The Patriot League is the best league for The College of the Holy Cross. The Patriot league is one of only two leagues in the country that contains, entirely, schools that remain true to the term “student athlete.” The league is full of smaller division I schools at which the primary focus is on academics. Holy Cross is the embodiment of what the league is all about. Through my time at Holy Cross, it has been said repeatedly, by students and alumni alike, that Holy Cross ought to leave the Patriot League. These people are wrong, for a number of reasons.

Leaving the Patriot league means going one of two ways, either moving up to a larger conference, a la the Big East, or stepping down to the level of Div. II or even Div. III. Neither of these options should be appealing to Holy Cross.

Lowering our division would simply bring the intensity and attractiveness of our sports down another notch. Division II and Div. III schools simply do not have the same qualities that Div. I schools offer to prospective athletes.

Holy Cross holds a particularly interesting card for second-tier prospects, as it provides the promise of the possibility to compete in the NCAA Playoffs on a yearly basis. Today Holy Cross is the #1 seed in the Patriot League. If our success continues, we will have a chance to play in and host the championship game. ESPN will be here, and Holy Cross would be only one game away from “the big dance.”

The chances of Holy Cross, a smaller, academically oriented college, ever bearing the same opportunities in a larger conference are nil. This College simply does not have the size or the resources. This school is not large enough, and most likely will never be large enough, to compete in a powerhouse conference.

There are many knockers on the Patriot League. It can be argued that the long bus rides to Annapolis (for Navy) and the three schools in the Pennsylvania (Lehigh, Lafayette, and Bucknell) are counterproductive to the lofty academic expectations of a school of Holy Cross’ caliber. This argument is rather useless, as a twelve-hour round trip bus ride provides twelve hours of time where there is a relative lack of anything to do but study. As always, if students feel too much pressure from academics, they can certainly leave their athletic team, ask coach Willard about 2 of his seniors last year.

It should go without question that Holy Cross belongs in Div. I, it has always been there. Existing as a Division I school in a larger conference would require even longer bus rides, or even worse, flying on a regular basis. There is not one league in Division I that would reduce the travel distances required of our sports teams. Flying is not an option to be considered. The sports at Holy Cross do not generate enough money to pay for flights to a variety of schools across the eastern half of the country. Furthermore, the school should not, as academically oriented as it is, have to foot expensive travel bills for many of the teams’ away competitions.

The majority of Div. I teams, particularly in basketball, are simply places of development for future NBA fodder. A school like Georgetown, for instance, throws academics to the wind when it comes to its basketball team. Georgetown basketball player fall ludicrously below the school averages in terms of class rank, GPA and test scores. Georgetown is simply one example of many in terms of schools selling out academically to rent future NBA players for a year or two. If anyone ever has the opportunity, ask Father Brooks how he feels about Georgetown’s basketball program.

That is what is not Holy Cross about, and if the school were to change leagues within Division I, it would certainly have to sell out in order to remain competitive. We go to an academically oriented school, and we all know that when we chose to come here. Sports will never be as big here as they are at BC, or even Division III College. But we have witnessed some great performances this year. Our women’s basketball team is 11-7, 4-0, and #1 in the conference. Our men’s basketball team is 14-4, 4-0, and #1 in the conference. Our football team finished 7-4, 4-2, and third in the conference. Any one who has bothered to go to the games this year has witnessed intense competition and wonderful results for the Crusaders. Holy Cross is flourishing in the Patriot League. To change this now would be a horrid mistake. The Patriot League is not a perfect league, but no one has put forth a legitimate alternative to date. The Patriot league is the best fit for Holy Cross.

The Giants, because I’m from New York.

Keri Smith ’03

“New Yorkers think they live in the center of the earth - GO RAVENS!”

RaeJean Spears ’02

“If I hate New York and I hate to say this, but it’s going to be the Giants.”

Katie Barker ’02

“The Giants, of course!”

Marissa Angelosante’02

“I hate New York and I hate to say this, but it’s going to be the Giants.”

Marissa Angelosante’02

The Giants, because if they lose my suitcase is going to tear our apartment to shreds. Those New Yorkers are angry folk.

Mario Cacciola ’02

Compiled by Douglas Frisina ’02

In Your Face

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?

Saders Take Sides: is the Patriot League the right fit?