

# “FIVE QUESTIONS WITH GERRY BROWN ’58”

## **1. What was your most significant athletic moment at Saint Thomas Academy?**

My most significant athletic moment obviously was when our 1975 football team won the Minnesota State High School League Class A Playoff Championship. Following closely on that were the 16 straight victories over arch-rival Cretin High School (16 significant moments?).

## **2. Who was the most influential person during your Academy days and how did he inspire you?**

As a student at the Academy in the late 50s, I feel very fortunate to have twice been in the classroom of Wally Kurtz, who modeled Christian behavior while being the best teacher I ever had, high school, college or anywhere.

As a coach, I was fortunate to have three great models: Tom Feely, Skip McMahon and Bill Ridley. I borrowed many things from each, and aspired to be just like each of them.

## **3. How did the Academy prepare you for your athletic success?**

I was an average athlete while at the Academy, and as a late bloomer, any athletic successes were achieved after my Academy years. However, the rigorous education and the opportunity to be surrounded by achievement-oriented students for four years at the Academy certainly contributed to any later success I may have achieved.

## **4. What does the word “team” mean to you?**

“Team” means a group of people who, working together, can achieve more than any one person can achieve alone. Knute Rockne said, “I don’t play my 11 best, I play my best 11.”

## **5. What does it mean to you to be an Academy alumnus?**

To be able to say I am a graduate of STMA is a source of great pride and satisfaction for me. It tells others that I am well prepared with all the right principles and skills and gives me a feeling of confidence and readiness for anything.