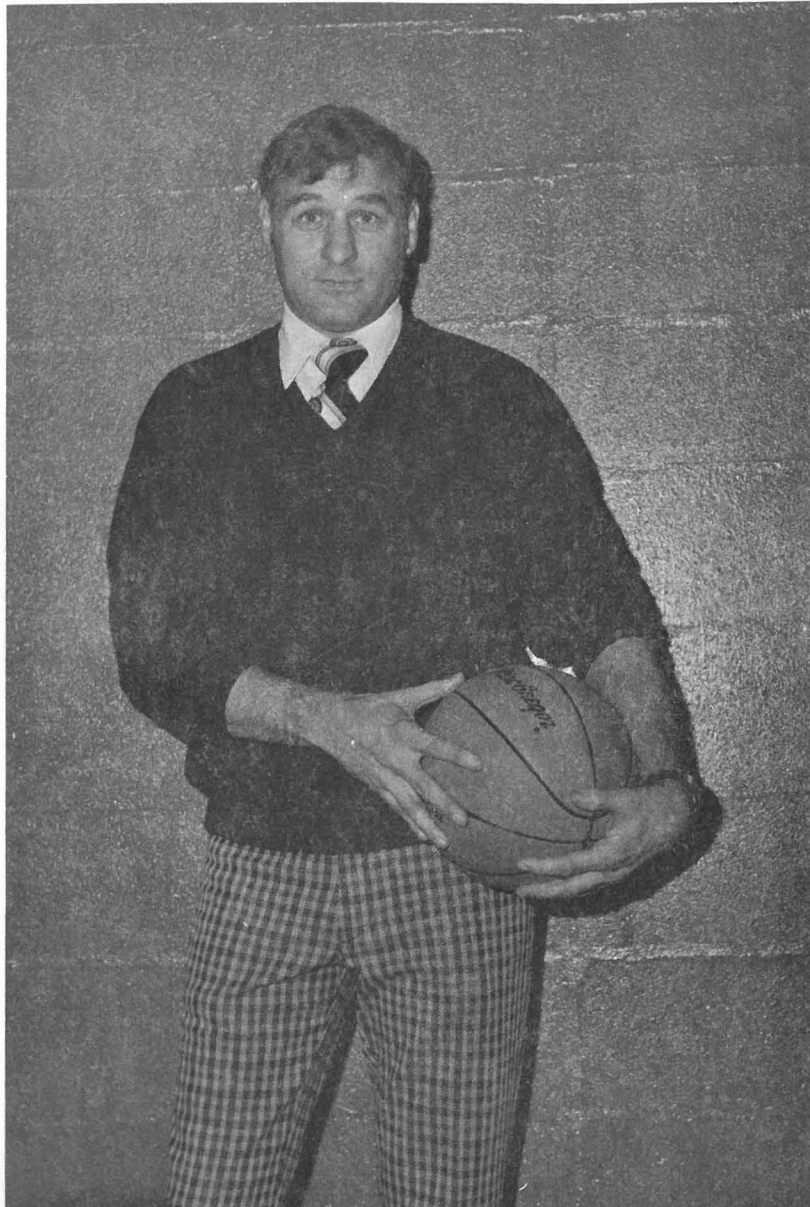


A History Of Mount Saint Joseph BASKETBALL

1927 ~~~~ 1974

Compiled By Norman Ladabouche and Edward Carroll



It has been my honor and privilege to coach at MSJ these last four years. This program is a tribute to all the basketball players who have played at the Academy. As a former player at the Mount and now its head coach, I feel a great sense of pride for its athletic accomplishments and hope they continue for years to come.

Frank Bizzarro

PREFACE

What we have tried to do here is to compile for you between these covers a short but clear look at basketball at Mount St. Joseph since its humble beginning back in 1927, when ten boys were first enrolled at the all-girl school on Convent Avenue. At that time a few of these boys were able to enlist the aid of John Kelly, a prominent local athlete of the time, and former member of the St. Peter's Cadets, the forerunners of today's M.S.J. Mounties, and through Mr. Kelly's efforts basketball got its start in "Nebraska". The names of two of Mr. Kelly's sons, Mickey and Bobby, appear later in these pages. The pages also mention many other names but in our research we find the names of many many other people who did not play the game but contributed so greatly. In any undertaking such as this some people must, by accident, be overlooked but we would like in this preface to mention a few of these contributors.

We think of Sr. Mary Edward, perhaps the first Athletic Director at the school with able assistance from Sr. Matthew and Sr. Eucharia. Many laymen aided the program both actively and financially. Among these were people like Matt McDevitt, Jack Sullivan, Dr. Quigley and Tom Boyle without whose efforts the program could not have grown. We also think of people like Henry Pitaniello, who though injured playing with the first group of boys became the first Manager, score keeper and chauffeur. Often times the first group of boys had to come up with ten cents apiece to rent the Armory for practices. These then were the humble beginnings. Later on people such as Fritz Carroll and Walt Moore enter the picture, the two of them for many years handling the sale of tickets, the hiring of officials, the hiring of police and the organizing of seating arrangements at the Armory. You might say Fritz and Walt were the forerunners of today's active and highly respected M.S.J. Athletic Association.

