EXCERPTS

from the ARCHIVES

Nicholas Kemper '06, Archivist

In October of 2021, I received an email from one Paul Schildmeyer whose father, Paul "Dutch" Schildmeyer (henceforth referred to as Dutch), had been a past president of the GCL. Paul was looking for a good home for his dad's GCL material, but since both Dutch and Paul had graduated from Roger Bacon and Roger Bacon was no longer in the GCL, St. X was Paul's second choice to receive the donation. Thus, Paul wanted to know: would the St. X Archives be interested in taking possession of this material? I responded quickly and without hesitation: absolutely.

The GCL was formed as the Greater Cincinnati League on October 6, 1931, by representatives from St. Xavier, Elder, Roger Bacon, and Purcell. Dr. M. Scott Kearns, the Hamilton County Coroner and a 1919 alumnus of St. X, was selected as the league's first president. The GCL's most popular attraction for decades was the annual football doubleheader, first held in November 1932 at Redland Field, the precursor to Crosley Field. The doubleheaders attracted thousands of spectators over the years and brought in much-needed revenue for both the league and its member schools.

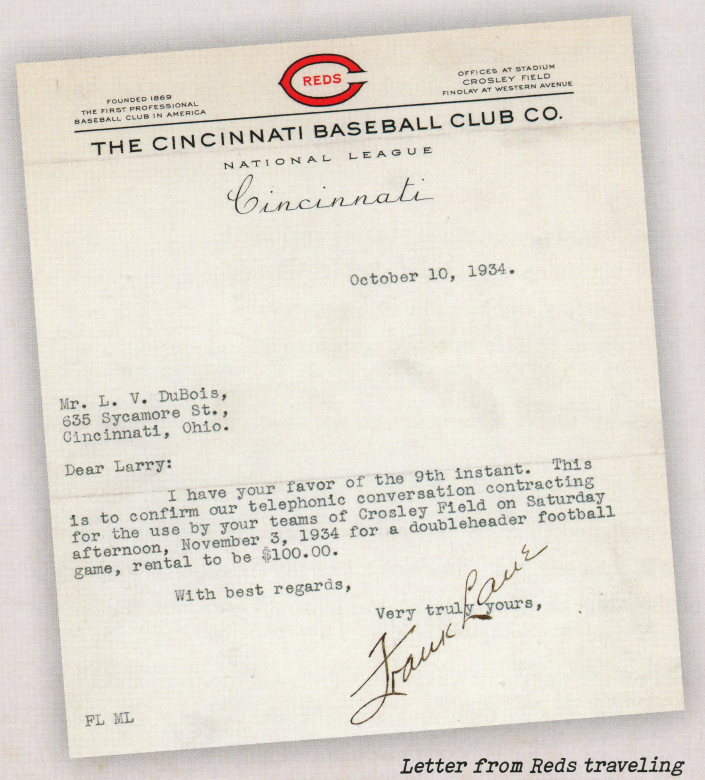
Throughout the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, St. X, Purcell, Roger Bacon, and Elder comprised the core of the league, though Newport Catholic and Hamilton Catholic were brief members at various times. By 1962, Moeller, LaSalle, and McNicholas had joined the GCL, bringing its membership to seven. Then in the early 1990s, the league underwent its largest expansion to date: ten schools split into two divisions. The larger schools comprised the GCL-South, while the smaller schools formed the GCL-North. As of 2025, the GCL consists of 15 member schools making up three different divisions: the GCL-South, GCL Co-Ed, and GGCL (Girls Greater Catholic League).

Dutch was president of the league from 1981 until 2013. During that time, he oversaw two expansions as well as the creation of divisions within the league, effectively laying the groundwork for the modern GCL. As Paul relayed to me, Dutch's tenure as GCL president was his proudest accomplishment outside of his family. It was always more than just a job; it was a passion, and Dutch strove to make the GCL the best high school athletic league not only in Ohio but throughout the entire country.

Arriving in several banker boxes, the donated material included minutes detailing decisions and deliberations made by the GCL (selection of presidents, scheduling of athletic contests, payment of referees, league expansion, bylaw modifications, etc.); correspondence sent and received by the league (letters to/from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Reds, the OHSAA, local TV stations, the Cincinnati Bengals, the Cincinnati Police Department, and various athletic directors); financial information; and even a few copies of GCL Sports Parade, a short-lived newspaper published by the league.

The crown jewel of the collection? Three handwritten pages comprising the minutes from the very first meeting of the Greater Cincinnati High School League in 1931 at Dr. Kearns' office on McMillan Street.

Remarkable in its entirety, the Paul "Dutch" Schildmeyer GCL Collection is a testament both to Dutch and to the storied history of the league. It is a unique and remarkable assortment of documents, and the St. Xavier High School Archives is honored to house it among our collections.



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THE CINCINNATI BASEBALL CLUB CO.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati

October 10, 1934.

Mr. L. V. DuBois,
635 Sycamore St.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Larry:

I have your favor of the 9th instant. This is to confirm our telephonic conversation contracting for the use by your teams of Crosley Field on Saturday afternoon, November 3, 1934 for a doubleheader football game, rental to be $100.00.

With best regards,

Very truly yours,

Frank Lane

FL ML

Letter from Reds traveling secretary Frank Lane to GCL President L.V. DuBois confirming the rental of Crosley Field for a GCL doubleheader in 1934.