

A BIOGRAPHY OF  
FORREST C. "PHOG" ALLEN

by

Donald W. Elston  
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## INTRODUCTION

It was Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game of basketball who referred to one of his colleagues at the University of Kansas, Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen, as the "Father of Basketball Coaching."

The Allen Field House at the University stands as a fitting tribute to a man who had all of the attributes to be recognized as one of the nation's most successful coaches. His enthusiasm, imagination, and disregard for the conventional resulted in the inspirational leadership, the memory of which is cherished by those who were privileged to have played on a team coached by Allen.

The dedication of the Allen Field House at the University of Kansas (March, 1955) was the first instance in which a building on the University campus was named for a living person.

During the commencement exercises in June, 1966, the Centennial year of the University of Kansas, Forrest C. Allen was one of five persons honored by the University and its Alumni Association by receiving the "Citation for Distinguished Service" which reads:

A member of this University community for more than sixty years, first as a student with the class of 1909 and since 1956 as Professor Emeritus of Physical Education,

Forrest Allen coached his way to success. For thirty-nine years he served the University of Kansas as Director of Athletics, briefly as head football coach, but chiefly as head coach of basketball, a game he dominated so thoroughly by the force of his ideas and his personality that he became known as "Mr. Basketball." He brought international fame to himself and to the University of Kansas. For his brilliance as a coach, his crusades to improve the game and to preserve its integrity, and for the characteristic color and candor of his speech, he years ago became a legend.

His books on basketball became texts for coaches around the world. At his insistence basketball was made a part of the Olympic games in 1936, and in 1952 he served as coach of the United States team, composed in large part of the University of Kansas NCAA champions, which won the gold medal at Helsinki. Founder and first president of the National Basketball Coaches Association, he twice was named "Coach of the Year" and once "Basketball Man of the Year." He has been elected to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, the Kansas Centennial Hall of Fame, and the Naismith Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. The field house at this University was named in his honor in March, 1955.

Some of the great athletes and coaches in this country received their training from Forrest Allen, but, proud as he was of them and the twenty-four championships his K.U. teams won, he reserved his greatest pride for the many young who came under his influence and went on from sports to careers and honors in science, law, medicine, journalism, business and teaching.

To Forrest Clare Allen, affectionately known to all as "Phog", the man who found a game in a gymnasium and made it an international sport, the University of Kansas and its Alumni Association are privileged to present their highest award, the Citation for Distinguished Service.

Dr. Allen has long been a favorite with sports writers. His comments, certainly never lacking in "color", can still be relied upon as true expressions of his personal opinions regardless of the views of others. He has always expressed himself forcefully and in great detail.

While establishing an enviable record as a coach, Dr. Allen found time to occupy various positions of leadership in his community.

Information for this thesis was collected from various sources, mainly from newspaper and magazine articles and personal interviews.

## CHAPTER I

Forrest Clare Allen was born November 17, 1885 at Jamesport, Missouri. His parents were William T. and Mary Elexene Allen. Forrest was one of six sons in the family. When he was two, the family moved to Independence, Missouri. The Allen home in Independence was only two blocks from the home of former President of the United States, Harry S. Truman. As children Forrest, Harry and the future Mrs. Truman, Bess Wallace, were close friends. (1)

Forrest's interests as a child centered mainly around sports and athletics. He and his brothers played football, baseball and later basketball. Although his father had a great deal of athletic ability, he did not participate in sports because it was necessary for him to work full time to support his large family. Mr. Allen believed that his son Forrest was wasting his time with athletics. He did not believe that athletics would ever aid Forrest in "holding a job." Jokingly he expressed concern as to whether his son "would ever amount to anything." (2)

At the age of seventeen, Forrest began playing with a team named for a then prominent lodge, the Kansas City Modern Woodmen of America. Sport critics at the time called young Allen a "flash." (3) Since there were no eligibility rules, many of the early players played on more than one team.

Forrest also managed and played on the Independence High School basketball team. (4)

At the age of eighteen, Forrest Allen joined the Kansas City Athletic Club for the purpose of playing basketball. He was apparently a very talented young player because he was named manager of the team. During the 1903 and 1904 seasons the Kansas City Athletic Club, Blue Diamonds, managed by Allen, were undefeated. (5)

The first promotional success of Dr. Allen's long career occurred in 1904 while he was manager of the Kansas City Blue Diamonds. The Buffalo German team, of Buffalo, New York, was generally accepted as the "world champion basketball team." As manager of the Kansas City Athletic Club team, Allen challenged the Buffalo team to a three-game series to be played in Kansas City. The management of the Buffalo team would not consider playing the games until the Kansas City Athletic Club agreed to pay the expenses of the trip to Kansas City. It became young Allen's responsibility to raise the six hundred dollars that the Buffalo team requested. The financial arrangements were soon completed and subsequently the three-game series was scheduled and played in Kansas City. Forrest Allen was considered to be the outstanding player of the series as the Kansas City Blue Diamonds defeated the Buffalo team in two of the three games. (6)

Dr. Allen recalls the following account of the final game with

the Buffalo team:

We played in old Convention Hall. We chopped a hole in the concrete floor, put a six by six there, wrapped some binding around it and that was the goal. The Germans were tricky. As we would run, they would kick the back of our heels to trip us. They would also run along beside us and would hold our thumb. We were the greatest "floor men" that you ever saw. We were on the floor most of the time.

For the first two games, each team had a referee. Six men on a side so to speak. We didn't like theirs and they didn't like ours. For the final game, we got Dr. Naismith of K.U. and U. S. G. Plank of Haskell and we beat them 45 to 14. We beat the tar out of them. We gave them six hundred dollars and we made five thousand dollars. We had five thousand people in old Convention Hall. (7)

In the fall of 1905, Dr. Allen enrolled at the University of Kansas. Since he already had gained a reputation in athletics, the University newspaper, The Kansan, reported the following account of his first appearance on the basketball court:

Forrest Allen made his first appearance at basketball in the gymnasium Thursday evening.\* The ceiling was too low for him to show how well he could throw long goals, but he gave the men some good ideas of how to get into the game. Allen will be able to play in the games in this year's schedule, and will make a strong addition to the team. He is one of the world's champions, and is said to be the best goal thrower in the world. (8)

Dr. Allen gave the following account of the reasons that he decided to attend the University of Kansas:

My brother (Pete) was in school here. He played tackle on the football team, pitched on the baseball team and played forward on the basketball team. I came out here to see those games and naturally became interested in the University of Kansas. I noticed that Lawrence had wide,

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\*There was no gymnasium as such. The games were played in the basement of "Old" Snow Hall or in the city skating rink.

paved streets. Columbia (Missouri) had muddy streets. That is not castigating Missouri. They hadn't lifted Missouri out of the mud then. The store fronts were different. Lawrence had all glass fronts and the merchants were very progressive in appearance, while Columbia had many of their store fronts boarded up. I could see the difference, and I wanted to go to a place that was progressive. (9)

Dr. Allen enrolled at the University at the age of nineteen, with the intention of becoming a lawyer. He remained at the University two years. In both of those years, he earned varsity letters in two sports, basketball and baseball.\* He played freshman football also, but a back injury suffered during a practice session, forced him to give up football. (10)

While playing basketball at the University of Kansas, Dr. Allen established a new single game scoring record. He scored twenty-six points in a game played against Emporia State Normal School, Emporia, Kansas. The scoring record of 1906 stood for several years. (11)

It was during the years of 1905 and 1906 when Dr. Allen acquired his nickname "Phog." As a young man, he umpired many baseball games. At that time, both balls and strikes were called out loudly by the umpire. Dr. Allen called "BALL" in a deep, foghorn-type voice. He soon became known as "Foghorn" and that eventually was shortened to "Fog". Later a sports writer, Ward Coble, changed the spelling to "Phog", explaining

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\*Freshmen were eligible to compete on varsity athletic teams in 1905.



that "Fog" was too plain and that he wanted to "doll it up a bit" for his copy. (12) Dr. Allen laughed at the mentioning of his nickname. He recalled that it has been spelled in many ways but the most humorous, to Dr. Allen, have been "Frog", and from those who "didn't care" for the Kansas coach, "Fraud". (13)

Forrest Allen married Bess Milton in 1908. At that time she was teaching high school English at Blue Springs, Missouri. Dr. Allen recalls that Mrs. Allen's father was a farmer and was not greatly impressed with young Allen's ambition to become an athletic coach. "He called me an acrobat", recalled Dr. Allen. (14)

Dr. Allen is very proud to credit much of his success as an author to Mrs. Allen. She did the editing for the three books written by him. The first of the three, MY BASKETBALL BIBLE, was published in 1924. The second, BETTER BASKETBALL, was published in 1937, and the final book, COACH "PHOG" ALLEN'S SPORT STORIES, was published in 1947. (15)

There were six children in the Forrest Allen family. The three boys and three girls included Mary Elizabeth, the oldest; Forrest C. Jr.; Milton (Mitt); Jane; Robert (Bobbie); and Eleanor. Forrest Jr. passed away in 1925 at the age of fourteen. (16) Milton and Robert each were graduated from the University of Kansas after playing on conference championship basketball teams coached by their father. Milton played on the

undefeated team of 1936. (17) Robert was a member of the 1940 Kansas team which won the Big Six Conference Championship and later advanced to the finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament. (18)

During the period from 1909 through 1912, Forrest Allen was enrolled in the Kansas City School of Osteopathy. He decided to study osteopathy because he believed that it would aid him in his coaching work, particularly in treating athletic injuries. He had received a painful back injury while playing freshmen football at the University of Kansas. After he visited several medical doctors without relief, he was finally treated by an osteopath. The treatment was successful, and the injury "never bothered him again". Allen believed that if he could treat his players, in the same manner, they would be less likely to be incapacitated due to relatively minor injuries. He later discovered that by "working on his players" and by treating their injuries, he could become much more familiar with their mental attitudes. (19)

Dr. Allen started his coaching career in 1907 while a student at the University of Kansas when Dr. James Naismith, the originator of the game of basketball, was the Director of Physical Education at the University. Dr. Naismith received a letter from the officials at Baker University in Baldwin, Kansas, expressing their desire to employ Allen as basketball coach.