Many facts have emerged from our researching. For instance we find that since 1931 to the present, the city-series M.S.J. vs. Rutland record stands at 48 wins for Rutland and 42 for M.S.J. We find that Coach Frank Bizzarro's record in four seasons at the Mount is a very respectable 50 wins and 22 losses. Since 1945 their Southern Vermont League record is a very good 351 wins and 172 losses, and during this span won the SVL title eight times. Their first State Championship came in 1954 when they beat Cathedral of Burlington in the finals at Middlebury College. Just a few of the names you will read and recognize also are Fr. Joe Pray, a real great one, Ernie Cioffi, still active as a highly respected official as are Dom Cioffi and Tom Champine; Jack Daley, who after his playing days went on to become our City's Mayor

and our State's Lt. Governor; our present Coach and considered by many as one of the best, Frank Bizzarro; Babe Spoon, who played in the early 40's and is now an FBI agent; J. Fred Carbine, popular local lawyer and politician; Dr. Bill O'Rourke, present team physician; Brian Shortsleeves, who even now is starring with the newly organized College of St. Joseph the Provider team and Dave Davidson, an ex-great from M.S.J. now playing at Middlebury College.

Again we've undoubtedly overlooked many, many people. This has not been our intention. We hope you enjoy reading between its pages with perhaps a few fond memories found. Our thanks again to Sr. Matthew, Leo Keefe, Red Daley and all others who helped us compile this history.

Norm Ladabouche
Ed Carroll

DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS

1930

Elias Haddad enters the scene to become MSJ's first official coach. He had on his team such names as Bill "Red" Daley, a transfer from Rutland High, Nick Clifford, Bill Shouldice, Ed LeClair, Bob Collins, Don McCue, John Dean and Earl Swift, along with George Howley and George O'Connell. Very few games were won that year but the school received its first taste of glory when their own Earl Swift won the Junior free-throw tournament, a part of the Southern Vermont Tourney.

1931

Tom Listzwan from Proctor, Vermont and a University of Notre Dame graduate came on to Coach MSJ this year. His roster consisted of players such as "Red" Daley, Captain; Nick Clifford, Earl Swift, George Hawley, Don McCue, Ed LeClair and Bob Clifford and though the team did not have a winning season it was picking up more and more fan support for the small school down in "Nebraska". The Mounties did play Rutland High three times that year, losing to them by the scores of 21-13, 26-11 and 19-11.

1932

This year Coach Listzwan welcomed a new group of boys and among them were Rod Walsh and George Murray at forwards, Bernie McDonough at center and Gigi Ferraro and Frank Esposito at the guard spots. This is the team that opened up the brand new Knights of Columbus gym, playing Black River Academy of Ludlow and losing 21-16. Rutland was especially strong this year and beat the Green twice by the scores of 31-2 and 50-4. Another losing season but better days lie ahead.

1933

Enter Leo "Bundsie" Keefe to start his long and illustrious career. (How many among you knew it started down on Convent Avenue?) Keefe had a team consisting of Frank Esposito, Ernie Cioffi, Gigi Ferraro, Rod Walsh, Chum Gravelle and John Smiel. They won their first five games this year and came time for the big game with Proctor they rushed new bleachers to the K of C gym. Proctor won it easily though, 43-11. For some reason the Mount did not play Rutland this year but for the first time made the Southern Vermont Tourney only to play Proctor again in the first game and lose. Their season record, though, was a very respectable 16 and 5.

1934

This team may have been called the "travelers" for the amount of traveling they did representing MSJ. John Smiel, Ernie Cioffi, Gigi Ferraro, John Gleason and Nick Smiel led this Keefe coached team which also included names like Ernie LaPenna, Jim Ruby, Charlie Costello, Marty Gallagher, Bernie Taylor and Benny Valenti. Rutland's Raiders beat them in their first meeting but this is the team which finally beat Rutland, edging them out in their second meeting 25-24. John Smiel had to leave the team in January because of ineligibility and Springfield High beat them in the opening round of the SV Tourney 30-24. Gigi Ferraro netted eleven points and made second team all-tourney. Former Acadameite Earl Swift won the Senior free throw contest, making 68 of 75 including 26 in a row. The Mounties defeated Cathedral of Burlington 26-23 to win the right to represent Vermont in the New England Catholic Tourney in Boston but were beaten by Cathedral of South Boston 26-25 in the opening round.

1935

This year's team made it all the way to the finals of the Southern Vermont Tourney. Rod Walsh, Nick Smiel, John Lovett, Ernie Cioffi and John Gleason led this great team. Rutland won both city-series games by the scores of 38-15 and 30-15. In tourney play it was MSJ beating Brandon 24-12 and Fairhaven 27-21 before losing to a very strong Proctor team in the finals 33-23. Ernie Cioffi scored eleven in this one and made the all-tourney team, with John Lovett being named to the second team. A very interesting note concerning this particular team and year was that they played West Rutland at the Armory in the final regularly scheduled game of the season and for the very first time experimented without the usual "jump ball" after every basket as had been the custom to this point. Coach Frank Hinchey of West Rutland was quoted to have said after the game that "from now on every team will need ten men on the court instead of five", the boys were so exhausted. But from this time on there was to be no more "center jump" following a score.



COACH LEO KEEFE



1935 TEAM

Front: Jim Ruby, Ernie LaPenna

1st Row: Ernie Cioffi, John Gleason, John Lovett, Rod Walsh, Nick Smiel

2nd Row: Don Taylor, Bernie Taylor, Charles Costello, Coach Leo "Bundsie" Keefe

1936

This year the fans see a much faster brand of ball with the elimination of the mentioned center jump but for MSJ the season itself was a bit disappointing. Its leaders were Bud Pillon, Marty Gallagher, John Lovett, Marty Trombetta and Bill West. They failed to make the tourney this year but were invited to a State Catholic tourney held in Winooski but had to refuse the invitation because of a large amount of sickness on the team at the time. Rutland beat the Mounties twice this year by the scores of 31-13 and 24-15. A Herald note mentions that because Proctor expected to meet the Raiders later in the season they played the entire second MSJ game without "signals" referring, of course, to the fact that at that time all offensive and defensive signals came from the coach, who according to the rules, was not allowed to talk to his players, even during time-outs. The Herald also mentions that during this second MSJ-Rutland game the Mounties' Marty Trombetta was getting into early foul trouble "tossing Rutland players around rather roughly" and that Coach Keefe had to wait for Bill West to arrive from National Guard drill service in Wallingford to replace him. Yes, Bill made it to start the second quarter. It must have been an enjoyable season if nothing else.

