

## TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

The following pages provide many highlights from Holy Cross' distinguished baseball history, along with important dates during those years.

### THE EARLY YEARS (1876-1894)

In the early years, the Holy Cross baseball team only played one game every year until 1890. In 1890, the Crusaders were provided with their first schedule of any kind, consisting of five games. In 1893, the Crusaders boosted the schedule to 16 games, finishing with an 11-5 record.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- June 10, 1876 – Holy Cross loses to Brown, 16-5, in their first baseball game at Driving Park in Worcester, Mass.
- June 5, 1877 – Holy Cross defeated Brown 3-2 for their first-ever victory.
- May 30, 1893 – In the first baseball game ever played on the Holy Cross campus, the Crusaders defeated Georgetown, 4-2.

### THE RISE TO STARDOM (1895-1899)

When Mike "Doc" Powers '97 discovered Louis Sockalexis '97 on the Penobscot Indian reservation in Oldtown, Maine, he never imagined that he would be bringing Holy Cross one of its most legendary athletes. Sockalexis stunned students, fans and major league scouts with his baseball prowess. Famed to be the hardest hitter and fleetest fielder of his day, Sockalexis batted .436 and .444 during the 1895 and 1896 seasons with the Crusaders. He also set a long-standing world record of throwing a baseball the distance of 393 feet and 8 inches (131 yards). At the completion of his second season, "Sock" signed a contract with the Cleveland Spiders, who, out of deference to the full-blooded Indian, changed their name to the Cleveland Indians before he even wore the big league uniform. The 1896 season started the Crusaders rise to dominance. The Purple and White squad finished 19-7-1 and sent a record six players to the major leagues. The 1897 Crusaders, produced seven .300 hitters, including William H. Fox '00, who batted .390 that season and set a world record by rounding the bases in 13.4 seconds.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- April 19, 1895 – In Louis Sockalexis' first game as the HC centerfielder, he registers four hits, including a grand slam, and six stolen bases to beat Brown in Providence, R.I., on Patriots' Day. Sockalexis' home run shatters a fourth-story dormitory window situated beyond the baseball fences.
- May 12, 1896 – Holy Cross soundly defeats Boston College, 22-5, in Newton, Mass.
- April 19, 1899 – Holy Cross scores an incredible 11 runs in the 10th inning to defeat Brown, 17-6.

### A NEW CENTURY (1900-1913)

From 1900 to 1913, the Crusaders compiled a stellar record of 221-120-8. The 1902 Holy Cross squad shut out three of the best college teams on three consecutive days, beating Cornell, 3-0, Dartmouth, 9-0 and Brown, 11-0. Andrew Coakley '06 went 10-3 for the 1902 Crusaders that went 18-6. HC's first 20-win season came in 1908 on a team captained by the immortal Jack Barry '10. Barry was drafted by Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics as a sophomore. Barry went on to become a member of Mack's \$100,000 infield, which included first baseman Stuffy McInnis, second baseman Eddie Collins and third baseman Frank "Home Run" Baker. During his eight seasons with the A's, Barry played on four pennant-winning teams and three world champions. Mack called him "the greatest shortstop there ever was." The Crusaders played their first exhibition game against a professional team in 1913, against the defending World Champion Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- May 18, 1900 – Patrick "Doc" Carney '03 pitches the first Crusader one-hitter in a 20-0 defeat of Boston University.
- May 4, 1901 – Holy Cross defeats Rochester, 31-0.
- May 31, 1902 – HC completes a three-game shutout sweep against Cornell, Dartmouth, and Brown.
- April 12, 1905 – The Crusaders defeat Boston University, 29-0, and steal a record-breaking 22 bases against the Terriers.
- April 19, 1905 – Holy Cross defeats Brown, 8-5, in the Crusaders first game on Fitton Field.

- April 9, 1913 – Holy Cross loses 8-1 in its first exhibition game with the Boston Red Sox.

