



A 1920's team pose in front of the Ad Building.

Early Days Of Basketball

by Fr. Paul Milde O.S.B.

Up to 1920 there were basketball groups at Belmont Abbey College which played "league" games on outdoor courts. These were in the area occupied today by O'Connell Hall parking lots; one in front of the old grandstand, the other on the junior tennis court. The Gym, now the "Little Theatre," was equipped with gymnastic apparatus. In 1920, Frater Gregory (Eichenlaub) and Mr. Paul (Milde) gave gymnastic instruction to the students after the dinner hour. Sometime in the Fall, permission was given to remove the apparatus. During Christmas Holidays, Frater Aloysius (Wachter) put up baskets at either end and lined the court. Brother Francis (Zwiesler) put up guards on the arc-lights. Indoor basketball was in business.



Next season, additional baskets without backboards were set up on the six poles that supported the floors above the Gym. Here the members of the Varsity squad, after the evening meal, coached the class-league teams in shooting and ball handling. The season ran 16 Varsity games, with a .688 average; 7 games for the B-Team, with .571.



The squad moved in. Father Paul coached, assisted by Father Aloysius (Wachter). Area high schools, yet without indoor facilities, were eager to play indoors. A series of games ensued; all but one, at Belmont High School, were played here. Father Robert (Brennan) was Director of Athletics for the school.



Kurtz Leads Intramural Program

by Allen Morris.



Frank Kurtz

Frank Kurtz, a senior at Belmont Abbey College, has a demanding schedule as student intramural director. A native of Frenchtown, N.J., Frank came to the Abbey with a firm background in sports. His father, Frank J. Kurtz, Sr., played semi-pro baseball and was the greatest influence on Frank with respect to sports.

Frank's work, which consumes about six hours each day, is to coordinate various extra-curricular athletic activities for the students. The program is designed to involve as many students as possible, and about 300 are currently participating in the various sports.

Football, volley ball, baseball and softball are the more popular ones. In addition to these, ping pong, handball and badminton receive a high degree of participation. A

Turkey Day Race is held November 16, and the lucky winner is awarded a genuine turkey (raw or cooked.) At the end of the school year a track meet is also held. Swimming meets and golf complete the well-rounded program.

Kurtz said that intramural sports play an important role in student life, and while competition is intense, it is friendly and adds to an overall happy atmosphere in campus life. There are presently nine units in the program, each represented by a unit manager. Each social fraternity comprises a unit and each class makes up a unit, with the exception of the freshman class which has two units.

Kurtz advised that one of the new features this year is to get the faculty more involved in the program. He expressed the hope this might open new lines of communications between the students and faculty.

Frank also said that the department is now in the process of redesigning the program to include the anticipated enrollment of female students next year. He believes the new coed recreational program will help solve some of the problems that might come about on the first-time coed residential campus.

Frank, along with his two student assistants, John Monaco and Gene Burnette, is working to make their college one having greater student pride and participation.

Another season got by. In 1923-24, Father Leo (Frierson) became Director of Athletics. He organized a football team, took it on several trips, and laid out a rocky field for the games. Then Father Joseph became Director of Basketball, coached it, and in 20 games ran up an average of .400, with .533 in 15

games for the B-Team. In succeeding years, Coach Marvin Ritch, a Georgetown College letterman, was succeeded by Bobby Denault, Mr. Cantwell, and Fred Shipp, and finally in 1929, by Howard Wheeler, who held the position of Athletic Director of the College for almost 40 years.



Abbey Crusaders of 1972, put it together.