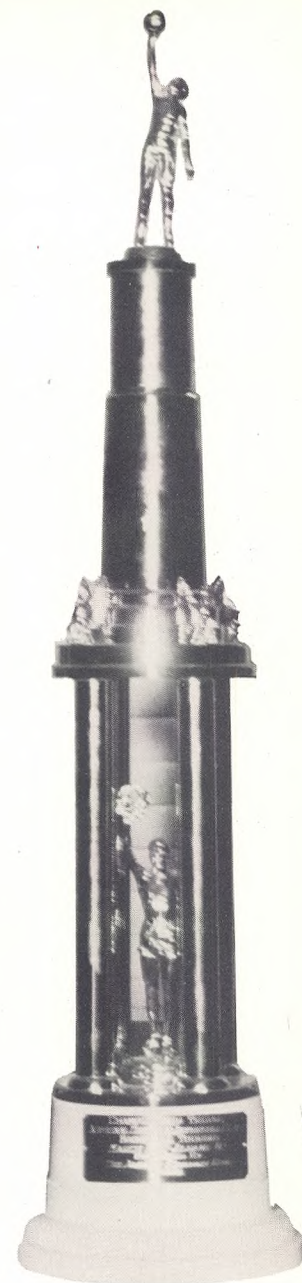




The National Catholic Invitation Tournament



Once again St. Francis College received a bid to the National Catholic Invitation Tournament and once again the Terriers were the surprise team of the tournament. Danny Lynch's crew was determined not to settle for second place as it had done in previous years.

In the first game of the tourney, St. Francis downed the Gulf State champion, Spring Hill of Mobile, 74-65. Stokes and Reardon with 22 and 19 points led the Terrier charge. Loras of Iowa, with a season's record of 26-3, was the next victim of the Lynchmen. In a tiger-like battle all the way, St. Francis eked out a 65-63 win in the quarter-finals. Le Moyne, the Fordham of Syracuse, after defeating Siena, was favored to win the title. They proved quite vulnerable to the fast breaking Brooklynites, and went down to a startling 84-66 upset. Co-captain Roy Reardon, scoring 18 points, became the first St. Francis cager to hit the 1000 mark. In the finals, St. Francis met Seattle University, Pacific Northwest champions, who had an almost unbelievable season's record of 32-4. Ray Rudzinski again paced the team with 26 points as the Terriers blasted Seattle 93-79. John O'Brien who tallied 45 points in the semi-finals was held to a mere 14 markers by the Franciscans.

Roy Reardon, who was selected the number one man on the all-star team, scored 64 tallies during the tournament. Ray Rudzinski and Vern Stokes were runners-up with 63 and 62. Jim Luisi was placed on the all-star team and Jack Walsh was voted the best defensive player. Danny Lynch was acclaimed by all, the outstanding coach of the annual affair.

