

**Position recently held:** Mathematics Teacher at TH&VS

**Retired:** June 2011

In some ways it seems like only yesterday, but it's over 45 years ago. It was the summer of '65, late August. I was going into Grade 8 at O'Gorman and my older brother, Tim, was going into Grade 9 at Timmins High and trying out for the junior football team.

A group of ten to twenty of us would head up to the Hollinger Park by the old bandstand and play tackle football - no equipment. There was Barry Sokoloski, Warren Vandel, Kevin Kopic, Paul Barnby, Chris Dobson, Ari Haukioja and so many other names I seem to have forgotten. Best of all - no parents, no teachers, no worries about getting hurt; just kids playing and having good old fun.



September rolled around and off to O'Gorman I went; my brother heading to Timmins High to play football. The junior team was coached by Mr. Cramer and Mr. Buckland. They practised every day, Monday to Friday, inside the wooden fence at the Hollinger Park, on a "real" football field. The dressing room was under the baseball stands in the corner by third base.

On Saturdays there was no practice but many of the players would head up to the park and somehow the key to the dressing room would be available. They would dress in full equipment, make up teams and play all day. I was invited to play - a dream come true. I'd wait until everyone was partly dressed and then use some of the remaining equipment. **I was playing real football!**

It was the second Friday of the school year and Timmins High had a home game. **I had to go.** I skipped afternoon classes and headed up to the Hollinger Park. To my surprise the admission price was 25 cents and I had no money. What could I do? Easy answer - sneak in! Looking around I noticed I could climb two fences undetected and end up behind the outhouse by the stands.

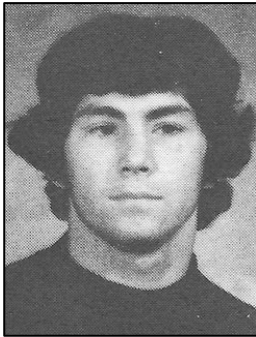
The game was so exciting and walking home later I felt I was on cloud nine. My dad was waiting for me as I came through the back door. "Where were you, the school phoned", he stated. I was struck with fear and sheepishly replied, "I went to see Tim play football". Dad started to laugh. He knew how much I wanted to play. He then said "Don't miss a game, you have my permission". I never missed a game that fall and even went to some senior games. Sometimes I even paid the 25 cents admission fee!

Even though I was in Grade 8 at O'Gorman, I felt part of the Timmins High Junior football team. The rest of the school year passed with me longing to go to Timmins High to play football.

It was in early June when Peter Byck, Larry Shepard and I were sent to the office for some minor indiscretion. The Principal, Sister Noreen, was lecturing us on proper behaviour when suddenly a big smile was carved on my face. "Mr. Swain, your attitude is not appreciated and you must improve if you intend to go to Grade 9, here, next year". I wasn't thinking and it wouldn't have mattered much if I had. I blurted out "Sister, I'm not going here next year for Grade 9," I said with pride, "I'm going to Timmins

High, they have a football team". Needless to say, my last 3 weeks at O'Gorman dragged slowly by.

For the next 5 years, I played football and loved every second of it. Of all the sports and teams that I have ever played for, playing football for Timmins High will always be number one in my heart.



**Butch's Graduation Picture (left) in the 1971 Porcupine Quill**

This caption appears beside his picture:

*"Butch's ambition is to be a hippie and enjoy himself - because no one else wants to. Butch is supposed to be one of the best "honkers" around. He always has a good point to offer, at least he thinks it's a good one."*



**Senior Football Team, 1971**

- First Row:** (L to R) Terry Zajac, Peter Bogden, **Butch Swain**, Don Wyatt
- Second row:** Esa Vainiopaa, Steve Ayoub, Bill Szumik, Gary Dunn, Roger Neamtu, Peter Byck, Bernie St Denis, Peter Buckowski, Wayne Fraser
- Third row:** Coach Bob Heath, Clint Thompson, Peter Dubanow, Norm Behie, Dennis Pellerin, Paul McRae, Ed Ligocki, Paul Kwiatkowski, Ted Szebonski, Coach Vasco Ciotti
- Fourth row:** John Baderski, Larry Paju, Chris Paquette, Hannu Hietalahti, Gabe Neamtu, Deacon Bozzer, Bo Tiffany, Dave Tokio, Milt Smith