Dr. Naismith considered the request to be quite humorous and attempted to keep Dr. Allen from accepting the position by making the following statement: "You can't coach the game of basketball, you just play it." (20)

It was quite a decision for the young man who had been elected captain of the basketball team at the University of Kansas but he subsequently resigned that position and surrendered his remaining two years of eligibility to accept the coaching position at Baker. (21) Young Allen needed financial help and though he did not receive a fixed salary at Baker, he received sufficient compensation to pay for his room and board. In addition, he was impressed with the challenge of a new life and accepted the coaching position as a means of determining whether he could meet that challenge. (22)

Allen's enthusiasm for basketball was evidenced by the fact that while coaching basketball at Baker, he voluntarily coached the teams at Haskell Indian Institute and at the University of Kansas. Allen lived in Kansas City and worked at the Kansas City Athletic Club. He took the daily trip from Kansas City to Baldwin, Kansas by train, in order to practice with the Baker University basketball team in the afternoons. Dr. Allen was unable to make regular trips to the University of Kansas and whenever possible traveled to Lawrence to practice with the Haskell team at 5:30 P.M. and at times met with the University of Kansas team after dinner. Upon completing the evening

practices at the University, Allen returned to Kansas City. (23)

The University newspaper, The Kansan, reported the following reports relative to the preparations for the Kansas-Nebraska game of 1909:

The strength of the Nebraska team is unknown, but with the coaching of "Phog" Allen for a couple of days this week it is thought that the Jayhawkers will be able to hold their own with the Cornhuskers. (24)

Two days later, the following statement was made in

The Kansan:

The Jayhawkers have been handicapped by not having a regular coach to teach them the new points of the game. "Phog" Allen has been here a few times but his trips have been too scattered to give the team the best results of his coaching. He was up from Kansas City last night showing the boys some new features of the game which will be sprung on the Nebraskans Friday night. The new department of the game which will interest the spectators most is throwing the ball from one end of the court to the other, similar to the method used in making the forward pass in football. Tommy Johnson can throw the ball on a dead level a distance of thirty yards. He can control the ball too. (25)

In January, 1909, Dr. Allen was hired by the University of Kansas to coach the basketball team for the remainder of the season. He agreed to devote two nights each week to his new task. To accept this position, it was necessary for him to resign his position with the Kansas City Athletic Club. (26)

After graduating from the Kansas City School of Osteopathy, Dr. Allen became head coach at Warrensburg State Normal College in Warrensburg, Missouri. (Now Central Missouri State College.) He assumed the duties of head coach in September of

1912 and remained at Warrensburg for seven years, during which time he coached the football, basketball, baseball and track teams. In his first year at Warrensburg, all of his teams were undefeated. His basketball teams started a series of seven consecutive conference basketball championships. His teams at Warrensburg won four football championships and four baseball championships. (27) This was considered to be an outstanding accomplishment because Warrensburg was a two year college and most competition was against larger schools. (28) Dr. Allen made the following comment when he discussed his stay at Warrensburg:

We were the hated school of Missouri. Many of the University of Missouri alumni wanted to make sure that "Phog" Allen would leave Warrensburg and be replaced by a Missouri graduate. (29)

In September, 1919, Dr. Allen returned to the University of Kansas as Director of Athletics and Freshman Basketball Coach. (30) He held the position as Director of Athletics until 1937 when the State Board of Regents abolished the position.

Dr. Allen assumed the duties of Basketball Coach in January, 1920, when Karl Schlademan resigned the position to devote his full time to coaching the track team. (31) Except for a brief period in 1947 when Dr. Allen was granted a leave-of-absence because of illness, he held the position as basketball coach until he retired in 1956. (32)

In May, 1920, George "Potsy" Clark was hired as football coach at the University of Kansas. He was to assume this responsibility in the fall (1920) but athletic authorities at Michigan State University would not release him from his coaching duties. Dr. Allen was subsequently appointed Football Coach for the 1920 season. (33) While he held the position for only one year, during that period he became well known as the result of two games in which the University of Kansas team participated.

The first of the two games was Dr. Allen's "dream game". The night prior to the game with Ames College, Dr. Allen dreamed about a new starting line up and a certain play which would score against the Ames team. (Now Iowa State University.) Arthur "Dutch" Lonborg was the quarterback of the Kansas team. Dr. Allen explained his dream to Lonborg and gave him his instructions. If Kansas should win the toss of the coin, Lonborg should choose to receive the kickoff and return it to the right side of the field. On the first play from scrimmage, Lonborg was then to call the "dream" play which was to send the right halfback, Harley Little, around the left end. The Kansas team and Lonborg followed their instructions closely. On the first scrimmage play of the game, Harley Little scored on a thrilling long run around left end. That touchdown and the following extra point were the only points scored by either team during the game and "Phog's" dream came true as Kansas defeated the Ames team 7 to 0. (34)

The second well known game of Dr. Allen's football coaching days at Kansas was one played against the University of Nebraska team. This game has since become known as "the game that built a stadium." Nebraska had a strong team and it was expected that the Kansas team would be defeated easily by the Cornhuskers. At halftime, Kansas was behind 20 to 0. During the intermission, Dr. Allen reassured his players and implored them not to give up. He encouraged and inspired the Kansas players. The "scrappy" and small Kansas team scored three touchdowns during the second half while holding the powerful Nebraska team scoreless. The game ended with final score Kansas, 20 and Nebraska, 20. The spirited performance of the Kansas team provoked a great deal of enthusiasm among the students and fans of the University. During the following week, students donated a large sum of money to the fund for the newly proposed football stadium at the University. (35) (For further accounts of the "dream" game and the game that built a stadium, see Coach "Phog" Allen's Sport Stories, p. 23 and p. 44 or the University Daily Kansan, October 25, 1920.)

The football coaching "methods", which Dr. Allen employed, were considered to be unique. Mr. Arthur Lonborg made the following comments concerning the daily practice sessions:

He had some very unique ideas and some very unique formations. He did things very unorthodox. One of the first things he did was to have his backs run around and through a great long mass of barrells for elusiveness. This was one of our daily routines. I don't see that done any more;

they go through rubber tires or something like that, but this was around many barrels. He always said, "It's like a dog, be elusive like a dog. Be able to change directions."

He had unorthodox formations. We used what we called the "Y" formation. I was the quarterback and centered the ball. We had one back in back of me and two backs behind the line which was spread out over the field or massed about 10 or 15 yards away from the ball. I would pass the ball sidarm to the backs behind the line or directly through my legs to the back that was in back of me. Of course, being the end man, I was an eligible receiver. One of our pet plays was for me to pass the ball to the man behind me and then I would just turn around and receive a pass from him. Usually the first time that we used this play they did not expect me to be eligible and nobody paid much attention to me. Similarly they didn't shift their lines much the first time as they should, and we passed the ball across 10 yards to the back that was behind our massed line. He could then move straight ahead without much opposition. This is a formation that became fairly popular at Ohio State University when Francis Schmidt was coach there, and everyone talked about the new formation of Francis Schmidt. Of course, this was quite humorous to me because I had played the same formation many years before under Dr. Allen. (36)

Dr. Allen also served the University in the capacity of baseball coach. During the depression years, the financial situation was such that the Athletic Board of the University could not afford to hire a baseball coach. Dr. Allen coached the University baseball team in both 1932 and again in 1941. (37)

Dr. Allen was Director of Physical Education at the University of Kansas from 1924 to 1937. He was appointed to this position when Dr. James Naismith, at his own request, asked to be relieved from his administrative duties to devote full time as professor of Physical Education. (38)



In 1937, the State Board of Regents approved the re-organization of the Physical Education program at the University of Kansas. The Department of Physical Education at that time became a part of the School of Education. Dr. Allen was appointed Chairman of the Department of Physical Education. The Board of Regents at this same time removed Dr. Allen from the position of Athletic Director of the University by dissolving the Athletic Director's position. (39) Dr. Allen remained as chairman of the Department of Physical Education until 1946. At that time, he asked to be relieved of that responsibility, so that he might devote full time to his basketball coaching duties. (40)

Dr. Allen has also been very active in community affairs. He was, upon different occasions, president of the Lawrence Country Club; president of the Civic Action Council; a City councilman from the first ward of Lawrence; Secretary of the Douglas County Selective Service Board; a member of the Executive Board of the Salvation Army; Governor of District 123 Rotary International; Chairman of the Kansas University Red Cross and Polio fund raising campaigns and Chairman of the Douglas County Cancer Drive. (41)

## CHAPTER II

The basketball coaching career which Dr. Allen started at Baker University influenced the lives of hundreds of young men during his forty-nine years of active coaching. The basketball teams coached by Dr. Allen won thirty-one conference championships while compiling a record of seven hundred seventy-one games won and only two hundred thirty-three losses. (42)

During his tenure at the University of Kansas, Allen coached teams won twenty-four conference championships. (43) During the period from 1920 through 1940, the Kansas basketball teams practically dominated the Missouri Valley Conference and the Big Six Conference. (The Big Six was formed in 1929.) Starting with the 1922 season through 1927, the Kansas teams won six consecutive championships. During the six championship seasons, University of Kansas teams established a Missouri Valley Conference record of thirty-four consecutive victories without a defeat. (44)

Consecutive Big Six Conference Championships were won by the Kansas basketball teams in 1931, 1932 and in 1934. (45) The 1936 Kansas team won the conference championships and the Kansas teams of 1937 and 1938 were conference co-champions. The 1940 Kansas basketball team won the championship of the Big Six Conference. (46)

The University of Kansas teams of 1923\*, 1936\*\*, and 1943 and 1946 were undefeated in conference play. The Kansas teams of 1922, 1923 and 1943 were rated by the Helms Foundation as the "number one college basketball team in the United States." The 1952 University of Kansas team won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball championship. The Kansas teams in 1940 and again in 1953 went to the finals of the National tournament but were, in both instances, defeated by Indiana University. (47)

Three of the players coached by Dr. Allen were named "Player of the Year" by the Helms Foundation. Paul Endacott was selected for the honor in 1922. Charles Black was selected in 1923. Clyde Lovellette gained the honor while playing on the National championship team of 1952. Lovellette, that same year, was also selected as the "Most Valuable Player" of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament. In 1953, B. H. Born was also selected as the "Most Valuable Player" of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. (48)

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\*The 1923 Kansas team was the first undefeated Missouri Valley Conference Champion. The University Daily Kansan, March 11, 1923, p. 1.

\*\*The 1936 Kansas team was undefeated in regular season play. The team won 23 consecutive games before losing a post season game to Utah State in the Olympic Regional Play Offs held in Kansas City. The University Daily Kansan, March 29, 1936, p. 1.

