

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

1900-1935: STARTING & RESTARTING

For a program that has had as much success as Holy Cross basketball, it is commonplace to be able to speak with reverence about “the beginning.” With the Crusaders, however, it is important to ask “which beginning?” Coached by J. Fred Powers, Holy Cross played its first basketball game on Jan. 11, 1901, losing to the Milbury Intermediates 21-13. Holy Cross followed that up the next day by defeating the Century Cycle Club 30-10. But it was a loss to Harvard (20-10) on Jan. 15 of that season that marked the school’s initial outing against a collegiate opponent.

Powers led the Crusaders through the 1908-1909 season, after which the sport was discontinued until 1920-1921 — at which time it was restarted only as a response to a challenge (see box below). Holy Cross continued to play through the 1930-1931 season, with some success. Coach John Reed’s squads were a combined 60-41 from 1925-1931, when again the Crusaders played their “final” game, due primarily to financial reasons. Under Holy Cross legend Albert “Hop” Riopel, Holy Cross basketball started anew for the third time in 1934-1935, but after a disappointing 3-12 season, the sport was discontinued for the third — and final — time.

Yet when Edward “Moose” Krause’s squad took the court against Assumption on Feb. 3, 1940, it was the final “beginning” of what would become one of the finest college basketball programs in the East.

THE 1921 SERIES WITH BOSTON COLLEGE

After 11 years without basketball, it was Holy Cross’ long-time rival, Boston College, who played a major factor in reviving the program. Holy Cross had no plans to play basketball during the 1920-1921 season, but late in the year Boston College issued a challenge — a home and home series between the rival schools. The Crusaders accepted. Holy Cross’ captain in its “final” season of 1909, William J. Casey, took the helm as coach, and the Crusaders beat the Eagles twice for the only undefeated season in school history. Thus the Crusaders “began” again.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Feb. 8, 1902: Holy Cross loses to Dartmouth 78-27, the college’s greatest margin of defeat ever (51 points).

March 5, 1921: Following a discontinuation of the program for 11 years, Holy Cross defeats Boston College, 28-26.

March 11, 1922: One year after reviving the program, coach Bill Casey’s squad finishes the season with a 14-3 overall record and the New England Championship.

1939-1948: BUILDING A NATIONAL CHAMPION

The Crusaders of the early 1940s did not exactly set the basketball world on fire. Under the direction of “Moose” Krause, the Crusaders were 11-14 from 1940-1942. “Hop” Riopel returned as head coach in 1942-1943, and his teams were 11-22 in three seasons. But to begin the 1945-1946 season, Alvin “Doggie” Julian became Holy Cross’ seventh coach, and the Crusaders began the most successful run in school history.

Julian’s first squad won 12 games, the most in any season since 1921-1922. The next year, led by Holy Cross greats Dermott O’Connell, Frank Oftring, George Kaftan, captain Joe Mullaney, and a freshman point guard named Bob Cousy, the Crusaders were an incredible 27-3, earning the school’s first-ever NCAA Tournament berth. All Holy Cross did was beat Navy, the City College of New York and Oklahoma in three games to claim the national championship (see page 65 for details). Julian stayed for just one more season (posting a 26-4 mark in 1947-1948) before leaving to take the head coaching position with the Boston Celtics, but clearly he had started the Crusaders on their way.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 3, 1947: Holy Cross loses its third straight game, falling to Wyoming 58-57. The loss left the Crusaders with a 4-3 record. They would then win their next 23 games in a row en route to the national championship.

Feb. 25, 1947: Holy Cross’ 90-48 rout of Boston College at the Boston Arena broke the school record for points in a game, as well as the Arena record.

March 25, 1947: George Kaftan earns Most Outstanding Player honors in the NCAA Tournament, and also becomes Holy Cross’ first All-American. Two years later, he follows “Doggie” Julian to the Boston Celtics to become the school’s first NBA player.

Dec. 13, 1947: The Crusaders break the 100-point barrier for the first time, defeating Eastern Connecticut State 104-43.

Dec. 17, 1947: Holy Cross’ 26-game win streak is snapped at Columbia (60-53) in the fourth game of the season.

Feb. 14, 1948: Holy Cross defeats Becker 66-37, in its first official game at the Worcester Auditorium. The Crusaders had played Assumption at the Auditorium two weeks prior to this contest, in an exhibition benefiting the March of Dimes.