1937

This is Coach "Bundsie" Keefe's last year as coach at the Academy, and the boys who played in his farewell season were Bud Pillon, John Costello, Marty Gallagher, John Lovett, Bill West, Ned Creed, Jim Lemmo and Frank Camardo.

Rutland won both games this year 35-9 and 35-12, but probably their finest game of the season was the final game of the regular season against Proctor. In a very close and exciting game they lost to the powerful Phantoms 31-29.

Coach Keefe entered a protest to the Headmasters, claiming that M.S.J. should be allowed a play-off to enter the Southern Vt. Tournament because their record was as good as Bennington's. After a four hour session, the executive council of the Headmaster's Association ruled that M.S.J. would play off with Bennington. In a hard fought game Bennington won 28-24.

1938

Coach Al Baldwin starts his first year at M.S.J. with a team of Pillon, Canary, Pokrywka, Lemmo, Camardo, O'Brien, Russo, Fucci and McGuire. In the Marble Valley League they had a very fine 10 and 2 record. The Acads defeated Rutland both games this year by scores of 26-19 and 26-16. In the Southern Vt. Tournament they were defeated by Springfield in the semi-finals, and then lost to Rutland in the consolation game 26-20.

1939

M.S.J. had a 13 and 7 record this year and a well balanced team of Jim Lemmo, Earl McGuire, Herb Russo, Jack Morris, John Creed, Jim Lovett, Jack Daley, Louis Fucci, Joe Pray, John O'Rourke and John Bird. Joe "Chubby" Pray (now Father Pray) lead the team in scoring this year. In the City Series they split with Rutland losing the first game 16-14, and winning the second one 38-31.

Proctor defeated the Acads in the opener of the Southern Vt. Tourney 40-31. The crack M.S.J. marching band with Drum Major Bill Mayhew thrilled the Tournament crowd with difficult marching formations on the Armory floor. This year in a play-off for the State Tournament West Rutland defeated M.S.J. 27-23.

1940

This was the first year of the Southern Vermont League, and M.S.J. ended in a tie for third place with a 5 and 5 league record. The overall record was 8 and 6. Capt. Joe Pray again led the team, with great support from Herb Russo, Jack Daley, Louis Fucci, Joe Lovett, Jack Morris, John O'Rourke, Hank McLaughlin, Ray Mulcahy, Sam Margo and Bob Ballou.

In the So. Vt. Tourney Bennington defeated M.S.J. 28-26. Playing off for the State Tournament, the Acads beat St. Johnsbury 49-25 and Newport 28-23. In the Vt. State Tournament M.S.J. was defeated by Burlington 37-25.

Rutland won both games this year 37-28 and 40-32. During the season Joe Pray and Herb Russo were the leading scorers.

Many one and two point leads were preserved for victories this year when a player who was fouled had a choice of either shooting the foul shot or taking the ball out of bounds and keeping possession to run out the clock.

1941

The Acads of Coach Baldwin again ended up in third place this year with a So. Vt. league record of 8 and 6. Their overall record was 11 and 8.

This year's team had Jack Morris, Jack Daley, Joe Lovett, Bob Ballou, John Hackett, Fran Margo, Ken Walker and John Valente. It was Rutland 45, M.S.J. 24 in the first game of the city series, but the Acads came back to gain a split winning 30-27.

In the Southern Vt. Tournament, M.S.J. defeated Bennington in the opener 24-21 and in the semi-finals beat Randolph 22-19. Springfield won the tournament defeating M.S.J. 22-19. Bob Ballou made the first all tournament team and Jack Morris was named to the second team. M.S.J. lost to Cathedral in the opener of the State Tournament.

1942

This year's team was led by Capt. Jack Daley, along with Joe Welch, Ken Walker, John Hackett, Fran Margo, "Mud" Lemmo, John Valente, "Babe" Spoon, Dan Brown and Dan O'Rourke. Their overall record was 13 and 6, with a S.V.L. record of 9 and 3. M.S.J. defeated Rutland twice 37-24 and 34-18.

In the So. Vt. Tournament they beat West Rutland 44-36 in the opener, then in the semi-finals defeated Brattleboro 38-34. Springfield won the Tournament by beating the Acads in the finals 36-15.

They went to the State Tournament winning the first two 26-24 over Brattleboro and 32-26 over B.F.A., but again had to meet Springfield in the finals and were defeated again 39-30. Hackett and Daley were named to both all Tournament teams and Fran Margo made the second team in both tourneys.

1943

A new coach this year. Barry Branon arrives at the Mount and starts his Academy coaching career with an all veteran team of John Hackett, Ken Walker, Babe Spoon, Dan O'Rourke, Dan Brown, "Mud" Lemmo, Fran Margo, and Louis Pokrwyka. Big wins this year over Rutland 38-28 and 46-39. Also a win over Middlebury College Jv's 42-35.

There was no Rotary or State Tournament this year, but M.S.J. met Springfield at the Armory for the Southern Vt. championship and defeated them 50-24, with Hackett getting 11 points and Pokrwyka and Brown 10 each. As there was no preliminary game, the popular M.S.J. band gave a one-hour concert before the game.