While Dr. Allen coached basketball at the University of Kansas, there were sixteen All-American basketball players who had played on Kansas teams. (49) Seven members of the 1952 national championship team were selected to represent the United States as members of the United States Olympic basketball team in the Olympic games at Helsinki, Finland. Dr. Allen was named the assistant coach of the 1952 Olympic team. (50)

February 26, 1951, the University of Kansas basketball team defeated the Colorado University team in Boulder, Colorado. The victory by the Kansas team was the 500th game won by an Allen coached team at the University. Dr. Allen became the second coach whose team had 500 victories at one school. The teams coached by Ed Diddle at Western Kentucky State were the first to win 500 games at one school. (51)

The 700th victory in the coaching career of Dr. Allen was gained at the expense of the Oklahoma A&M\* team coached by Henry Iba. The victory occurred during Allen's forty-second year of coaching and at the University of Kansas in a game played in Hoch Auditorium. (52)

In March, 1967, Dr. Allen was one of thirteen basketball coaches receiving the Honor Award of the United States Basketball Writers Association. The Honor Award was given to the basketball coaches whose teams were credited with 500 or more career victories. (53)

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\*Presently Oklahoma State University

The Helms Foundation named Dr. Allen the top basketball coach in the United States in 1943. (54) In 1949 Dr. Allen was selected as a charter member of the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame. The National Association of Basketball Coaches named Dr. Allen Basketball Coach of the Year in 1950. The Helms Foundation honored him again, in 1952, by naming him Basketball Man of the Year. In 1953, Dr. Allen became a member of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. (55) Dr. Allen was named a member of the Kansas Centennial Hall of Fame and also a member of the Naismith Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. (56)

Several of Dr. Allen's former players have followed the example established by their coach and have made names for themselves as successful basketball coaches at major universities. Arthur Lonborg played both football and basketball for Dr. Allen at the University of Kansas. Mr. Lonborg gives credit for much of his own personal success to his relationship with Dr. Allen. Mr. Lonborg later became Athletic Director at the University of Kansas. (57) Other players who have become known for coaching at universities or colleges include: Adolph Rupp, Kentucky University; Dick Harp, University of Kansas; John Bunn, Stanford University; Forrest "Frosty" Cox (deceased), formerly Colorado University; Ralph Miller, formerly at Wichita State University and presently Iowa University; Andy McDonald, Southwest Missouri State College; Dean Smith, University of North Carolina; and Louis Menze, former coach and director of athletics at Iowa State University. (58) (Menze played for Dr.

Allen at Warrensburg Normal.)

To some, the previous list of honors and recognition gained through athletic participation would insure personal satisfaction and success. Dr. Allen, however, did not believe that athletic success and achievement were the end results of athletic competition. He wanted his players to believe that they were better for having played the game of basketball. (59) The purpose of competition was, to Dr. Allen, to prepare his players for the competitive society that they had to face when their athletic eligibility was completed. In an interview with The University Daily Kansan, Dr. Allen made the following statement: "The students' first aim should be preparation for living and the second in athletics." (60) Dr. Allen has been asked about the greatness of individual players on his teams many times. His famous reply to such inquiries is, "I'll have to wait fifteen or twenty years to determine if an individual is great or not." (61)

Mr. Otto Schnellbacher, presently the agency manager of the American United Life Insurance Company located in Topeka, Kansas, played for Dr. Allen at the University of Kansas on the undefeated conference basketball championship teams of 1943 and 1946. He discussed Dr. Allen's philosophy of athletic competition in the following manner:

While playing under Dr. Allen I felt that he tried to instill into all his players the responsibility that they owed society something. In fact, he usually made a speech to all his incoming players about what sports did for you.

"Sports introduce you to society under a favorable light and this carries certain responsibilities because people look up to you and you were expected to pay your share."

The things which I have learned from him I'm sure have been very important to my life and will always be very important if I can instill in my children the same competitive drive that he tried to instill in me. He believed that there are things in life of great value. You must stand up for those things. You don't dodge them or ignore them. You should speak out. I recall that he made the statement, "You get out on the limb because that is where the fruit is." He believed in this philosophy and I have nothing but the greatest of praise for him. I feel that I am very fortunate that I grew up in his area. (62)

The interest that Dr. Allen had in the personal lives of the Kansas players was revealed in a story described to the writer by Mr. Schnellbacher:

The University was playing Fordham University in Madison Square Garden in New York City. The Fordham team was ahead at the end of the first half. We went to the dressing room expecting one of Dr. Allen's famous half time speeches.

As he began speaking to the team, apparently some minor incident provoked him. Instead of an inspirational pep talk, in a typical, unpredictable fashion he spoke for the remainder of the half time rest period on the subject of personal hygiene.

I was amazed that we could spend the entire half listening to a lecture on personal hygiene when we were losing an important basketball game. The University of Kansas finally won the game, but Dr. Allen's half time speech has had more meaning to me than the victory. (63)

Dr. Robert Allen played for his father on the 1940 University of Kansas basketball team that lost to Indiana University in the finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament. Dr. Allen, presently a successful surgeon in Kansas City, Missouri made the following observations

of his father's philosophy of athletic competition:

His philosophy is well established by the way boys have developed after they have completed college participation. I think that what he tried to do was make the boy feel that he was going to be better for having played. It wasn't merely an end in itself. Winning the ball game alone wasn't the whole thing.

We felt that we were going to win our share if we made enough sacrifice to do so. His idea was to make us better for having played and to further us in business or in a profession after we got out. I think that is still his whole philosophy. It's the same in business. It's the same in any profession. If you're not willing to hurt yourself a little bit, one way or another, make a sacrifice, play harder, learn, drill harder in fundamentals, give of yourself in a team effort beyond the ordinary guy, you won't win. If you do those things you will win whether it is in a basketball game or whether it is in a business or profession. (64)

One of the most noted characteristics of Dr. Allen's basketball teams was the spirit and determination with which the players competed. Dr. Allen could inspire his players to greater performances. He had the ability to instill within them a great desire to win and confidence that they would succeed. His teams did not believe that they were incapable of winning. (65)

To Dr. Allen, team morals and team loyalty had more to do with successful team play than any other thing. He believed that dissipation had absolutely no place "on an athletic team." (66)

His half time conduct and "pep talks" were so stimulating that Milton Allen once exclaimed, "One of dad's half time speeches would make you ready to get in the ring with Joe Louis or anyone else." (67)



Throughout his career, Dr. Allen used a unique and effective method to inspire his players to greater performances. Prior to the game to be played, or during the half time rest period, Dr. Allen would assemble the players in pairs. The paired players stood toe to toe and using the open hand, slapped each other across the side of the face. (68) Dr. Allen believed that by doing this, his players would become more keyed up and better prepared to meet the challenge of the opponents. Milton Allen made the following comment when recalling the face-slapping sessions:

It certainly increased the circulation in the face and you went out on the playing floor a little red eyed. It does enhance the circulation and it keys you to a point. (69)

Dr. Allen's players developed a faithful respect and loyalty for their coach. He expected a lot from his players and got a lot out of them. (70) Dr. Allen was a very strict disciplinarian. He believed that it was necessary for his players to be loyal to the University of Kansas and for all of them to adhere to the established rules and regulations.

Arthur "Dutch" Lonborg related a story that exemplifies how strongly Dr. Allen expected his players to follow instructions. It was during the 1919-1920 basketball season that the University of Kansas made an important three-game road trip into the states of Missouri and Iowa. One of the games was to be played in Des Moines, Iowa with Drake University as the opposing team..

On the ... that the Drake game was to be played, two of the starting members of the Kansas team decided that they would alter the customary road trip procedures that had been established by Dr. Allen. In place of taking their afternoon rest and eating the pre-game meal with the remainder of the squad, as Dr. Allen had instructed, the two players attended a movie. During the pre-game meal, Dr. Allen announced that the two absent players would not start the important game with Drake. Neither of the two players was allowed to play in the game until other members of the Kansas team had been eliminated from the game for excessive fouling. By handling the situation as he did, Dr. Allen made his point that he expected all his players to be loyal to their teammates and to do as he instructed. (71)

An incident similar to the one which occurred in the 1919-1920 Drake game happened later in Dr. Allen's career. The 1936 Kansas team was to play an important Big Six Conference basketball game with the University of Nebraska team. The outcome of the game would decide the conference championship. In preparing for the game, which was to be played at Lincoln, Dr. Allen installed several new offensive formations which he thought would be successful against the Nebraska team. The "quarterback" or playmaker of the Kansas team was Dr. Allen's son, Milton. During the final practice session, prior to the

game, the younger Allen expressed his lack of confidence in his father's new formations. Milton made several suggestions as to how the formations should be carried out instead of the manner in which Dr. Allen had instructed. Dr. Allen explained why the patterns were to be carried out in the manner he desired. Milton was still not convinced that his father was correct and during the practice session decided to install his own ideas into the new formation. His effort, thought to be well meaning, failed. He had failed to follow orders and Dr. Allen removed his son from the starting team. While Milton did not start the Nebraska game he did enter the contest after several minutes of playing time had elapsed. Allen would not permit Milton to enter the game until it was assured that the boy had enough true interest in the team's success to subdue his own opinions and to conform to the techniques and the style of play which was employed by the Kansas team. (72)

In attempting to analyze the importance of Dr. Allen's strong disciplinary ideas and the effects that those ideas had on his players, William Lienhard, who while at the University of Kansas, was a member of the 1952 NCAA championship team and also one of the seven Kansas players selected to represent the United States in the 1952 Olympic games made the following statement:

All successful coaches fall somewhat in this category. They have to be a hard task master. You have to have the respect of the ball players, and Dr. Allen had this. You

may not be well liked, but you still must have the respect of your players. It is important that you have a coach that is strong willed. A coach like this tends to give his ball club some back bone when it is needed. That is the kind of coach that Dr. Allen was. When the going gets tough and you need that something extra that is needed to win, a "hard-nosed" coach can subconsciously give his ball club a lift that you wouldn't get from an "easy going" coach.

With Doc, if we were winning, we lived pretty well while on road trips. We ate well - but if we started losing, we started eating hamburgers and skipping meals and eating oranges and apples. At the time we thought this was pretty poor but I think he was getting his point across to us subconsciously, that if you put out and you win, to the victors go the spoils and if you don't, you are going to get less. (73)

Dr. Allen had the ability to instill his basketball teams and the individual players on his teams with his own competitive spirit. In a personal interview, Mr. Henry Iba, Athletic Director and the Basketball Coach at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, was asked about the success that Dr. Allen had achieved as a coach and he answered with the following statement: (When interviewed, Mr. Iba had been coaching for a period of thirty-seven years.)

Dr. Allen was a keen competitor himself. I would even say a fierce competitor and at the very beginning he would instill that competitive spirit into his ball clubs. His ball clubs always hustled real hard and were always real tough competitors. I have never been in a ball game where Dr. Allen's Kansas ball club wasn't really going after you. (74)

Otto Schnellbacher commented on the competitive spirit that Dr. Allen instilled in him, while playing at the University of Kansas, in the following manner:

Dr. Allen developed such a competitive spirit in his teams that I disliked anything which had to do with Kansas State, Oklahoma, or Missouri. There was no doubt that they were

the enemy. I feel very fortunate that I had the opportunity to play for Dr. Allen. I say play for Dr. Allen rather than play for the University of Kansas because I was playing for Dr. Allen of the University of Kansas. Playing for the University became a later thing. In the beginning, it was all for Dr. Allen. (75)

As a means of inspiring his players, Dr. Allen impressed upon them that players who had gone before had established a reputation of loyalty to the University of Kansas and to the State of Kansas. (76) He wanted his players to believe that Kansas was the finest university in the United States and that his players "had to be as good as they possibly could" to be a part of the basketball program at the University of Kansas. (77) Milton Allen explained that the tradition and reputation of previous Kansas teams were impressed upon himself and other players and "we developed a nagging, internal fear of losing. If we lost we had failed not only Dad (Dr. Allen) and ourselves, but our predecessors as well." (78)

Even though Dr. Allen believed that team spirit and morals were more important than any other aspect of athletic competition, the basketball teams which he coached exhibited other outstanding characteristics. Each of the persons who was interviewed attributed much of Dr. Allen's success to his dedication to teaching and insisting upon practicing the fundamental skills of the game of basketball.