March 18, 1948: A new winning streak reaches 20 games with a 63-45 defeat of Michigan in the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals. Bob Cousy scores 23 points.

March 20, 1948: The Crusaders are beaten by eventual NCAA champion Kentucky (60-52) in the national semifinals. George Kaftan is named an All-American for the second time.

1949-1955: BUILDING A SECOND NATIONAL CHAMPION

After Julian departed at the end of the 1947-1948 season, Lester “Buster” Sheary took the top Crusader post, and the team continued to excel. Sheary coached the team for seven seasons, winning an incredible 81.1 percent of his games (155-36). The most games a Sheary-led team lost was nine, and his teams won no fewer than 19 games in any season.

Sheary, like Julian before him, was blessed with some of the best players in school history. While in his first few seasons he had the chance to coach Cousy, O’Connell, Kaftan and Oftring, Sheary’s teams would later be led by the next set of Crusader greats — including Togo Palazzi, Ron Perry, Earle Markey and Tom Heinsohn. The culmination of Sheary’s teams came in 1953-1954, when the squad captained by Perry and Palazzi compiled a 26-2 record en route to Holy Cross’ second national championship — this time winning the NIT with consecutive victories against St. Francis (N.Y.), Western Kentucky and Duquesne (see page 65 for details).

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THE 47-GAME HOME WINNING STREAK

A large part of the Sheary legacy is tied up in “the streak.” When Holy Cross defeated Boston College 46-39 on Feb. 5, 1949, it began an incredible stretch of 47-consecutive home victories (spanning six seasons) for the Crusaders. Holy Cross was rarely challenged during the early years of the streak, but ran into considerable trouble during the 1951-1952 season. After a three-point win against Rhode Island early in the season, the Crusaders were taken to overtime by both Columbia and Boston College. In the final home game of the season, Holy Cross nipped Fordham 62-58. The game that stopped the streak, a 78-77 loss to Connecticut on Feb. 27, 1954, proved costly, as it sent the Huskies to the NCAA Tournament and Holy Cross to the NIT. In many ways it was a blessing, as the Crusaders did not lose again, capping the season with an NIT title win against Duquesne.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 12, 1950: The Crusaders defeat St. Louis 69-55 at the Boston Garden to improve to 13-0 on the season and take over the No. 1 spot in the Associated Press poll. Holy Cross would remain ranked No. 1 for five weeks.

March 3, 1950: Holy Cross defeats the New York Athletic Club 58-56 to improve to 26-0 on the season, before falling to Columbia (61-54) the next day.

March 23, 1950: The Crusaders lose to North Carolina State (87-74) in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. Bob Cousy is named the nation’s outstanding player by the Basketball Writers of America. Holy Cross leads the nation in scoring margin at 17.2 points per game, and finishes fourth in the Associated Press poll.

Jan. 15, 1952: Holy Cross tops Providence 106-77, just three days after beating Brown 100-31. It is the first time in school history that the Crusaders scored 100 points in consecutive games.

March 11, 1952: Holy Cross earns its first National Invitation Tournament berth, defeating Seattle (77-72) and bowing to Duquesne (78-68). Holy Cross finishes the season ranked 13th in the Associated Press poll, and 15th in the United Press International poll.

Dec. 31, 1952: Togo Palazzi puts on a fantastic performance at the Dixie Classic, scoring 73 points and grabbing 78 rebounds over three games. Palazzi had 31 rebounds vs. North Carolina and 28 against North Carolina State.

March 14, 1953: The Crusaders defeat Navy and Wake Forest in the NCAA Tournament before falling to Louisiana State (81-73) in the East Regional final. Earle Markey and Togo Palazzi are named Catholic All-Americans. Holy Cross finishes 13th in the Associated Press poll, and 17th in the United Press International poll.

Dec. 30, 1953: Holy Cross wins the Sugar Bowl Tournament, defeating DePaul (79-55) and Bob Pettit-led Louisiana State (66-56).

March 13, 1954: After defeating St. Francis (N.Y.) and Western Kentucky, the Crusaders top Duquesne 71-62 to claim the NIT championship. Holy Cross, which averaged 83.2 points per game, finishes third in the final Associated Press poll, while being ranked ninth by United Press International. Togo Palazzi is the MVP of the NIT, an All-America selection, and the No. 1 pick of the Boston Celtics.

