

1962-63

No Football

BASKETBALL Coach Hal Cuff 19-3 **SMJCC**
Champions (11-1) The season looked bright for Coach Hal Cuff as he returned 6 letter winners including Brian Johnson, Bill Booher, Carroll Austinson, Dave Underwood, Ed Vilt and Maurice Joel. The Blue Devils would win their first seven contests before the Christmas break. In their opener they would defeat the Luther College freshmen 71-63. Freshman Don Shirk led the balanced scoring with 18 points. The AJC team needed a late rally in the final six minutes to upend Willmar 73-59 in the conference opener. Sparked by center Phil Block the Blue Devils outscored their opponent 14-4 to pull out the victory. Maurice Joel grabbed scoring honors with 19 points. Rangy Don Shirk poured in 33 points to lead his team over Bethany in an important SMJCC tussle. Five of the seven players that saw action were in double figures. Hal Cuff had an opportunity to play 15 players, with eleven scoring in a 72-54 win over the Luther College freshmen. Austin JC would make it five in a row with a 54-40 win over a scrappy Pillsbury squad. Shirk would finish with 24 points to lead all scorers in the non-conference affair. Austin moved to 3-0 in the conference with a convincing 91-44 win over Dr. Martin Luther and remained undefeated. Maurice and Joel and the AJC basketball team lowered the boom on Pillsbury 82-69 in its final contest before the holidays. Joel would score 25 including 17 in the second half. Austin remained undefeated with non-conference wins over Hibbing JC 78-72 and Waldorf 89-74 to begin it's second half of the season. Joel and Shirk would lead them in scoring in both contests. The Blue Devils were forced to fight off a last ditch effort to upend Concordia of St. Paul 77-68. Maurice Joel tallied 31 to spark his team to victory. Aided by a sticky defense, Austin breezed to a 75-67 victory over Mason City in its next contest to go 11-0 on the season. Coach Cuff would use 14 players and reserve Carroll Austinson would score 14 points. Austin JC would win its fifth conference game with a 84-68 victory over Worthington. Joel was uncanny scoring 27 while teammate Phil Block contributed 16 and took charge of the boards. The Blue Devils would make it fourteen in a row with wins over Rochester 78-62 and Concordia 83-54. Austin would be ranked 8th in the most recent NJCAA national poll. Willmar would end the streak with a thrilling 72-69 win over the Blue Devils in conference play. Unable to hit consistently in the first half they found themselves down 38-28 at the intermission. Only three scorers would score double figures, led by Block's 26 points. Austin would take it out on Bethany in its next game with a 110-87 thrashing and go 8-1 in conference play.

Five players would score in double figures led by Shirk (26) and Joel (24). Waldorf returned to Austin in a rematch and upend Hal Cuff's team 89-66 after trailing 42-41 at halftime. The Blue Devils would wilt in the second half and score only 25 points. Recovering from this loss, Austin would power them-selves over Dr. Martin Luther 94-50 to protect their lead in the conference. Austin dominated from the beginning and never looked back. Rugged Brian Johnson scored 16 to lead 14 players who saw action. The Blue Devils would clinch a share of the SMJCC in a 127-85 triumph over Rochester. By scoring 127 points it set a new Austin floor record. Bill Booher and Maurice Joel led the attack with 19 apiece followed by 6 others who would also score in double figures. Hal Cuff's team would become conference champions with an 84-65 win over Worthington. The victory gave the Blue Devils the undisputed championship-the first since 1955 and the fourth for Cuff since taking over the coaching duties in 1951. Five players scored in double figures and Austin's Brian Johnson, who found time for 15 points held conference scoring leader Bob Tusa to 10 points. Austin would close out its regular season with a non-conference victory over the Mankato State freshmen 81-65 and boosted its record to 19-2. The win would be a tune up for Austin who was heading to Hibbing where the Blue Devils had their sights on a Region XIII title and a berth in the NJCAA tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. The Blue Devils, hampered by fouls and cold shooting dropped a thriller to Ely JC 67-63 in a first round game to end their season with a 19-3 record. Ely would lead 32-31 at halftime and the score was tied twice, 45-45 and 47-47 before Ely, who defeated Austin last year by one point, pulled ahead to stay. The disappointing setback left the Austin JC with a 19-3 record. Maurice Joel of Austin would repeat from last year as he was named to the SMJCC All-Conference team, along with teammates Don Shirk and Brian Johnson.

