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Head Coach Dr. F. C. Allen

Phog Allen, dean of American basketball coaches, will reach a fantastic milestone this season as he guides his 39th Kansas squad. He will be in his 46th season overall in a career that spans stretches at Haskell, Baker and Warrensburg Teachers in addition to Kansas.

The most durable tutor in the land, Allen also is the winningest. His teams at those four schools have yielded 757 victories against 224 defeats for a .771 percentage. The former figure still is more than 100 games ahead of his closest rival, Western Kentucky's Ed Diddle, who has logged 630 wins in 33 seasons. And Allen's totals do not include the eight victories in 13 games which Howard Engelman brought home in 1947 when the former was forced into temporary retirement by a head injury. Allen bowed out at mid-season that winter.

This is not all of Allen's astonishing record. His teams have won outright or shared 31 conference championships. Twenty-four of these have been wrought at Kansas, thereby netting him more than half the titles in the history of the Missouri Valley, Big Six and Big Seven, a span of 47 years. This means, that in three leagues, Allen's Jayhawkers have won more crowns than all other conference competitors combined.

His 1952 squad captured the highest double honor possible in collegiate basketball, the NCAA and a substantial contribution to the United States Olympic team. Seven Jayhawkers played on the club which brought away the USA's third world crown at Helsinki.

Allen is a charter member of the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame. In 1952 he was selected by Helms as "Basketball Man of the Year". In 1950 he earned the same designation from his fellow coaches. He was voted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 1953, being a native of that state.

He also has run the gamut of all-star tutoring, guiding the College Five against the professional champion Minneapolis Lakers in 1953, the West to victory over the East in the 1950 college all-star match in New York and the West over the East in the Kansas City collegiate Shrine game of 1952.

He has garnished his won-lost record with four unbeaten conference champions, 1923, 1936, 1943, and 1946.

Direct contributions to the game are: (1) One of founders of the National Basketball Coaches association and its first president; (2) Instrumental in founding the NCAA tournament; (3) Almost single-handedly landed basketball on the Olympic agenda in 1936.



Head Coach H. B. (Bebe) Lee

Colorado's H. B. (Bebe) Lee gets maximum production from a solid basketball background which includes top-rate experience both as a player and coach.

He stepped into an extremely difficult situation at Colorado in 1950, taking over a school mired in second division after entering the Big Seven league in 1948. Not a miracle man, Lee's Colorado team started inauspiciously with 7, 4 and 7 finishes his first three seasons. But Lee was making a tremendous overhaul of Colorado cage fortunes during those campaigns and the results began to show in 1954 when his club made an all-the-way haul from last place to tie for first. Last year the Buffs applied the "clinch" with their outright title and their topheavy win over Iowa in the NCAA meet.

What has been Lee's outstanding coaching characteristics thus far? Defense, easily. The former Stanford star emphasizes defense to the point of perfection. His championship teams limited Big Seven foes to identical 66.0 averages in 1954 and 1955, tops in the conference both years.

Offensively, Colorado's teams have been sound, if not spectacular. The Buffaloes in 1955 sailed along at a 70.9 scoring clip in 25 games while limiting their opponents to a 62.7 mark. Lee adapts his offense to his material.

Lee is a native of Dallas, Texas, and grew up in California, lettering in basketball at Hollywood high school. At Sanford, he "quarter-backed" the great Indian basketball teams which swept to the Pacific Coast conference championships in 1936, 37 and 38. The man to whom Lee directed the Stanford attack was one of cagedom's all-time greats, Hank Luisetti.

President of the Stanford student body during his senior year, Lee received his degree in education in 1938. He stayed on as basketball assistant at Stanford for three years before accepting the head job at Utah State in 1941.

His coaching career lasted exactly one game . . . a winning effort . . . before he was called into the Navy. In the Navy he rejoined Luisetti at St. Mary's Pre-Flight and the pair sparked the base team to an unbeaten season.

Discharged as a lieutenant in 1945, Lee returned to Utah State as head coach in 1946 and 1947. Then he entered private business in San Francisco and Salt Lake City, returning to basketball in 1949 as head coach at Colorado A&M.

He took over at Colorado a year later. His five-year record at Colorado is 52-64.

Lee is married and the father of two daughters and a son.