

Basketball

When the basketball season opened the Tech. Team was in sound condition for competition in that sport. Our coach, Mr. Volz, had molded into shape a most formidable team. Much time had been devoted to coaching the players in their pass work and criss-cross dribbling, as well as short, careful shooting through unobstructed space. The latter playing was made possible when our forwards eluded their persistent guards in such a manner that basket shooting was accomplished without much difficulty.

The game of basketball is scientific in its nature, but our experience this year, as in former years, has proved that victories are attained only because the players are practical in their movements. During the entire tournament, our boys, although equipped with a knowledge of the theory of the game, were able to sink baskets only after they had played a practical game. It is of no effect for a player to recall whether the science of the game requires that he shoot only when the floor is clear, or whether he should pass the ball to a player who is near him even though he is directly in front of the basket, but not close enough to make it. Such deliberation might break up a strong offensive drive. The theory of the game is applicable only when the opponents are so slow that their inactivity permits of such playing. Not frequently have we opposed a team that has proved so inactive. Most of our games necessitated the utilization of stunts unfamiliar to the theorist.

As a fitting example of a practical player one needed only to observe Bready's skillful spurts throughout the tournament. Although fully cognizant of the requirements of the game, Ira is more practical than scientific in most all of his movements. The Institute has had the pleasure of his athletic connections during its association with the Little Five Colleges. When a critical point was reached in a game, and it seemed that our opponents were forging toward our basket with Father Fortune by their side, Bready proved his mettle to the extent that his long, sure shots never failed to turn the tide. We are indeed regretful to know that we must lose Ira upon his graduation from the Institute. We only trust that next year will produce as good a man and as astute a player as he was.

We find among the other players on the team, a fellow, "Bill" Erickson, who is a veteran in the game, and whose past association with the Institute in basketball has brought his name to the attention of the general student body. When "Bill" offered his services to the team, our coach quickly recognized in him the qualities usually sought for in a basketball player. The coach immediately took "Bill" under his feathers for the season's training; his mode of shooting was developed to a point where Erickson could sink a basket without scraping the net. His tall, player-like stature marked him as a splendid center for the team. "Bill's" method of careful jumping gave our team the tip-off in almost every instance. It may be well stated that Erickson's low record of personal fouls is indicative of clean sportsmanship.

In every basketball tournament, it is essential that the team have on its roll a man who will unflinchingly play the game through. Our "Spence" Havlick lacked no quality in measuring up to the standard required of such a player. His aggressive and persistent playing gained for him the enthusiastic support of his fellow students. When basketball reopens next year, observant persons in the athletic circles of the Institute say that Havlick will outclass any guard against whom he may need to compete for a berth on the Tech. Team. We are confident that "Spence" will continue next year to work with the same high zealously that marked his playing this year.