1956-1972: EASTERN DOMINANCE

When “Buster” Sheary left Holy Cross at the conclusion of the 1954-1955 season, the Crusaders continued to be a major force in the East, as well as nationally. Sheary’s successor was Roy Leenig, a standout high school coach at St. Peter’s Prep. Leenig’s team got off to a fast start as captain Tom Heinsohn led the 1955-1956 Crusaders to a 22-5 mark before Holy Cross lost to Temple in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Leenig’s teams won 106 games during his six seasons, and made three post-season appearances, including a third-place finish in the NIT in 1961.

One of the greatest Crusaders of this era was the top scorer in school history at the time, Jack “The Shot” Foley. Foley’s 2,185 career points now leave him third on Holy Cross’ all-time scoring list, but his 27.7 career scoring average is the best in school history. In each of his three seasons, Foley finished near the top of the national scoring leaders, including his senior year in which his 33.0 points per game average was third best in the nation. In fact, six of the 14 best scoring games by a Crusader came from “The Shot” — including two games in excess of 50 points.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

March 1, 1956: Tom Heinsohn scores 51 points and grabs a New England-record 42 rebounds in a 111-75 victory over Boston College.

March 12, 1956: Holy Cross loses to Temple (74-72) in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. Tom Heinsohn, who averaged 27.4 points and 21.0 rebounds, is a consensus first team All-America selection.

March 5, 1960: Jack “The Shot” Foley pours in 55 points against Colgate, a total surpassed in Holy Cross history only by his own effort two years later.

THE TOP-RANKED HOLY CROSS CRUSADERS

The Crusaders were a consistent national force for a decade from 1950-1960. During those seasons, Holy Cross finished the year ranked in the final Associated Press top 20 poll six times, including a number three ranking after winning the NIT in 1954. From Jan. 17-Feb. 20, 1950, Holy Cross achieved the ultimate ranking — number one in the nation. The Crusaders spent five consecutive weeks as the top-ranked team in the country, while beginning the season with 26 straight victories.

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March 25, 1961: Holy Cross finishes the year with a 22-5 record, placing third in the NIT. The Crusaders beat Detroit (86-62), Memphis State (81-69) and Dayton (85-76), while falling to Providence 90-83 in overtime.

Dec. 6, 1961: Frank Oftring wins his coaching debut, as Holy Cross tops Rhode Island 85-57. Oftring compiled a 64-33 record in four years.

Feb. 17, 1962: Jack "The Shot" Foley scores 39 points in a half and 56 points for the game against Connecticut, both New England records.

March 20, 1962: Foley scores 69 points in two NIT games and is named an All-American. He finishes his career with a then-New England record 2,185 points and a 27.7 points per game average. In his senior season, Foley scores 866 points for a 33.3 average — both New England records.

Jan. 29, 1964: Holy Cross beats Boston University 97-95 in four overtimes at the Worcester Auditorium.

Dec. 4, 1965: Jack Donohue makes his Holy Cross coaching debut, after guiding Power Memorial Academy to a 163-30 record, including 71 straight wins with Lew Alcindor. Holy Cross finishes 10-13, its first losing season in 21 years.

Jan. 26, 1968: Student and mentor are reunited, as Jack Donohue's Crusaders are defeated by No. 2-ranked UCLA, led by former Donohue player Lew Alcindor, at Madison Square Garden 90-67.

Dec. 3, 1970: Holy Cross defeats St. Michael's 138-68 for the school's largest margin of victory (70 points).

1973-1981: OF SUPERSTARS, STABILITY & STRUCTURES

For all of their success, the Crusaders did have difficulty keeping a head coach during their first half century of basketball. Holy Cross had 11 different coaches in its first 53 seasons, with no coach lasting for more than seven years. All of that ended with the start of the 1972-1973 campaign, when Holy Cross athletic director Ron Perry brought former Holy Cross great George Blaney back to lead the Crusaders. The Blaney era did not get off to a quick start. But over a seven year span from 1975-1981, the Crusaders averaged more than 20 wins per season, and went to the postseason six times — including a 1977 meeting with Michigan in the NCAA Tournament, which was Holy Cross' first trip since a Tom Heinsohn-led team faced Temple in 1956.

