



BASKETBALL

Jim Namba

In the beginning, Block 229's men's basketball team was no match against teams from Block 211, Block 213, and Block 214. The following year was a different story. The men from Block 229, headed by 'Swissy' Hironaka, built a flood lighted basketball court that was second to none in all three Poston camps. Since daytime temperatures were in the 90 and 100 degrees, games were played in the cool of the evenings and night. A group of men from the Block went to the Colorado River, cut down six tall cottonwood trees, and hauled them back to serve as stanchions for the flood lights. When the poles were in place, Richard Oki not only mysteriously produced the flood lights and necessary accessories, but climbed the poles and wired in the lighting system that worked to perfection.

A public address system was also furnished by the Block so the players could warm up to the music of marching songs. With this kind of support from the Block 229 people, the men's basketball team (pictured), won the Poston II Men's Basketball Championship in 1943. The women's basketball team also won the Poston II Women's Basketball Championship that same year. This is one example of the imagination, ingenuity, and initiative of the Internees to make life a bit more endurable during those trying days.



229 men's Basketball Team. 1943 League Champ.



The 211 Penguins. The top-notch team of 1942. the Penguins were an 'awsome' team and played like real pros.



229 Team 1944-45. Note the fancy uniforms.