

## NEW YORK

# Gamblers Menace All College Sports

## Kansas Coach Asks Czar For Campus Athletics

Dr. Forrest C. (Phog) Allen, University of Kansas basketball coach, for several years has been a prophet without honor in his business. He had been tactless enough to warn about the menace of professional gambling in intercollegiate sports. The "fix" scandal which broke last week and which caused the expulsion of five Brooklyn College basketball players has proven him right and his boosers wrong.

PM asked Allen to tell us what he thinks is wrong with intercollegiate sports and what ought to be done to remedy the evils. This is his story.

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It is now high time for the college presidents of America to drop their academic mantles and get realistic about college athletics. At the present time it is definitely known that on some of our college campuses:

¶ Gamblers hire, clandestinely, a member of the football squad to give them confidential information on the *esprit de corps* and the physical condition of the players on the varsity team;

¶ The gamblers are hiring, clandestinely, sports editors or writers on college papers to give them additional valuable inside information;

¶ Gamblers now have a central clearing house working through professional agents or dope collectors. They issue weekly form sheets which are synchronous with race forms. They set prices on wholesale information on college sports events throughout the Nation.

¶ With the race tracks of America now closed there will be thou-

to another institution where the subsidy is much larger. Big time football teams have liaison or contact men throughout the country, and when a star player appears on a college team whose subsidy is smaller than the big time team, agents contact this star player and offer him a scholarship of much larger dimension if he will transfer.

**Baseball:** In many institutions the head baseball coach is a scout for one of the major baseball clubs of the country. This is generally a *sub rosa* agreement. The coach is either paid a salary by the big league team or he is paid from \$300 to \$3000 for the signing of a star



"Phog" Allen

made a bonanza for the big-time gamblers.

Some contend that the appointment of an intercollegiate high commissioner with the powers of a Judge Landis would tend not only to separate the athletics from the colleges more than ever but would require a huge enforcement agency to prevent cheating by those schools or athletic departments that wanted to cheat. Doubt is expressed also that colleges would give any one man the unlimited power that baseball gave Judge Landis. Fear of expulsion by the czar of some college or university from a conference after sufficient evidence of guilt by the

school's representative is another fear.

The high commissioner would have under him the conference commissioners of the different areas. The conference commissioners would be the deputies to enforce the law of the high commissioner. Instead of a school being expelled from a conference, the commissioners would fire the coaches or the law-breakers.

Judge Landis actually never put a club out of business but he tossed out club owners. Neither would an intelligent high commissioner expel a school. He would dismiss the guilty individuals. The state bank examiner does not close a bank when some president or cashier absconds with bank funds. The individual is brought to justice. So it should be with athletic malfeasance.

In the late '20s and early '30s the University of Iowa was expelled from the Western Conference and the University of Kansas was expelled from the Big Six Conference, because of alleged irregularities. Both Iowa and Kansas were the victims of athletic politicians. Had a Landis been operating in these conferences, he would have brought individuals to justice rather than expel a school which had done no harm in itself.

Certainly this job of high commissioner is one of dignity and could attract a Supreme Court Justice or a personality of the type of Gen. Douglas MacArthur (after the

war), or J. Edgar Hoover. This high commissioner should have a sympathy, a fondness, and a belief in the educational value of college sports rightly conducted.

*Carte blanche* authority should be given this man to devise a workable system whereby colleges could be brought into a scheme that would prove a mighty force in striking out against gambling, proselytizing, illegal subsidizing and rank professionalism in college sport, and at the same time restoring the integrity of college athletics. The salary and tenure of such a man should be commensurate with that of Judge Landis.

This high commissioner should, of necessity, be legally trained for the purpose of writing the constitution and by-laws under which the conference would operate. Confidence in his administration of college athletics should become similar to that in the administration of Judge Landis's regime. The gamblers would get a mortal body blow because the united efforts together with the power of this organization would be working against them, whereas now the gambling mob has a free hand since there is no one in the college organizations who is capable of opposing them.

### Horse-and-Buggy

The National Collegiate Athletic Assn. is still in the horse-and-buggy days, so far as the present status of college athletics is concerned. Faculty representatives were named years ago to make and ad-