During this decade the Crusaders also added a new home. Named in honor of the Reverend Francis J. Hart, S.J. — the guiding force behind intramurals at Holy Cross for more than 40 years — the Hart Recreation Center was officially opened with a 94-85 win over Loyola (Md.) on Dec. 1, 1975. The Crusaders liked their new home, winning 38 of the first 42 at the Hart Center.

Great teams and great coaches, however, need great players, and Blaney's teams during this stretch certainly had their share. The Crusaders were cranking out 1,000-point scorers on a regular basis, with six of them (Chris Potter, Michael Vicens, Garry Witts, Bill Doran, Kevin Greaney and Marty Halsey) playing during this seven-year stretch. In addition to the 1,000-point scorers, these were the years of the school's only 2,500-point scorer — Ronnie Perry. The son of former Holy Cross athletic director Ron Perry, the younger Perry kicked off his career in 1976-1977 by earning National Freshman of the Year honors, and ended his career as Holy Cross' all-time leading scorer.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Dec. 2, 1972: George Blaney coaches his first game with the Crusaders, falling to Dartmouth 76-72.

March 1, 1975: Holy Cross defeats Army 89-73 in its final game at the Worcester Auditorium. The Crusaders compiled a 229-64 (.781) record in the building.

Dec. 29, 1975: The Crusaders knock off sixth-ranked Cincinnati (66-65) at the Rainbow Classic.

March 15, 1976: Holy Cross beats St. Peter's (84-77) and falls to North Carolina State (78-68) in the NIT. Blaney is named New England Coach of the Year.

Dec. 12, 1976: One day after beating UMass (92-85 in overtime), the Crusaders down Providence (67-65) on a shot at the buzzer by Chris Potter to win the Colonial Classic at the Boston Garden.

March 5, 1977: Holy Cross defeats eighth-ranked Providence (68-67) on a buzzer beater by Potter to capture the ECAC championship and earn its first NCAA Tournament berth in 21 years.

March 13, 1977: The Crusaders battle No. 1-ranked Michigan to the wire in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament, falling 92-81 before a national television audience. Holy Cross, playing without an injured Ronnie Perry, led 72-70 with less than five minutes remaining in the game.

ALL-TIME WINNINGEST COACH GEORGE BLANEY

The 1993-1994 season marked the final chapter in George Blaney's five decade association with Holy Cross. As a player in the late 1950s and early 1960s, Blaney scored 1,012 points, and was a co-captain for the 1960-1961 season. After a 10-year absence, Blaney returned to Mount St. James to take over the Crusader program for the 1972-1973 season, and spent the next 22 seasons at Holy Cross, during which he compiled a 357-276 (.560) mark. Blaney earned numerous coaching honors with the Crusaders, including Eastern Coach of the Year (1976-1977) and Eastern Basketball's Man of the Year (1993-1994).

Feb. 14, 1978: Holy Cross tops the century mark for the seventh time on the season in a 114-76 win over Boston University, and went on to finish the year by averaging a school record 87.96 points per game in a 20-7 campaign.

Dec. 9, 1978: Ronnie Perry hits 15 of 15 free throws in an 85-79 overtime win against Yale.

Jan. 26, 1979: Perry scores a career-high 46 points in a 109-102 overtime loss to Connecticut in the Colonial Classic. The 46 points were a Boston Garden collegiate record.

March 7, 1980: After winning the ECAC championship, Holy Cross falls to Iona (84-78) in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Ronnie Perry finishes his career with 2,524 points — 31st best in NCAA history when he graduated.

Feb. 28, 1981: George Blaney becomes the college's winningest coach with a 67-58 victory over Providence.

March 12, 1981: Holy Cross defeats Southern Mississippi (56-54), before falling to Syracuse (77-57) in the NIT.

1982-1989: THE END OF INDEPENDENCE

The remainder of the 1980s contained some hard times for Blaney and the Crusaders, as they tried adjusting to a new twist — a conference affiliation. Holy Cross joined the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference to start the 1983-1984 season, and the Crusaders posted losing records (69-102 combined) in six of their seven seasons in the MAAC.

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Even during the down times, the Crusaders had a number of fine individual performances. Transfer Jim McCaffrey was a scoring machine in his two seasons, recording 1,178 points in just 53 games. The Crusaders also had a pair of national leaders, as Glenn “Scooter” Tropf led the nation in three-point percentage in 1988, while teammate Glenn “Silk” Williams led the nation in assists per game the following season. Tropf’s incredible .634 (52 for 84) mark from behind the arc remains the NCAA’s best single-season performance to date.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Dec. 29, 1982: Holy Cross plays its first games at the Worcester Centrum, beating Davidson (65-62), and the following day defeating Iona (66-65) for the Worcester County Classic title.

