

MOSTLY what Phog Allen was talking about was Madison Square Garden, where the biggest basketball business in America is being carried on every winter by Ned Irish. The facts are that hundreds of thousands of dollars are exchanging hands on the results of the Garden winners and where there is that much involved someone is going to get approached. College gambling is not a haphazard affair participated in by a few track bookies during the off season; it is a big time racket all by itself. These odds often quoting the prices the gamblers are offering are not set by guess work and too often they are set by information not available to the public.

Gambling in college sports has grown to such proportions there is now a central clearing house known to the trade as the "Minneapolis House." It is known among the touts as a reliable trading firm dealing in sports information and betting prices, and bookies pay for the information they get from the Minneapolis House just as they would pay for a pair of boots at Montgomery Ward's. This house collects sports information all over the country and sets prices and wholesales information on sports events throughout the nation. They work through professional agents or dope collectors and naturally the best bet is to have someone on the teams giving them the dope, or second best someone on the college campus.

NED Irish, the Garden basketball magnate, has made an effort to run the gamblers out of the Garden, but the fact is, if he stamped out gambling he would stamp out a great deal of Garden basketball. Not all of those 17,000 people were at the Garden the other night because either St. Francis or Muhlenberg were dear to their hearts. They were there for the same reason they go to the horse races—and that ain't to watch the nags run.

The hardest comment to answer about such gambling is, "So what?" But it is true that gambling makes for a bad smell and dishonesty. Judge Landis did a good job of keeping professional baseball divorced from the professional bettors and it might be a good idea if the colleges went at the business of wiping the gamblers out of college athletics.