Throughout his career, Dr. Allen stressed the importance of developing proper fundamentals. While coaching at Warrensburg Normal, early in his career, the greatest part of

each practice session was devoted to the development of fundamental skills. (79) He firmly believed that if his players could develop the proper fundamentals of passing, shooting, dribbling and ball handling that his teams would make fewer mistakes than opposing teams and to make fewer mistakes than the opponents practically amounted to a certain victory. He was consequently a severe taskmaster. (80) Mr. Henry Iba made the following comment when he was asked about the success of Dr. Allen's basketball teams:

One of the most important things that Dr. Allen could do was teach fundamentals. I believe that he was one of the finest fundamental coaches of basketball, that we have had, in the United States. All through his years, he had boys, that on nights they didn't play well, they still looked good playing. Very few times did you see an Allen coached ball club that would throw the ball away very much. They just wouldn't commit many errors. They were well coached ball clubs. They understood what they were doing. His ball clubs looked good even if they were losing. They knew where they were going, and they knew what the game was all about. You never saw one of his ball clubs "stink up the place." They just didn't do it. Occassionally, his players played over their heads to win, but he had those boys schooled so well and conditioned so well that there weren't many teams that they had to play over their heads to beat.

Dr. Allen, as a defensive coach, would vary his defenses. In the beginning he did like a zone defense. Later on, he went to a man to man. Today, they talk about the defensive traps in basketball as being something new. Dr. Allen used half court traps back ten, twelve or fifteen years before he retired. In fact, he used a real good trap out of a two-three zone defense.

Another thing that he did, that was real fine, was to use the trap out of a man to man set after you had crossed the center line about three strides off the center line on

the offensive end of the court. Dr. Allen was terrific with the zone defense. I think that one reason Dr. Allen used the zone defense was to have congestion under the basket to keep you away from the second and third shot or the second and third tap. Dr. Allen's teams always impressed me on the defensive boards. He looks at the game of basketball this way; one shot is all the offense is entitled to get and if they get that one, it shouldn't be a good shot and certainly you shouldn't let them have the second shot. That is the reason he was always strong on the defensive boards. (81)

The writer asked Mr. Henry Iba if he had to prepare his players any differently to meet Dr. Allen's teams as compared to other teams. Mr. Iba answered in the following manner:

Well, yes. You never knew exactly what kind of defense he was going to put up against you, so you had to get ready for about three different defenses they would use against you. Another thing that you would have to look out for, when you were on defense playing against one of his teams and they were on offense, that tremendous quickness of the weak side man offensively coming to the board to tip in the ball. I think that he probably made that an outstanding play through this section during the time that he was coaching.

He could do a great job teaching men to play the post position and he had some great post men over the years. He always added that little something to them after they shot, getting to the board. Today, most of the big men playing the post, when they release the shot from a jumping position, they seldom come on to the board. They generally shoot the shot from a jump, hit the floor and then stand and look. That is something that you never found in a player coached by Dr. Allen. Once his players were in rebounding range, whether he was a shooter or the man supposed to follow, you could rest assured he would be on the backboard after the second shot. He is one of the greatest contributors to the game of basketball. (82)

Dr. Allen's basketball teams were also well drilled in precision teamwork. The strategy that Dr. Allen employed was not complicated but depended upon the proper execution of team

and individual fundamentals. There was no place in Dr. Allen's system, for any "free-lance maneuvers." He believed in a system of set play, in which each player followed a specific procedure. (83) The team effort, which was exhibited by Dr. Allen's teams, was so apparent that Jack Gardner, (formerly the coach of basketball at Kansas State University and presently the basketball coach at the University of Utah) in his book, CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL, made the following statement:

I noticed that the perennial Big Six champions had a stereotyped offense - a three out, two in attack which worked like a clock. In fact, I often thought the good doctor wound them up in the dressing room and set the alarm for eight o'clock. (84)

The respect that Dr. Allen gained throughout his career and the apparent facts that he contributed material to the molding of the careers of many successful men is testimony to the influence that he had on his players and also on the game of basketball. He attempted to instill a competitive spirit and idea into his players that would help them in later life. He wanted his players to develop the attitude that whenever undertaking a task, they should do so with the greatest amount of effort and they should not, in any manner, deviate from contributing as much effort as possible to their obligations. The standards that Dr. Allen expected from his players could not be questioned because of the examples that he had established. In 1932, Mr. C. E. McBride of The Kansas City Star wrote an editorial entitled "A Tribute to Phog". The editorial explains



what Dr. Allen expected of his players, and it reads as follows:

Kansas has captured another basketball championship in a season that saw record crowds turning out in several Big Six field houses and gymnasiums.

The championship was captured in a hard driving finish, with two other excellent teams, fighting for the title right down to the final game.

Kansas had to go through fire to win. First credit goes to the players of the K.U. squad who had the courage and the fight to buck the breakers. Next, credit goes to Forrest C. Allen, hustling coach of the Jayhawkers.

Gazing back along the storm-swept trail of the Big Six basketball race and with some knowledge of the administrative duties falling on the shoulders of the Kansas coach in the work of his directorship this correspondent marvels that he found any time at all to give to his basketball team. Or any sequence of thought to the coaching business.

No other director in the Big Six does any coaching to speak of. Certainly not any coaching of a major sport. At Kansas Forrest C. Allen does double duty directing the department of intercollegiate athletics and physical education and coaching basketball.

Throughout the weeks of the basketball season the athletic board of Kansas has been face to face with the problem of cutting expenses. The budget had to come down many thousands of dollars, coaches had to go, salaries of those remaining had to be trimmed.

There were conferences, meetings. . .much work to be done. . .and all the while the basketball team to be coached, with games rolling around each week.

Under the conditions the Kansas director might have been pardoned had he let the basketball take care of itself. He had plenty to do in handling vexing affairs of administration. . .but he bowed the back and hopped to it. He carried both loads, and apparently did a good job. Certainly his basketball team came through in a final brilliant charge.

In the winning of the basketball championship it seems to me that for once at least the coach is entitled to rank close to his players when tribute is rendered. Forrest C. Allen turned in an excellent job under trying conditions. (85)

The esteem that many University of Kansas basketball players developed for Dr. Allen has probably been best expressed by one of Dr. Allen's former players, John Bunn. While coaching at Stanford University, Mr. Bunn wrote a book entitled BASKETBALL METHODS. John Bunn gave Dr. Allen an autographed copy of his book that contained the following message:

With best wishes to Forrest C. Allen, my coach, who gave me my basic foundation in sports; who showed me by example that success comes only through a willingness to work and to give ones-self enthusiastically, devotedly, and unreservedly to his task; who gave me my start in my profession; who guided, counseled and encouraged me until I was able to go under my own power. I am deeply indebted to and have the greatest respect for him for all these good things. (86)

The final game of the 1951 season for the University of Kansas basketball team was played at Stillwater, Oklahoma against the Oklahoma A&M\* team. At a special ceremony prior to the game, Dr. Allen was presented a plaque by the Director of Athletics and Coach of Basketball, Henry Iba which contains the following inscription:

To Dr. F. C. Allen of Kansas. A great coach, a fighting rival, a true sportsman. In appreciation for his devoted work in basketball and his towering stature in his profession of coach. Since 1908, no man has contributed as much to the game.

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\*Presently Oklahoma State University

Presented in 1951 in Dr. Allen's 41st year of coaching  
by his admirers and friends of Oklahoma A&M College. (87)

### CHAPTER III

Newspaper writers were anxious to interview Dr. Allen because they never knew what to expect from the Kansas coach. (88) He was always "good for a story." The Kansas University Sports Scrapbook, 1954-1955 includes the following statement taken from the Topeka Daily Capital, about Dr. Allen's verbal outbursts:

He is famous for his occasional outbursts, sometimes against opposing schools, more often aimed at the academic makers of the rules under which his teams must play. But no one has ever accused of Coach Phog Allen of insincerity, nor has a breath of scandal ever been whispered about him personally. (89)

The Kansas coach made frequent, verbal attacks upon various subjects that ranged from criticism of the rules makers for the game of basketball, to a continuous, personal feud with several of the high ranking officials of the Amateur Athletic Union. In discussing his verbal attacks upon individuals and organizations, Dr. Allen made the following statement:

First you have to tell them what you are going to tell them. Then you tell them. Next you tell them what you told them--and then you have them told--and don't take any guff from any of them. (90)

The dual role that Dr. Allen held as Basketball Coach and Athletic Director, at the University of Kansas, was an aggravating source of displeasure for several University students

and alumni organizations. There were some individuals who believed Allen was using the position of Athletic Director to promote the success of the University basketball program. They believed also that he was responsible for the lack of success of other University sports programs, mainly football.

