Last weekend Holy Cross had the opportunity to improve their standing in the MAAC as they played two games against league opponents. Not only were these two league games, but they were two very winnable games for the Crusaders, and both were at home. On Friday night, the Saders squared off against in-state rival American International College (AIC), while on Saturday night, HC took the ice against first-year MAAC team Army.

Friday night the Hart Center was rocking, as 350 Crusader faithful were in attendance. Despite this, the Crusaders came out a little sloppily at the beginning of the game, and AIC took advantage of this early slip, as the Yellow Jackets’ Oliver Gagnon beat Crusader netminder Rick Massey with a backhander only 7:18 into the game. The sloppy play continued for both sides after this goal until the 14:26 mark, when Tom Pawlak tied the game for the Crusaders. Pawlak’s goal came off a loose puck from a face-off. Center Joe Cardillo put a shot on goal right from the face-off. After a few Crusader shots were blocked by AIC goaltender Chance Theede, Pawlak finally knocked a rebound home to tie the game. This goal seemed to light a spark under the Crusaders, as they dominated the remainder of the first period. This culminated in a Pat Rissmiller goal with only 21 seconds remaining in the period. With Holy Cross on a power play, Rissmiller unloaded a cannon from just inside the blue line, beating Theede and leaving the Saders with a 1-0 advantage through the first period.

The second period in a fashion similar to first for the Crusaders. It was marked by sloppy play and the inability to mount any kind of offensive attack. Fortunately, Massey came up big on a few occasions for the Crusaders. At 4:37, Massey had to make a sprawling stick save, and again at 11:13 the goalie had to come up with a nice series of three saves in a row. Finally, with about four minutes left in the second period, the Saders mounted an offensive attack, and putting one in the net lead with 11:49 remaining in the contest. HC continued to play very aggressively in an attempt to put the Yellow Jackets away, but AIC just wouldn’t fold, and at 11:47, Bassler got his second goal of the game as he back-handed a shot past Massey and again tied the game. Despite a very aggressive HC attack for the remainder of regulation, HC could not break the deadlock, and the teams moved into an overtime session.

In the overtime period, the Crusaders had a few early chances, but they broke down defensively at 1:51. The Holy Cross defensemen were out of position, which allowed AIC freshman Trent Ulmer to sneak in on a breakaway and beat Massey with the game-winner. “That’s what happens when you break down mentally. Good teams will take advantage of that, and that’s what AIC did in the OT period,” said Coach Pearl.

Saturday night the Crusaders had to put the disappointing loss behind them and take on the Black Knights of the University of Connecticut. The game was high scoring, with 10 goals between the two teams. The Crusaders were able to find their way back into the game after trailing 3-1, to take a 4-3 lead at the end of the first period. The second period saw the teams move into an overtime session, but the Black Knights were able to get their second goal of the contest at 16:47, to win the game for UConn.

McKissick, after the game, was very thankful to the fans who showed up for the game, and the team put their disappointment in the loss aside and moved on to the next game.

The Crusader Athlete of the Week

Calvin Souder

The junior running back ran for 89 yards on 20 carries in helping to lead the Crusader football team to a 32-3 road victory over Colgate. Souder scored a second quarter touchdown on a 6-yard run, followed by a 14-yard scamper in the final minutes of the fourth. On the season, Souder leads the Crusaders with 531 yards on the ground, good enough for a 4.0 yards-per-carry average.

The Purple Page

The Purple Page

Dams dominates as hockey splits

Men’s hockey against AIC at the Hart Center.

The Crusader/Joe Bonillo

Remembering James Greene

Maybe you have seen the newspaper clipping outside of Professor Powers’ office in the History department, or perhaps you have noticed it inside display case in Hogan 3 showing off recent mention of Holy Cross in the media. Not too long ago, a California newspaper published a story on Whittier College dropping its nickname, “the Crusaders,” because of various external forces. The opponents of the name claim that it lack of knowledge of the historical crusades could be found offensive. The article mentions that Holy Cross has also been urged to drop the moniker in favor of a less offensive nickname.

Something like this is not new. A few years ago there were some people calling for Washington’s NFL franchise to drop the “Redskins” name and add a different one, but those efforts were in vain. The Cleveland Indians have also been targeted by these fanatics calling for the famous franchise to change its name. I do not see why this is such a touchy subject. I thought we had gotten past this. Is it such a crime that a college like Holy Cross embraces its Catholic identity to the point where its student body and sports teams are renamed after famous historical figures in Christianity? None of us will be trying to take back the Holy Land anytime soon, but we should all be proud of who we are. We are purple blooded Crusaders, and there is nothing those politically-correct fanatics can do about it.

If you think about it, there is always something in this world that offends at least one person. We cannot please everyone with what we do, and similarly we cannot please everyone with what we call ourselves. What’s so bad with being Crusaders? It is not a religious slur. It is not mocking anybody. As a Catholic institution, the college decided to utilize the name because of the ties it has with the religion. And the last time I checked, we are all free to practice whatever religion we want. So if a Catholic institution wants to give itself the moniker “Crusaders,” then so be it.

Here’s a thought: has anyone asked the University of Mississippi to drop the name “Rebels”? To me, that seems to indicate some kind of southern patriotism dating back to the Civil War. As a northerner and staunch anti-slavery advocate, maybe I am offended that a southern university chooses to relate itself through million and ultimately slavery. If you want to take away the name “Crusaders” from Holy Cross, why don’t you take “Rebels” away from Mississippi? Hey, it’s only fair.

It is a look at another Catholic institution in this country, the University of Notre Dame. They’re known as the “Fighting Irish,” and if you ask me, the logo does not flatter the Irish. Hey, I’m part Irish, shouldn’t I be offended by that logo? Yeah, maybe I am. Hey, take aggressively in an attempt to put the Black Knights away, but AIC just wouldn’t fold, and at 11:47, Bassler got his second goal of the game as he back-handed a shot past Massey and again tied the game. Despite a very aggressive HC attack for the remainder of regulation, HC could not break the deadlock, and the teams moved into an overtime session.

In the overtime period, the Crusaders had a few early chances, but they broke down defensively at 1:51. The Holy Cross defensemen were out of position, which allowed AIC freshman Trent Ulmer to sneak in on a breakaway and beat Massey with the game-winner. “That’s what happens when you break down mentally. Good teams will take advantage of that, and that’s what AIC did in the OT period,” said Coach Pearl.

Saturday night the Crusaders had to put the disappointing loss behind them and take on the Black Knights of the University of Connecticut. The game was high scoring, with 10 goals between the two teams. The Crusaders were able to find their way back into the game after trailing 3-1, to take a 4-3 lead at the end of the first period. The second period saw the teams move into an overtime session, but the Black Knights were able to get their second goal of the contest at 16:47, to win the game for UConn.

McKissick, after the game, was very thankful to the fans who showed up for the game, and the team put their disappointment in the loss aside and moved on to the next game.

The Crusader Athlete of the Week

Calvin Souder

The junior running back ran for 89 yards on 20 carries in helping to lead the Crusader football team to a 32-3 road victory over Colgate. Souder scored a second quarter touchdown on a 6-yard run, followed by a 14-yard scamper in the final minutes of the fourth. On the season, Souder leads the Crusaders with 531 yards on the ground, good enough for a 4.0 yards-per-carry average.