



1926-1976



**VIKING
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**



FIFTY YEARS
IN SPORTS



Compliments

of

GRUNDSTROM
COMPANY

GLENVIEW
ILLINOIS



Members Viking Athletic Association

1926



1976

FIFTY YEARS IN SPORTS

IT WAS on May 20, 1926 — fifty years ago — that seven young Swedes got together to form an athletic club, known first as the Liberty Ball Club. Their first acquisition was a soccer ball in order to engage in their favorite sport, not realizing at the time that they were laying the foundation for an athletic organization that would be recognized nationwide as the Viking Athletic Association. The group grew into four soccer teams and 150 members by 1928. Meetings were held in a haphazard fashion at any place available, but mostly at the home of Mrs. Theresa Strand, aunt of Viking's popular, ten-time president Ivar Strand.

Finally, in August, 1927, the group rented meeting quarters at 1706 Foster avenue. In the first year of soccer play they landed on top in the fourth division. Gaining members and players as weeks went by, they fielded teams in the first, third and fourth divisions.

In 1928 a strong bowling team was added which was successful in adding trophies, also a gymnastic troupe was organized which put on exhibitions.

The year 1929 was a boon to the club, when the ladies formed an auxiliary to be known as the Girls of Viking Athletic Association. This group has throughout the years given loyal support in all ventures undertaken by the Association.

On June 6, 1930, the club changed its name to Viking Athletic Association, with soccer teams in the first, second and third divisions.

Year 1931 was the start of the Great Depression, causing a great loss to the club via club dues collections and poor attendance at club functions. To top it off we were evicted from our club rooms

at 1706 Foster avenue. But determination and fortitude held forth to hold the membership together. For several seasons meetings were held wherever possible. And to top it all off, the soccer team ended up in last place.

On July 15, 1934, with the Swedish All-Stars vs. the Italian All-Stars (the Swedish All-Stars were all Vikings except one) the Thompson Trophy was won, and confidence was restored for the 1934-35 season, with the first and reserve teams taking the League titles.

In 1935 the Vikings took major and reserve division titles with the following player: Walter Norell, Jocke Johansson, Kurt Dahlen, Roland Beckman, Herbert Hawkinson, Helge Carlberg, Nels Brostrom, Folke Swanson, Hans Jensen, Nels Dahlquist, Einar Lindquist, Allan Lindstrand, John Swanson, Fritz Peterson, Fred Granquist, Sture Fors, John Granquist, Walter Peterson, Rudy Nystrom, Martin Erickson, Rudolph Peterson, and Knut Magnuson.

Our present location was purchased and remodeled in 1940, with Lars Norman, being about the only one with a steady job, having to guarantee the mortgage. But with the Depression fading away, the mortgage was soon paid off. In the meantime our sports teams were gaining trophies in soccer, softball, golf, basketball and chess.

The 1945 major and state champions were Jimmy McDermott, Erne Kuehl, Steve Wisniewski, Hans Jensen, Borje Myllenberg, Nels Brostrom, Bill List, Kenneth Anderson, Einar Lindquist, Mons Sebby, Al O'Hare, Jocke Johansson (manager), and Ivar Abrahamson

(Continued on page 3)

truly magnificent dining

NIELSEN'S

Gourmet DANISH Cuisine

7330 W. NORTH AVENUE ··· ELMWOOD PARK

Phone 625-8000 / 453-9200

Open Daily 11:30 A. M. to 11:30 P. M. — Sundays 12 Noon to 9 P. M.

For More Enjoyment . . .

See the Professional Stars of Tomorrow . . . NOW!

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

4534 N. LINCOLN AVE., CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60625

PHONE 275-2850

The Nation's Largest Soccer League

Featuring 126 Teams

IN EXCITING COMPETITION EVERY SUNDAY

Games Played in Hanson Stadium, Winnemac Stadium, Lane Tech Stadium, Eckersall Stadium, Quigley South High School, Morton West High School and in Many Parks Throughout the Chicagoland Area.

For Schedule Write the National Soccer League, 4534 N. Lincoln Ave.

BOOST SOCCER ON ALL LEVELS

LILL

*Environmental and Energy
Experts*

OIL ENERGY
BOILERS · GAS/OIL
AIR CONDITIONING
BURNERS · GAS/OIL
ENVIRONMENTAL COMFORTS
REFRIGERATION
FURNACES · GAS/OIL
HUMIDIFICATION
WATER HEATING · GAS/OIL

1822 N. RIDGE AVENUE
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

Chicago — Phones — Suburban
561-2700 673-5544

SWEDISH- AMERICAN RECREATION CLUB

(Incorporated)

3541 N. CLARK STREET
CHICAGO

Telephone: 281-0233

*Business Meeting Third Friday
of Every Month*

FIFTY YEARS . . . (Cont.)

(trainer). Club president, Eric Haggberg; secretary, Nels Dahlquist.