Jan. 6, 1984: Notre Dame makes its first visit to Worcester, beating Holy Cross 73-61 before 10,234 at the Centrum. The Crusaders’ Ernie Floyd hits all 10 of his field goal attempts and finishes with 23 points.

Jan. 28, 1984: Blaney earns his 200th Holy Cross victory with a 69-58 win over Army.

Feb. 27, 1984: Ernie Floyd finishes the season with a .621 field goal percentage, hitting 177 of 285 attempts to set what was then a school single-season record.

Jan. 31, 1985: Jim McCaffrey pours in 46 points (18 of 25 field goals, 10 of 13 free throws) and adds 15 assists in a 102-85 romp over once-beaten Iona to earn *Sports Illustrated* Player of the Week honors. McCaffrey’s 46 points are a Hart Center and MAAC record.

March 1, 1986: Jim McCaffrey sizzles against La Salle (39 points) and Iona (35 points) to lead the Crusaders into the MAAC Tournament championship game. Tourney MVP McCaffrey scores 25 against Fairfield, but the Stags win the game, 67-64. McCaffrey’s 99 points remain the second-highest total in MAAC Tournament history.

Nov. 30, 1987: Glenn “Scooter” Tropf’s three-pointer with seven seconds remaining lifts Holy Cross to a 99-98 victory over Providence in the season-opener.

Dec. 7, 1987: Blaney records his 300th career victory, 87-77 over Assumption.

Feb. 12, 1988: Glenn Williams dishes out a school-record 17 assists at Army.

March 5, 1988: Glenn Tropf ends the season having hit 63.4 percent of his three-point field goal attempts (52 of 82), for a mark which remains an NCAA single-season record.

Dec. 17, 1988: Glenn Tropf’s 28 points lead Holy Cross to an 85-80 victory over Boston College, lifting the Crusaders to 6-0 for the first time in 11 years.

Feb. 21, 1989: Holy Cross and Iona tie the NCAA record by combining for 38 overtime points in Iona’s 123-113 victory. The 236 total points tie the Holy Cross record and set a MAAC record. Dwight Pernell scores 41 points, including a three-pointer at the buzzer to force overtime.

March 1, 1989: Glenn Williams finishes the season with a school-record 278 assists, while leading the nation with an average of 9.9 assists per game.

1990-1999:

A RETURN TO PROMINENCE

After struggling for a stretch in the 1980s, George Blaney brought the Crusaders back into the postseason to start the 1990s. In what would be Holy Cross’ final season in the MAAC, the Crusaders compiled a 24-6 record and won their first-ever MAAC title. The 24 wins were the most in the Blaney era, and the most for the school since the NIT champions of 1954. In recognition of their season, the Crusaders earned an NIT meeting with Rutgers, which they lost, 87-78.

The 1990-1991 season marked the beginning of a new conference affiliation for the Crusaders, as they joined the newly formed Patriot League. Holy Cross won 18 games that season, losing to Fordham in overtime in the conference’s inaugural championship game. After another 18 win season the following year, Blaney took his team to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since Ronnie Perry’s senior year (1979-1980), as his Crusaders compiled a 23-7 mark that included a 98-73 win at Bucknell in the Patriot League championship game.

Blaney left Holy Cross at the conclusion of the 1993-1994 season, replaced by Crusader assistant coach Bill Raynor. Raynor had not only coached under Blaney at Holy Cross, but had been coached by him for two seasons at Dartmouth. Blaney did not leave his former assistant empty handed, as Raynor had Holy Cross’ second all-time leading scorer, Rob Feaster, in the fold for his debut season. The 1998-1999 season brought a return to scholarships, and on April 1, 1999, Ralph Willard — who served as the Crusaders’ basketball captain in 1966-1967 — returned to take the head coaching reigns.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Feb. 10, 1990: Aaron Jordan’s length of the court drive and basket with six seconds left caps a 95-94 comeback victory over Fordham before a sellout crowd at the Hart Center. Holy Cross trailed 92-85 with just 1:59 remaining, but Dwight Pernell scored five of his team-high 28 points in the last two minutes.

