

# “FIVE QUESTIONS WITH JACK O’BRIEN ’45”

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

Winning three successive football championships and sharing one basketball championship were very significant achievements. Also, in 1943, we had an outstanding football team that was scored on only once – unfortunately that was a seven to nothing loss to Anoka High School – the touchdown coming on a pass.

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

Most influential, during my Academy years, were the faculty and coaches. The faculty members were talented, dedicated, involved men who had a real interest in the welfare and progress of their students. In athletics, Coach Frank Deig (who also became my college coach), Coach Dan Herget and Coach Reno Rossini were the most influential people to me.

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

The Academy, through its coaches, gave me great preparation for my athletic success. The coaches’ constant emphasis on basic fundamentals prepared me for athletic success because these things carried over as I matured and gained more experience in the various sports. These same fundamentals carried on into college as well.

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

An old cliché says “there is no ME in team.” Nothing could be more true. A team is a group of individuals, working as one, to achieve a common goal. Each member performs his function in concert with all other members of the team. Team also applies to life, whether in athletics or business and most importantly, to family.

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

Being a Saint Thomas Academy alumnus means being part of a school whose traditions have been fostered for more than one hundred years. STA has a history of outstanding academics, discipline and athletics and unusual loyalty from faculty and alumni. Saint Thomas gave me a strong education that prepared me for college. Because of the great atmosphere at STMA, I was blessed to make life-long friends, many of whom still get together on a weekly basis 65 years later!