

# The 1941-42 Season

Basketball marked its Golden Jubilee this year. St. Francis College, a small institution lost in the maze of Brooklyn, essayed its bid for court fame for the 45th season. They achieved that goal. WON 17 — LOST 2. Impressive, isn't it. More spectacular when you glance at the won, lost column of the nations top notchers. This Golden year the Terrier lodged in that top notch. This is not the monotonous accolades passed on each year by a college publication despite its team success. Testimony of such is apparent by the public records of the nations newspapers. "Little St. Francis," we are proud of that title, it adds to our accomplishments. We were seriously considered for a bid to the Writer's Tournament. We missed an invitation to this national meet by the merest margin. In past years we heard the pre-season raves of those who did know enough about court wars to predict the ensuing season. "St. Francis will rank with the best this year."

## Highlights

Retrospections of a brilliant season amidst the somberness of a total war. They were primarily joyous, sometimes tragic, again the utmost in perfection. The most revolutionary in St. Francis history. They saw the void left by the absence of Roger Cooney, past mentor more than amply filled by his former team mate Joe Brennan. We felt the absence of several stalwarts answering the call to arms.

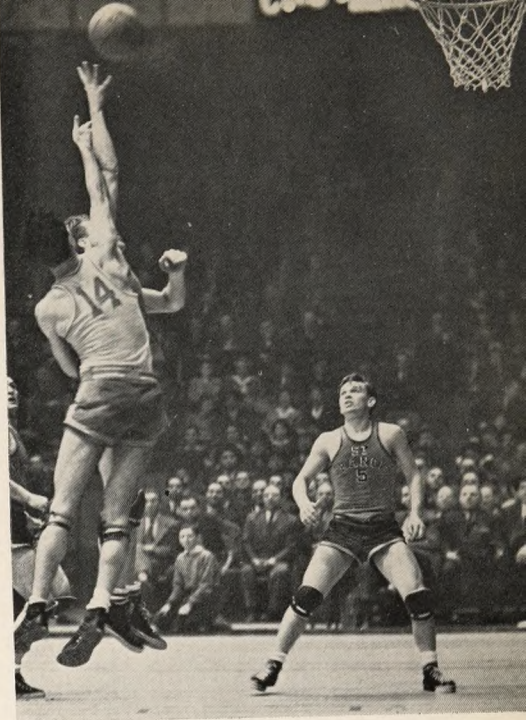
Spotlighted was the presence of Tony Braginetz. We consider herculean consistency a highlight. The superb performance of our boys against La Salle at the Garden in which Jim Agoglia scored 20 points. The retention of the Palmer trophy by the defeat of St. John's and Brag's repeat performance in retaining the C.Y.O. individual award. The tragic death of trainer Frank Trent and the generous voluntary substitution of Harold Nathanson. The ten game winning streak snapped by N.Y.U. They all add up to national recognition for little St. Francis, among the court powers of the nation.





The student body especially, a loyal group, spirited and eager to cheer, but like any such group, vindictive in their censure of a team apparently not giving their best. So it was in the past. So at the start of another campaign. The season 1941-2 witnessed no such optimism. Little St. Francis was a small college — getting smaller. She fell miserably below standard in five Garden appearances the preceding year: supposedly her peak, yet plainly a disappointing season. If we did not secure results from this campaign we were slowly sinking in the mire of obscurity. We didn't expect too much from the material at hand: one consistent player, Braginetz, but several extremely "spotty" others; the return of only six varsity men from the fifteen of the previous year; the loss to defense and the armed services of several others; men whom we were counting on, veterans of past campaigns.

The resignation of Coach Rody Cooney came to add a parting knell to the dirge we were anticipating. Jimmy Powers, News feature columnist, picked us to finish in eighth place out of a possible nine teams in the metropolitan area. Who was to fall heir to this lot? Joe Brennan, bank executive, former teammate of Cooney took the job, merely a spare time job. After conditioning the boys for several weeks the following advance notice appeared in the press releases. "We have 18 games on the schedule and we ought to win 18. There isn't a team to be met that looks too tough for us." These words from a new mentor; just the raving of a coach; they all say the same thing. But apparently Joe meant it. As the season unravelled itself, we kept chalking them in the win column. Some brilliant and sparkling, others slow, methodic. Before the first game on December 3rd, mentor Brennan called his starting five: Tony Braginetz, Jim Agoglia, Jerry Bussell, Art Lochhead and Johnny Korniewicz. A five that blazed glory across the headlines, one which held together for the entire



*"Pick that melon for me, Jerry boy!"*

*Board of Strategy: Bob Griebe, Joe Brennan, Brother Richard, and Al Popolato analyzing the past performances of the boys.*

