



REV. BROTHER RICHARD, O.S.F.  
Director of Athletics



The St. Francis A. A. sponsored but two intercollegiate sports this year. Basketball rose to its zenith while Track slumped far below previous standards. The ominous hand of war reached, and our nation's armed forces' gain was a Terrier loss. Through the current campaign we witnessed the gaps knifed by the periodic response of Franciscans answering the call to arms. St. Francis contributed many of its stalwart athletes to the cause, athletes who but several short months ago competed for sport or fame. These same boys now are engaged in the deadly competitive game of war. The sound of rubber on pine boards or the spike on the cinder track are things of a lighter era. For these is substituted the whirl of a propeller, the boom of a gun.

Directly and indirectly defense and the war effort took its toll in both sports. We were apprehensive when several basketball veterans abruptly ended their athletic participation to secure positions in defense industries. At the outset of the season Bill Barrett, Ray Rudden and Joe Sydlansky left to earn their wings in the air corps. Chick Galligan after proving his worth in several games left for an essential police position. Despite these losses St. Francis waged its most successful campaign in the forty-five year history of basketball at the Butler Street court. In his first year as varsity coach Joe Brennan emerged with the greatest record of any Terrier quintet. Track was immeasurably affected when Troy and Kazlowski joined the services. They were two crack distance runners forming the team nucleus.

Despite the war St. Francis enjoyed its richest year as a sports power. The fame of its court team is one for future quintets to strive to emulate.