating in practice or a game on the same day he was absent from school. After warm-ups, but prior to the game actually starting the coach looked down the bench and counted eleven players suited up for the game. This was a clear violation of KHSAA rules which stated only ten players may suit up for a game. If found to be in violation Flaget would be removed from the tournament ending what had been a fine season. When advised that Sipes had been ill that day the coach quickly ran Sipes to the locker room. After discussion with the officials it was decided that because the game had not yet started no violation actually occurred. After this close call Flaget went on to beat Ahrens, and earned a trip to it's first state tournament appearance by beating Male in the regional final after Male had beaten them twice earlier in the year. The state tournament was not kind to Flaget where they were beaten by Caverna in the first round when they hit a season low 16% from the field.

The Flaget museum is always looking for donated items for display. Nothing is too insignificant. Athletic programs, band paraphernalia, and trophies as well as jewelry and everyday items are always welcome. Simply bring the items to any alumni luncheon or drop them off at the museum.