Roster Included;

Brian Johnson	Bill Booher	Carroll Austinson
Dave Underwood	Ed Vilt	Maurice Joel
Don Shirk	Phil Block	Stan Gerhart
Gary Lunt	Lynn Knutson	John LaVelle
Larry Arndt	Del Semjem	Ass't Coach: Al Lehrke

BASEBALL Hal Bergeson 13-4. 13-2 **Central Minnesota College Conference (CMCC) Champions.** Four veterans led by Maurice Joel (p), Bill Booher (IB), Carroll Austinson (2B), and shortstop Ed Vilt. Austin was one hit in its season opening loss to Mason City 3-0. All of runs scored off losing pitcher Maurice Joel were unearned. Waldorf would win a thrilling 9-8 win over AJC in eleven innings in conference action. It was the second straight setback despite collecting 13 hits. Ed Vilt would have 3 hits including a home run. Austin defeated Concordia JC 5-2 and 6-2 to break their losing streak and begin the conference with two victories. Joel would pitch a one-hitter in the opener while John Page gave up two runs and three hits in the nightcap. Coach Hal Bergeson's team would trade 1-0 decisions in a non-conference doubleheader to Bethel in St. Paul. The Blue Devils won the opener as Maurice Joel would go the distance, striking out 5 and giving up only two hits while walking one batter. Their only run was scored a squeeze bunt in the second inning by Art Clennon. John Page lost the second game despite giving up only one hit and striking out nine batters. A twinbill sweep over Bethany 5-0 and 8-1 kept the Blue Devils on top of the standings in conference action. Joel pitched a shutout in the first contest while striking out 11 batters. Terry Ball (5 innings) and Page (2 innings) would combine on a one hitter in the nightcap. Ball and Page each collected 3 hits in the two games. Highlighting a doubleheader sweep over Pillsbury was John Page's NO-HITTER in a five inning affair. He would walk three and strike out seven batters. Art Clennon started the second game (gave up 5 runs in the first inning) but Maurice Joel had to come in relief to get the win pitching 6 innings. Terry Ball hit two home runs in the second contest and had 5 RBI. Bill Booher also added 3 hits. A double win over Dr. Martin Luther 5-0 and 6-0 gave the Blue Devils a 9-1 conference record and a 9-3 overall. Spectacular pitching was the key in the victories. Lefty John Page one hit DML while striking out 13 batters. Austin collected 12 hits, including a double and triple by Ed Vilt. In the nightcap Joel would pick up the victory giving up only one hit in five innings and Terry Ball would pitch a perfect two innings of relief. The two combined to strike out nine Comet hitters. A twin bill victory over Concordia 2-1 and 8-7 moved them a step closer to another CMCC title. Right hander Maurice Joel figured in the victories, going the distance in game one and pitching the final 2 2/3 innings in the nightcap for the save. He scattered five hits in game one while Bruce Arthun and John Page collected two hits apiece. Terry Ball won the second game giving up six runs before Joel would enter and save the contest. Page had 3 hits in the nightcap. Bethel (11-3) would come to town in a critical conference match-up trailing Austin (11-1) by two games in the standings. The Austin JC team would gain a split against Bethel, winning 7-1 in the opener and losing 2-1 in the nightcap. Previously the two teams traded 1-0 decisions to break even in the four game series.

The spilt left Austin on top of the CMCC standings with a 12-2 record, while Bethel fell to 11-4. John Page pitched a six hitter and was never seriously in trouble. He finished with nine strikeouts and walked five. Maurice Joel went nine innings in the second contest in the losing effort. The Blue Devils could manage only three hits in the losing effort. Austin concluded its season with a scheduled double header with Bethany. Lefty John Page tossed a nifty one-hitter as Hal Bergeson's team rapped Bethany 10-0 and win the CMCC title. It was the second conference title in a row for the Blue Devils, who finished the season with a 13-2 league mark and 13-4 overall. The second game of the double header was cancelled by mutual agreement. The only hit off Page came in the first inning. He fanned ten and walked two hitters. Austin would collect seven hits but the big explosion came in the fourth inning when seven runs crossed. It was the final performance for Joe, Booher, Vilt and Austinson. Maurice Joel would earn All-Conference, All-State, All-Region XIII, and Second Team All-American honors.

Roster Included:

Maurice Joel	Bill Booher	Carroll Austinson
Ed Vilt	Jon Page	Art Clennon
Terry Ball	Fred Sippel	Ken Thiele
Bruce Arthin	Ron Hodge	Bob Vilt

Manager: Bob Bulger

GOLF Coach Red Hastings, 6-1 SMJCC Runner-up. Only one member returned, sophomore Ralph Bjork. A strong freshmen class gave Coach Hastings and his two time defending conference champions reason for optimism. Austin would win six of seven matches led by Larry Chesim. Rochester JC nosed out Austin 310-312 for the SMJCC golf title played at Soldiers Field in Rochester. AJC had defeated the Yellowjackets twice during the regular season in dual matches. Despite the setback, Larry Chesin of Austin copped medalist honors with a one under par 70. Other scores for two time defending champions found Ralph Bjork (78), Glen Pike (83), Ross Martin and Tom Brown. Chesin and Pike were NJCAA national qualifiers in Joliet, Illinois. Chesin shot 79-74-71-75-299 and finished 18th in the national tournament. Pike finished 40th and shot 85-85-78-76=324.

TENNIS Coach Bill Evans. 3-1 **Co-SMJCC Champions Region 13 Champions.** Bill Evans AJC tennis team shared the SMJCC title with favored Rochester at the Rochester Tennis Club. The Blue Devils and Yellowjackets, who have won or shared 13 of the 16 titles since 1939, each finished with 11 points. Gary Eagen and Jim Knautz won the doubles competition. Austin's Denny Laberon was runner-up in singles play. (Denny Lebaron, Brain Rathke, Gary Egan, Jim Kautz, Don Heuton.

