

AFTER EIGHTY YEARS . . .

ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE still nurses an athletic policy which always has genuinely reflected the spirit of the Franciscan youth in their continual battle with the more serious forces of life.

Since the days of '58 when an athlete was a "sissy" unless he wore a mustache, many sports have made their entrance in the Red and Blue gymnasium, their existence depending on the popular opinion manifested by enthusiastic followers among ever-fickle students. The one sport, however, which has fomented a lasting zeal in the minds of the rabid Franciscan element was the offering of a Massachusetts gymnastic director, a Dr. Naismith. It would have been just as well if Dr. Naismith had introduced his brainchild within the dusky walls of the St. Francis gymnasium, so whole-heartedly did the Friar athletes adopt this new outlet for both their physical and their mental efforts. In forty-eight years the game has evolved from shabby fundamentals to a more exacting program of finesse and deception, a factor which has practically alone accounted for its increasing popularity. St. Francis was one of the pioneers in blazing the trail in intercollegiate cage schedules, meeting colleges and universities of all sizes and colors.

Today the same spirit which dominated those teams of thirty and forty years ago is still reflected in the Franciscan sports curriculum, which has since then been augmented by the addition of other popular sports. Although it cannot be denied that basketball has lastingly contributed to the reputation of the Red and Blue institution, it is time that its most recent protégés have also added valor to its name in their respective athletic endeavors. We speak of our newest sport representatives, the swimming and track teams, who have proved their worth by the splendid records they have achieved.

Without doubt these latest additions will evince an interest among their followers in future years, their success being a natural offshoot of the enthusiasm exhibited in the chronicles of Franciscan athletics.