### EASTERN DOMINANCE (1914-1920)

In the years from 1914 to 1920, Holy Cross won the Eastern Intercollegiate Championship three times and the New England Championship once in 1918. The Crusaders went 120-35-2 in those seven years. In 1917, Hall-of-Fame player, and three-time National League batting champion, Jesse Burkett took over the reigns as head coach for the second time. Burkett guided the Crusaders to three consecutive 20-win seasons in 1917, 1918 and 1919. The 1917 club dominated opponents, batting a combined .302 for the season versus a .171 batting average for their opponents and outscoring them 176 runs to 59 runs. Each of the starting nine of the 1919 squad were awarded All-East berths (six on the first team and three on the second team). Burkett retired from HC after only four seasons, compiling an outstanding 88-12-1 record.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- June 15, 1914 – Crusaders finish 16-5-1 with an 8-0 win over Boston College and become Eastern Champions for the first time.
- May 30, 1918 – Wilfred "Rosy" Ryan '20 pitches Holy Cross' first no-hitter in a 4-0 win over Dartmouth.

### THE RETURN OF JACK BARRY (1921-1950)

Following the 1920 season, Holy Cross found the perfect man to head the Purple nine, a former HC star newly retired from professional baseball and the Navy, Jack Barry. Barry led the Crusaders to glory as a player in the early 1900s, and now sought to do the same as a coach. In his first season, Barry guided the Crusaders to a school-record 30 wins and their fourth Eastern Intercollegiate Championship. The 284 runs pushed across the plate in 33 games by the 1921 Crusaders, an average of 8.60 runs per game, are the most runs scored by any HC team in history. After a 24-5 second season, Barry and the Crusaders won another Eastern Championship in 1923, going 28-2-1. During that season, a total of 65,554 fans came to see Holy Cross play Boston College three times. In 1924, HC compiled a perfect 18-0 record. Leading the way for the Cross was pitching ace Owen Carroll '25, who was judged by historians to be the best pitcher in college baseball of all-time. Over his four year career on the Hill, Carroll compiled a record of 50-2, threw 16 shutouts, and helped earn three championships. Holy Cross again won the Eastern Championship in 1926, and then three-in-a-row from 1928-1930. The Crusaders registered a 42-3 record in 1935 and 1936 and won two more championships. HC won back-to-back Eastern Championships again in 1940 and 1941, going 15-1 and 14-3 respectively. The 1942 season was interrupted by the United States involvement in World War II and competition did not return to normal until 1947.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- April 15, 1922 – Owen Carroll surrenders just three hits in 12 innings of work as the Crusaders pull out a 1-0 victory over Delaware.
- April 2, 1923 – The Crusaders end Georgetown's 32-game winning streak, thanks to the pitching of Owen Carroll giving up five hits and just one run in a 5-1 win.
- May 2, 1923 – Holy Cross defeats Harvard, 2-1, in fifteen innings. Owen Carroll pitches all 15 innings for HC, giving up only two hits, driving in the tying run in the ninth inning and stealing home in the 15th inning for the victory.
- May 30, 1923 – HC defeats Boston College, 5-2, in front of a crowd of 22,000 fans at Fitton Field.
- June 18, 1923 – Boston College defeats HC, 4-1, before a record crowd of 27,554 at Braves Field.
- May 7, 1924 – Owen Carroll beats Princeton, 3-2, in 15 innings while striking out a career-high 17 batters.
- May 30, 1925 – Carroll goes 16-0 during his senior season, highlighted by a 2-1 win over Boston College before 25,000 fans.
- May 28, 1928 – Frank "Bots" Nekola '30 beats Meiji University of Japan, 9-4, en route to an 11-0 record.
- April 23, 1934 – Ed Moriarty '35 hits the longest home run in Holy Cross baseball history when he launches a 490-foot homerun off Lefty Grove in an exhibition game with the Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox win the game 6-2.
- June 4, 1934 – Holy Cross defeats the Casey Stengel led Brooklyn



# HOLY CROSS CRUSADERS

## BASEBALL

Dodgers, 5-4, at Fitton Field.

