Kansan Writes Dr. Allen of First
Basketball Games Played in State

Information as to the first organized
basketball team in Kansas, has come to
the desk of Dr. F. C. Allen, director of
athletics and head coach of basketball at
the University of Kansas, from R. A.
Goerz of Newton, Kansas.

Mr. Goerz wrote this bit of history
when it was recalled to him by recent
stories of the first organized team at K.U.
in connection with the ceremony honoring
Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the
game, at the Kansas-Iowa State game
last week.

Mr. Goerz writes that he first played
the game of basketball at Wichita, Kans.,
in 1894 and 1895, when the game was in-
troduced there by Johnny Lutz, who
came to Wichita directly from the
Springfield, Mass., Y.M.C.A. Training
School where Dr. Naismith had inven-
ted the game in 1891.

The game as played by Mr. Goerz at
Wichita, however, was not by an organ-
zized team, as the number of players
wishing to play were simply divided up
evenly on each side and the game went
on with six or eight or fifteen or any
number on a side.

In 1896, Mr. Goerz writes he moved to
Newton and there the first team in Kan-
sas was organized for the Y.M.C.A. by
W. C. Kosa. However, that team could
find no opponent and the games were
obtained by organizing two Newton
teams, the Ajax and Eagles.

According to Dr. Naismith, the first
organized basketball west of the Mis-
sissippi was played at the University of
Iowa in 1892. Girls teams played at the
University of Kansas first prior to 1898
under the direction of a Mrs. Clark of the
physical education department. Dr.
Naismith had the first organized Univer-
sity of Kansas team in 1898.
KANSAS CITY, March 24—Dr. F. C. Allen, Kansas basketball coach, yesterday gave a statement to the rules committee, today gave out a statement, amplifying his previous suggestions, that if the rules committee decided to raise the height of the basketball basket, the rack should be raised by 12 feet. The rack is now set at 10 feet from the floor for college competition. Dr. Allen's statement is that the rack should be raised to 12 feet, and that the height of the basketball basket should be raised to 12 feet. This would mean that the basketball would have to be held higher than it is now to pass the height of the basket. Dr. Allen's statement is that the rules committee should give serious consideration to this suggestion, as it would greatly improve the game of basketball. Dr. Allen believes that the game of basketball would be improved if the basketball were held higher than it is now. He states that the game would be more exciting and would be more enjoyable for the spectators.
Dr. F. C. Allen has received a well deserved honor from the Olympic basketball committee in being appointed director of the American basketball representation in the coming games. Dr. Allen has been one of the leading coaches of the sport for years, played a big part in the national basketball coaches association, and worked hard and long on the matter of getting basketball adopted as an Olympic sport. Lawrence and Kansas still hope Dr. Allen may put his University of Kansas basketball team over the road to the winning of the Olympic try-out finals, although that is perhaps a big assignment to ask as some of the great A. A. U. teams should stand a much better chance of winning the honor because they are a collection of star college players who have long experience with the finer points of the game.

With Dr. Allen, and Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game of basketball, seemingly sure to go to the Olympics in honor positions, Lawrence and K. U. are enjoying the basketball spotlight in a way no other part of the country or institution can.
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Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen Outlines the Strategy

Famous Cage Mentor Presents Sportscast

K.U.'s "Sportscast," heard over KF KU each Thursday evening at 8:30, is a weekly program produced by Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen, chairman of the department of physical education and director of University intramural sports, as commentator. During the next few months, Dr. Allen, famous cage mentor, will highlight basketball on his 12-minute sportscasts.

The "Sportscast" is designed to give radio listeners an opportunity to keep up on athletics and athletes at the University. Dr. Allen summarizes sports news on the campus, reviews past intercollegiate games, gives interesting sidelights on future contests, and occasionally comments on high school athletics. In addition, he manages to put in a few words about former K.U. athletes who are in the service or are otherwise contributing to our national war effort.

"Phog" Allen has been director of athletics at the University since 1917. His cage teams have won or tied for 13 conference championships in 26 years with the University. Dr. James Naismith, originator of basketball and a member of the University's staff for 40 years, called Allen the "Father of American basketball coaches." Last spring Coach Allen was selected as the "greatest basketball coach of all time" by the Helms Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles.