1955-56

NO FOOTBALL

BASKETBALL  Coach Hal Cuff  7-5  Twenty five candidates led by only one returning, O.C. Huff, worked out at the beginning of the year to prepare for the 12 game schedule on tap for the Blue Devils. Coach Huff’s defending SMJCC champs would open their season with Bethany and in a terrific struggle, they would go down in defeat 81-75. After trailing 38-34 at halftime, they would never get closer than one point. Four players would score in double figures for Austin with Paul Austinson and Spenser Morgan would set the pace with 18 apiece. Waldorf would thump Austin 75-55 in their next contest while the Blue Devils were shooting 21% for the game. Austin would rebound with an impressive conference win over arch rival Rochester 70-69 to elevate them selves back in the title race. Superior skill on the free throw line and scrappy rebounding provided the winning formula. Austin would drop 26 of 36 from the charity stripe despite being out goaled 28-22. O.C. Huff would ice the game late with his basket and snapped his team’s two game losing streak. All of the Austin starters finished in double figure scoring, led by Huff with 18, Roger Johnson had 13, Jack Frost with 12, Austinson had 11 and Morgan chipped in with 10 points. Waldorf would defeat AJC for the second time with a 76-74 nail biter. Although disappointed with the outcome, Coach Hal Cuff was pleased with the performance. This would be the Blue Devils last game before the holidays. Austin JC headed into the thick of the SMJCC title with an 85-58 triumph over Concordia. The Blue Devils flashed a lot of offense as they led by 27 points after three quarters. Paul Austinson would lead the scoring with 26 points, followed by Johnson (22), Huff and Morgan with 10 apiece. Hal Cuff’s team would follow this win with an impressive showing over Dr. Martin Luther 82-62 on the road in conference action. Once again good balance would be the key to victory as Johnson would lead all scorers with 24 tallies. Austin would then meet Bethany in a game to determine who would hold down the top spot in the conference. Austin would come away with a decisive victory 92-75 to square the series 1-1 for the year. They have won three in a row and the foul line was the difference as the Blue Devils out shot Bethany 24-11 from the line. Led by tip-in artist Roger Johnson, who tallied 29 points, Austin was never seriously threatened in the game. Worthington would give a serious blow to Austin’s chances of the SMJCC title with a 60-50 setback to the Blue Devils. Roger Johnson would be held to 4 points and Austin would shoot a dismal 14 of 36 from the line as they dropped to second place in the conference standings.
Jack Frost would score 22 to lead the Austin scoring. Rochester would bounce back to defeat Austin 69-64 in a hard fought victory to keep a hammer on first place (5-1) in the SMJCC. Rebounding was the key to the victory as the Yellowjackets dominated the boards. Roger Johnson would score 8 straight points late in the game to pull the Blue Devils within three but Rochester built its lead to 11 before time ran out and the secured the win. Johnson would score 19, followed by O. C. Huff’s 17 points. Austin would win its final three conference games, throttling Concordia 95-77, edging Worthington 94-93 in two overtimes, and defeating Dr. Martin Luther 78-74 to finish the year 7-3 in the conference, good for second place behind Rochester’s 8-2 winning record. O. C. Huff, Austin’s lone sophomore would score 20 points in his final contest to lead the Blue Devils. Coach Hal Cuff should have a veteran squad on hand for next season to build on its 7-5 season record.

Roster Included:

- O.C. Huff
- Paul Austinson
- Roger Johnson
- Jack Frost
- Blaine Nobbs
- Roy Marienow
- Frank Grundmeier
- Jerome Johnson
- John Holgate
- Ken Dostal
- Phil Bundy
- Spenser Morgan

Assistant Coach: Al Lehrke

TENNIS

Coach Bill Evans finished third in the SMJCC conference tournament. Gary Eppen and Dave Crockett picked up two points in the doubles by finishing 2nd. They were the only team members. Rochester won the team title, followed by Worthington, Austin, Dr. Martin Luther and Bethany.

GOLF

Coach Bill Evans Austin’s John Schlitz won the medalist’s honors in the SMJCC tournament in a three man playoff. He shot a 90. Competing for Austin was: Frank Bucklin (102), Phil Bundy (109), and Bill Christensen (116). Russ Wangen was also a member of the team. Rochester won the team title (402), followed by Dr. Martin Luther, Concordia, and Austin.