1953-54

No Football

BASKETBALL  Coach Hal Cuff  5-12  Five lettermen would return and most of the load would fall on the shoulders of Don Miller and Dick Lunde, who averaged 17.2 and 14.6 points per game. Other lettermen are Dick Wilder, Gary Hanson, and Jerry Tedrow. Some promising newcomers hoping to pick up the slack are; Jack Frost, Ken Pedersen, Tom Mooney, Chuck Barkee, Bernie Anderson, Aron Clark, and Marvin Winslow. Austin would nip Hibbing 64-63 in the season opener for the first win over Hibbing in six previous meetings. The Blue Devils would come from behind 41-32 midway in the third period and win it on Chuck Barkee’s two free throws of the one point margin. Don Miller would lead the attack with 21 points, followed by Dick Lunde and Barkee scoring 13 apiece. Virginia JC would hammer Austin crew the next evening 73-49. Too many turnovers and the big Virginians were too much for the outmanned Blue Devils. In its opening conference game, Worthington would come away with a 58-54 thriller as they had a tremendous height advantage in the contest. With a few breaks, Austin might have won this game which was tied at 50-50 with four minutes to play. Dick Lunde led all scorers with 18 points. Veteran’s Miller and Lunde would spark a well deserved 77-70 victory over Bethany and move their early season record to 2-2 and gave the defending champs a 1-1 conference mark. After a 41-36 halftime lead, Austin would extend it to 60-52 before winning by seven in the final score. Lunde and Miller would each score 22 apiece, followed by Barkee with 13 points. The dynamic duo would set the pace again in a 79-71 loss to Virginia in its next contest as they would score 47 of the team’s 71 points. Despite the loss, the Blue Devils played good ball and Coach Hal Cuff sees a chance to turn the tables. Austin would battle Hibbing to the wire with 15 lead changes only to lose 88-87 in the final moments of the game. Don Miller would score 26 followed by Dick Lunde’s 23 points to pave the way. A victory over Concordia 69-60 would push them to 2-1 in the conference as Hanson (22), Miller (20), and Dick Wilder (16) would garner 58 of Austin’s 69 points in the win. After a thrilling 58-54 loss to Worthington earlier in the year, an extremely “cold” Austin shooting team was handed a 117-57 loss and that shattered a scoring mark held by Austin in one game when they scored 106 points against Dr. Martin Luther. The Blue Devils could not buy a bucket and poor rebounding resulted in the lopsided defeat. Rochester would move its conference record to 5-0 with a victory over Austin 77-63 while the defending champs would drop to 2-3 in the league. The final score was misleading inasmuch the Blue Devils battle the Yellowjackets for most of the contest. Miller had 17 to lead the way, followed by Lunde’s 16 and Wilder who had 12 points.
A late rally by Austin JC helped them hold off a surprisingly tough Concordia 63-56, pushing the Blue Devils back to .500 in conference action (3-3). Balanced scoring by Lunde (20), Miller (14), and Hanson (12) kept the Blue Devils alive. The Hilltoppers from New Ulm would have Austin it’s fourth conference loss with a 74-69 win as defense, or the lack of it, cost Austin a chance to win this conference game. It was seldom Martin Luther had to resort to long range shooting as they scored consistently on lay ups or points in the paint. The only consistent sniper was Don Miller who scored 23 points. In its second contest of the year against Bethany, Dick Wilder’s one handed tip in a split second before the buzzer handed Hal Cuff’s team a 86-84 win over a hard fighting Mankato outfit. Scoring balance was the key as all five starters hit double figures led by Lunde (22), Miller (21), and Hanson (20). In a return match, AJC made up an earlier loss to Dr. Martin Luther with a 77-75 triumph. The Blue Devils staved off a late charging Martin Luther to preserve the win. Dick Lunde would score a season high 29 points. Rochester would down Austin 89-78 in its final contest of the season as it built a 13-0 lead and never looked back. The closest the Blue Devils would get is when they pulled within nine points, 74-65 with three minutes to play. Lunde would lead Austin with 23, followed by Miller’s 21 and Gary Hanson who had 15 points. Austin would finish the year 5-5 in the conference and 5-12 overall. Don Miller would be selected to the SMJCC All-Conference team.

Roster Included:
Don Miller  Dick Lunde  Dick Wilder
Gary Hanson  Jerry Tedrow  Jack Frost
Ken Pedersen  Tom Mooney  Chuck Barkee
Bernie Anderson  Aron Clark  Marvin Winslow
Assistant Coach:  Al Lehrke

TENNIS  Coach Bill Evans  Members of team were:  Don Miller,
Jay Fennell, Laverne Torrens, and Jerry Tedrow.  The results from the
SMJCC tournament were not found on May 13, 1954.

GOLF  Coach Bill Evans  No golf participants.