The first hint of dissatisfaction with Allen as Athletic Director at the University occurred after the 1925 football season was completed. The Kansas football team of 1925 won only two games while losing five and tying one. (91) In December, 1925, The University Daily Kansan reported that George "Potsy" Clark and Karl Schlademan, the football coaches at the University of Kansas, had resigned their respective positions. The Kansan reported Mr. Schlademan's statement as follows:

Coach Schlademan stated this morning that he was leaving the University because of the position in which it would place the new head football coach when it came time to select a new assistant coach. He said that football coaching was his line but that he wanted to leave the way clear on the situation. The strained conditions existing in the athletic department had nothing to do with his resignation, Mr. Schlademan stated. (92)

The "strained conditions" were not defined by the newspaper report but Dr. Allen stated that he had been accused by some of the alumni of the University "of not only telling the football coaches how to run the football program, but also telling them which plays and what type of strategy to use." (93)

The struggle which developed over the football program at the University of Kansas continued throughout the remainder of Dr. Allen's career as Athletic Director. The verbal attacks upon Allen during the period were frequent. In the University Daily Kansan, November 24, 1931, appeared a letter to the editor of the University newspaper. The letter, written by an anonymous person, described the student and alumni attacks upon the Kansas Athletic Director as follows:

I do not believe the student body enjoys reading about football bickering anymore than I hate to write about it. But it is time to call attention to the cold fact that Kansas University has more wolves per square inch of campus than has any other school the writer is acquainted with. It is a disgraceful situation and certainly now is the time to get rid of the wolves and start being honest with ourselves for a change and refrain from joining every hue and cry that is raised in deformation of the name and reputation of our University. (94)

Upon the resignation of football coaches Clark and Schlademan, the University of Kansas appointed two new football coaches. Franklin Cappon was hired as the head coach and Harold Steele was named as his assistant. Both men had been highly recommended by Fielding Yost, the football coach at the University of Michigan. (95)

The University of Kansas football team of 1926, under the two new coaches, had a losing season also. The 1926 football season was called by The Daily Kansan, "the worst season Kansas has experienced in many years." (96)

To improve the football program at the University, Dr. Allen and the football coaches wrote letters to former University of Kansas football players. This was done for two reasons. First, it was believed that the alumni should be kept up to date with all of the athletics at the University. Secondly, it would be an ideal way to discover prospective athletes who could attend the University of Kansas. (97)

In still another attempt to improve the football record of the University, the Athletic Department, at the request of the football coaches, adopted a policy that students could not seek student political offices while members of a University athletic squad. It was believed that athletes "running" against their teammates, for student offices, had, in some instances, caused dissension among the members of the football squad. (98)

The 1927 football season commenced with the alumni of the University expecting a better showing by the Kansas team but this did not prove to be the case. The alumni and students of the University were once again very upset. The "wolves" were "howling" at Dr. Allen. The University Daily Kansan reprinted the following letter which Allen received, during the 1927 football season, from two members of the University of Kansas alumni concerned with the lack of school spirit and the lack of a winning football team:

Although the Alumni of the University of Kansas have always most loyally supported their alma mater educationally, financially and athletically, the spirit of loyalty and devotion to K.U., as evidenced at the recent football games is surely at a very low ebb. We are wondering what has happened at K.U.

The Alumni of the University of Kansas are seeking the cause, and we are asking you in all fairness, as the Director of Athletics, what is the matter with K.U.? Many rumors are heard and many reasons advanced for the failure or breakdown in school spirit, as evidenced on McCook Field. Is there any merit in the existing tendency to blame you for this condition? Does fraternity strife exist to such an extent in football activities to blight the teams loyalty to old K.U.? The claim is made that our football failures are due to meddling and interference with the team and coaches. Is the spirit-making game of the University, that is football, being sacrificed for the indoor game of basketball? Good material seems always available for the latter sport. Why can't we secure football players of comparable skill and ability?

Do not be offended by these questions. We thought perhaps you could do some investigating which might reveal facts, so that the condition may be corrected before it is too late. Without attempting to disgrace the existing condition or conditions responsible, we know the symptoms indicate something is wrong, and you as the athletic director, promotor and athletic economist of the University are directly chargeable with correcting the same.

We believe that the University of Kansas is entitled to more wholesome football results than it has attained. Understand, please, neither K.U.'s team nor any other team can expect to win all the games, and the spirit of criticism which is broadcast is not due primarily to the fact of losing football games, but rather to the lack of spirit which is so manifest from the side lines. We recognize the University is first of all and primarily an institution of learning, but we also appreciate that there is nothing like a successful football team to put the desired spirit in the school.

It is our humble opinion, and you will find that we are voicing the sentiments of a large number of the alumni and student body that our magnificent stadium--the gift of the



alumni and student body to the University is a monumental economic extravagance and not in keeping with the spirit of the men to whom the stadium is dedicated, if failures for any of the noted blight the school spirit.

Yours, in the spirit of desiring to cooperate with you and the school authorities generally, and for the glory of old K.U.

E. M. Boddington  
O. Q. Claflin, Jr.

In an answer to the letter, Dr. Allen explained that he was working with the coaching staff, the Athletic Board, and everyone possible who could help Kansas have a winning football team. He reminded the alumni that he also was concerned with lack of winning and if he knew what could be done to establish a winning team, he would immediately take steps in that direction. He also expressed the feeling that fraternity strife had nothing to do with the success of the football team. The coaches, Dr. Allen said, "Had complete charge of the team and its training." He emphasized that as much or more emphasis was placed upon encouraging football players to attend the University of Kansas than was the case with basketball players. Allen also noted that several students played on both teams. (100)

At the end of the 1927 football season, Coach Franklin Cappon, and his three assistants, Harold Steele, John Sabo and Guy Lookabaugh resigned from their positions at the University of Kansas. Their formal resignations implied that "they were not able to get along with Dr. Allen." Coach Cappon said that,

"he was never refused equipment or aid by Dr. Allen but he had not supported the football program in spirit." The University Daily Kansan commenting on the mass resignation of the football coaching staff reported that the difficulties were not between Dr. Allen and the football coaches but between business men and University Alumni in the City of Lawrence who were antagonistic toward Dr. Allen. (101)

The excitement caused by the resignation of the four football coaches had several after effects, not only at the University, but in the City of Lawrence and in alumni groups. The University Daily Kansan reported that merchants of Lawrence were organizing into two factions, one group favoring the resigned coaches and the other favoring Dr. Allen. Various alumni groups held meetings and demanded that certain steps be taken to "improve the athletic situation at Kansas." (102)

One of the alumni groups met in Lawrence at the Hotel Eldridge. John E. Carlson, a graduate of the university School of Law and a football player at the University in 1909, acted as spokesman for the alumni group. The purpose of the meeting was to do whatever possible to help the University Administration and to investigate the details of the problems in the Athletic Department. (103) The alumni committee issued a report to the University of Kansas requesting that Dr. Allen resign from his duties as Basketball Coach and Athletic Director. (104)

The Athletic Board of the University made the following statement in reply to the request of the alumni committee:

We see no reason at this time why the Director of Athletics should not coach basketball. . . . We believe that the director has been eager for success in football. In material provision for football at K.U. he has certainly demonstrated in a most emphatic way his concern for the game. The completion of the new stadium carried forward under the leadership of Doctor Allen is predicated on reasonable success of K.U. football teams. (105)

The football "wolves" were temporarily silenced.

Allen recommended that W. H. (Bill) Hargiss of Emporia Teachers College at Emporia, Kansas be employed as football coach at the University. The Athletic Board unanimously approved the recommendation. (106) The criticism of the University of Kansas football teams subsided for a short period of time. In 1930 Kansas won the Big Six Conference football championship, but in 1931 the Kansas team did not play up to the level of the previous year. Having won only two games and losing three, Kansas was defeated by Oklahoma A&M (now Oklahoma State University.) The Kansas team still had three games remaining to be played when the editor of the University Daily Kansan wrote an editorial about the inefficient and dissension-filled Kansas football team. (107)

The following season, 1932, the University of Kansas football team won the opening game of the season, defeating Denver University by a narrow margin. (108) The following week Oklahoma University defeated the Kansas team. During a special

meeting of the athletic board, Dr. Allen was given instructions to take whatever steps necessary to improve conditions for the remainder of the season. Dr. Allen removed Bill Hargiss from his duties as head football coach. Adrian Lindsey, the assistant coach, was appointed to take over the football coaching duties. (109)

By 1936, the criticism of the University of Kansas football team and of Dr. Allen's work as Athletic Director had not improved. With the completion of football season, Dr. Allen made one of his famous "verbal outbursts." He wrote a letter to the editorial staff of the University Daily Kansan, in response to severe criticism the newspaper staff had directed at the football coaching staff and at the supervision by the Athletic Director. The letter written by Allen read as follows:

The football season is now over and the University Daily Kansan editorial staff of the past fall can do no more harm to the Kansas Varsity Football team with their unfair and insane criticism. To this editorial staff must go the major credit for the team's early debacle.

The Kansan Board cannot bury their mistakes. Their ghosts haunt them.

Their early open printed criticism was leveled against what they termed incompetent football coaching.

They now shift their untenable position and declare that the fault is in the system of director and supervision of athletics.

The football coaches have had every possible aid and cooperation from the Director of Athletics.

We are now starting our basketball season and we invite our bathtub-radio Galahads, with the flaming pen of plus undeniable school spirit, to hop onto us with both feet. We will answer them with a corking team--answer them with deeds, not words. (110)

The day after Dr. Allen's letter appeared in the University Daily Kansan, there were letters to the editor written by ten separate students responding to the statement made by Dr. Allen. One of the letters made the following suggestion:

To get Kansas out of the fog, you've got to get the "Phog" out of Kansas. (111)

The University Daily Kansan published several recommendations that the editorial staff believed would improve the football situation at the University. It was recommended that a "School of Athletics," comparable to other schools of the University, be formed. They further suggested that the department be administered by a person comparable to a dean. The Director of Athletics should have no coaching responsibilities. Head coaches should be provided for football and basketball with the football staff being increased in number. (112) In an effort to support the recommendations, the student newspaper also printed a thirty-one item questionnaire asking each student to complete one of the questionnaires. Information gained from the questionnaire would "be used to present the case of the football situation of the University to the proper authorities." (113) The Athletic Board of the University met in a special meeting, to discuss the football situation at the University. Chancellor E. H. Lindley commented on the meeting by saying: "The meeting was held to find a solution to the problem, not a goat." (114)

In January, 1937, the "wolves" had gained a victory. The State Board of Regents removed Dr. Allen from the position of Athletic Director. The Board temporarily dissolved the Athletic Director's office and replaced it with a three-man committee. Dr. Allen was retained as head basketball coach and was appointed as head of the Department of Physical Education. (115)

Those individuals that were so anxious for Dr. Allen to be removed from the athletic directorship at the University were not the only enemies who spoke out against him and his ideas. Dr. Allen and the ranking officials of the Amateur Athletic Union raged a continuous verbal battle until he retired in 1956. The first conflict between the Kansas coach and the officials of the Amateur Athletic Union was apparently related to his efforts to have the game of basketball added to the program of the 1932 Olympic Games. Allen was told by the officials of this Union that, "it would be impossible to add basketball to the Olympic Games because they didn't believe that any countries except the United States played basketball." (116) Dr. Allen received the support of the National Basketball Coaches Association and athletic administrators but it was, in the final analysis, the typical Allen tenacity which resulted in basketball being added to the Olympic program.

The game of basketball was added to the program of the 1936 Olympic Games and Dr. Allen was recommended, by the National

Association of Basketball Coaches, to be the coach of the first United States Olympic basketball team. On February 2, 1936, the Olympic Committee honored Allen by naming him Director of the Olympic Basketball team. (117)\* He later resigned the Olympic Basketball Directorship position by stating that he was, . . . "firmly convinced of the unsportsman-like attitude of the Amateur Athletic Union members of the Olympic basketball committee," and that he was "sickened by the deceitful political bartering of the group." (118) When hearing of Dr. Allen's resignation from the Olympic Directorship post, Avery Brundage of the Amateur Athletic Union, denied that Dr. Allen had been selected as Director of the Olympic Basketball Team. (119) Another verbal battle was then started. Allen expressed the opinion that the Amateur Athletic Union had too much power in choosing Olympic team members. (120) Some of the quotations which were often used by Dr. Allen, in his attacks upon the Amateur Athletic Union, were reported by the late Don Pierce in the Kansas University Athletic Scrapbook as follows:

A better name for the A.A.U. would be quadrennial, transoceanic, hitch-hikers.