Two games were played with the Northern winner Montpelier, with Montpelier winning the first 41-33 and M.S.J. taking the second game 41-32. A third game was never played. Father Connor of M.S.J. stated that neither school could agree on a mutual site to play the rubber game so M.S.J. had to be content to share the mythical state title with Montpelier.

1944

The 1944 team ended in a tie with Rutland for the S.V.L. championship with a 12 and 2 record. Their overall record was 18 and 4, which included two wins over Rutland 31-27 and 28-19. Babe Spoon lead this team with Bill Lovett, Warren Bolin, Ed Welch, Louis Pokrywka, Jim Keith, Silvio Valente, Bob Hackett, Stan Kantorski, Jim Dunn, Bill Flory, Bernie Hurley, Dick Mangan, Gene Roussil, Bernie Keefe, Jim McLaughlin and Jack Barrett.

M.S.J. won the So. Vermont Tournament by beating West Rutland 41-33 then defeated Bellows Falls 42-20 for the championship.

In the State finals Montpelier defeated M.S.J. 36-25. This year the Acads went to the New England Catholic tournament and were defeated by St. Johns of Worcester, Mass. 28-23.

Babe Spoon was voted the most valuable player in the S. Vermont tournament, and was named to the All New England Catholic team.

1945

Coach Barry Branon welcomed back Capt. Louis Pokrywka along with Bob Hackett, Warren Bolin, Ed Welch, Bill Flory, Bernie Hurley, Dick Mangan, Art Shiparo, Joe Costello, Fundsie Cioffi, Mickey Kelly and Pat Polcaro. They had a season record of 13 and 10, with an S.V.L. record of 9 and 5. A split with Rutland during the regular season losing the first 36-21 and winning the second 52-34.

M.S.J. had to play off with Windsor to get into the So. Vt. Tournament and won this game 30-23. In the tourney they first defeated Bellows Falls 41-38 then won the tournament by defeating Rutland 36-27. Bolin, Pokrywka and Welch were named to the All Tourney team and Warren Bolin was named Most Valuable Player. After the game awards Coach Branon made his famous remark "We came in the back door, but we are going out the front door". The applause that followed that nearly lifted the roof off the Armory.

In the State finals Spaulding defeated M.S.J. 36-22.

1946

A fourth place finish in the S.V.L. this year with a 6 and 8 record and a season record of 8 and 11. Rutland took both games this year 31-22 and 39-37. In a play-off game for a berth in the So. Vermont tournament they were defeated by Bennington 29-23 in a game played at Granville, N.Y.

Coach Branon had a team of Capt. Bill Flory, Dick Mangan, Barry Byrne, Bernie Hurley, Fundsie Cioffi, Mickey Kelly, Dom Caliguiri, Frank Cioffi, Joe Costello, Tom Mangan and Vince Leluikas.

1947

Coach Branon had a 7 and 7 S.V.L. record and 8 and 11 overall record with a team of Peter Zuk, Tom Alberico, Frank Aquistapace, Fundsie Cioffi, Barry Byrne, Mickey Kelly, Ed Sullivan, Ray Flynn, Gerald McCue, John Nolan, Vince Leluikas and Frank Cioffi. Mickey Kelly, Fundsie Cioffi and Barry Byrne were the leading scorers this year.

In a play off game for a tourney spot, they defeated Springfield 39-36. M.S.J. defeated Brattleboro 48-28 in the semi-finals of the tournament but were beaten by a great Rutland team in the finals 48-31. Rutland also won the regular season games by scores of 38-18 and 32-28.

1948

This year's Barry Branon led team finishes third in SVL with 8 and 6 record, eleven and seven overall, with starters Mickey Kelly, Vin Leluikas, Fundsie Cioffi, Pete Zuk and Frank Acquistapace, with names like McCue, O'Rourke, Nolan, Creed, Fusco, Hurley and Pelchat added to the roster. This year Bob Rounds starts his coaching career taking over as assistant coach for Sal Somma who leaves for New Dorp High in Staten Island. We find mention that in a game over in West Rutland the officials had to hold up action several times to ask the fans to stop blowing horns and whistles so the players could hear the official whistles. West Rutland won this big game 43-23.

The Mounties were eliminated in the first game of the SV Tourney by Bennington 35-25 with Fundsie Cioffi making the All-Tourney team. Against Rutland this year they gain a split, beating them handily in the first one 50-39 but losing the second 38-37 when Rutland's Dick Davidson ties game with two foul shots after time had run out and then canning winning basket in OT. Fundsie Cioffi leads all scorers, with 229 total points followed by Mickey Kelly and Vin Leluikas with 151 each and Frank Acquistapace with 113.

1949

Coaches Ed Casey and Nellie Rounds had a rebuilding year with very few veterans returning. Pat and Bill Levins led this team along with Nugent, Hurley, Lovett, Brown, Fusco, Cioffi, Wierzbicki and Bob Vignoe. Overall they were 11 and 9 and in S.V.L. 8 and 6. They won the first Rutland game 33 to 32 and dropped the second game 31-30. Springfield defeated them in the first game of the tourney 26 to 24.

1950

This year's great team won the So. Vermont Tournament and advanced to the finals of the State Tourney. Bill Nugent, Jack Hurley, Bob Vignoe, Dom and Pete Cioffi were the members of this team. They defeated Rutland twice in regular season games 34 to 25 and 39 to 30. Their So. Vt. League record was 12 and 4 and the overall record was 16 and 6.

