1967-68

BASKETBALL  Coach Jim Mittun  8-15  Five lettermen return including three starters; Dan Carroll, Don Hanson, and Jim Carothers. Guards Wes Halverson and Bill Culton are the other two. The Blue Devils win their opener but it was a costly victory. Despite the 80-68 win over Crookston JC, forward Don Hanson crashed to the floor during the first half and will be sidelined for quite some time. Don Taylor (28) and freshman John Taylor (21) led the team in scoring. ASJC would lose five in a row following the injury to Hanson, losing to Wahpeton, N.D. 97-95, Pillsbury 94-85, Metropolitan JC 114-101, Waldorf JC 82-77, and Mason City 105-95. Coach Jim Mittun and his team were breathing a sigh of relief after defeating Lakewood JC 106-54 to end their losing streak and finally reach the win column and stand 2-5 on the year and 1-0 in conference. Dan Carroll led five players in double figures with 24 points. Taylor tossed in 21, Jim Carothers added 19, Tom Wobbrock and Jim Jahr 16 apiece. Anoka-Ramsey defeated ASJC 88-87 as a number of close range shots at the buzzer failed to go in for Austin. Carothers led them with 20 points. John Taylor would score 27 but it wasn’t enough as Bethany defeated Austin 103-84 in non-league action to fall 2-7 before the holiday break. Foul trouble wiped out an ASJC upset as North Hennepin stopped Austin 93-85 to hand them their eighth defeat in ten games. A total of 52 fouls were called and three starters fouled out. Dan Carroll led five players in double figures with 21 points. ASJC defeated Bethany in a SMJCC contest 87-85 to go 2-1 in league play. The Blue Devils led by 14 with 7:00 to go but time would run out on Bethany as they scored the last bucket to close it within two points. Jim Carothers (22), Carroll (21), and Jim Jahr (19) led them in scoring. Dr. Martin Luther would rap Austin 95-89 to drop them to 3-9 overall. Don Hanson did return and score 12 points. The Blue Devils behind some fantastic shooting defeated Rochester 105-99 before 800 fans at the ASJC gym. Reserve forward Jim Jahr would rally his team with 12 points. Guard Jim Turner cashed in 28 points for a season high and led his team. Carroll would chip in with 24 points. Austin would go on to lose four straight before ending the streak defeating Pillsbury 106-93. Dan Carroll paced his team with 25 while teammates Carothers and Turner each had 19 points. Austin would make it two in a row by nipping Concordia JC 92-88. For the year Austin is 6-12 and 3-5 in the SMJCC. Jim Turner was high with 31 points, followed by Taylor’s 20 and Jim Carothers who had 16 points. Austin lost to Willmar 110-89 and to Rochester 108-96 to end their regular season on a sour note. It will take a two game losing streak into the SMJCC tourney in Mankato. A last second lay-up by Jim Turner put ASJC into the semi-finals of the SMJCC tourney.
With three minutes remaining, Anoka-Ramsey led by 5 points but Austin would rally and Turner would score with 2 seconds to go for the victory. Jim Carothers scored 31 points to lead all scorers. Turner would add 25, followed by Dan Carroll with 11. Austin’s season would end with a semifinal loss to North Hennepin 103-82. ASCJ were down 15 at half and never threatened. Carroll was high man with 23 while Turner had 17 and Dan Carroll finished with 16 points. Austin would complete its season with an 8-15 record. Dan Carroll sets all-time two year record for rebounds with 309 (15.4 rb/pg) and combined total of 633 and averaged 19.1 points per game this year. Carroll would earn SMJCC honors.

Roster Included:
Don Hanson   Jim Carothers-Cap’t   Dan Carroll-Cap’t
Wes Halverson   Bill Culton   Gary Hendrickson
Jim Jahr   Dan Leimbeck   Denny Lorsung
Mark Mondeel   John Taylor   Tom Windfeldt
Jim Turner   Tom Woddrock
Manager: Ron Schwartz

Cheerleaders: Sandy Cahill, Sue Lauritzen, Mary Jo Tubbs, Connie Kay Erickson, Sharon Joel, Stevana Einhaus, Lynn Smith, and Louise Qvale.

