

1969-70

Football- It was announced November 29, 1969 that football would return to Austin State Junior College. It has been since 1950 since the college has offered football as a collegiate sport. Dick Jewitt was the coach of the last Blue Devils team in 1950 that finished 4-1-1 on the season. Earl Perkins, a 41-year old former Breckenridge and Ada High School football coach will be the head coach for the Blue Devils when the 1970 season gets underway. Perkins currently is the baseball coach in his second season of baseball at the college.

BASKETBALL Coach Jim Mittun 9-12 Two regulars return, center Tom Ferguson and forward Dan Bjerke, along with top reserve Duane Kocik for Coach Mittun this season. Austin dropped the opener 88-67 to Pillsbury. Mark Rathke and Dan Bjerke scored 19 and 17 respectively in the non-conference loss. Grand View JC of Des Moines defeated ASJC 101-76 as their height was too much for Austin to handle. Bkerke (16), Tom Ferguson (13) and Rathke (9) led them in scoring. The Blue Devils would lose to Metropolitan JC in a tournament 71-61 to go 0-3 on the young season. Duane Kocik had 13 to lead the Austin team. ASJC would lose four more contests to go 0-7 on the season. Losses to Univ. of Minnesota freshmen 90-63, 58-56 to NIACC, 62-49 to Willmar and 65-61 to Worthington have left the Blue Devils winless so far this season. The offense is averaging only 62 points per game and the result is no wins this year. ASJC closed out the pre-holiday season with a 92-72 win over La Crosse Technical College. The win ended their losing streak at seven games. Ferguson and Rathke each collected 17 points to lead them while three others reached double figures. Tom Schulenberg joined the team after being ineligible and the new addition and lineup changes booster the Blue Devils to a 72-67 victory over Bethany to hike their streak to two wins. Mark Rathke (25) and Dan Berke (23) were deadeyes all night and scored 48 of the 72 points. Austin defeated arch rival Rochester 82-75 to go 2-2 in the league and 3-7 overall. Schulenberg poured in 17 points and hauled down some key rebounds to lead them to victory. Rathke again topped them in scoring with 20. Austin's three game winning streak came to an end with a 93-88 loss to Golden Valley Lutheran. Barry Heise had his best game of the season with 19 points. Austin had five in double figures but it was not enough to overcome Golden Valley's squad. ASJC blitzed Anoka-Ramsey 96-73 that was termed "almost a perfect game" by Coach Mittun in its next conference game. Tom Ferguson had 22, Rathke tallied 20, Tom Schulenberg knotted 17 with 15 rebounds and Austin enjoyed its finest night of the season. Schulenberg and Ferguson would score 45 of Austin's 73 points propelling them to a 73-64 win over Anoka-Ramsey. The win moved them to 4-3 in the conference and 5-8 overall.

Foul trouble and a cold spell plagued the ASJC team as they lost to Normandale 96-82. Rathke (21) and Ferguson (20) led Austin in the defeat. ASJC defeated Lakewood JC 76-73, winner of six in their last eight games. It was Ferguson again with 23, Rathke (16), and Dan Bjerke (12) to lead them to victory. The Blue Devils would belt North Hennepin JC 87-72 to up their overall record to 7-9 and 6-4 in conference action. It was the Ferguson (26) Rathke (21) show again that powered them to the win. Austin lost its next two games, 76-39 to undefeated Worthington (15-0) and 76-73 to Waldorf to drop to 7-12. ASJC rallied to defeat Bethany 67-59 to assure itself of a .500 finish in the league. Mark Rathke (23) and Tom Ferguson (18) were the only two in double figures. Austin closed out its season with an impressive 97-77 win over Rochester. The win improved their league mark to 8-6 and 3rd place and 9-12 overall. Tom Ferguson led the attack with 19, followed by Rathke (18), Dennis Hanson (14), Tom Schulenberg (12), and Barry Heise (10). Austin did not qualify for post season play under the set up of the Minnesota Junior College Conference. Tom Ferguson was selected All-Conference and All-State. Mark Rathke scored 362 points in 21 games to average 17.2 points per contest.

Roster Included:

Dan Bjerke	Tom Ferguson	Duane Kocik
Tom Schulenberg	Clark Cipra	Dennis Hanson
Barry Heise	Ken Jorgenson	Mark Rathke
Paul Sanders	Al Schultz	Ron Stroup

Manager: August Otto

Cheerleaders: (Advisor Vel Moen) Patty Carney, Sharreen Krupicka, Mary Lauritzen, Vicki Johnson, Diane Kaderabek, Marica Michels, Jane Ojampa, Sue Stephenson.

WRESTLING

MJCAA tournament results had Fergus falls the champion. Sixteen teams took part. ASJC scored no points in the event.