In 1946 the Open Cup champions were Jocke Johansson (manager), Andrew Hritz, Dick Arends, Steve Wisniewski, Nels Brostrom, Danny Dawson, Jimmy McDermott, Erne Kuehl, Jeff Coombes, Mons Sebby, Bill List, Einar Lindquist, Johnnie O'Boyle, Harry Phillips, Hans Jensen (captain), George Nemchik, Roscoe Anderson, and Ivar Abrahamson (trainer). Club president, Elmer Stey; secretary, Nels Dahlquist.

It was also the year the softball players won 20 of 23 games played and the basket tossers took first place in the YMCA league.

The year 1947 was a bad one for soccer and softball, with the teams fighting to stay out of the cellar. It was in 1947 that the Viking A. A. golfers got started, and they have been screaming "fore" on various golf courses ever since. Club championships have been won by many members; however, Don McLean and Bert Peterson are tied with three club championships. Holes in one, a scarce commodity, have been shot by Bob ("Curly") Stieren, Ken Nye and Hjalmar ("Red") Kallman.

In 1948 the Vikings fought the Polish Americans for the league title, winning by a 2-1 score in a hard fought battle. They also won the Hines Veterans Hospital seven-a-side, beating Necaxa in the final game 1-0.

In the late 40's and early 50's Viking A. A., with the Swedish-Americans and Linnea, sponsored teams from Sweden, touring American and Canadian cities. In 1948 it was Djurgården (Stockholm), 1949 Göteborg, 1950 Jönköping, and 1951 A.I.K. (Stockholm). About the best soccer game ever played in the city of Chicago was the contest between Jönköping and Manchester United (England), ending in a 3-1 victory for the Swedes.

The 1949 Reserve Team, with Walter Norell as manager, played 14 league (Continued on page 5)

Congratulations to Viking A. A.

SALES — SERVICE — LEASES

TRUCK REFRIGERATION REPAIRS — PARTS — SALES

Dependable Cooling and Heating Units For . . .

TRAILERS, TRUCKS & VANS — TRUCK CAB AIR CONDITIONING

KOLD-DRAFT • WHIRLPOOL Automatic Ice Systems

Complete Line of ICE MAKING EQUIPMENT, 22 lbs. to 40 tons — One Day

ICE CREAM AND FROZEN FOOD MERCHANDISERS

Service 24 hours a day — 7 days a week — (312) 478-3448

DOLE REFRIGERATING SERVICE CO.

5910 NORTH PULASKI ROAD • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60646

Compliments



PETERSON ENTERPRISES, Inc.

1840 PICKWICK AVENUE GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS 60025



WALTER PETERSON
(Life Member Viking A. A.)

FIFTY YEARS . . . (Cont.)

games, 6 exhibitions and 2 play-off tilts. They won 17, tied 2, lost 3, with 72 goals for and 19 against.

In 1950 indoor soccer was presented to the public at the Chicago Avenue Armory, televised and narrated by Joe Wilson and Jack Brickhouse. Our team took the honors with a 19 point total and a goal record of 29-9. They were also presented with a special trophy for displaying the best sportsmanship.

In 1953, under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth G. Sjoquist, the by-laws were changed to allow non-Scandinavians to hold elective offices in the club.

By 1958, with Steve Svenonius serving as president, a committee was formed to sell \$100 bonds to finance an addition to our clubrooms. A total of \$21,900 was sold to the membership and a few outsiders. In order to pay back the bond issue in a stated period of 10 years, "The Builder" fund was started. The bonds were redeemed in five years. About \$7,000 of the total payback was donated by the club to the bond committee.

In 1959 the soccer team finished last in the Major League and thus was demoted to the First Division. During the sixties the team had a few good years in the First Division, finishing as high as third place. During this period Jimmy McDermott became active again, managing the first team for a few seasons. This was an inspiration to the team, but it still became more and more difficult to keep our place in the First Division.

After demotion to the Second Division in 1965 we bounced back quickly, barely being nosed out the first year and winning the Second Division title in 1967 with Mike Baran as manager. However, we did not have the caliber of players to stay up in the First Division for long. The early seventies were difficult times after losing a substantial number of players who formed their own club. Through all these difficult times we had our bright moments, occasionally upsetting a top team in cup games and generally doing fairly well in summer tournaments.

(Continued on page 7)

Virginia Dare Beverages

QUALITY SINCE 1887

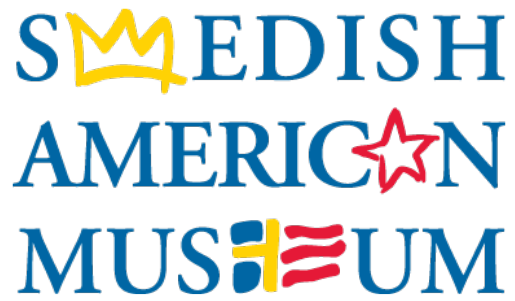
Call CH 3-3400



BEST WISHES

to

VIKING ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



This archival record has been partially scanned, including covers and initial pages for each issue. For more information about a particular issue of this publication, please contact the Swedish American Museum Curator.

*Congratulations
and Best Wishes*



RICARDO NELSON
TRAVEL BUREAU, Inc.

Palle Juul-Larsen

5245 NORTH CLARK STREET

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60640

312/561-2435