

### CB Sports Through the Years

Christian Brothers College was represented on athletic fields for many years without a recognized coach. That was changed in 1919 when Peter Mitchell accepted the task of coaching football, basketball, and baseball, along with teaching classes.

Mitchell's coaching was for free. The distinction of being the first paid member went to Paul O'Neil. The amount O'Neil was paid is unknown. Perhaps it's just as well.

In recent years, the Falcons have enjoyed considerable success on the gridiron. Dick Sperbeck's coaching record for the last eight years is 58-18-5 during which his team won the Metro title in four of the last six campaigns.

The first-ever league title came during Rey Clemons' tenure while the Gaels were in the Northern Interstate Athletic Conference. Brothers was allowed to compete in the Metro League in 1964 after a San Joaquin Section ban against nonpublic schools was lifted — capping a long battle spearheaded by E. J. "Bud" Keema, then superintendent of Grant Joint Union School District.

As for basketball, the team advancing the farthest was the Hanna-coached 1939-40 cagers, who captured the Northern California Catholic High School Tournament at St. Mary's.

Christian Brothers baseball has produced many outstanding performers who starred in semi-pro and pro ball, including major leaguers like Walter "The Great" Mills, Joe Marty, Schanz, Wally Westlake, Joe Kirrene, Don Semon, and John McNamara, who manages the San Diego Padres.

Present Falcon athletes and others destined to play roles in the second century of the Christian Brothers in Sacramento may be assured that the men who gained Gael glory in bygone eras realize happily that theirs is but a small fraction of what lies ahead.

—Marco Smolich  
Class of 1939