

# “FIVE QUESTIONS WITH STEVE DOLAN ’51”

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

In 1950, we had great pressure going into the Cretin football game at Central Stadium, as the Academy had not won against its chief rival in eight years. Not even Ed Krowka’s team of 1944 had that accomplishment. My mother was in the stands with my dad, after she had spent three years in a TB hospital. We were 6-0 and rated fourth in the state, public and private. We had beaten number three and had practiced most summer evenings on our own, after working construction and railroad jobs. In short, we were ready for battle. Every starter and many substitutes excelled and we won 19-7. In the waning moments, our classmate, Jim Karpus, blew taps from the top row in the stadium, signaling the end of a memorable day.

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

Archbishop Roach, Father Vincent Flynn, Tom Feely, Skip McMahon, Jack Campbell, Bob Byrne, George Schnell, Jim Keane, Joe O’Brien, Fathers Leo White and Frank Fleming.

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

The Academy prepared me for athletic success with the coaches instilling confidence in me and providing thorough preparation and leadership. A special memory was of Tom Feely gathering the basketball and baseball teams for Mass and breakfast on the mornings of each game.

Another occurred when I was a sophomore shortstop. I noticed Skip McMahon behind the screen during a Cretin game. Afterward, when our team was walking to the locker room, Skip called me over and said, “I want you to be my quarterback.”

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

The word “team” was very important in 1951, as distinguished from individual successes. Unselfish teamwork was the principal reason we won championships in every sport.

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

My most significant Academy memories are about the closeness and solidarity of our 1951 class and the enduring friendships that we formed. Being an Academy alumnus means that one has been prepared for life as well as for college, business and the professions.