Feb. 17, 1990: Behind the 22 points of Dwight Pernell and 21 points of Jim Nairus, Holy Cross knocks off Army (86-68) to clinch the MAAC North title, Holy Cross’ first conference championship.

March 16, 1990: In the college’s first post-season tournament appearance in nine years, the Crusaders battle host Rutgers to the wire, falling 87-78 in the first round of the NIT. Holy Cross’ 24-6 record is its best in 36 years.

Dec. 15, 1990: Holy Cross battles back from eight- and seven-point deficits in the second half to edge Boston College, 76-69 in overtime.

Feb. 23, 1991: George Blaney earns his 300th victory at Holy Cross, a 73-68 win at Colgate.

March 2, 1991: Jean Prioleau’s three-pointer at the buzzer gives Fordham an 84-81 overtime win over Holy Cross in the inaugural championship game of the Patriot League Tournament at the Hart Center.

Dec. 30, 1991: Roger Breslin hits a shot from 68’9” at the end of the first half in a 76-72 loss to Vanderbilt in the championship game of the Music City Invitational. Breslin’s heave is the longest made in Memorial Gym history.

Feb. 29, 1992: Bill Walker’s 26 points lead six Crusaders in double figures in a 116-92 thumping of Lehigh. Holy Cross’ 116 points set a Patriot League record.

Dec. 1, 1992: The Crusader squad opens the season with a 92-72 win over Harvard. Upping its overall record to 1,000-606, Holy Cross becomes the 79th Division I school to earn 1,000 wins.

Feb. 8, 1993: Crusader mentor George Blaney registers his 400th career victory as Holy Cross defeats Rutgers 99-89. Blaney becomes just the 30th active Division I coach to reach that milestone.

March 10, 1993: Holy Cross wins its first Patriot League championship title with a 98-73 thrashing of Bucknell. Rob Feaster earns Tournament MVP honors after amassing 66 points and nine steals in three games.

March 18, 1993: Holy Cross takes the floor at the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 13 years, falling to 12th-ranked Arkansas 94-64.

Feb. 19, 1994: Rob Feaster scores a Hart Center record-tying 46 points against Navy. It was the first 40-point effort for a Crusader since 1989.

March 5, 1994: Rob Feaster scores a then-Patriot League Tournament record 43 points in a semifinal loss to Navy. He scored 30 or more points 13 times on the year, and his 28.0 point average is second best in Holy Cross history.

Dec. 28, 1995: Rob Feaster’s buzzer-beater gives Holy Cross a 75-74 win at Rice. Feaster scored 41 points in the game, one of four times he would accomplish the feat in his career.

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March 3, 1996: Holy Cross defeats Army 68-65 in the Patriot League semifinals, earning a spot in the championship game against Colgate. Three days later, Holy Cross falls 74-65 to the Red Raiders.

2000-2009: THE WILLARD ERA

After winning just 22 games over the final three seasons in the 1990s, the Crusaders made a coaching change and brought back 1967 graduate Ralph Willard to re-energize the program. After posting a 10-18 record in Willard's first season, the Crusaders captured their first ever outright Patriot League regular season title in 2000-2001, then won the league tournament to advance to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1992-1993. Holy Cross followed that season by claiming Patriot League Tournament titles and returning to the NCAA Tournament in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, becoming the first school in league history to win three straight championships. Holy Cross also made an NIT appearance in 2004-2005, then advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth time in the decade in 2006-2007.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. 20, 1999: The Crusaders open the Ralph Willard era with a 54-43 win at Providence. The victory is Holy Cross' first over a Big East team since the 1990-1991 season, when the Crusaders also defeated Providence.

Jan. 30, 2000: Josh Sankes sets a Hart Center record with 19 rebounds in a 52-42 win over Army.

Feb. 5, 2000: Sankes set Holy Cross records for blocked shots in a game and in a season, with seven blocks in a 57-54 loss to Colgate. He finishes the year with 69 blocks.

Feb. 14, 2001: Holy Cross goes on the road to defeat Navy 77-67 and clinch the program's first ever outright Patriot League regular season championship.

March 3, 2001: Ralph Willard earns Patriot League Coach of the Year honors, while Tim Szatko is named the Patriot League Player of the Year.

March 9, 2001: The Crusaders defeat Navy 68-64 in overtime to win the Patriot League Tournament title. Josh Sankes earns tournament MVP honors.

