Varsity Basketball
In Full Swing

Our fall sports program got underway last December second when our Institute Cagers met the State Teachers College freshmen in a preliminary game. The game was bitterly fought all the way with the State freshmen finally coming out at the winning end of a twenty-six to twenty-four score. Joy turned into sorrow for our team in the final seconds of the game when the tying basket was sunk from a scramble under the basket. The timekeeper ruled the basket void. It was sunk two seconds after the final gun.

Determined to get into the winner’s circle, Coach Goliber, and his men moved on to Rochester on December eleventh to face the Rochester School of Commerce in the first game of the Western New York Division of the National Junior College Athletic Association. Peter Elia started the tide rolling by sinking a foul shot in the first minute of the game. Our cagers went on rolling up the score and the first half ended with the score twenty-one to nine. Mr. Goliber, using team substitution started the second half with his third team. Commerce capitalized on this and succeeded in closing the gap in the score. But the Institutors, spurred by the fine ball handling and shooting of Bill Dowling and Ben Radi went on to win the game forty-two to thirty-six.

Gunning for a second straight victory in competition conference, the team again traveled to Rochester on December 15; this time to face the Rochester Business Institute. Although B. T. I. Dowling netted fifteen points and John Szymanski twelve, we lost a sixty-eight to fifty-two decision. Commerce capitalized on this and succeeded in closing the gap in the score. But the Institutors, spurred by the fine ball handling and shooting of Bill Dowling and Ben Radi went on to win the game forty-two to thirty-six.

The New Year found the Institutors eager to get back in winning form. They faced the University of Buffalo Freshmen on January 10 on our home court. U. of B. poured cold water on their eagerness. They won fifty to thirty. Yet, in a sense it was a moral victory for the team. They played exceptionally well while being handicapped by the absence of five players. Bill Brigham, our starting center, left school; Ben Radi and Sam Scian are playing for other teams; Louis Macro is employed nights and Kapunzinski suffered an injured knee. A welcome addition is John Zedrick, a recent transfer from the University of Buffalo. The team goes on to play seven more games and end the season on February Twenty-sixth against the Utica Technical Institute on our home court.

The following is a list of the members of the team and their individual scoring record up to and including the January 10 game.

William Dowling........41
Peter Elia....................5
Arthur Engl.................10
Joseph Ezzo................3
James Fell...................
Norman Kicior..............6
Rocco Pricola...............4
Paul Runyan.................3
John Szymanski.........21
John Wiseman..............6
John Zedrick..............4

For school, for sports, for sportsmanship, for success. This is the motto of a student-athlete whose only goals are: true sportsmanship through school education; and success through the coordination of both.

The Buffalo Technical Institute, realizing this ambition of the athlete, like the other colleges in this country, organized the Athletic Council for the purpose of acting as the “father” of sports which are today popularized by the students attending this institute. Today, the sports, which have been thus far successful in attracting the athletes, constitute one of the major extracurricular activities. This Institute can be proud not only because it sends out competitors into the cooperative-job field but also because its competitors appear in the sport contests with other schools. It may be said, that the dream of yesterday is today’s reality, and tomorrow will bring new horizons to the athlete attending the B. T. I.

Yet, it was only a year ago that plans which would organize sport activities within this school were made. On January 15, 1948, the constitution drawn up by the Athletic Council was adopted and ratified, and soon, after a survey conducted by the students, intra-mural basketball was the first sport open for the athlete’s participation. A gym, at Public School No. 64 was rented, and there the games took place. All sections participating in this program, produced by the students choice powerful representatives of this sport, but after a series of elimination contests the most powerful team, Metalurgical 2, took the men’s Championship Basketball cup, and in the women’s league, the Chemists of Industrial Chemistry I through a very successful season achieved the engraving of their name on the women’s trophy.

Soon, after the completion of the intra-mural basketball season, which lasted until May, the athletes turned toward baseball and golf. While the basketball season was still going strong, plans for a baseball team and a golf varsity were in the making. Letters were sent out to the Western

New York colleges, and in April the competition was in the news. The teams which represented the B. T. I. on the courts, the golf courses and baseball diamonds, proved their worth and gave the other teams stiff competition losing only several of the games played.

In the meantime, an intramural tennis team was organized and competitions were so successful that soon after a tennis varsity was chosen and sent out to compete with other colleges. This varsity was also quite successful in its endeavors, losing only two games by close scores.

The school competitions were going on, and meanwhile, plans for the following scholastic year were made. On June 9, Mr. Whitmore, and Mr. Fitzgibbons, the faculty athletic advisors, attended a convention at which intra-scholastic competition was discussed. At this convention, plans discussed brought into light a league in the Western Conference. Four sports—basketball, baseball, tennis and golf—were to be the linking points between this Institute and the School of Commerce in Rochester, the Rochester Business Institute, the Geneseo Junior College, and Sampson. Besides the regular scheduled Conference games, the Institute to compete with the local colleges—Canisius, Niagara, and University of Buffalo. Football and boxing varsities were discussed.