In the So. Vermont Tournament they defeated Bennington 45-27 and in the finals beat Rutland 34-31 with Tom Lovett, Jack Hurley and Pat Levins making the All Tourney team. Spaulding defeated the Academy in the State Finals 48-46.

| POS | TEAM | M. S. J. | NO | FOULS | | | | | Coach: Frank Bizzarro | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----------|--------------|-------|-------------|---|--------------|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G | Bobby Joe Cioffi | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G | Bill O'Rourke | 10 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G | Mark Muscatello | 12 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G | Jim Shortle | 20 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G | Andy Motroni | 24 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | Tom Cassese | 30 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | Al Flory | 32 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | Brian McGann | 34 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| C | John Culver | 40 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | John Ruggiero | 42 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | John Solari | 30 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | Peter Notte | 14 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | Frank Aquistapace | 22 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| TIME OUTS | | | TEAM FOULS / | | BY QUARTERS | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | TEAM FOULS / | | BY HALVES | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

| POS | TEAM | R. H. S. | NO | FOULS | | | | | Coach: James Leamy | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|----------|--------------|-------|-------------|---|--------------|---|--------------------|---|---|---|
| G | Doug Gallagher | 10 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G | Bob Laird, Capt. | 11 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G | Mike Mitowski | 13 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G | Bob Aronson | 14 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G | Bruce Kennedy | 15 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | Jeff Bosten | 20 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| C | Steve Murray | 21 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G-F | Jayson Laird | 22 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | Kevin Browne | 24 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| G-F | Dirk Larsen | 25 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| F | Ed Davidson, Capt. | 30 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| C | Chris Terkla | 31 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | |
| TIME OUTS | | | TEAM FOULS / | | BY QUARTERS | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | TEAM FOULS / | | BY HALVES | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

1951

Coaches Casey and Rounds welcomed seven returning veterans this year and ended up with an 11 and 8 overall record with a 6 and 6 S.V.L. record. Bill Nugent, Tom Lovett, Hank Coladonato, Pat Levins, Bob Vignoe, Bob Romano and Al Barbaragallo were the veterans and a promising group of Sophomores who gained plenty of experience were Frank and Joe Bizzarro, Tom Carrigan, Ron Richards and Phil Thayer. The Green Wave defeated Rutland in the first City Series game 41-30 but lost the second game 35-28. They lost a heartbreaker to Springfield in the opening game of the So. Vt. Tournament 46 to 44. Tom Lovett and Hank Coladonato each had 14 points in this game.

1952

Winning 8 and losing 4 in a strong So. Vt. League, M.S.J. had a very commendable 16 and 5 over all record. Coach Rounds had a very speedy team of Bizzarro twins, Bob Gillam, Hank Coladonato, Tom Carrigan, John Eaton, Bob Carroll, Phil Thayer, Ernie Decker, Basil Nichols and Charlie O'Rourke. They split with Rutland during the regular season losing the first 34 to 27 and winning the second 44-42. In the So. Vt. Tourney they defeated Springfield 44 to 41 and lost to the eventual State Class A Champs, Rutland High 41 to 34.

1953

This team was considered by many to be the greatest Academy team ever. They had speed, agility, and great shooting, spearheaded by Frank and Joe Bizzarro, Tom Carrigan, Ron Richards and Bob Gillam. Dick Polzello, Charlie O'Rourke, Bob Welch and Basil Nichols were also instrumental in the fine season. Winners of the So. Vermont League with a 12 and 2 record, this team finished the season with an over-all 18 and 3 record which included two wins over Rutland 49-39 and 43-41 in overtime.

In the Southern Vt. Tournament they defeated Bellows Falls 67-63 and in the finals again beat Rutland 61-51 to win the tournament. Joe Bizzarro and Tom Carrigan made the all tourney team. During the regular season M.S.J. defeated Burlington twice by scores of 53-32 and 48-46 but in the finals for the State Championships, Burlington upset the Mounties 56-52 for the state title. Joe Bizzarro led the scorers for this season with 248 points.

At last, a State Championship team at the Mount. Coaches Farrell and Flory lead this team to a city, Southern Vermont and State Championship.

Bob Gillam, Dick Polzello, Charlie O'Rourke, Basil Nichols, Bob Welch, Levins, Rizzico, Carbine and John Cioffi made up this great team. They had a 10 and 4 Southern Vermont League record and split with Rutland, losing the first one in a tight one 48-47 but rebounding to take the second one 60-50. In the Southern Vermont Tourney, the Acads, beat Springfield 57-50 and then defeated Rutland for the championship 63-49. Charlie O'Rourke, Dick Polzello and Bob Gillam made all tourney team, as did Ron Horton from Rutland. They defeated Cathedral for the State class A title in Middlebury 50-42. The following week they were defeated by Cathedral of Springfield, Mass. at the Boston Garden 69-42 in the first game of the New England tournament.



1954 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Front: Captain Bob Gillam
 Left to right: Bob Welch, Joe Levins, Basil Nichols, Dick Polzello,
 Charlie O'Rourke

1955

Coach Farrell had a starting lineup of John Cioffi, Bob Welch, Dick Polzello, Fred Carbine and Bill Reardon, with able reserves in Tony Gallo, Jerry McGinnis, Bob Kelly, Charlie Tesconi, and Dick Norton. They had a 7 and 7 Southern Vermont League record and 9 and 12 over all. Again the Acads split with their cross town rival, losing the first game 59-44, then turning back the Raiders 50-34. Probably their biggest win was the opening game of the season, when they defeated a strong St. Peters team from Saratoga, N.Y. 37-35. The Acads were defeated by Brattleboro in the first round of the Southern Vermont tourney 39-36.

