

DEAR GENE ET AL.

9/9/09

THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE NOTIFICATION OF THE INDUCTION OF THE 1966 GLL CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM INTO THE BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME. I UNFORTUNATELY WAS UNABLE TO RETURN TO MICHIGAN TO JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS. I WAS IN MICHIGAN THIS PAST JUNE TO BURY MY MOTHER AND HAD ADDITIONAL SCHEDULING CONFLICTS (MOVING MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER TO COLLEGE FOR HER FRESHMAN YEAR) WHICH MADE IT NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO ATTEND THE BANQUET.

I WOULD HOWEVER LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT A MEMORABLE AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE THAT 1966 SEASON WAS. IN MY JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS I WAS FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE PERSONAL ATHLETIC ACCOLADES (INCLUDING MAKING THE ALL-STATE TEAM ON A 2-7 TEAM IN 1968) BUT I HAVE VIRTUALLY NO MEMORY OF THOSE YEARS. MY PARTICIPATION ON THE 1966 TEAM CONVERSELY IS INDELIBLY ETCHED IN BOTH MY EMOTIONAL AND COGNITIVE MEMORY. THE SENSE OF COMRADERY, WORK ETHIC AND MENTAL DISCIPLINE WHICH CHARACTERIZED THAT GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WAS AN EYE-OPENING AND HIGHLY MOTIVATING JOY-RIDE FOR A YOUNG, IMPRESSIONABLE SOPHOMORE. I WAS ESPECIALLY AFFECTED BY THE LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND DEDICATION DISPLAYED BY UPPER CLASSMEN SUCH AS DAVE LONG, WAYNE RUMPLE, DARRELL MASSBURG AND GARY UHLMAN. COACH JERRY BERNDT'S ORGANIZATION ABILITIES AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN FOSTERING A PASSION FOR "KICKING MULE" FOOTBALL IN MY ENTIRE FAMILY. THERE ARE FEW THINGS MORE GRATIFYING THAN BEING A MEMBER OF A HARD WORKING TEAM WHICH FULFILLS ITS MISSION!

LASTLY, A HEARTFELT EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHOSE TIME AND ENERGY HAVE MADE THE BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOC. THE SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION IT HAS BECOME. I DON'T GET BACK TO TEMPERANCE OFTEN AS THE DISTANCE IS GREAT AND THE PERSONAL SCHEDULE FULL BUT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE TRULY ASTOUNDING AND MAKE ME PROUD TO BE A BHS GRADUATE.

RESPECTFULLY: -Roger J. Kraus