

# 128 BOYS HEAR "PHOG" ALLEN

## Famed Cage Coach Makes Hit With Youngsters at League Banquet

Dr. F. C. (Phog) Allen, who is the father of six children and who has four grandchildren, has a way with youngsters and kept 128 boys as quiet as the proverbial mouse last night at the Methodist church with a heart-to-heart sports talk that every boy in the world should have heard.

Dr. Allen, who is head basketball coach and director of the physical department at Kansas university, spoke at the first annual banquet for players in the Y. M. C. A. - Church league at the Methodist church.

The dinner began at 6:30 o'clock and due to an extensive program Dr. Allen did not begin to speak until after 8:30. By that time the boys were somewhat tired of sitting still and—like all boys—were about as quiet as a bowl full of gelatine being held by a man with palsy. However, Dr. Allen gained the attention of his young audience from the outset and held it for the entire time he spoke. Every adult present was greatly surprised at the apparent ease with which the speaker seemed to charm his listeners.

Dr. Allen developed his theme around the lives of Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, and Glenn Cunningham, the greatest miler the world has ever known. Dr. Allen has been associated with both men at Kansas university for years and knows the inside stories of their early hardships and trials.

He told how an uncle, who was a poor man, reared Dr. Naismith in Canada. Both made the greatest sacrifices that young Naismith might have an education. It was in Springfield, Mass., that Dr. Naismith invented the game of basketball. Dr. Naismith is now 77 years old and has lived to see 18 million people playing basketball each year throughout the world.

Dr. Allen related how as a child Glenn Cunningham was severely burned on the legs in a fire that took the life of an older brother and of the great handicap that scar tissue on his legs had been to him in becoming a world's champion runner. Nevertheless he attained his goal.

"Willingness to make sacrifices, to work hard, to use will power and to persevere are as important to building courage and a champion as exercise and wholesome food are to building muscles and a strong body," declared Dr. Allen.

Other speakers included George Cleland, chairman of the boys' work committee of the Y, and Merwin H. Rector, Y. M. C. A. program director for young men and boys.

Ralph Fletcher led the community singing and Elbert Van Osdol of St. Joe gave a very interesting magic performance.

The invocation was given by the Rev. Matthew Hall, O. S. B., and the benediction by the Rev. E. E. Tillotson.

Carl Brown acted as master of ceremonies.

Plaques were awarded to the winners in the two divisions of the league. In the intermediate division first place was won by the First Methodist church and second place by St. Mark's Lutheran church. In the junior division St. Mark's placed first and the First Presbyterian church second.

All but 12 of the 140 boys eligible to attend the banquet were present.