FOOTBALL  Coach Dick Jewett  3-3  “The forward wall should be strong but the backfield, well that’s another story and time will unravel it” were the words that best described this year’s team by coach Dick Jewett who enters his third year at the helm. Optimism over his line was admitted by Jewett but he had a big job in developing a halfback to replace Gene Lowry. And a “green team” with the majority of the boys lacking any experience. Five lettermen were available for this year; Merle Capen and Robert Green (halfbacks), James Hendricks (quarterback), James Smith (guard), and Loren Gates (end) who was elected captain of this year’s squad. The Blue Devils would lose a tough home opener to Esterville 6-0 in a defensive struggle. The opposition would score in the third period after an Austin fumble on the 12 yard line. Coach Jewett’s team would threaten twice in the fourth quarter, once reaching the 3 yard line from pay dirt and the other opportunity would result in a pass interception from the 12 yard line late in the game. Homecoming in their second encounter would result in a 12-7 win over Waldorf with the scoring taking place in the third quarter. Waldorf would take the lead 7-6 but Ken Bennett would score on an end around from 22 yards to put Austin up for good 12-7 as the extra point was blocked. The rest of the game was very uneventful in a defensive struggle and Austin would prevail in the win. Mason City would be defeated for the first time in four years 13-12 at Athletic Field stadium in Austin in game three of the season. Fullback George Fish accounted for over half of the Austin yardage and blasted off tackle for the extra point after Austin had scored a late second quarter touchdown. Austin would have no turnovers for the contest while Mason City would commit three of them. Athletic relationships between Austin Junior College and Worthington were strained to the breaking point in the Blue Devils next contest as Coach Dick Jewett pulled his team off the field resulting in a 1-0 forfeit victory to Worthington. Lax officiating and the unsportsmanlike conduct of the Worthington fans prompted the action. Jewett sent his squad into the showers with six minutes of playing time remaining in the fourth period and trailing 9-2. A near riot was evetered by the prompt action in sending the Blue Devils off the field. Worthington fans broke three windows in the bus transporting the Austin team. But fortunately, no one was injured. Austin Junior College would rebound in its next home contest and upset Rochester 7-0. A partially blocked kick by Al Bendtsen would set up a fourth quarter TD by George Fisch from 8 yards out and he would follow with a plunge for the extra point to give Austin all the scoring it would need for the contest. In the second half, the Blue Devils would hold Rochester to one yard net rushing offense. The season would end in St. Paul with a 6-0 defeat at the hands of Bethel (2-4), which was described as Bethel’s best effort of the season. Austin was hampered by 7 turnovers and the difference of the game was a 63 yard scoring toss in the third period by Bethel. Coach Jewett’s team would finish the season with a 3-3 record.
Roster Included:

Kenneth Brooks   John Beckel
Floyd Bates     Merle Capen
A. Christensen  Dale Enright
John Erickson   Kenneth Erickson
Robert Greer    Clyde Gains
Donald Grimley  L. Gunderson
Ira Howden      James Hendricks
Everett Hayes   L. Krupicka
Eugene Lowry    W. Nelson
Noman Schmid    Irwin Tiegen
Robert Thatcher  James Smith
Charles Valdahl  Loren Gates
Assistant Coach: Gene Werkheiser George Fisch

SCORES AND SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/24</td>
<td>Estherville</td>
<td>0-6</td>
<td>L</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/30</td>
<td>Waldorf(homecoming)</td>
<td>12-7</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Mason City</td>
<td>13-12</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Worthington</td>
<td>2-9 (forfeit)</td>
<td>1-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/21</td>
<td>Rochester</td>
<td>7-0</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>Bethel</td>
<td>0-6</td>
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George Fisch, an Austin High graduate, who continued his playing career for Fresno State in 1952 and 1953. He was a two year starter for the Bulldogs. On offense he was used as a fullback and halfback and he also started on defense. In 1953 he led the team in rushing with 801 yards on 139 attempts (5.7 per carry) and six touchdowns. Fisch was used as kick off specialist, pass catcher and running back. In his senior year, George was named to the All Coast First Team.

Fisch would continue playing football in the service over in Germany as he was a start running back for the 86th Infantry football team.
BASKETBALL  Coach Dick Jewett  2-15  There was little chance this year’s team would surpass last year’s record as Coach Jewett lost every starter and had only two lettermen returning in Allen Bendsten and Don Liebenstein. The Blue Devils would lose a tough opener 58-54 to Mason City after trailing 37-16 at halftime. Neil Fedsen would lead a furious comeback by scoring 22 points. Martin Luther would defeat Austin 54-34 in its second contest and this was the first time in four years that the unit from New Ulm had defeated Austin Junior College. Poor shooting led to their third loss 67-48 to Bethany followed by a 53-50 setback to Waldorf. Brainerd came to town as the defending state champions and handed the Blue Devils their sixth defeat in a row with a convincing 65-41 win. Game seven of the season saw some hope in the team’s possible first victory as Mason City would come to town, a team who had defeated Austin only by four points the first game of the year. AJC would lead at halftime 36-28 but could not hang on in the second half and would lose 57-44 led by Neil Fedsen’s 16 points. Austin would be credited with its first conference win despite losing 53-21 to Bethel because of a forfeit. Bethel used an ineligible player (according to conference rulings a player is eligible for no more than 3 seasons and they used a player in his fourth season). The losing streak would reach nine with losses to Concordia (62-61), and Rochester (52-46). Neil Fedsen would score 18 points and Austin would break its losing streak by defeating Concordia 51-45 despite being outsized. AJC was tied after the first quarter 11-11, but never looked back and would secure their first win of the season. The next four contests the Blue Devils would go down in defeat losing to Rochester (70-56), Waldorf (75-46), Worthington (70-56), and Bethel (60-40). After losing to Martin Luther by 20 points earlier in the season, Austin would turn the tables and play their best game of the year according to Coach Jewett with a 56-52 victory and record their second win. Balanced scoring led by Neil Fedsen’s 19 points was the key to the outcome. AJC would close out their season with loses to Bethany (51-39) and Worthington (50-46) to finish the season with only two wins and 15 losses. Records will indicate the forfeit win did not count as a win in their final record.

Roster Included:

Neil Fedsen  Allen Bendsten  Larry Kimpel
Darrel Dotzenrod  Roger Baumgartner  Everett Hays
Harold Ball  Bob Schneider  Dick Steele
Charley McDonald  Larry Kimpel  Bob Regan
Don Liebenstein  Bob Nelson
Manager:  James Farris

GOLF  SMJCC runner-up.  Austin Junior College, after three years reign, was dethroned as golf champion by Rochester, thanks in a big way to a spectacular 27-hole card of Ray Miller. He put together rounds of 39-33-33 which was 23 stokes better than the best Austin could offer in the way of Joe Schneider with 46-41-41= 128. Austin
place second in the Southern Minnesota Junior College conference meet followed by Bethany of Mankato who placed third.