BASEBALL

Coach Earl Perkins 7-8 Two regulars return in Dan Bjerke (3-3 on the mound) and infielder Jerry Anderson (.302) along with two other lettermen, Rich Mullenbach and Kip Sanders. Austin would lose its first four games, 10-5 and 6-2 to Boone, Iowa and NIACC defeated Austin 6-5 and 12-7. Despite the losses, Coach Perkins is optimistic for the season. "We don't have much experience but we do have several individuals who have baseball experience" said Perkins. ASJC would then have four rainouts in a row to delay their progress. Austin would split its next non-conference doubleheader before losing its conference opener to Worthington 15-4 to Worthington to drop to 1-6. ASJC bounced back with a major win over Willmar 4-1 in SMJCC action .

Right hander Dan Bjerke struck out 11, walked one, and gave up only 6 hits in the victory. Denny Dahlback slammed a two run homerun in the 4th inning to give the Blue Devils the lead for good. Austin was defeated by Bethany 3-1 and stands 1-2 in league play. Dan Bjerke would have another outstanding day as he struck out 16 with a 2 hitter and bested Metropolitan 2-1. He upped his record to 3-2 and had a no hitter going into the ninth inning. Austin scored a 16-4 victory over North Hennepin to move into 3rd place in the standings of the SMJCC. Trailing 4-1 after three innings, the bats came alive. Roy Weber, who had 4 hits, singled to drive in the first run. Four doubles, one triple, and two homeruns (Bjerke and Dahlback) later the Blue Devils never looked back. Austin would make it four wins in a row with an 18-15 win over Pillsbury in non-conference play. Denny Lair and Dahlback each had 3 hits to lead the attack. After losing seven of their first nine games, the Blue Devils have made a late season charge. They would win their fifth in a row and stand 7-7 as they handled Lakewood JC 3-2. Dan Bjerke again was stellar on the mound, striking out 12 hitters while scattering 9 hits. He upped his record to 4-2 and has struck out 71 hitters in 51 innings pitched. The Blue Devil's season came to an end on a sour note as they were whitewashed 13-1 by unbeaten Normandale. ASJC closed the season 7-8 and 5-3 in the division. "We just ran out of gas" said Coach Earl Perkins. "This is our 5th game in eight days". Roy Webber was the top hitter with a .362 average (17-47).

Roster Included:

Jerry Anderson	Dan Bjerke	Richard Mullenbach
Paul Sanders	Mike Baumann	Dennis Dahlback
Ricky Gibson	Denny Lair	Gary Meyer
Terry Rohne	Ed Sack	Bryan Thompson
Rick Gillson	Roy Weber	

GOLF Coach Jim Mittun 52-7 State runner-up Region XIII Runner-up (621) to Lakewood JC (595). These two teams battled all year as the 1-2 finishers. Austin would win three golf tournaments this year. Clark Cipra was ASJC's number one player all season. Ron Appel, formerly from Austin is the coach at Lakewood. Clark Cipra finished 3rd in Region tournament as he shot 74-72=146. Teammate scores; Randy Nelson (151), Dale Larson (157), Dave Heegard(161), and Brad King (170). Cipra also named Honor Athlete of the Year at Austin State Junior College.

TENNIS Coach Bill Goblirsch 3-2-1 **Tri-Region Champions.**

The Austin netter dropped their debut 6-3 to Bethany. ASJC defeated Metropolitan 3-1 to even its record at 1-1. Austin gained a tie for first place in the SMJCC conference tourney with 5 points. Mark Marlin and Craig Huber won in doubles, Steve Runtsch won three points with victories in the 2nd and semi final rounds. The State JC tourney along with the Region 13 tournament was hosted by Austin. Rain washed out the state tourney on Friday and all the action was played on Saturday. ASJC finished 3rd in the state. Runtsch finished 2nd in singles. But in the afternoon Steve would come back strong and become the Region 13 singles champion, winning 6-1, 6-1 and leading his team to a co-championship in the Region with Mesabi JC and Rochester. It is believed to be the first time ASJC has ever won the Region 13 tennis title. The singles championship earned Runtsch a spot in the NJCAA tourney in Central Florida JC, Ocala, Florida on June 9-13, 1970. Members included: Steve Runtsch, Brian Nelson, Craig Huber, Mike Reinartz, Mark Marlin, Mark Rathke.

TRACK Coach Dave Dickinson This spring, four lettermen and an ASJC instructor (Dave Dickinson), decided they wanted to participate in track so athletic director Jim Mittun arranged five meets to participate in. Members were: Mike Sathre, Mark Rahke, Ken Schmidt, and Barry Heise. Track Lettermen- Barry Heise (high jump, 6'2" record), Mark Rathke (high jump), and Mike Sathre (broad jump, 19'8"-record), and Ken Schmidt (mile run-5.05.8 -record). No other results were found.

Scholar Athlete- Freshman Clark Cipra was named Honor Athlete of the Year at Austin State JC for the 1969-70 school year. Cipra, a freshman from Glenville, compiled a 3.5 grade point average. He was a reserve on the basketball team and a regular on the golf team, finishing 3rd in the State and Region 13 golf tournaments.