The A.A.U. doesn't even own a hurdle.

The A.A.U. is an archaic, decadent, high-handed heterogeneous oligarchy. (121)

In 1952 the University of Kansas team won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship and thereby won

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\*Coach of the Olympic team was Jim Needles of the Universal Pictures team from Hollywood, California, and Assistant Coach was Gene Johnson of the McPherson, Kansas Oilers.

the right to meet the Amateur Athletic Union Champions. It was agreed that the coach of the winning team would become the United States Olympic Coach and the coach of the losing team would be the assistant coach. The Olympic squad would be made up from players of the two teams. The Peoria, Illinois Caterpillar Tractor Company team defeated the Jayhawkers in the play off.

There was some fear that Dr. Allen's frequent attacks upon the Amateur Athletic Union would prevent him from being the assistant coach of the 1952 Olympic basketball team. The University Daily Kansan printed a United Press story which reported that Allen would be removed from the position of Assistant Coach of the Olympic Basketball Team. The article related that Allen would not be accepted, not because of his coaching qualifications but because of his verbal attacks upon everything from the Olympic Committee and the Amateur Athletic Union to officiating. In the article Allen was referred as, "The osteopathic surgeon whose comments are sharper than any scalpel." (122) He did, however, become the Assistant Coach of the Olympic team.

Even very early in his career Dr. Allen was violently opposed to gambling and as early as 1920 made frequent verbal attacks upon gamblers and the possible effects of gambling upon college athletics. He told the students of the University of Kansas that betting on games placed undue pressure upon athletes. (123)



To Dr. Allen, professionalism in amateur athletics was unforgivable. He believed that excessive gambling would lead to professionalism and would ruin amateur sports. In 1922, The University Daily Kansan reported on a radio program by Dr. Allen, on the subject, "Benefits and Evils of Athletics." Following is a portion of the speech and the reference to gambling and the prediction that gambling would, in the future, enter intercollegiate athletics:

The greatest and most menacing evil in athletics is gambling. It has wrecked every activity where it has sunk its fangs. Boxing, wrestling, horse racing, and baseball have had their turn. Football and other intercollegiate sports, except by careful administration on the part of men in charge, will suffer the same fate. (124)

Allen believed that one way to prevent gambling and professionalism from entering amateur athletics was to install "a commissioner of intercollegiate athletics." He believed that the position should be patterned after the Commissioner of Baseball, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis and that a strong commissioner of intercollegiate athletics could keep strict controls of amateur sports. There were three men whom Dr. Allen believed would make excellent choices for such a position. His choices were General Dwight D. Eisenhower, J. Edgar Hoover and General Douglas MacArthur. (125)

Whenever possible, Dr. Allen publicly made verbal attacks upon gambling and racketeering. In 1944, he claimed that some games in the eastern section of the United States

had been "thrown" by players. He predicted that there would be a "betting scandal" in college basketball and made another plea for a "czar of intercollegiate athletics." (126) In general, few people were concerned about the matter.

In February, 1945, Dr. Allen claimed that he had information that there was a major gambling center in Lexington, Kentucky. A saloon in Lexington was described by Allen "as a front" for the gambling center for placing bets on the outcome of college and high school games. In making the charges, Allen gave the name of the saloon and the secret telephone number of the "gambling racket." (127) This accusation led to a clean up of gambling houses in Lexington. The University Daily Kansan reported that the investigation which followed Allen's charges, led to the closing of approximately fifty "bookie" establishments. (128)

At first, statements by the Kansas basketball coach relative to gambling were not taken seriously. For one, Coach Nat Holman of the City College of New York branded Allen's statement as a lot of "hogwash." Subsequent investigation and conviction of a number of persons, left no doubt as to the correction of his accusations. Included among those individuals arrested for "fixing" games and "shaving" points were four members of Coach Holman's City College of New York team. (129)

Dr. Allen believed that if the playing of college basketball games were restricted to campus sites, such incidents as the basketball scandals could be more easily prevented. (130)

Mr. Otto Schnellbacher, a former University of Kansas player, when interviewed, expressed the belief that Allen kept much tighter control of the players on University of Kansas teams when they were on basketball trips to the eastern part of the United States than for trips taken to other parts of the country. There were more team meetings and all guests at meetings were first approved by the Kansas coach. Mr. Schnellbacher believed that these procedures were intended to keep the Kansas players from being exposed to eastern gamblers. (131)

The rules makers of the game of basketball were another group of individuals who frequently suffered from verbal "blasts" made by Dr. Allen.

In 1927, the severe criticism that Dr. Allen directed at the rules makers of basketball probably had more effect on the future of basketball than any other single item. The rules committee had proposed a new rule that would limit each player to one bounce thus eliminating the dribble. Dr. Allen and other coaches did not want such a rule, believing that, if such a rule was instituted, the dribble would, for all practical purposes, be eliminated from the game of basketball. The coaches also opposed the proposed new rule because they had

not had an opportunity to voice their opinion and the rules committee was considering such a rule at the request of only a few coaches. (132) The coaches of the Missouri Valley Conference agreed to hold a meeting, during the Drake Relays, in April, 1927 to discuss the new rule. The University of Kansas was a member of the Missouri Valley Conference at that time. The new rule change protest by the Missouri Valley Conference Coaches was unanimous. Eight of the ten coaches from the Big Ten Conference also voted against the proposed new rule. Five coaches from western universities voted against the one-bounce-rule. (133)

The meeting of the coaches at Drake became very important to the development of the game of basketball. It was no doubt the organized protest by coaches relative to the proposed one-bounce-rule which pointed out the necessity of coaches organizing for the purpose of "protecting the game of basketball." The meeting at Drake University resulted in the formation of the National Association of Basketball Coaches and logically, because of his continued efforts in pointing out the need for such an organization, Dr. Allen was elected its first President. In explaining the reason for the new organization, Allen made the following statement:

Steps are being taken to organize a national basketball coaches association which will correspond to the organization of the football and track coaches. . ."

This group is being formed, not in the spirit of a labor union to insure high salaries for the coaches, but for the protection of the game of basketball. It is a great step in the history of the game. (134)

The influence that Allen had on the organization of the National Association of Basketball Coaches was described by Cliff Wells, the Executive Director of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, in that organization's periodical The Bulletin as follows:

Formation of the National Association of Basketball Coaches of the United States started as an emergency measure for the presentation of a united opinion to combat a specific situation. The crisis arose in the spring of 1927 when the Joint Basketball Rules Committee, then the central governing authority, announced without previous warning that it had adopted a change in the rules which virtually eliminated the dribble.

Subsequently, in an address before the National Education Association, Dr. F. C. Allen, coach of basketball at the University of Kansas, criticized the action because of the high-handed and undemocratic methods employed. Immediately upon publication of his remarks more than 160 of the leading coaches wired or wrote him that the surprise alteration was not only unnecessary but actually was detrimental to the game. Convinced that united action would be more effective than individual protests, Dr. Allen requested his correspondents to gather at the Drake Relays at Des Moines, Iowa in May, 1927.

Approximately fifty university, college and high school coaches answered the call. Dr. Allen was elected chairman. A resolution which appealed to the Rules Committee to reconsider its action was adopted unanimously. Fearing, however, that the rules body might not consider this vote as nationally representative, a committee was appointed to collect opinions from coaches in other sections of the country. Also, another meeting was scheduled to be held at the National Collegiate Track and Field Meet in Chicago a month later. Dr. F. C. Allen was elected President and A. A. Schabinger of Creighton University was elected Secretary. The leaders in the organization and formation of N.A.B.C. at this Chicago meeting were the above coaches and George Edwards of Missouri University, J. Craig Ruby

of Illinois University, Don White of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and H. W. Hargiss of Kansas University.

At the Chicago meeting the resolution calling for reconsideration of the dribble regulation was affirmed. When this nation-wide protest was presented to the Rule Committee it hurriedly decided to postpone the adoption of the change for one year. It is worthy of note the dribble still is in the code.

The first convention was held in 1928 in Chicago, Illinois, at the Windermere Hotel and about 100 coaches attended. Today there are over 1,200 members in N.A.B.C.

Since 1928 annual conventions have been held in which all phases of basketball have been discussed.

Purposes of the association are to develop within the coaches a deeper sense of responsibility in developing, maintaining and conducting the game of basketball; to foster and encourage the playing of the game in accordance with the highest traditions of interscholastic competition; to correlate the game of basketball with the general objectives of education; to maintain a membership group representative of various sections of the United States. (135)

The effect which the National Basketball Coaches Association has had on the rules of basketball was described by Mr. Henry Iba in the following manner:

From the Basketball Coaches Association comes recommendations to the rules body. Dr. Allen, through his type of play, and through his authority as a man in the game of basketball in the early years, almost helped write the rules of basketball. The Basketball Coaches Association does a great job in the United States and also in foreign countries. (136)

In spite of repeated suggestions relative to basketball rules changes, Allen could not convince the rules committee that the game would be improved if the basketball goals were raised from ten to twelve feet. He believed that raising the basket would take away the advantage of the tall man and also would create greater shooting skill in all players. (137)

Dr. Allen proposed the higher basket as early as 1930. (138) He still favored the twelve foot basket in 1950 when several eastern writers said that he no longer was campaigning for the higher basket since Clyde Lovellette (six feet, nine inches tall) and B. H. Born (six feet, eight inches tall) were on the Kansas basketball squad. (139) (Born was a freshman at the time.) Dr. Allen had campaigned for the "twelve foot high basket" for so many years that his speeches proposing the higher goal became quite convincing. The sports editor of the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa made the following statement after listening to Dr. Allen's twelve foot basket theory:

It's hard to get serious about Allen's cage views for the simple reason that no one else will, but when he turns that oratory of his loose, a 12-foot basket looks as essential as rubber in girdles. (140)

The second rule suggestion by Dr. Allen was that the center jump be returned to the game of basketball met with negative response on the part of the rules committee. The center jump was eliminated by the rules body in April, 1937. (141) Dr. Allen fought the elimination of the center jump, and strongly advocated its return for several reasons. First, the elimination of the center jump, placed greater "pressure" on officials. The game was much faster and officials had trouble keeping up with players. Dr. Allen believed that poor officiating was more a fault of the rules makers than of the officials. He believed

that the return of the center jump would slow the game down and would aid the officials. (142)

Secondly, removing the center jump, Dr. Allen believed penalized the scoring team. After scoring, the scoring team suffered a loss of the ball, with no equal opportunity to score again until the opponents relinquished possession of the ball. With the center jump rule the scoring team would not be penalized. It would have an equal chance of gaining the ball and scoring. (143) To equalize the opportunity of gaining possession of the ball, Dr. Allen proposed that each player on the team would participate in the center jump. His idea resembled the system of the rotation of batters in the game of baseball in which each player has a turn at bat. Such a rotation system would utilize the jumping ability of each player and the definite height advantage of extremely tall centers could not be attained. (144)



## CHAPTER IV

Mr. Henry Shenk, Chairman of the Department of Physical Education at the University of Kansas, related the following story concerning Dr. Allen's ability to persuade individuals to believe in his ideas. During the World War II period, due to gasoline rationing and the problems of securing adequate transportation, it became difficult for the University of Kansas basketball team to travel. With the specific purpose of suggesting that two games on the University basketball schedule be cancelled, the Chancellor of the University, Dean W. Malott, called Dr. Allen into his office. Allen defended his ideas so convincingly, that when the meeting was completed, the University basketball schedule was increased by two games rather than decreased as had been planned. As the Kansas coach was preparing to leave the office, Chancellor Malott made the following statement, "Phog, you could sell buggy whips in Detroit." (145)

With the persuasive ability that Allen possessed, and due to his foresight and persistence there are many contributions to the University of Kansas and to the game of basketball that have been established through his efforts. He was one of the moving forces behind the construction of the University of Kansas Memorial Stadium. He was instrumental in the organization

and the development of the Kansas Relays. He pointed out the need for and was instrumental in the organization of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. He was, to a very great extent, responsible for the game of basketball being installed in the program of the Olympic Games.

