

basketball

The team which was to represent St. Francis in the hoop game for the '47-'48 campaign was a well rounded, experienced squad. Joe Brennan had eight returning lettermen, plus players from the brilliant Jayvee of the previous year as a nucleus of the squad. After much deliberation and endless hours of scrimmages Coach Brennan finally made his selections.

Prior to the opening whistle of the season, in a secret meeting, the team unanimously elected Emil Mele as Captain. No one deserved it better

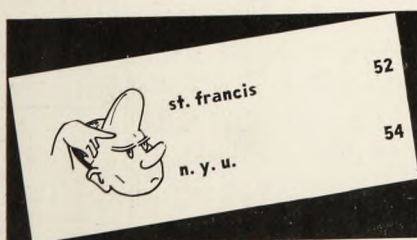
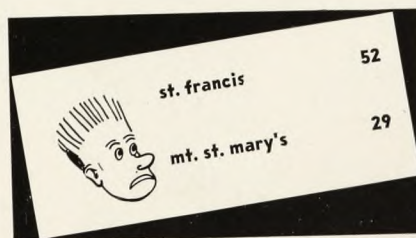
than Mele, for during the previous year he had led the Terriers in scoring with 251 points and had received honorable mention on the All-Metropolitan selections. But before we go on to enumerate the fortunes and misfortunes of the basketball team it is imperative that we talk of our "new home court." With the tremendous enlargement in the student body, Bill McGuire, Athletic Director, saw the need for a court with a larger seating capacity. His labors bore fruit and the Terriers opened their home campaign on December 17th against Mount St. Mary's in the 14th Regiment Armory. Of course the initial expense was terrific, for new glass back-boards had to be bought, electric clock and scoreboard had to be installed, and bleachers had to be erected; but Bill McGuire said the response was well worth the trouble and expense. To us in school, the Armory is home but to Brooklyn fans it may well become the "Brooklyn Garden" of the future.

First game for the Red and Blue saw them downing a strong Alumni team in a traditional contest. The Varsity had to go all out to win 78-





60. Outstanding for the losers was Steve Ferraro, captain of last year's team. With this one victory under their belts the Franciscans traveled across the river three days later to meet N.Y.U. in the Garden. It was one of the most exciting games the Eighth Avenue arena had witnessed during the



past couple of years. Tommy O'Connor tied it up, with a beautiful jump-shot, at 50-50 with 45 seconds to go. The Violets, led by big Dolph Schayes, finally emerged victorious 54-52, leaving 18,000 spectators in a state of complete exhaustion.

Returning to the Garden two weeks after con-