**WRESTLING**  Orville Moran  2-16  Fifteen members will be vying for spots on this year’s wrestling squad. Leading the way is veteran Randy Hillmer (137), who is the captain. The Blue Devils would lose their first two matches to Pillsbury (34-3) and Metropolitan JC (25-8). The ASJC would get their first win by defeating St. Paul Bible College 30-15. Hillmer (137), Dan Richards (145), Ron King (152), and Al Blakestad (167) won via pins for Austin. They would lose their next six matches; 34-2 to Mason City, 23-16 to Pillsbury, 27-17 to Lakewood JC where they had to forfeit four matches, Anoka-Ramsey (31-6), Bethany (23-16) and North Hennepin (24-13). These matches all took place before Christmas. ASJS would open up with five straight wins over Mankato Bethany JC and post a 33-10 victory in SMJCC action. Dan Richards (145), Ron Bergstrom (152), and John Morrison (167) all recorded pins. Hillmer (130) and Steve Heydt (137) won by decisions. Roy Weber (123) and Jim Guyette (Hwt) won by forfeit. Rochester thumped Austin 30-5 in its next match. Randy Hillmer would run his record at 130 pounds with his victory to 8-1-2. ASJC would go on and win only one more match (no result found) and finish the regular season 2-16. Austin’s best wrestler Randy Hillmer suffered a dislocated shoulder in his final match against Concordia and lost 3-0. He finished the season 12-2-2. In the SMJCC tournament, heavyweight Jim Guyette would place fourth and gain 4 of Austin’s 5 points in the tournament. Roy Webber (130) would get ASJC’s other points. Rochester won the tournament with 92 points.
BASEBALL  Arlan Burmeister  14-5  SMJCC Champions
Region 13 runner-up.  Arlan Burmeister is the new baseball coach at ASJC. Seven lettermen are back including; Denny Lorsung, Arlo Sanvick, Steve Clennon, Dennis Vogelsang, Carl Thompson, John Riles and Doug Riles. Austin opened the season with two victories over Boone JC, 3-1 in the opener and 6-5 in the nightcap. Brian Ojanpa pitched a 4 hitter in the first game while striking out seven hitters. Lorsung would collect 4 hits in the double-header. Austin split with North Iowa, winning the first game 4-3 and losing the nightcap 14-6. Ojanpa again was the winning pitcher, while catcher Denny Lorsung hit a big 2 run homerun to help in the victory. Ten unearned runs led to Austin to defeat in the second contest. Ojanpa would go to 3-0 on the year as ASJC defeated Willmar 8-5 in their first SMJCC game of the season. He struck out 11 and gave up 8 hits. Austin rallied for in the first two innings to give them a commanding lead 7-3. John Riles led the Blue Devils with 4 hits including 2 doubles and 4 RBI. Austin would defeat Metropolitan JC 3-1 as iron man Brian Ojanpa picked up his fourth win of the season. He went the route striking out 13 and giving up only 3 hits. Steve Clennon and John Riles both had 3 hits to lead the seven hit attack. Austin would lose 14-12 in non-conference action versus Waldorf. Coach Burmeister gave several of his second stringers a chance to play and Waldorf took advantage scoring 12 runs in the first inning. The Blue Devils would nip Metropolitan JC 3-2 to remain unbeaten at 3-0 in conference action. Once again Ojanpa was the mound victor striking out seven and giving up only 2 hits. Riles again led his team with 3 hits. Dave Watkins pitched a brilliant 9 inning game only to lose 1-0 to Lakewood JC and drop ASJC into a tie for first place in the conference. He fanned nine and gave up seven hits. Austin only managed five hits in the loss. Austin defeated Dr. Martin Luther 2-0 as Ojanpa improved to 6-0 in the season. Austin then defeated Metropolitan JC in a play-off game to determine the right to play in the Region XIII tournament. They defeated the Metro team 5-1 to gain entry into the Regional tourney. Austin hammered Fergus Falls JC 17-6 in one semi-final contest. Shortstop Steve Clennon pitched six innings in relief giving up only one run and was the hero in the Blue Devils win. ASJC now has a 9-3 overall record. Austin would play its fourth game in as many days and run out of gas losing to Willmar 9-0 in the Region XIII finals.
The Blue Devils whipped Concordia JC 7-1 to stay on top of the SMJCC race. Brian Ojanpa pitched a two hitter and contributed with a triple while Tom Winkels had 3 hits to lead the hit parade. Austin would split a non-conference doubleheader with Pillsbury losing 8-4 and winning the nightcap 5-3. They collected only five hits in both games, leaving them at 11-5 on the year. Leading hitter John Riles went 5 for 10 while leading ASJC over Lea College 9-2 and 16-0 in another non-conference doubleheader. Dave Watkins and Doug Pederson picked up the mound wins for the Blue Devils. Austin won its finale 5-0 over Mankato Bethany and gave them the SMJCC crown with a 6-1 record. The conference title was the first since 1963. Ojanpa ran his record to 8-0 gave up 6 hits, struck out 15 and walked only one. John Riles and Denny Lorsung each had two hits to finish one-two in the final ASJC batting averages. Brian Ojanpa led them on the mound with an 8-0 record and 93 strikeouts and an ERA of 1.64 in 76 and 2/3 innings pitched. John Riles was their top batsman with a .433 average (29-67).

