

Also I originated, as I told you before, the Goal-Hi game, and had a Phog Allen Basketball, Phog Allen Goal, Phog Allen Shoe, Phog Allen Score Book, Phog Allen War Bag, and then, of course, my two books; My Basketball Bible and Better Basketball.

A Maine Yankee youngster, of about fifteen years of age, had just moved to Kansas City, and you know what the Yankees do to their R's--they call ideas "iders" and they pronounce law as "lawr". This chap went to Lowe and Campbell to purchase one of my basketballs and he said to the astonished clerk that he wanted a "Phorg" Allen Basketball. The clerk looked at him and said, "Four-gallon basketball? What do you mean?" "Well", he said, "Isn't there a man around here somewhere coaching basketball called "Phorg" Allen?" Just another incident of a Maine Yankee pronouncing "Phog" Allen.

This is one other interesting item: Young Joe Bristow from Baker wrote Dr. Naismith wanting a coach in the very early days of the game. He inquired about the possibility of getting me to coach the Baker team. When Dr. Naismith received this letter he met me in the hall and said, "I have a good joke on you you bloody beggar." (He was Scotch Canadian) I was a little worried and asked him what it was because I feared that he had found out something that I might have been done that was not according to Hoyle. I said, "What is it, Doctor?" and he said, "Well, I just got a letter from Baker University and they want you to coach basketball." I said, "Well, what is funny about that?" He replied, "Why you can't coach basketball, you just play it." Here was the originator of the game of basketball openly confessing that basketball ~~can~~ could not be coached. I said, "Well, you can teach them to throw free-throws, and you can teach them to pass at angles and run in curves." So it was that I received the first shock from the originator of the basketball confessing that basketball cannot be coached, and yet I have hanging in my office a photograph of Dr. Naismith with the following autograph: "With kindest regards to Dr. F. C. Allen, the Father of Basketball Coaching from the father of the game", signed James Naismith, 1936. I imagine I could justifiably lay claim ~~xxxx~~ to being one of the fathers of basketball coaching. You doubtless remember in my other letter I told you about founding the Kansas Relays.

I do not know whether I told you ~~x~~ I was born in Jamesport, Missouri on November 18, 1885 and my how these Missourians down at Columbia get on one of our native sons! But I have chosen the University of Kansas as my Alma Mater because I believe that Kansas is more progressive and a younger state. You do not have to tell anybody about this. I forgot to tell you that we also have four grandchildren and none of them were adopted.

We are planning to leave Lawrence, Kansas early Saturday morning the 26th and it may be impossible for us to arrive in time for the dedication ceremonies of Kirk Memorial Building. If it is at all possible, we will arrange to leave early enough to arrive there at 10:00. I assure I would be happy to do so because I knew President Kirk very very well. He refereed my football games for Kirksville State Teachers College when Mr. Simmons was Athletic Director, and I have the pleasant memory of Mr. Kirk coming down the field many times and shaking hands with me when I referred those football games along in 1908 and 1910. He was a vigorous and aggressive educator and I am happy that they are recognizing his great worth