

# 1965-66

## No Football

**BASKETBALL** Coach Hal Cuff 12-9 Three lettermen return; Rich Decker, Larry Libersky, and Dave Taylor. The tallest man on the floor for Coach Hal Cuff is 6'3" center Terry Nelson from Pacelli High School. Freshman Wayne LeRud open his college debut by pouring in 39 points in a 92-76 win over Pillsbury in a non-conference affair. Fast breaking Bethany dropped Austin in the conference opener 102-87. "The fast break really hurt us" said Cuff. LeRud led the way with 37, followed by Terry Nelson's 19 points. In its next contest before an estimated 1000 fans, Austin would rally from 11 down in the second half to win going away and defeat Mason City 99-87. Jim Bratvold and LeRud shared scoring honors with 26 apiece. Austin came out flat in it next encounter and Rochester won easily 83-68. They would trail by 20 at halftime and could never pick up the pace. LeRud would score 21 points in defeat. Sinking 17 of 20 free throws in the second half, Austin defeated Concordia 99-86 to get their first conference victory. Five players would score in double figures an at least 17 points; LeRud (20), Decker (19), Terry Nelson(19), Libersky (19) and Bratvold with 17 points. Austin would up its overall record to 4-2 with a 103-102 win over Waldorf as Wayne LeRud continued his torrid pace by scoring 46 points to lead his team to victory. The Blue Devils won their third consecutive game with a 101-88 ripping of Central JC of Minneapolis. Jumping off to an early lead Austin never looked back. LeRud ripped the nets for 42 while Decker and Bratvold chipped in with 19 apiece. A long holiday break seemed too much as the Mankato State freshmen won 94-90 over the Blue Devils in non-conference action. "If we play that way against Willmar (next opponent) ,we will lose by 50" stated Coach Hal Cuff. Wayne LeRud tallied 38 followed by Rich Decker with 19 points. Austin (2-2) would dump defending SMJCC champs Willmar 94-90 to climb back into the conference race. Once again sharp shooting Wayne LeRud was the top gun with 36 points. Rich Decker added 19, followed by Nelson (18), and Jim Bratbold's 16 points. Costly mistakes and the inability to come up with some clutch free throws cost AJC a chance at second place as they were defeated 119-117 in overtime to Dr. Martin Luther. LeRud would score a career high 51 points in the defeat. In a must win contest, Rochester stunned the Blue Devils 103-94 to virtually end any chances of Austin winning a league title. Ray Halverson had his finest game of the year scoring 15 points with five members scoring in double figures, LeRud was held to 22 points. AJC triumphant in an overtime thriller, defeating Centennial JC 100-95 upping their overall record to 7-5. Wayne LeRud tallied 36, followed by Rich Decker's 21 points.

For the third time in two weeks, Coach Hal Cuff's team went into overtime, this time recording a 132-127 win over Waldorf in non-conference action. LeRud would score the last two baskets in overtime after being tied 127-127 to finish with 47 points. In its next contest, Wayne LeRud would get his points (46), but the trio of Decker, Nelson, and Bratvold could come up with only 27 points and Austin was defeated 97-84 by Worthington. The loss dropped the Blue Devils to 2-5 in the conference. Austin would beat Concordia 101-95 in another hair raiser. LeRud knocked down 45 points followed by Terry Nelson with 23. Wayne LeRud cut loose with his greatest scoring night ever by burning the nets for 55 points in leading Hal Cuff's team to a 113-107 victory over Dr. Martin Luther. Jim Bratvold had another good night tallying 25 points. Sparked by the long range shooting of Wayne Lerud (47), the remarkable hook shot artistry of Terry Nelson (21), and jumpers by Rich Decker (21), Austin defeated Willmar 125-110 to keep their slim hopes alive for a possible region tournament berth. League leading Bethany would come to town with their fast breaking style and defeat Austin 109-94 to end any chances of post season play. Wayne LeRud for the most part couldn't buy a bucket despite the fact he ended up with 30. Pillsbury would shellack the Blue Devils 97-74 in non-conference play, holding LeRud to 23 points. The game ended in a forfeit because the AJC bench decided to get into the act after two technical fouls. Austin would bounce back with a 118-104 win over Worthington, leaving them 6-6 in the final conference standings and third place. Larry Libersky had an outstanding game, scoring 17. Wayne LeRud led all scorers with 42. The season would end with a 96-95 loss to a strong Mankato State freshmen team. The loss gave Cuff's cagers a final record of 12-9 for the season. Forward Terry Nelson and Wayne LeRud shared scoring honors with 25 apiece. Wayne LeRud would be named to the SMJCC All-Conference team. He also earned All-State, All-Region, and 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-American honors. LeRud averaged 37.0 points/per game and led the nation in scoring. He tallied 776 points (all-time record at AJC).

Roster Included:

James Bratvold	Rich Decker	Larry Libersky
Dave Taylor	Wayne LeRud	Ray Halverson
Allen Bartels	Denny Gilbert	Derby Olson
Larry Enfield	Paul Otto	Dave Schmidt
Kenny Thiele	Ross Harrison	Merlin Anderson

Hal Cuff would end his 15 year coaching career at Austin State Junior College after this season with a .594 winning percentage (138-94). Since Cuff took over the reigns at AJC in 1951-52, his teams enjoyed nothing but success. Only four times they finished below the .500 mark. The Blue Devils won or shared six SMJCC championships in his time. Cuff's best season was in 1962-63 when they went 19-2 before losing in the regional tournament. He also turned out some pretty good individual stars.