1956

This year's Farrell coached team compiled a 12 and 11 season record and a 6 and 8 won, lost, S.V.L. record. Charlie Tesconi, Jerry McGinnis, Bill Burke, Joe Sabatase, Bob Kelly and Paul Loseby led this team with help from reserves Tom Duffy and John Cioffi. In the city series, the Acads lost the first game 48 to 39 and defeated Rutland the next time 54-50. This year they defeated Bennington in a play-off game, then lost to Montpelier in the Northern Tournament.

1957

This year Rutland won both games of city series by scores of 37 to 32 and 44 to 39. Coach Farrell had a team of Joe Bioty, Tom Duffy, Bob Kelly, Jerry Burke and John Cioffi, with Dick Taylor, Frank Flory and Joe LaFaso in reserve. Their over all record was 11 and 12 and the S.V.L. record 7 and 7. The most exciting game of this season was the 50 to 48 win over a strong Bennington team with Jerry Burke netting 22 points.

This year Billy Burns completed four years as manager of both football and basketball and he was awarded the M.S.J. Service Award for four years of distinguished service to M.S.J.

1958

Coach Farrell had a very young team this year that won only 2 of 17 games and had an 0 and 14 S.V.L. record. John Notte who averaged 13 points a game led this team and had support from Dave Cioffi, Jack and Jim Burgess, Paul Courcelle, Joe LaFaso, Brian Eldredge, John Dupuis and Bill Lovett.

Rutland took both games this year 36-26 and 58-47. About the only thing M.S.J. had to cheer about this year was Nancy Parsons (Mrs. Arthur Crandall) being crowned queen of the Rutland Hospital Cotillion.

1959

This is Goerge Farrell's last year as coach at the Academy and his team ended up 5 and 13 over all and a 3-11 S.V.L. record. Our new gymnasium was opened this year and we played Cathedral before a packed house but lost our first game in this new gym 56-49. John Notte, Dave Cioffi, John Burgess, Capt. Paul Courcelle and John Dupuis were the starting five, backed up by Greg Hubbard, John Durkee, Tom Stanley, Lee Wood and Chuck Shortle. This was the year that Windsor ran up 101 points against us at Windsor. We split with Rutland this year, losing the first 51-37 and winning the second one in over-time 45-39.

1960

Fundsie Cioffi takes over from George Farrell and has a 7-11 overall record and a 5 and 9 S.V.L. record. Dave Cioffi, Greg Hubbard, John Notte, Jack Burgess, George Dumouchel, Jim Burgess, Lee Wood, John Durkee, Mike Burke and Tom Stanley made up this year's team. A split again this year with Rutland, winning the first 63-53 and dropping the next one 48-41. In a game that Bennington won 72-50 John Wilkinson of Bennington set an S.V.L. record scoring 44 points. There was an unusual 4 way tie for the S.V.L. championship with Bellows Falls, Brattleboro, Springfield and Windsor all having a 10 and 4 record.

1961

Coach Jim Brown did not have an over-all winning season, but they won the city championship by beating Rutland both games 44 to 35 and 42 to 40. In the second game with Rutland, Mike Burke scored with four seconds left in the game to break a 40-40 tie. The records this year were 6 and 8 in the S.V.L. and 6 and 11 over all. This team was composed of Justin Courcelle, Ron Manley, Greg Hubbard, George Dumouchel, Jim McKinnon, Al Sabatase, John Sabatase, Leon Wood, Bart Costello, Tom Stanley and Mike Burke. Although they did not make the tournament this year, they provided the fans with many exciting games.

1962

This year's team did not fare too well, but they never gave up, and played hard every game for Coach Brown. Bart Costello, Tom Costello, Lou Wierzbicki, Howard Shortsleeves, Jim McKinnon, George Woods, Ron Kelley and Bob Picucci were the mainstays of this team that had a 2 and 14 Southern Vermont league record. Both games went to Rutland this year by scores of 69-32 and 61-32. Again they did not make the tournament.

1963

A complete reversal of last year's city series, the Acads defeated Rutland twice 67-49 and 59-56. Coach Brown had Ron Kelley, Eddie Bove, Brian and Howard Shortsleeves, Marty McDonough, Bob Picucci, Joe Gauthier, Frank Buggiani, George Woods and Tom Costello who gave us a fine 13 and 6 overall record and a 10 and 4 Southern Vt. League record.

The boys fought hard all the way to the tournament, where they defeated Brattleboro in the first game, 58-55 but were defeated in the semi-finals by a strong Bellows Falls team 47-44.

1964

This year Jim Brown's boys won the Southern Vt. League with a fine 17 and 1 record and had an overall record of 19 and 2. By beating Rutland twice 49-45 and 80-52 M.S.J. brought home both the S.V.L. and city series trophy. Ron Kelley, Eddie Bove, Howard and Brian Shortsleeves, Marty McDonough, Mike Stanley, Brian Costello, Tom Candon, Joe Gauthier and Mickey Caliguiri gave the Mounties fans plenty to cheer about this year.

This great season ended abruptly though, when Springfield eliminated them in the first game of the tournament 66-55.

1965

Most Valuable player in the Southern Vt. League Ron Kelley led this team to a fine 14-6 S.V.L. record. Ron was ably supported by Brian Shortsleeves, Brian Costello, Mike Stanley, John and Tom Champine, Bob Shortle, Jim Sanborn and Mickey Caliguiri.

The Acads split with Rutland this year, winning the first game 51-37 and losing the next one 65-62.

A third Rutland game was played this year, when the Acads met their cross-town rival in a play down and defeated them 68-49 with Brian Shortsleeves netting 25 points. Bennington then defeated M.S.J. in the semi-finals 61-48 with Mike Stanley scoring 16 points to lead the Mounties.