Roster Included:

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GOLF  Coach Jim Mittun  40-2  SMJCC Champions Region XIII Champions  In a season that Coach Jim Mittun termed as “rebuilding” it turned out to be a spectacular season. Austin returned two veterans, Jim Carothers and Don Houff. Austin opened the season 1-1, losing by 8 strokes to North Iowa and defeating Rochester JC by nine strokes. ASJC finished second in their own 12 team invitational, shooting a 336 to Ellsworth’s 332. Austin defeated Carleton freshmen 361-378 to up their record to 11-2. ASJC defeated five teams to win the Worthington invite by shooting a 356. Leif Erickson was Austin’s top man with a 85. Austin won a 12 team invitational in Willmar shooting a 319 led by medalist Leif Erickson’s 77. Austin would win its third major tournament in a row by capturing the SMJCC title finishing with a 337 score, 12 better than runner-up Worthington. Nine schools competed and Austin was led by Jim Carothers with an 81. Houff (83), Erickson (85), Dan Leimbeck (89) and Bob Larson (90) were others contributing to the conference championship. The Blue Devils are now 32-2 on the season. Austin whipped Rochester 327-344 in the finale regular season match. The Blue Devils posted a six stroke victory over Wahpeton, N. D. to win the Region XIII tournament. It was the first time ASJC has won the region tourney and the fifth SMJCC title in the past six years. Don Houff led the team with a 148, followed by Carothers (152), Leimbeck (158), Larson (160) and Erickson (161). They ran their record to 40-2.  Don Houff took 4th in Region (shot 148).
Austin SJC finished 21 of out 29 teams in NJCAA Nationals (shot 1271). Don Houff tied for 84th (80-73-83-75=311) James Carothers (319), Dan Leimbeck (320), Robert L. Larson (330) and Leif Erickson (335). Nationals were in Roswell, New Mexico. Gary Sathre also participated.

TENNIS  Coach Bill Goblirsch  3-3  Austin opened its season losing 6-3 to North Iowa. ASJC lost 7-0 to a strong Rochester squad. The Blue Devils got their first win 4-3 over NIACC in non-conference play. Austin won 5-1 over Dr. Martin Luther to go 2-2 on the season. ASJC won their third straight home match defeating Willmar 4-2. ASJC would finish fourth in the SMJCC tournament won by Rochester. Sophomore Gary Anfenson picked up the only two points recorded as he won two matches to advance to the semi-finals before he was defeated. Rochester topped Austin 7-2 and the loss gave the Blue Devils a final 3-3 regular season record. Austin would have a fine showing and finish fourth in the Region XIII tennis tournament. ASJC’s doubles team of Gary Anfenson and Denny Carlson took second, losing 6-4, 6-4.

Roster Included:

Gary Anfenson  Denny Carlson  Dave Dahle
Benny Thompson  Bruce Ramseth  Bryan Adams
Rich Shaw  Dave Draheim