- June 9, 1936 – Jim Canty '36 finished the 1936 season hitting safely in all 22 games, setting a new college record.
- April 14, 1939 – Rookie Ted Williams hits his first home run in a Red Sox uniform at Fitton Field as the Sox defeat the Purple, 14-2.
- June 11, 1940 – George "Pinky" Woods '42 finishes an 8-0 season with another Eastern Championship beating Boston College, 8-2.
- April 29, 1945 – Crusaders defeat Charlestown Naval Air Base, 7-0, as John Tivnan '48 pitches HC's first no-hitter since 1928.

### BUILDING A NATIONAL CHAMPION (1951-1960)

Holy Cross finished the 1952 regular season 15-2 and received the College's first invitation to the sixth-ever College World Series in Omaha, Neb. Holy Cross became the first eastern school to capture the NCAA College World Series behind a "dream team" of players. Five players were named to the first team All-District 1, while pitcher Jim O'Neill '52 and outfielder Johnny Turco '52 were on the American Association of Baseball Coaches' All-America Team. O'Neill, who was presented with the MVP trophy, became the first pitcher in the history of the College World Series to win three games in series play. The Crusaders made the NCAA tournament each of the next three seasons, but lost their first game each year. HC returned to the College World Series in 1958, winning its first two games before dropping two-straight to Missouri and USC, but finished ranked third in the nation. It was HC's highest ranking since the 1952 National Championship team. The 1960 club went 12-5 and returned to the NCAA tournament for the sixth time in nine years in Jack Barry's final season at the helm of the Crusaders. Barry finished with a 616-150-6 record over 39 years.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- May 10, 1952 – Jack Barry earns his 500th collegiate win as Holy Cross baseball coach in a 3-1 win over Harvard in Cambridge, Mass.
- June 17, 1952 – Holy Cross defeats Missouri, 8-4, for the second time in as many days to win the College World Series in Omaha.
- June 14, 1958 – Hal Deitz '59 shuts out USC, the eventual national champion, 3-0, in the first round of the College World Series.
- June 5, 1960 – Holy Cross falls to Boston College, 5-4, in the NCAA tournament in Springfield, Mass. in Jack Barry's final game as head coach.

### CONTINUED SUCCESS (1961-1970)

Another Holy Cross alum and baseball great took over as head coach of the Crusaders when Al "Hop" Riopel '24 started his tenure in 1961. The Crusaders suffered their first losing season in 93 years going 6-10 in Riopel's first season. Holy Cross rebounded in 1962 and 1963 with 21-5 and 13-10 records and earned the Cross' first and only consecutive invites to the College World Series. Riopel finished six seasons with HC going 82-43 with three NCAA Tournament appearances. HC returned to the NCAA Tournament in 1967 under the direction of first-year coach Robert Curran. The Crusaders dropped both games to Massachusetts.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- June 11, 1962 – Holy Cross defeats Colorado State, 4-3, in its last victory in the College World Series, behind the arm of pitching staff ace, Don Riedl '63.
- June 4, 1966 – In a 2-1 defeat of Boston College, first team All-American centerfielder Tom Kelly '67 finishes the season batting .410 to lead New England in batting average.

### THE WHALEN ERA (1971-1998)

John "Jack" Whalen '48 became HC's skipper in 1971. A two-sport standout during his time at the Cross, Whalen played for Jack Barry and Doggie Julian, two of HC's most legendary coaches. He took teams that were 37-62 in his first four seasons and recorded the school's 15th 20-win season in 1975 and first since 1962. The 1978 squad earned a 27-14-2 record, placing second in the ECAC tournament and falling to St. John's in the NCAA tournament. Whalen led HC to the ECAC tournament three more times in 1980, 1986, and 1991. Whalen's 343 career coaching victories rank second most in HC history.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- May 26, 1978 – A Purple squad led by All-America shortstop Ronnie Perry '80 falls to St. John's, 14-12, in HC's last appearance in the NCAA tournament.
- May 10, 1981 – Holy Cross defeats Boston College, 3-1, and David Stenhouse '82 finishes the season with a .480 batting average to lead

the nation.