1966

Coach Brown had John and Tom Champine returning this year along with John Bove, Ron Roucoulet, Charles Oczechoski, Bob Rotella, Dave Clifford, Frank Buggiani, and Joe Pawlusiak. They ended up in third place this year in the S.V.L. with a 14 and 6 record.

Frank Buggiani scored 28 points as M.S.J. defeated S. Burlington in a play down 72-52, but were defeated by Rutland in the quarter finals 51-50. Rutland also took both games of the regular season 66-53 and 60-42.

1967

This year we did not make the tournament but played great ball throughout the season ending up with a 10 and 10 S.V.L. record. Coach Brown had John Bove, Tom Champine, Bob Rotella, Dave Clifford and Charlie Oczechoski back from last year along with Buddy McGinnis, Bill Canfield, Tom DePoy and Mike Palluto.

The Mounties lost to Rutland in their first encounter 71-62 but came back to win the second game of the series 57-43.

1968

The Headmasters Association spoiled M.S.J.'s season this year by disqualifying them from tournament play for being late in filing their application. Through a great team effort, this team ended up in a tie for second place in the S.V.L. with a 10 and 4 record. Their season was 13 and 6.

The team that had to stay home during this year's play downs and tourney were Dave Clifford, Tom Champine, Jim Sanborn, Buddy McGinnis, Charles Oczechoske, Gary Clifford, Bill Canfield, Bob Guimond and Tim Murphy. Rutland took both games this year by scores of 63-46 and 69-52.

1969

In Jim Brown's 9th and last season as coach, the Mounties tied Mt. Anthony for the S.V.L. championship with a 12 and 2 record. They played Rutland three times this year, losing the first two 58-57 and 60-56 but defeating them in a play down at Hartford 41-39. Rice defeated the Acads in the semi-finals 62-41.

The boys that played for Jim Brown's last Mountie team were Dave Clifford, Bill Canfield, Tim Murphy, Charlie Oczechoski, Bill Shortle, Bill Comstock, Jim Derosia, Fran Sabourin, Tom DePoy and Keith Eddy.

1970

Coach Frank Bizzarro returns to his Alma Mater from Bennington Catholic and in his first year led the Mounties to the S.V.L. championships and the City championships. Stressing defense and team play he brought this team all the way to the State semi-finals.

Bill Comstock, Tim Murphy, Rick Brodowski, Bob Bove, Jim Derosia, Tom Shortle, Keith Eddy and Dave Davidson all played great ball this season. They defeated Rutland twice 56-52 and 66-55.

In the play downs, they defeated Brattleboro 55-42 with Bill Comstock scoring 19 points and then advanced to the semi-finals by defeating Rutland 70-50 with Jim Derosia netting 16 points. Rice beat the Acads in the State semi-finals 62-46. Their overall record was 14 and 4 and S.V.L. record was 12 and 2.

1971

In what could be called a rebuilding year, Coach Bizzarro had a 9 and 9 season record and ended up in third place behind Windsor and Rutland in the S.V.L. with a 9 and 5 record.

Sophomore Dave Walker started his three years of varsity play, along with veterans Bob Bove, Rick Brodowski, Bob Job, Jim Mee, Tom Shortle, Mike Daley, Bill Dudley, and Danny Magro.

In the city series they defeated Rutland in the first game 49-27 and lost the next one 55-39. Brattleboro defeated MSJ in a play down game 54-48 in overtime.

1972

Again M.S.J. wins the Southern Vermont League championship with an 11 and 3 record. They had a very fine 13 and 7 season record. This year's team was led by Jim Mee, Mike Daley, Bob Job, Jim Clifford, and Dave Walker, backed up by Chris Raleigh, Skip Pratico, Robbie Gilligan, John Kelly and Tom "Blitz" La Victorie.

A split with R.H.S. this year, winning the first 50-46 and then losing to the Raiders 42-39.

In a play down game at Rutland High School M.S.J. defeated Champlain 55-49, but were defeated by Burlington in the State Semi-finals 51-37.

Joey Bizzarro enters on the Academy scene exactly 20 years after his father played on the great 1953 team. As if history was made to repeat itself M.S.J. lost to Burlington in the state finals, as did the 1953 team. Returners along with Bizzarro were Skip Pratico, Dave Walker, Chris Raleigh, Jim Clifford, Jim Daley, Vic Shappy, and Bob Miles. Sophomores Mike Mee, Ed Eno and Dan Motroni with Freshmen Al Flory and John O'Rourke completed the lineup.

This team tied with Rutland for the S.V.L. title with a 12 and 2 record. Both Rutland games were won in overtime, the first went to the Acads 39-37, and Rutland won the second game 45-42.

The first J.V. game with Rutland will long be remembered with M.S.J. down by 4, 38-35 and 12 seconds left, the little Mounties scored two quick baskets to win 39-38.

In play down the Acads defeated Rice 52-48, then Rutland 39-36. Burlington won the state title by defeating M.S.J. in a low scoring game 40-34.

OUTLOOK FOR 1973-74

THE SCHEDULE

The Mounties will face 3 new opponents this year. Whitehall, New York will come back after a year's absence. They will travel to Milton High School for a Christmas Tourney Dec. 28-29. Last year's 18-4 record, State-runner up will be hard to beat.

THE ATTACK

The Mounties will use 1-4 offense again, which worked so well last year. We will continue to use 1-2-2, 2-3 zone defense plus our multiples zone presses.

THE LOSSES

Missing from last year's squad are: Dave Walker, Skip Pratico and Chris Raleigh. These three young men will be hard to replace.

