



Asst. Mgr. Proto, Mgr. Randazzo, J. Reilly, Malfitano, Fleming, Brennan, M. Reilly, Benigno, Leach, Gwiazda, Holohan, Gallagher, Fater, Ptak.

## Freshman Basketball

LAST September found among the newcomers some of the best prep school basketball players in the city. Most of these men had been outstanding in their respective schools, but they remained unknown, however, until the middle of October when the first practice was called. It then developed that each player had his own style of playing, a factor that had to be corrected before any team success could be accomplished. This was left to Coach Rody Cooney, who in a short time converted them to his type of game.

The first game of the season found Malfitano and Holohan at forward, Fleming at center, and Gwiazda and Benigno at the guard positions. It was unfortunate that the first game had to be with City College J. V. The "Pups" lost by three points. However an excuse can be made for them since it was the first regular contest in which they had played together. It was really their inexperience that beat them. In their next game they showed to better advantage. They beat the Topper Big Five, managed by a member of last year's freshman squad, by a 24-22 score. Next, they lost to St. Francis Prep, but the latter went on to win the Metropolitan C.H.S.A.A. title. St. Peter's of Jersey City were the next opponents. The trip across the river didn't seem to affect the boys, for they eked out a 28-26 victory. St. Augustine's, Catholic title holder at that time in Brooklyn, visited the Palestra and lost to the yearlings, 35-27. In all these games the "first five," mentioned above, had played fine ball, but some of the substitutes on the squad, notably Vinnie Ptak and Jerry Brennan, began to give the regulars cause for worry. Ptak, small in stature, found it easy to slip through the defense of the various teams, to score all-important layups. Vinnie Gallagher, an adept ball handler, was usually the one who threw the passes. This combination reminded one of the Lynch-Gleason and Geary-Carroll duos of former years.

After beating Cathedral, the squad journeyed to Manhattan College where they lost to that school's freshman team. Coach Joe Brennan of Manhattan had three different teams to put in and the ceaseless substituting meant the game for the Green. When the "Pups" were getting tired, Brennan would substitute a new team to keep up the beating. The following game saw a trip to Westbury, where, on the local bandbox court, St. Francis won in an overtime. Pratt J. V. was next and they offered little resistance; but Poly Tech proved a little too strong, at least five points too strong. N.Y.U. beat the yearlings, but they recovered in time to beat St. Peter's. Then followed one of the weirdest games ever played on the college court. L.I.U. provided the opposition and although hailed as a high scoring machine, they failed to score a single point for the entire first half and for five minutes of the second half. But wonder of wonders, they won, 14-13! Another defeat followed, Dickinson of Jersey turning the trick. But give a yell — our boys beat Brooklyn in an overtime game on the Brooklyn court. Getting back into the winning column, they beat St. Augustine's by ten points. Then they lost to St. John's. But the return game with the Redmen was about the best the "Pups" played all season. Going up to the Redmen's court, St. Francis was thought to have no chance. But when it was all over, St. John's had lost 49-43. In this game almost everybody on the squad figured in the scoring. They outsmarted their opponents in passing and in shooting. Even the height of the opposition failed to bring them victory. Although the game was rough, few fouls were called. Most of the team was still sore (physically) after the game, but they still had enough energy to gloat over the victory, a well-deserved one.

Next came Eastern District and another defeat. Lenox Hill, a strong quintet from the Bronx, shaded the Frosh in a close game. As the season drew to a close, they beat Dickinson, Brooklyn, Poly Tech, and Eastern District in return games. Loughlin, the finalist in the recent K. of C. tourney was next. St. Francis won 31-27. Thus did the season come to a close with victory in the last seven games bringing the record to seventeen victories and ten defeats.

JOHN MCNAMARA.

Two for the Freshmen



A Close Call