March 15, 2001: Holy Cross and second-seeded Kentucky are tied with 6:29 left in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, before the Wildcats earn a 72-68 victory.

March 8, 2002: Holy Cross posts a 58-54 victory at American in the Patriot League championship game to capture its second straight NCAA Tournament berth. Tim Szatko is named tournament MVP.

March 14, 2002: The Crusaders battle top-seeded Kansas down to the wire in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Holy Cross leads by five with 14 minutes remaining, but the Jayhawks rally to capture a 70-59 win.

March 14, 2003: Holy Cross wins its 12th straight game and becomes the first Patriot League school to capture three straight conference titles with a 72-64 win over American. Patrick Whearty earns tournament MVP honors.

March 20, 2003: Holy Cross suffers a tough 72-68 loss to Marquette in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Jan. 25, 2004: Jave Meade records the 532nd assist of his collegiate career, becoming the Patriot League's all-time assist leader. Meade finishes his career with 599 assists.

Feb. 13, 2005: Nate Lufkin has three blocked shots in a 73-53 victory over Lehigh, to become Holy Cross all-time leader in career blocks. He finishes his career with 153 blocked shots.

March 1, 2005: Kevin Hamilton earns Patriot League Player of the Year honors, while Pat Doherty is named Rookie of the Year and Ralph Willard is selected as the Coach of the Year.

March 6, 2005: The Crusaders defeat Lehigh 57-53 in overtime in the semifinals of the Patriot League Tournament for their 16th straight victory. The winning streak is the longest by Holy Cross since 1950.

March 15, 2005: Holy Cross posts a 78-73 victory at Notre Dame in the first round of the NIT, before falling at St. Joseph's (68-60) six days later in the second round. The win marked the first-ever postseason victory by a team from the Patriot League.

Jan. 11, 2006: The Crusaders set a school single-game record by making 15 three-point field goals in an 84-46 victory at Army.

Jan. 25, 2006: Kevin Hamilton records the 247th steal of his collegiate career, becoming the Patriot League's all-time leader in steals. Hamilton went on to finish his career with 292 total steals. He also set a Holy Cross career record with 222 three-point field goals made.

Feb. 28, 2007: Keith Simmons earns Patriot League Player of the Year honors, while Torey Thomas is named Defensive Player of the Year and Ralph Willard is selected as the Coach of the Year.

March 9, 2007: The Crusaders defeat Bucknell 74-66 at the Hart Center in the Patriot League championship game. Keith Simmons earns tournament MVP honors.

March 16, 2007: Holy Cross falls to Southern Illinois 61-51 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in Columbus, Ohio.

Nov. 28, 2007: Tim Clifford blocks six shots against Yale, including the 154th of his collegiate career, to become Holy Cross' all-time leader. He goes on to finish his career with 210 blocked shots.

March 4, 2009: R.J. Evans set a Holy Cross freshman Patriot League Tournament record by scoring 31 points in a 75-56 quarterfinal victory over Bucknell.

2010-PRESENT: THE NEXT CHAPTER

The Crusaders posted just two winning seasons in the first six years of the decade, before Bill Carmody was hired as the new head coach in 2015. In its first season under Carmody, Holy Cross claimed another Patriot League title by becoming the first team in conference history to ever win four true road games in the Patriot League Tournament. The Crusaders went on to post their first NCAA Tournament victory since 1953, with a 59-55 win over Southern.

As the Carmody era continues, Holy Cross looks to remain in its place as one of the top teams in the Patriot League.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. 13, 2013: Holy Cross defeats Sacred Heart 122-118 in double overtime, to set school and Hart Center records for most combined points in a single game (240).

March 17, 2014: The Crusaders post a 68-65 victory at Brown in the first round of the CollegeInsider.com Tournament.

March 5, 2015: Malcolm Miller scores 34 points, but Holy Cross falls 90-83 in overtime at Bucknell in the Patriot League quarterfinals.

March 9, 2016: The Crusaders defeat Lehigh 59-56 on the road in the Patriot League championship game, to cap their run of four road victories and claim the conference title. Malachi Alexander earns tournament MVP honors.

March 16, 2016: Holy Cross defeats Southern 59-55 at the NCAA First Four in Dayton, Ohio, for its first NCAA Tournament victory since 1953.

March 4, 2018: Jehyve Floyd finished the year with a .668 field goal percentage, breaking the school single-season record.