

# “FIVE QUESTIONS WITH DICK SWENSON '60”

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

We won many games and championships which were very exciting and rewarding, but for me, my most significant moment was every day with my teammates, be it on the practice field or in the game. Our friendship bond and focused dedication to our team beat anything hands down.

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

From the faculty, Mr. Bob Byrne was my most influential teacher and coach. He was truly interested in you as a person, student and athlete and he always approached every situation in a positive and motivating matter. His influence provided the foundation for my belief in always trying to understand what motivates a person and always trying to provide people with a positive and uplifting environment in which to live and work.

All the upper class athletes who were my teammates at the Academy probably had the most significant impact on me personally during my years at the Academy. I always looked up to them as role models and it was through their behavior and actions that I came to understand the meaning of integrity, commitment, dedication and honor.

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

All the coaches understood no matter how much natural athletic skill you may have, it must be reinforced and honed in every detail and you will accomplish this goal only through dedication and hard work. We were taught to never regret that you did not work as hard as you could on any given day.

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

A group of people can have a common goal which requires interdependent actions on each person's part in order to achieve the goal. A team also has a common goal with interdependencies, but takes the concept of a group of people to the highest level. Team starts with talent as individuals and the melding of that talent into individual roles which people understand, accept and embrace. Then there must be the execution of these roles in a coordinated and trusting manner for the common good. A true team will differentiate itself from a group of people when faced with adversity and it is then when they step up and execute to perfection. Concurrent with this theme, each individual is dedicated to provide an environment and situations for their teammates to succeed.

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

I am proud to be an alumnus of a school with such high educational and life standards. It is an honor to be associated with all students from the Academy who are typically outstanding in their chosen fields and even better citizens of the world.