

basketball

NORMAN, Feb. ---Since Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen, the eminent Kansas basketball coach, brought the perennially brilliant Jayhawkers to Norman for the Big Six championship game with the Sooner Boy Scats, it might be appropriate to glance between the Red and Blue jacketed covers of Doctor Allen's new book "Better Basketball" and take a look therein.

Not so compact as Nat Holman's neat opus "Winning Basketball" because of the tremendous scope the Jayhawk tutor attempts, "Better Basketball" nevertheless ranks with Holman's volume as the outstanding textbook on the mechanics of the sport and far surpasses anything previously written as an omnibus and source-book on the game.

The Kansas coach has been kidded in some of the early reviews for cramming poetry, statistics, recipes ( including that of his famous orange egg-nog ), music, etc. into the book along with the actual basketball.

However, over on page 191 where he starts talking about screening ( team maneuvers by which the defensive man is blocked out so an offensive man may be freed for a shot at the goal ) Doctor Allen will hold even the sharpest critic enthralled. Any high school coach who will study these chapters closely and teach them patiently will strengthen his team's offense and lay a foundation that may lead to a better job.

And when he gets over to part IV, "Athletic Injuries and Emergencies," the doctor really throws a block on his subject. That's where he got that "Dr." in front of his name, studying athletic injuries at medical school, and this section is one of the finest in the book.

High school coaches, and after all the book was pointed at them, probably will eat up the same digressions the critics objected to. For instance they'll appreciate being told how a dirty ball should be cleaned with harness soap because they won't be able to afford a new ball every week.