When Dr. Allen came to the University of Kansas as Athletic Director, in 1919, the University football games were played on McCook Field. The field and athletic facilities were badly in need of repairs. There were no dressing rooms. The wooden bleachers were badly decayed and were considered to be a safety hazard to spectators. (146) Officials of the University of Kansas began planning the construction of a new stadium. Dr. Allen secured permission from the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce to solicit funds for the purpose of carrying on work of stadium organization. Allen and La Force Bailey, who later designed the stadium, canvassed Lawrence to collect an initial six hundred fifty dollars. The money was used to publicize the proposed stadium. (147)

In December, 1919, Dr. Allen attended the National Collegiate Athletic Association meetings in New York. In an attempt to secure ideas on the style of architecture and planning for the Kansas stadium, officials of the University authorized Allen and Secretary C. C. Williams\* to visit the stadium sites

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\*C. C. Williams was a member of the faculty of the School of Engineering and Secretary of the University of Kansas Athletic Board.

of several eastern colleges. (148) After touring the eastern part of the United States, the stadium at Princeton University was selected as the model. The University Daily Kansan reported the selection in the following manner:

The Princeton Stadium seems to be the best style of structure for the proposed million dollar University athletic field and stadium.

The Princeton stadium has a track and the top tiers are placed in such a manner that a much better view of all athletic events can be had. (149)

Dr. Allen then began to concentrate his efforts upon publicizing the proposed stadium. He made many speeches to alumni and community groups about the stadium. (150) Allen's efforts in the campaign for the stadium were recognized by The University Daily Kansan and was reported as follows:

But giving the credit to no one man in particular seems to be slighting some one in a way. While no one man is responsible for the entire affair, there seems to be one who has given much of his valuable time, and not a few years of his life, that Kansas might have such a building. So when the credit is distributed, after it is all done, to Dr. F. C. Allen, Director of Athletics and coach of football and basketball, will go the greatest share. (151)

The construction of the new stadium commenced in 1920. In September, the bleachers were cleared from McCook Field so the new facility could be started. Enthusiasm for the stadium increased during the 1920 football season as a result of several exciting football games which were played that year.

On October 29, 1921, Dr. Allen's earnest and sincere efforts were rewarded. The first football game was played in the new Memorial Stadium and the University of Kansas team defeated its arch rival, Kansas State Agricultural College\*, by the score of 21 to 7. (152)

Dr. Allen, at the suggestion of Dr. John Outland and Karl Schlademan, track coach, was responsible for the origination of the Kansas Relays. Dr. Outland had been a student at both the University of Kansas and at Pennsylvania University. In the 1890's, while Dr. Outland was at Pennsylvania, the Penn Relays were founded. Dr. Outland described the relays to Dr. Allen, and in 1920, the two men began planning the first Kansas Relays, which were held on April 21, 1923. (153)

Karl Schlademan, the track coach at the University of Kansas was the manager of the first Kansas relays. The University Daily Kansan reported the announcement of the relays as follows:

A national relay track team, including such schools as Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, and athletes in the class of Paddock of the University of Southern California will be held on Stadium Field on April 21, this year.

All the teams of the Missouri Valley Conference will be present in force, and Coach Karl Schlademan is negotiating for the entrance of large middle western, southern and eastern schools in the meet. Two hundred fifty invitations have already been sent out to military academies, universities and colleges of standing all over the country. It

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\*Kansas State Agricultural College is now Kansas State University.

is by far the biggest undertaking that the University has endeavored to launch in the nature of intercollegiate athletics. (154)

The successful promotion of the Kansas Relays was very important to Dr. Allen. He recognized the great publicity that the University of Kansas and that the State of Kansas could gain by holding the Relays. The University Daily Kansan reported the following statement made by Dr. Allen:

From the advertising point of view, the relays are among the most important things that have ever occurred in the collegiate history of Kansas. The Kansas Relays are the only big event of nation-wide athletic importance that bears the state's name. (155)

In an effort to create more interest in the Kansas Relays, Dr. Allen incorporated several new activities and special events. Some of the special events included a long distance exhibition race, a rodeo, and starting a special invitational mile race which eventually became known as the Glenn Cunningham Mile.

The exhibition distance race was held in the 1927 Kansas Relays. Dr. Allen secured men and women of the Tarahumaras Indian Tribe of Mexico to run a race from Kansas City to Lawrence, a distance of fifty-one miles. It was decided later that the women of the Indian Tribe would run a shorter distance. The women ran from Topeka, Kansas to Lawrence, a distance of thirty miles. The University Daily Kansan reported that the winning time of the men's race was six hours, forty-nine

minutes, nine seconds. The time for the women's race was not given. (156)

The 1930 edition of the Kansas Relays featured a rodeo and a buffalo barbeque. (157) The Allen idea that has had a continued effect on the Relays was the special invitational mile run that was added to the 1934 Relays program. The special race was to feature the famous track star from the University of Kansas, Glen Cunningham, who had already established an enviable record but was later to hold the world record in the mile run for a period of three years and had to his credit the fastest indoor mile run.

To provide competition for the Kansas track star, the former indoor mile record holder, Gene Venzke of Pennsylvania University was secured. Also invited to participate in the special mile run were several other "top" distance runners in the United States. Glen Dawson, unattached; Harold Manning, unattached; and Ray Sears, Butler University were the remaining entrants. (158) The special invitational mile run became a regular feature of the Relays, and in 1946, the special feature became known as the Glen Cunningham Mile Run. (159)

As mentioned earlier, Dr. Allen led the movement to organize and establish the National Association of Basketball Coaches. The Coaches Association elected Allen as it's first president and he served in that capacity for two years. (160)

The addition of the game of basketball to the Olympic Games came as a result of Dr. Allen's effort. (161) Allen gives much of the credit for the addition of the game of basketball to the Olympics to two other men, Dr. Karl Diem of Germany and Mr. Sahoku Ri of Japan. (162) However, several sports authorities believed that it was mainly Dr. Allen's efforts that added basketball to the Olympic Games. The University Daily Kansan reprinted an article written in The New York Herald Tribune by Everett B. Morris. Mr. Morris reports the recommendation of the Basketball Coaches Association to make Dr. Allen the coach of the first Olympic basketball team and makes the following statement:

The coaches and rules makers' endorsement of Allen came by way of recognition of his almost single-handed and successful efforts to get basketball put on the Olympic program. (163)

Dr. Allen began the movement to have basketball added as soon as he became President of the Basketball Coaches Association. The 1929 meeting of the Basketball Coaches Association met in Chicago and at that time Allen urged the addition of the game to the 1932 Olympic Games that were to be held in Los Angeles, California. (164)

Although basketball was not added to the 1932 Olympic Games, Allen continued his efforts. As Chairman of the Olympic Committee of the Basketball Coaches Association, he began campaigning to have the game of basketball added to the 1936

Olympic Games in Berlin, Germany. Allen received word in November, 1934, that basketball had been added to the list of events to be held in the Eleventh Olympiad in Berlin. The University Daily Kansan reported the announcement in the following manner:

For six years Dr. Allen has been working to have basketball recognized as one of the demonstration games at the Olympics, and narrowly missed obtaining such recognition for the game at the Los Angeles games. Now word comes that the game has been adopted as a contest sport and Dr. Allen anticipates that teams from 18 or 20 different countries will be entered. (165)

Dr. Allen believed that when the game of basketball was added to the Olympic Games and played on an international basis, the originator of basketball should be present. It was his idea to send his close friend and the inventor of basketball, Dr. James Naismith, to the Berlin Olympic Games. Allen suggested that each high school and college in the United States set aside one game of the season to be designated as "Naismith Day" in order to raise funds to send Dr. Naismith to the Olympic Games. The necessary funds were collected and Dr. Naismith attended the Olympic contests. His trip to the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936 was considered, by Dr. Naismith, as the highlight of his career. (166)



## CHAPTER V

In the early years of the game of basketball, there were many happenings which appear to us now as being humorous. Dr. Allen frequently relates many of these happening which occurred when the game of basketball was in the developmental stage and was not firmly established. Many schools and/or cities did not have proper areas for playing basketball games. Consequently, many times, make-shift basketball courts were utilized for playing the games. In one such situation, an Allen coached team was scheduled to play a game in a roller skating rink.

The backboards for the basketball goals had been constructed quite hastily and were not painted white as the new rules had specified.\* Allen was very unhappy with the unpainted backboards. With the aid of the building janitor, Allen procured some whiting material to apply to the backboards.\*\* The backboards were painted with the material and the game was played. The whiting was not moisture proof and as the game progressed, the perspiration from the hands of the players

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\*The first backboards in the game of basketball were made of wire.

\*\*Whiting was a pulverized chalk material to which water was added resulting in a substance similar to whitewash.

accumulated on the ball and the whiting on the backboards adhered to the damp basketball. The ball also accumulated a great deal of lead colored material then common to the roller rink floor. As the players touched other parts of their bodies, they spread the gray film that had accumulated on the ball. Following the game, Allen described the players as, "looking like gray ghosts playing the game of basketball." (167)

Dr. Allen realized that if the game of basketball and all athletics were to grow and be successful, it would be necessary to have two things. First, there had to be a large number of individuals that had the ability and the interest in athletics to teach others how to play. Secondly, for the game to be successful, the spectators must be interested and enthusiastic about the games. He was responsible for several ideas that contributed to the education of those teaching the game and also improving spectator interest.