Larry Rensink (1958-59) became the first AJC player to win the conference scoring title and the league's MVP award. The following season teammate Larry Scheid took over and won the scoring title. When Scheid injured his knee his sophomore season, Blooming Prairie's Dean Turner stepped up and won the scoring title for AJC. This past season the Blue Devils would shatter six school records, three conference marks. Wayne LeRud would make history when he became the first player from the local college to gain All-American honors and win the national scoring title. Leaving the AJC coaching ranks with Cuff will be Al Lehrke, who has been the assistant the past 12 years.

**WRESTLING** Coach Fred Kinney 4-7 Austin would win its first 3 of 4 matches to begin the season, losing only to powerful Rochester 28-6. Some problems concerning ineligibility during quarter exams hampered Coach Kinney's team and he lost several wrestlers. In their next match, only five wrestled resulting in a 28-10 defeat to Willmar, dropping their record to 3-2. The AJC wrestlers would drop four in a row after losing to Concordia and stand 3-5 on the season. Willmar would make it five in a row as they defeated Austin 27-17. Coach Fred Kinney's team, competing with only five wrestlers, would win all five matches and despite forfeiting four matches, defeated Bethany 26-20 to end their losing streak at five. Jerry Reshetar (123), Dave Vogelsang (137), Ed Bakke (137), Harry Reshetar (152), and Gary Wright (160) all won their matches. Austin would lose its final two matches, 25-14 to Pillsbury and 31-9 to Worthington. Coach Fred Kinney's team would finish fourth (scoring 35 points) in the SMJCC tournament, won by unbeaten Rochester with 121 points. Austin's Ed Bakke won the 123 pound division 2-0. AJC's Jerry Reshetar (130), Dave Volgesang (130), and Harry Reshetar (137) all gained finals but lost their matches. Four wrestlers would compete in the NJCAA national wrestling championships in Worthington. In the 115 pound class, AJC's Jerry Reshetar was eliminated in the first round 4-2. In the 123 pound class, Ed Bakke won 1-0, 5-1, then lost in the semi-finals, then won two consolation matches to claim third place in his division. Wrestling in the 137 pound division, Harry Reshetar won 8-2 and 6-3 before losing in the semi-finals 15-3 and 9-0 in the first round of the consolation. In the 152 pound class, Gary Wright dropped the opening match 8-5 and he was eliminated.

	Roster Included:	
Jerry Reshetar	Arlin Chesin	Ed Bakke
Mike Callahan	Warren Smith	Harry Reshetar
Gary Wright	Larry Faber	Dave Volgesang

**BASEBALL** Coach George Hillberg 4-4 George Hillberg was named the new baseball coach at ASJC. Hilberg, a native of Lead, S.D., is a psychology instructor and counselor at the college. After winning the first game 4-2 over Waldorf, they would defeat Bethany 11-6. Austin would play only eight games due to weather and finish 2-4 in the conference. Top hitter was Jeff Williams who hit .478 (11-23). Top pitcher was Jim Bratvold with 34 strikeouts.

Roster Included:

Jeff Williams	Gary Hessinius	Rich Decker
Jim Bratvold	John Riles	Mike Kine
Dennis Jacob	Lynn McAlister	Larry Faber
Lynn Johnson	Chuck Butler	Ron Lunt

**GOLF** Coach Red Hastings. 11-1-1 **SMJCC Champions. Region 13 Champions.** Following last year's 14-2 record and SMJCC champions, Coach Hastings returns only two regulars in Doug Gebhard and Tom Smith. Austin would open its season defeating Concordia 302-355. Gebhard led the way with a 75, setting the tone for the season. Austin would lose only one match and tie another in a tremendous season. ASJC under the supervision of Coach Red Hastings won their fifth SMJCC title in six years by just one stroke over Rochester 319-320. Gebhart would shoot 78, Larry Libersky 79, Terry Nelson 80, and Dick Leimbeck had 82. The Austin team would qualify for the NJCAA national tournament in Miami, Florida. Member included; Doug Gebhard, Tom Smith, Dick Leimbeck, Terry Nelson, Harold Peters, Larry Libersky, and Jon Heismness. Qualified in Miami Florida for NJCAA National appearance (Terry Nelsen, Dick Leimbach, Larry Libersky, Doug Gebhardt, Harold Peters, Tom Smith. Finished 21<sup>st</sup> of 26 teams (shot 696, 2 round totals). Nelsen had best score with 57<sup>th</sup> place (shot 87-81) in nationals.

**TENNIS** Coach Eugene Auringer 1-6. The Blue Devils opened the season with a 5-2 loss to Bethany. Dr. Martin Luther dropped Austin to 0-2 with a 5-2 win over the Blue Devils. Concordia would battle strong winds and defeat Austin 5-4 in conference action. AJC would crack the win column for the first time defeating Willmar 6-1. Rochester would defeat Austin 8-1 and 4-3 to end their regular season at 1-6 overall. The cold weather and rained dampended the netmen's spirit all season according to Coach Euringer. Bethany would win the SMJCC title scoring 15 points while defending champions Austin mustered up only one point. Team members: Charlie Hutchins, Chuck Peterson, Ross Harrison, Darrell Westphal, and Fred Robinson, Terry Strong, Robert Marlin.

