

Infamous Moments

Throughout the years, Drake students, faculty and staff have made it through some tough times and interesting events, yet have always come out better for the experience. Here are a few dates worth remembering.

Class Day, 1889

A campus tradition turns into a full-scale brawl between classes

During Class Day, held at the beginning of the fall semester in the late 1800s, members of each class on campus would present their flag in a grand parade. In 1889, when the seniors hoisted their flag, a group of raucous first-year students scaled the flagpole, tore it down and ran into the basement of the Students Home and saturated it with coal oil. While they were busy sullyng the flag, a group of sophomores stormed the building, entered the boiler room and started a fistfight because they felt it was their right to deface the senior flag. While all this happened, the apathetic, but wise, junior class took the "le 'em fight it out" approach.

January 21, 1941

Sudden deaths shock campus

Drake President Daniel Morehouse died on this date, followed in February by Edward C. Lytton, University business manager, and Professor Jesse C. Caldwell, former dean of the Bible College. The rapid and unexpected deaths shocked the campus community. Henry Gadd Harmon replaced Morehouse and served as president until his death in 1964, the longest tenure of any Drake President.

October 20, 1951

A cheap shot ends a Drake athlete's quest for the Heisman Trophy.

Drake's most accomplished athlete and a front-runner in the competition for the Heisman Trophy in 1951, Johnny Bright was injured in a racially motivated attack during a football game at Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State). Bright, who led the nation in total offense in 1949 and 1950 and was dominating national statistics for rushing, offense and scoring in 1951, was a marked man in the Oklahoma game. Drake had won five straight games prior to this game, and the outcome would likely decide the Missouri Valley Conference season champion. As a result, Bright was knocked unconscious three times in the first seven minutes of play. And though the final blow broke his jaw, Bright stayed in the game just long enough to throw a 61-yard touchdown pass. Photos taken of the event for The Des Moines Register later won a Pulitzer Prize and proved the attack was intentional. As a result, Drake withdrew from the Missouri Valley Conference in protest at the lack of disciplinary action taken against the responsible parties. Bright was a first-round NFL draft pick but, fearing for his safety, chose instead to play in the Canadian Football League where he had a successful, 14-year career. He was inducted

into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1970 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 1984. The new field at Drake stadium was named in his honor in 2006.

March, 20 1969

Drake falls three points short of advancing to the NCAA finals

Though rightly considered an amazing success, the 1969 Drake men's basketball team probably had more than a few disappointed fans at the end of their record-setting season. Getting to the final four of the NCAA tournament is nothing to be upset by, but the fact that the team fell just three points short of moving into the final game of the tournament had to sting. A victory would have been a major upset to the top-seeded UCLA and its 7-foot-tall megastar Lew Alcindor (later known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar). The Bulldogs lost 85-82 and finished third in the tournament, easily defeating the North Carolina Tarheels by 20 points and setting a high mark for Drake Athletics.

July 31, 1969

Drake founders elm tree is removed from campus

The Chancellor's Elm, famous for being the location from which founder George Carpenter is purported to have proclaimed "Here we will build our university," succumbs to Dutch elm disease and is removed from campus. In 2006, a new elm tree was planted near this spot to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Drake University.

June 29, 1970

Political radicals detonate a bomb in Harvey Ingham Hall on the Drake campus.

Like most college campuses across the country at the time, student protests at Drake were not unusual. Several mostly peaceful student protests took place on the Drake campus during the late '60s and the University even hosted a conference in 1968 on campus riots and violence. During the summer of 1970, a bomb made of dynamite was detonated inside Harvey Ingham Hall, causing extensive damage and shattering windows in Meredith, Fitch and Herriott halls. Fortunately, no one was injured in the blast, though a security guard was knocked from his feet. Around this time, bombs were also detonated at the Des Moines Police Station and the Chamber of Commerce in Des Moines. In an article last year recalling the event, *The Times-Delphic* reported that the blast caused damage of \$150,000 to \$200,000. Don Adams, vice president of student life at the time, recalled to *The Times-Delphic* that police had a suspect in the incident, but the individual was killed in a bombing gone awry in Minneapolis before he could be arrested or prosecuted.

March, 1982

Record-setting performance fails to move bulldogs to final four

During the first year of the Women's NCAA basketball tournament, Drake had an impressive run, advancing all the way to the Elite 8. In the final game of the tournament for Drake, sophomore Lorri Bauman scored 50 points. Despite the amazing performance, Drake fell to Maryland 89-78. Baumann ended her career as the first woman in NCAA history to top the 3,000-point mark, finishing with 3,115 points at Drake. Her 50 point game still stands as a NCAA record.