In order to familiarize more individuals with the teaching techniques in athletics, Dr. Allen organized the first "coaching school" in the midwest. The "Phog Allen School of Coaching" was patterned after the first such school which Bob Zuppke had developed at Illinois University. The school was first conducted during the summer session of 1921. The courses which were taught by the Kansas coaches included work in football, basketball, baseball and track and field events. A special course offered instruction in the treatment of athletic injuries.

Summer session credit was given to those students who enrolled in the coaching school. To prevent the interference with regular morning classes, the first coaching school classes were held in the afternoon. (168)

In 1924, the University of Kansas established a newly organized Division of Physical Education and Intercollegiate Athletics with Dr. Allen appointed as its Director. The new division of the University was described, in the Annual Catalogue of the University of Kansas 1924-1925 as follows:

The Division of Physical Education and Intercollegiate Athletics was established as a unit in 1924. The Division has been organized to facilitate better the physical development of the men and women of the University and to foster a spirit of clean, wholesome athletics among the students. The Division also trains coaches for high school and college athletics and maintains a summer coaching school for this purpose. Furthermore, the Division offers, through the School of Education, work for a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education.

The Division directs all intercollegiate, intramural, and interscholastic athletics of the University. Likewise, it serves the state at large by maintaining an Athletic Service Bureau for answering all questions and giving any information concerning all sports and work under its jurisdiction.

It is the aim of the Division to encourage every student and faculty member to choose a sport and play it for his recreation. To make possible this program the facilities of Robinson Gymnasium have been reorganized and a basket system for handling equipment has been installed in order to accomodate a greater number of people and to give more space in the basement for play area.

Over ten acres of land have been purchased and are being developed for games for all. The number of tennis courts have been increased and more are to be built.

The personnel of the Division at present consist of nine full-time instructors and thirteen student assistants, who carry on the work of coaching and teaching football, basketball, baseball, track, wrestling, boxing, tennis, cross country, golf, and swimming for both intercollegiate and intramural competition, as well as classes in physical education for both men and women. (169)

In an effort to create greater spectator interest in the game of basketball, Dr. Allen attempted several ideas. As an incentive for the general public to more closely observe opposing basketball teams and individual players, he offered a prize of ten dollars to the University of Kansas student who could "pick" the correct All Missouri Valley basketball team of the 1922 season. This policy was continued for several seasons. (170)

During the 1929 basketball season, Allen arranged the first international basketball game in the history of the Big Six Conference. An exhibition game, "specifically for the creation of spectator interest" was scheduled between the University of Kansas and the Mexico National Championship team. (171)

During the basketball season of 1933, Dr. Allen promoted a campaign against booing of officials and the players on opposing basketball teams by spectators. Allen believed that such booing incidents were not good for the game of basketball. In an attempt to prevent further incidents of this nature, Allen planned a series of demonstrations to instruct spectators in the interpretation of rules and fouls. The demonstrations were held prior to the home basketball games.

The University of Kansas Assistant Basketball Coach, Forrest "Frosty" Cox, gave floor demonstrations while Professor Edwin R. Elbel, of the Physical Education staff, explained the demonstrations over the public address system. (172)

Dr. Allen's campaign against booing was finally taken to the National Rules Committee and that committee made the following recommendation:

The campaign against booing and hissing at basketball games is recognized in a recommendation that the coaches do their utmost to eliminate such demonstrations at basketball games. (173)

Much of the interest that Dr. Allen created in the game of basketball probably came about as a result of his many speeches and public appearances. Throughout his coaching career, Allen was in great demand as a speaker. The University Daily Kansan reported in March, 1937, that Allen was a "contender for the title of most traveled basketball coach in the world." The previous week he had been on a 2,400 mile speaking tour and was scheduled for another trip to Chicago, via Kansas City and Minneapolis, Minnesota. A typical Allen trip was reported by The University Daily Kansan as follows:

Dr. Allen was to speak at a banquet for Ward High School in Kansas City. As soon as it was over, board a train for Minneapolis to make a speech at a physical education convention. The following day he was to go to Chicago for the National Association of Basketball Coaches. Two days later and still in Chicago he presided over the National Basketball Rules Committee on Research. (174)

## CHAPTER VI

It was indeed a fitting tribute to hold the dedication ceremonies of Allen Field House as Dr. Allen was nearing the end of his active coaching career. The ceremony took place just prior to Allen's mandatory retirement.

The campaign for a new fieldhouse was started by Allen as early as 1924 when he suggested that the University purchase a ten acre tract of land south of Robinson Gymnasium to be used as athletic fields and a future site for new gymnasium facilities. (175) In September, 1927, Allen suggested that the University needed a fieldhouse to house indoor sports. (176) At that time his suggestion was not approved.

In place of the proposed fieldhouse, Hoch Auditorium was constructed so that a basketball court was included. The auditorium was completed in 1927. The seating capacity provided by the new facility was a great improvement over that provided in Robinson Gymnasium but still did not solve the problem of providing adequate seating capacity. As the enrollment of the University increased, it became more difficult to seat the students of the University at basketball games. In short, the general play of the auditorium did not lend itself to basketball.

Because of conflicts in schedules it was impossible for the basketball team to practice regularly in the Auditorium and as a result it was necessary to hold basketball practice sessions in Robinson Gymnasium although the games were played in Hoch Auditorium.

In 1951 the State legislature officially approved the building of a two and one-half million dollar fieldhouse at the University of Kansas and the bill was subsequently signed by Governor Edward Arn. (177)

The movement to name the fieldhouse in honor of Dr. Allen had started before Governor Arn had signed the bill. In December, 1949, The University Daily Kansan included an editorial requesting the students of the University to circulate a petition to have the proposed new fieldhouse named "Allen Fieldhouse" in honor of the man who had done so much for the development of the game of basketball. (178) The official announcement that the new building was to be named the "Allen Fieldhouse" was made in December, 1954. (179)

The dedication of Allen Fieldhouse took place March 1, 1955. More than one hundred basketball lettermen at the University of Kansas, who had been coached by Dr. Allen, were present. Professor Russell L. Wiley, the University Band Director, wrote a special march, "Mr. Basketball," in honor of Dr. Allen. A special halftime pageant, "The Story of Basketball", written by

Allen Crafton, directed by Gene Courtney and Herk Harvey and narrated by Dr. Edwin R. Elbel was presented. The pageant depicted the invention of the game of basketball by Dr. James Naismith and the development of the game of basketball. In appreciation for his many years of service, alumni and friends of the University presented Dr. Allen with a new automobile. (180)

Dr. Allen turned the Kansas basketball team over to Assistant Coach Dick Harp for the dedication game. The Kansas team met the challenge and won the game for their coach, defeating Kansas State by a score of 77 to 67. (181)

Dr. Allen's thirty-nine year coaching career, at the University of Kansas, came to an end in 1956. He requested permission from the State Board of Regents to coach one more year but his request was denied. Dr. Allen's retirement prompted the following statement by Dr. Franklin Murphy, Chancellor of the University:

The long and distinguished career of Dr. Forrest C. Allen speaks for itself. The records made by his basketball teams and, what is ever more important, the records made subsequently by members of his teams in their business and professional lives are eloquent testimony to his unique abilities in not only building championship teams but also in building first class citizens. (182)

At the conclusion of his active coaching career, and at a time when his friends thought he would welcome a long rest, he entered the practice of Osteopathy in Lawrence, Kansas.



Although he frequently attends the games, Dr. Allen refuses to attend basketball practice sessions at the University of Kansas, fearing that he might possibly be accused of injecting his ideas into the basketball program at Kansas. (183)

It is very difficult to accurately establish the total effect that Dr. Allen had on the basketball program at the University of Kansas. William Lienhard discussed Dr. Allen's contribution to basketball at the University in the following manner:

I don't think that there is any question that you have to give Dr. Allen credit for the foundation of the whole basketball program at the University of Kansas. He is the one that put Kansas on the map nationally and kept us there. A lot of schools come and go but not many schools stay at the top over a period of time as Kansas has done. Kansas is still at the top and highly regarded as a good basketball school. The tradition and high regard for Kansas teams of the past make it much easier for the present coaches to recruit all over the United States. I feel that Dr. Allen must be given credit for the reputation of basketball at Kansas. (184)

It would be difficult to deny that in his capacity as basketball coach Dr. Allen exerted an important influence in the development of many outstanding and successful individuals. Many of his students have, to a great extent, patterned their ways of life after Dr. Allen and his philosophy of life. Mr. Henry Iba, veteran coach of basketball at Oklahoma State University, discussed Dr. Allen's contribution to the game of basketball in the following manner:

Dr. Allen was always a man in the foreground. If the game was dull he changed the looks of the game. He always

had something to say that was beneficial for the game of basketball and athletics as a whole. Every move he made, he made with a purpose of trying to better basketball. I don't think at anytime did Dr. Allen take advantage of a rule situation where he intended definitely to beat a rule. He might stress a point, in a way you would cover a man, so that it would be pointed out at the next year's rules meeting that the rule needed to be changed. In all the years that I have known Dr. Allen, he has never been anything but a great influence upon boys and on the game of basketball.

I hope that in the future some of the young men coming along in athletics, have enough interest in their particular sport, that they will work as hard to achieve the results that Dr. Allen did for the game of basketball in the United States. (185)

Those people who have been so fortunate to have been associated with Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen have been greatly rewarded.

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## APPENDIXES

# APPENDIX A

The basketball coaching record of Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen.

Record at the University of Kansas. (1)

Years coached	Games won	Games lost	Percentage	Kansas points	Opponent points
39	591	219	.730	34,930	24,492

Career coaching record. (2)

School and year	Years	Won	Lost	Percentage	Championships
University of Kansas 1908, 1909; 1920-1956	39	591	219	.730	24
Warrensburg 1912-1919	7	107	7	.938	7
Baker 1908, 1909	2	46	2	.958	*
Haskell 1909	1	27	5	.843	*
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	49	771	233	.768	31

\* No Conference

## APPENDIX B

Following are several quotations used frequently by Dr. Allen throughout his career:

"A boy must say no a thousand times to temptation before he can say yes once to victory." (15)

"The twelve foot basket is coming as sure as death and taxes." (16)

"We should think of victory only in that it gives us courage to face the next battle. It is what the man thinks in his heart that enables him to win." (17)

"The student's first aim should be preparation for living, the second is athletics." (18)

"If you haven't arrived or don't have a good job by the time you are forty-five years old, you're not going anywhere." (19)

"A team that won't be beaten can't be beaten." (20)

"A blush is a temporary erythema and a calorific effulgence of the physiognomy, etiologized by one's perceptiveness of the sensorium. When in a predicament of shame, anger or other causes, the vasomotor filaments are suffused with a radiance emanating from an intimidated precordia." (21)

"Golf is the ineffectual attempt to put an elusive ball in an obscure hole, with implements ill-adapted to the cause." (22)



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