RETURNEES

There are nine lettermen returning from last year's State-Runner-up team. They are co-capt. elect James Clifford, and Joseph Bizzarro, plus James Daley, Robert Miles, Mike Mee, Dan Motroni, Al Flory, John O'Rourke, Ed Eno. Jim Clifford is starting for the third consecutive year.

NEW PROSPECTS

Some boys who look to be very promising for the future of the Mounties are:

Steve Lawrence (Jr.)
Steve Falco (Soph.)
Mark Muscatello (Soph.)
Andy Motroni (Soph.)



1974 VARSITY TEAM

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>AGE</u> | <u>CLASS</u> | <u>POSITION</u> | <u>HEIGHT</u> | <u>WEIGHT</u> |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| James Clifford | 17 | Sr. | Forward | 6'1" | 180 |
| Joseph Bizzarro | 17 | Sr. | Guard | 5'11" | 150 |
| James Daley | 17 | Jr. | Center | 6'3" | 188 |
| Michael Mee | 16 | Jr. | Guard | 5'9" | 165 |
| Dan Motroni | 16 | Jr. | Guard | 5'11" | 170 |
| Andy Motroni | 15 | Soph. | Guard | 5'11" | 170 |
| Robert Miles | 17 | Sr. | Forward | 6'1" | 200 |
| John O'Rourke | 16 | Soph. | | 6'0" | 170 |
| Al Flory | 15 | Soph. | Forward | 5'11" | 155 |
| Ed Eno | 16 | Jr. | Guard | 5'11" | 150 |
| Mark Muscatello | 15 | Soph. | Guard | 5'11" | 165 |
| Bob Kennedy | 17 | Sr. | Guard | 5'10" | 170 |

Manager Kevin Kuhn

PLAYER PROFILES

Jim Clifford

Senior Forward - 6'0" - 180 lbs.
Third year as a starter. Great rebounder.
Very hard worker. Commands respect.

Joseph Bizzarro

Senior Guard. 5'10" - 150 lbs.
Joe broke into the starting line-up last year after coming from Mt. Anthony. A good defensive ball player, with quick hands. Makes the club go.

James Daley

Junior Center -6'3" - 188 lbs.
Good rebounder; shot blocker. Good shooter near the key. A hard worker always wanting to improve.

Mike Mee

Junior Guard - 5'9" - 165 lbs.
A good passer. Shoots well around the key. Will be counted on to do the job vacated by Skip Pratico.

Robert Miles

Senior Center - 6'1" -200 lbs.
Good worker - hustle all the time. Will spell Clifford and Daley. Good rebounder.

Ed Eno

Junior Guard - 5'11" - 150 lbs.
Quick hands - very agile - could be the surprise of the coming season. All he needs is confidence, has everything else.

Dan Motroni

Junior Guard -5'11" -170 lbs.
Very aggressive hard nosed ball player. May be used up front this year because of aggressiveness. Could be a key factor this year.

John O'Rourke

Sophomore Center -6'1" - 175 lbs.
Good shooter -rebounder. Has great ability but needs confidence. Will work out with Clifford and Daley. Could be used in the wing position.

Al Flory

Sophomore Guard - 6'1" -175 lbs.
Aggressive - quick - good defensive ball player. Has what it takes to be a good one. Needs to develop and receive confidence, which will come by getting a chance to play.

Mark Muscatello

Sophomore -5'11" - 165 lbs.
A soph. with great potential. Has great hustle and rebounds well for his size.

Andy Motroni

Sophomore - 5'11" -170 lbs.
A quick, very aggressive ball player. Has great promise. A very hard worker.

Bob Kennedy

Senior Guard - 5'10" - 170 lbs.
First year of varsity ball. Played as a Freshman and Sophomore. Has been injured. Good shooter.

MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH

Board of Education

Chairman - John Canney
Treasurer - Robert Reardon
Secretary - Sister Mary Polworth
Rev. James Engle
Dr. William O'Rourke
Msgr. John A. Lynch
Msgr. Thomas A. Connor

John Ciofreddi
William Levins
James McNeil
Arthur J. Crandall
Sister Elizabeth Morrissey
Donald Keith

School Enrollment

Grade 9 115
Grade 10 135
Grade 11 125
Grade 12 130
TOTAL 505

School Administration

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Principal | Fr. John O'Connell |
| Athletic Director | Mr. Sam Rizziere |
| Basketball Coach | Mr. Frank Bizzarro |
| Ass't Coach | Mr. James Kelley |
| Frosh Coach | Mr. Martin McDonough |
| Team Physician | Dr. William O'Rourke |

School Colors

Green-White-Gold

School Nickname

Mounties - Green Wave

Band Directors

Mr. Gerald Minard - Sr. Emmaunel

Cheerleader Supervisor

Sr. Shirley Davis

Head Custodians

Mr. William West
Mr. Jack Kelly



SOUTHERN VERMONT CONFERENCE

MEMBER SCHOOLS:

Rutland High - Coach James Leamy
 Mount Saint Joseph - Coach Frank Bizzarro
 Hartford High - Coach Richard Lovett
 Windsor High - Coach John Barth
 Springfield High - Coach Richie Wyman
 Bellows Falls High - Coach Russ Pickering
 Brattleboro High - Coach Art Freeman
 Mount Anthony Union - Coach Dave Fredrickson

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS:

1964 - Mount Saint Joseph
 1965 - Bennington Catholic
 1966 - Bennington Catholic
 1967 - Bennington Catholic
 1968 - Rutland High
 1969 - Mount Saint Joseph
 Mount Anthony (Tie)
 1970 - Mount Saint Joseph
 1971 - Windsor High
 1972 - Mount Saint Joseph
 1973 - Mount Saint Joseph
 Rutland High (Tie)

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Mr. Bill O'Connell

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