Beaver Barks

by Jack Friedman ’55

Despite optimistic pre-season publicity and enthusiastic spectator sup-
port, the basketball season has been disappointing. Although the team has
improved in more than one disheartening home performance, the crowds have
remained large and loyal.

The nucleus of last year’s team is back, Senior Weber, Hess and Brit
were, together with Stan Shilensky, the backbone of the successful ’54-’55
upset and Don Verger, center and high scorer, who was almost adequately
replacing the missing Shilensky. Still, by the way, is back at the Institute and
has wisely decided not to play the second half of this season, saving his re-
sources for more important matters. Dee Vergun, center and high scorer, has
more than adequately filled the bench and in several instances, came through. Larry Hallee, now a high-
scorer, has broken into the starting unit. This usually valuable tactic has proved futile. Only Platzman, early
in the season was able to fulfill the desired role. Phil is now more or less a
regular and the role of spot player is vacant.

The success of last year’s team was to a great measure due to the men
who came off the bench and provided the desired spark. The difference be-
tween a successful basketball team and an unsuccessful one is usually in its
leadership. Who is the “hot” man can be found and the team kindled into a better function-
ing. There is no question that the seniors came through. Not only Platzman, but Hallee, who did yeoman work in the spot player role. Byrnes, Christie and Dix are
now regulars. Weber, Hess and Brit, Shilensky and Captain Al Shults ’54 were augmented by a fine reserve crew. Jack Symes came off the bench and in several instances, came through. Larry Halle, now a high-
scorer, Ken Christie ’54, Dan Dix ’54 and Jack Paterno were others who did yeoman work in the spot player role. Symes, Christie and Dix are gone, Halle in a regular and Paterno was on-scoop until the old-season road trip and is slowly regaining form.

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