- April 27, 1986 – Holy Cross wins first-ever MAAC championship going 11-4 in conference play.
- May 17, 1991 – The Purple fall to Northeastern by a score of 11-10 in their last trip to the ECAC Tournament.

### INTO ITS SECOND CENTURY (1999-present)

Paul Pearl '89 took over as the Crusaders coach in 1999. Pearl went 46-76-1 in three seasons and led Holy Cross to two appearances in the Patriot League Tournament. Pearl also earned Patriot League Coach of the Year accolades during the 1999 and 2001 seasons. In 2002, Pearl stepped down to concentrate as head coach of the Holy Cross men's ice hockey program, and was replaced by Fran O'Brien. O'Brien served as head coach for three seasons (2002-2004) on the Hill, after working with the team as an assistant coach from 1999-2001. He compiled a 38-73-1 (.344) record before retiring. Head coach Craig Najarian then stepped in, after serving as associate head coach to O'Brien in 2004, and as assistant coach in 2002 and 2003.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- May 13, 1999 – Jim Sweeney '01 is named Patriot League Player of the Year after compiling a .448 batting average that was fourth in the nation. He is later drafted by the Chicago White Sox.
- June 1, 2001 – Peter Summa '02 plays in the New England All-Star Game at Fenway Park.
- June 10, 2004 – Drew Bigda '04 is drafted by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in the 39th round of the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft.
- June 5, 2005 – Tucker Frawley '06 plays in the New England All-Star game at Fenway Park.
- June 26, 2005 – Tucker Frawley '06 finishes the season ranked 17th nationally among Division I players in batting average (.409) and Tom Potvin '06 finishes the year ranked 97th in the same category (.373).
- April 7, 2007 – Scott Hampe '07 threw the 10th no-hitter in Holy Cross baseball history in a 4-0 seven-inning victory over Lehigh.

### THE DICENZO ERA

After two seasons as head coach, Najarian turned over the reins of the program to current head coach Greg DiCenzo, who was named the Crusaders' 18th head coach on July 2, 2007. DiCenzo came to Holy Cross from Northeastern, where he served as the pitching coach and recruiting coordinator for the previous five seasons.

The Crusaders have won 20 or more games in 10 of DiCenzo's 12 seasons at the helm, and have appeared in the Patriot League Tournament 10 times. For his immediate impact in Worcester, DiCenzo was named the 2008 Patriot League Coach of the Year after leading his squad to a 11-9 record in the conference during his first year. DiCenzo again earned Coach of the Year honors in 2013 after piloting the Crusaders to their first-ever regular-season title, with the best conference record in program history (15-5), and an appearance in the Patriot League championship series.

The Crusaders won their first-ever Patriot League Championship in 2017 with series sweeps of Army West Point and Bucknell in the conference tournament. Holy Cross then made its first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1978, competing in the Corvallis (Ore.) Regional at Oregon State. The Crusaders earned their first NCAA Tournament victory since 1978 by defeating No. 25 Nebraska in their second game of the regional by a score of 7-4, eliminating the Huskers from the postseason.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- May 8, 2008 – Matt Shapiro '10 earns Patriot League Baseball Pitcher of the Year honors after posting a 3-1 record and a 1.78 ERA in league play.
- May 16, 2010 – Chris Blanchard '10 pitched eight shutout innings, allowing just four hits to boost the Crusaders to a 3-0 victory over Lehigh in the rubber game of the Patriot League semifinals. With the win, Holy Cross earned the chance to play in the Patriot League Championship series for the first time in school history.
- May 22, 2010 – Matt Perry '10 finishes his career as Holy Cross' all-time leader in hits (220), runs scored (135) and doubles (52).
- May 12, 2012 – The Crusaders won their 31st game of the year, breaking the school single-season record for victories which had stood since 1921. The 2012 team would go on to win a total of 33 games and finish second in the Patriot League Tournament.



