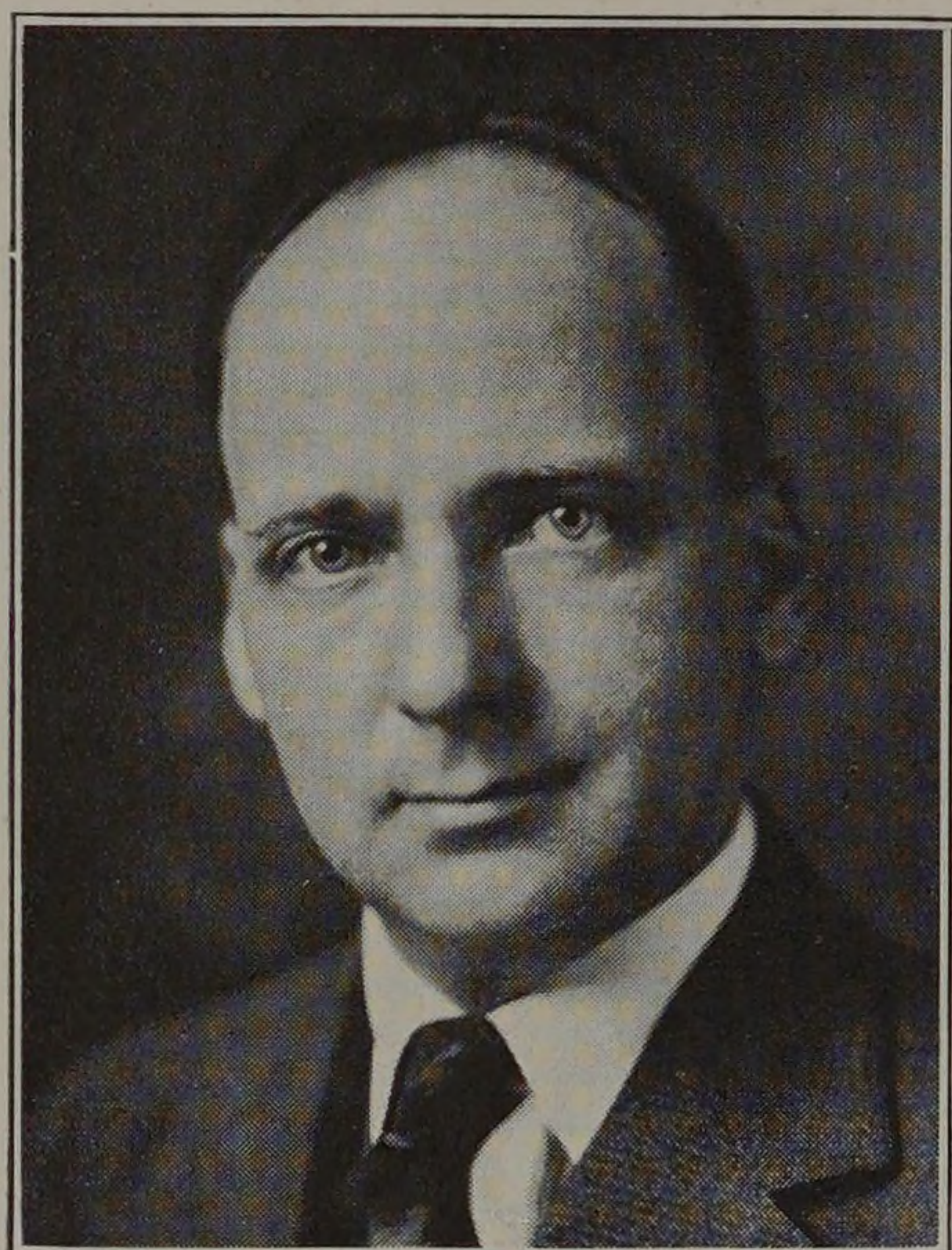


ATHLETICS

Tennis

By Coach CHARLES A. TIBBALS



Coach Tibbals

There has always been interest and some activity in tennis at Armour. The records show that there was active agitation toward the acquisition of courts on the campus twenty years ago. In spite of the lack of facilities at or near the Institute, nearly every year for the last fifteen has seen at least an attempted tournament managed by enthusiasts, self-appointed and without leadership, and supported by those most interested among the student body and the faculty. Prizes were furnished, in some cases from entry fees and in others by the Institute, and annual Institute championships were determined. Matches were played whenever and wherever arrangements between opponents could be made and frequently spring tournaments were finished in the following spring. Entry lists of a dozen students and faculty were considered excellent. Defaults were numerous

on account of the obvious difficulties, but in spite of everything, the sport was kept alive.

When the awakening and reorganization of athletics and other student activities at Armour came about in 1921, tennis naturally became an important factor in the program. A coach from the ranks of the faculty was appointed to supply the necessary leadership and upon the recommendation of the Athletic Director, the Coach, and the Armour Tech Athletic Association, the Board of Athletic Control voted to build and equip four first class courts on the Institute property as soon as the ground could be worked in the spring of 1923.

A meeting of tennis enthusiasts was called. J. F. Lucas, '23, was appointed acting manager of the tennis team, and a call for entries for a tournament to determine the Institute championship was issued. Forty-eight entered the tournament. Matches, arranged by the opponents as to time and place, were played off on scheduled time. Semi-finals and finals were played on the courts of the Winnetka Tennis Club on a raw November day under the most adverse conditions of courts and weather, but with a keen spirit and a high order of sportsmanship. The semi-finalists were Schumacher, '23; Springer, '25; Fuentes, '25; and White, '25. Schumacher and Fuentes won their matches and met in the finals, Schumacher winning in straight sets after a splendid fight. Champion and runner-up received handsome cups given by the Board of Athletic Control. The tournament was particularly gratifying in that the entry list was large, all matches were played off on schedule time, weather permitting, and there were practically no defaulted matches, all in spite of the real difficulties presented by the lack of courts at the Institute.