

Prepare for Drake Relays

Red Peppers

Hot Sport Chatter

—By Tait

It's an awful thing to go through life agreeing to everything everybody says, which is preliminary to the announcement that this corner hereby places its stamp of approval on Phog Allen's basketball views. That, in turn, makes this corner almost unique since almost nobody thus far has agreed with Mr. Allen except, of course, Mr. Allen and there are times even when he might be willing to take the other side just for the sake of a lively argument. After all, those long Kansas winters get a little monotonous and with gasoline rationed the explosive, but always entertaining, coach of Kansas U. basketball doubtless has kept fairly close to his own stamping grounds.

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To get back to the point, however, Mr. Allen is the father of the 12-foot basket idea. That always did look good in this corner, in the belief that the plan was to make baskets 12 feet across. It turns out that Phog wants baskets 12 feet from the floor which at first glance seemed a horrifying proposal unless the things were enlarged at least 12 inches. But Phog says higher baskets are easier to hit even with no extension in their waist lines. For proof, he explains that they have had baskets at Kansas 12 feet from the floor for 15 years and have staged exhaustive research. And the records show conclusively that a higher percentage of shots go through the 12 foot baskets than is the case

oratory of his loose a 12-foot basket looks as essential as rubber in girdles. He points out that more than 80% of the fouls in basketball take place within a radius of something like 18 feet of the goal. It is there that the traffic jams develop because players are driving hard for lay-up shots, or hoping to draw fouls. The 12-foot goals are too high for lay-ups, Allen says, it being virtually impossible to score directly beneath baskets that high in the air. So the traffic jam magically disappears, fouls are cut down in number and basketball becomes orderly. That's as simple as barring sailors from saloons in the matter of keeping order.

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What causes Allen's red hair to bristle is the fact that his ideas are based on the findings of serious research while the bulk of other proposals which are jammed into the cage rules come because some coach wants them to help his own team. He cites the new rule against goal-tending as an example of the "selfish" approach to cage rules. Instead of taking advantage of the Allen research and going to a 12-foot basket, the cage rule-makers got together and decided they would have to do something about the lucky coaches with "goon" centers like Foothills Kurland of the Oklahoma Aggies. If the majority of coaches were lucky enough to have elongated centers, the rule would not have passed. Allen maintains that's a silly way to go about improv-

Phog Allen Highlights Y. Banquet

By TAIT CUMMINS.

"PHOG ALLEN Day" in Cedar Rapids Thursday started with a Lions club noonday appearance, continued with a high school cage clinic at the Y. in mid-afternoon



Phog Allen.

and reached its climax at the annual Y. M. C. A. All-Sports dinner where the colorful Kansas U. basketball coach spoke before a capacity crowd of 400.

Phog Allen, to those who don't follow the cage sport, is Dr. Forrest C. Allen. He also serves Kansas U. as athletic

director and is rated by many observers as the best cage strategist in the country.

To that might be added the observation that Phog isn't a bad hand at "surrounding" a town. Given something less than a day in Cedar Rapids, he left a whole string of people ready and willing to swear that the colorful Jayhawker is without a peer as an after-dinner speaker, good will emissary and general all-around good guy.

Volatile as a kettle of boiling oil, Allen literally explodes his views on basketball, most of which have been publicized countless times. But in contrast to the typewritten report of his ideas, the spoken presentation not only makes sense but seems so obviously needed that further delay seems harmful to the sport. In other words, if Phog talks often enough, he'll put his theories across.