# HOLY CROSS CRUSADERS

## BASEBALL

- June 6, 2012 - Nate Koneski '12 was selected in the 19th round of the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft by the Seattle Mariners.
- April 28, 2013 - Donny Murray '15 pitched a complete game one-hitter to shut out Army and clinch the program's first ever regular season Patriot League title.
- May 7, 2013 - Jordan Enos '13 and John Colella '13 were named Patriot League Player of the Year and Pitcher of the Year, respectively, while Greg DiCenzo earned Coach of the Year honors. Enos was also named Scholar-Athlete of the Year.
- June 8, 2013 - Mike Ahmed was selected in the 20th round of the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers.
- June 8, 2015 - Nick Lovullo was selected in the 34th round of the Major League Baseball First-Year Player draft by the Boston Red Sox.
- June 11, 2016 - Nick Lovullo is drafted a second time by the Boston Red Sox, this time in the 20th round of the Major League Baseball First-Year Player draft.
- May 20, 2017 - In an 11-inning battle, senior right-hander George Capen closes out an 11-7 victory over Bucknell with a strikeout as Holy Cross wins its first-ever Patriot League Championship and earns its first NCAA Tournament berth since 1978.
- June 3, 2017 - The Crusaders knock off No. 25 Nebraska in the Corvallis (Ore.) Regional of the NCAA Tournament, 7-4, to end the Huskers' season.
- Feb. 16, 2018 - Holy Cross posts a season-opening upset at No. 24 Houston, winning 3-2; sophomore righty Zane Hedaya '20 earns the win, and later Patriot League Pitcher of the Week honors, after throwing 2.1 shut-out innings with four strikeouts.
- May 12, 2019 - Sophomore right-handed pitcher Liam Dvorak throws his 83rd strikeout of the season, marking the most strikeouts recorded in a single season by a Crusader pitcher since 1925.
- June 5, 2019 - Right-handed pitcher Declan Cronin '19 -- a first team All-Patriot League honoree and four-time Patriot League Academic Honor Roll selection -- is drafted in the 36th round of the 2019 MLB Draft by the Chicago White Sox.

### 2020 AND BEYOND

On Jan. 23, 2020, 12-year head coach Greg DiCenzo stepped down to accept a position as the manager of the Class A Lake County Captains in the Cleveland Indians organization. Assistant coach Ed Kahovec, in his fourth season with the Crusaders, was elevated to interim head coach.

On March 12, 2020, the season concluded due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and cancellation of all NCAA activities for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year. The Crusaders ended the year with a 5-15 record, posting a series win against CSU Bakersfield; Holy Cross also had a strong start to the year offensively, batting .255 as a team and averaging 5.1 runs per game, the Crusaders' best marks through the first 15 games of the season since 2015. Holy Cross also ranked 11th among all Division I teams in 2020 with an average of 2.47 doubles per game.

Despite a shortened 2020 season, outfielder Austin Masel '20, a three-time All-Patriot League selection, led the Patriot League in hits and finished sixth in program history with 191 career hits.

Kahovec had his interim tag removed and was named permanent head coach of the program on May 21, 2020.

After beginning the 2022 Patriot League schedule with a 3-8 record, a pair of walkoff wins in a doubleheader against Bucknell on April 16 marked an electrifying turning point, of sorts, for the campaign. That sparked an 8-6 finish over Holy Cross' final 14 conference games, including a 3-1 final weekend of the regular season, to secure a spot in the playoffs.

### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- March 10, 2020 - Junior Luke Dawson (Pitcher), freshman Ben Dellacono (Rookie) and senior Chris Rinaldi (Player) sweep the Patriot League's weekly awards for the first time in program history.
- June 2, 2020 - Ben Dellacono earns Freshman All-American honors from Collegiate Baseball. Dellacono ranked 15th in Division I in total doubles (8) and doubles per game (0.53), and had the third-most doubles of all freshmen in Division I.
- Infielder Nick Wang (2022) and outfielder **Jack Toomey** (2023) take home Patriot League Rookie of the Year and Freshman All-America honors in back-to-back seasons.

