

Along the

SPORT TRAIL

With

Bill Kinney

HUFF-PUFF:

Alarmists have been asserting, without actual proof, that fire-wagon basketball is "too tough on the performers" ever since the rules doctors eliminated the center jump. Only recently, Dr. Forrest (Phog) Allen, eminent Kansan who rates second only to the late James Naismith as a "name" in basketball, blew his top in charging that the hardwood sport is too fast for the kids.



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We suspected at the time that Allen was talking to watch himself in the mirror of the daily press. And confirmation comes in the form of a survey published by the National Association of Basketball Coaches of the United States. The findings reveal that in 20,000 cases, the extra activity (of basketball) caused the boy to be able to do more work at less cost in heart beats, when he was in condition.

The actual sufferer, according to Dr. H. C. Carlson of Pittsburgh, is the coach. And at least one found the strain of regional, sectional and state tournament competition in Illinois too tough. He is John Noppenberger of Peoria Central, ordered to a hospital this week for a rest and checkup by his physician. Dr. Carlson's studies showed that the game is tougher on the coaches than the athletes, due to emotional strain.

Tests revealed that the heart-beats of the coaches keep pace with those of the players during a game. But the players' pulses return to normal three or four minutes after a game while the coaches' tickers keep racing along at high speed long after the final gun.

Well-conditioned youth can stand up better than expected. The war has proved that, conclusively. Basketball proves it, too. While the stands go screamingly crazy, cagers, even of young, impressive and excitable high school age, play steadily and execute intricate maneuvers without undue pressure caused by the din surrounding them.