

Deerfield Hockey

To-day's game with St. Mark's opens Deerfield Academy's twenty-sixth year of hockey, and the first season that Mr. Edward M. Switzer has not coached the team. After twenty-five years of unbounded enthusiasm and good teams, Mr. Switzer, to the great disappointment of everyone, decided to withdraw from active coaching. We at Deerfield feel that it is fitting at this time to pay tribute to Mr. Switzer by recalling some of his great players and what they went on to do in college hockey.

From Mr. Switzer's early teams six boys went on to become captains of their college varsities. First was Albert J. Nichols '26, who captained Williams in 1930, and who in 1929 had scored the only goal in his team's defeat of Amherst. Next the class of 1927 provided two college captains: Arthur Williams, one of the Deerfield coaches today, led his team at Amherst in 1931, and Morey Eames, a goalie, was captain at Hamilton that same year. Likewise from the class of 1928 went two more college leaders: John Franklin Fort, at Amherst in 1932, and Sanford Doughty, at Williams the same year, where he scored one-quarter of his team's goals for the season. Finally Richard Swain '29 became captain at the University of Vermont in 1933.

During these same years several other Deerfield boys starred on college sixes. To Dartmouth went Richard Fisher '27; G. Forrest Riley '32, now coach of the Nichols School team in Buffalo, New York; and Donald N. Otis '33. Most illustrious of our alumni at Hanover was W. Langdon Powers '30, who proved to be a high-scoring performer on outstanding Dartmouth teams. At Colgate Douglas Abercrombie '32 was a regular, and George Bass '33 played at Bowdoin.

The middle thirties saw the continuation of the parade of Switzer-trained men to college rinks. Renouf Russell '34 played at Harvard, David Johnston '35 and Paul H. Hyde, Jr. '37 at Williams, Richard W.

Fuller '36 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Louis T. Merriam, Jr. '35 and Randall Gilpatric '38 at Dartmouth. "Juni" Merriam has continued to play ever since his graduation from Dartmouth. Last year he received from the St. Nicholas Club of New York the award to that player "who has played in the most games for the St. Nicholas Club".

As the years rolled by the war interrupted the careers of many of those who were in college, and so the ranks were thinned, but a few were able to play for a short time. Frederic H. Bontecou, Jr. '41 and William B. Saunders '40 played for Dartmouth. Probably the strongest defense that Deerfield has ever had went on after their graduation in 1941 to play first defense for Princeton. These two, Edward McP. Egan '41 and John St. John '41, along with W. Langdon Powers '30 were among the very finest players who ever skated for the Green and White. Robert L. Merriam '43 climaxed the long line with a brilliant record at Dartmouth as playmaker for the famous Riley brothers. Many others played freshman hockey in college, but the war called almost all of them, and hockey had to be forgotten for a number of years.

Now once again Mr. Switzer can look with pride at the boys he has coached who are playing in college. Don Mathey '46 and Dean Mathey '47 have just completed a very successful era at Princeton as have William S. Stout '45 at Dartmouth, and goalie Nickels Huston '46 at Williams. The two strongest Deerfield hockey players in college today are Douglas S. H. Anderson '47 who is skating for Harvard and John J. Gilbert, Jr. '48, one of Brown's very fine skaters. Others who are just getting started are John R. Abbe '49 at Colby, John Beard '49 at Williams, and Henry H. Learnerd, II, '49, last year's Dartmouth freshman captain.

Those we have named are representative of a host of others, some who played in college and some who did not. All reflect the excellence of Mr. Switzer's training and even more than that, the enthusiastic spirit which put into all he did and which his boys caught from him.

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On today's team there are many who have had the benefit of Mr. Switzer's coaching. The probable Deerfield starting team is captained by David C. Harrop of Princeton, New Jersey. Dave has played varsity hockey for three years, and because of his numerous assists was tied for last year's high scorer. Wings on the first line will, in all probability, be Robert Jedrey, <sup>a newcomer,</sup> and Peter Meyer ~~Franklin~~ ~~Kenneth~~ ~~Franklin~~ who played third line last year. On the defense, George Lunt and Michael Erdman will start. George is also playing his third year of varsity hockey, has just completed his fourth year of varsity soccer, and will play his fourth year of varsity lacrosse this spring. ~~Michael~~ In the goal either Arthur DuBois or Edmond Opler, Jr. will start. Both boys played last year. Others on the team include soccer and baseball player Halvor Seward, center, Todd Baldwin, wing, Peter Gulick, Robert Townsend, a 1949 Pee Wee Ranger, James A Sanderson, Paul Tiemer, and David Whiteford.

With this game begins another season of hockey at Deerfield. Our thanks go to St. Mark's who make this game possible, and to Alex B. Johnson '30 and William T. Burt '34 who handled the New York plans for it.

Although Mr. Switzer will not be actively engaged this season, all the intangible things for which he stood and which he communicated to his boys will characterize this season and all future seasons of Deerfield hockey.

55 and 1949  
 1949 and 1950