

November 24, 1944.

Mr. Robert Fuoss, Managing Editor,
The Saturday Evening Post,
Philadelphia 5, Pa.

Dear Mr. Fuoss:

I think you have written a swell editorial, and I thank you for sending it to me in confidence. You certainly have given me more credit, perhaps, than I deserve, but I have been sincerely honest in endeavoring to clean up athletics so that the coaches, as well as the boys, can hold their heads up and say that they are participating in something that is on the up and up, rather than on the toboggan and on the slimy side of things.

If the general public knew the whole story they would have more sympathy for the people who are fearless enough to speak out against the thing that is subterranean.

Certainly you are to be congratulated on doing the thing that you are doing. Such powerful and clean influences are the only hope in bringing the ulcer to the curative sun rays of public opinion.

I trust that you will pardon what might be construed as questionable modesty in telling you some of the activities that I have indulged in, with which you are perhaps unacquainted. I was the founder of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, serving as president for the first two years, 1928 and 1929. The Rules Committee had eliminated the dribble in April of 1928. I protested because the coaches had not been consulted. That day I received 160 telegrams from coaches supporting my stand, and at the Drake Relays in the latter part of April I called a meeting of the basketball coaches of the United States in conjunction with the Drake Relays. The first nucleus of the Coaches Association was formed there, but a meeting was called to be held in June in Chicago at the time of the National Collegiate A. A. track meet. At that time organization of the Coaches Association was perfected, and I was elected the president. The following year I was re-elected and we went forward in a constructive way.

At no time since has a recommendation of the National Association of Basketball Coaches been refused by the Rules body.

For thirteen years I was a member of the joint rules committee of the National Coaches Association of the United States and Canada. I served as chairman of the Research Committee for a great number of years of both the basketball rules body of the United States and Canada, and also as chairman for the Coaches Association. I have never recommended a change in the rules unless much research has been done for it.

I have for years advocated a 12 foot basket for colleges to do away with the overcrowding and excessive fouling in the congested area, and also to make a 7 foot man shoot for the basket the same as a 5 ft. 2 in. man. This rule will eventually come, as sure as death and taxes, because now they have a discriminatory rule there. They permit the offensive man to dunk the ball in and even though he touches the rim in dunking it, the goal counts. If the ball is resting on the rim of the basket or near it, the offensive man may tap it in and the goal counts, while discrimination exists against the defensive man if he touches the ball on the rim, the goal counts, or if he interferes with the ball above the cylinder of the basket, the goal counts, or if the defensive man taps the ball in its downward descent in his shot toward the basket, a goal is awarded.

The 12 foot basket would do away with all of this and it would reduce more than fifty per cent of the fouls in the congested area due to the higher arc of dispersement on rebounds under the 12 foot basket. The guards would be forced to move further away from the basket to get the rebound, allowing the smaller men to cut in under and retrieve the ball, whereas now the big fellow uses his hip and crowds and forces the opponents out of his area.

The shooter accommodates the muscles of his eyes to height the same as he does to distance, and it would not be long until the shooter could hit a 12 foot basket nearly as easily as he could hit a 10 foot basket; but it would do away with the drive-in and lay-ups, and this is the very play that causes so many of the fouls and gives the referee too much authority in awarding the extra shot at the basket when a person is in the act of shooting. This play situation permits an offensive player to "draw" fouls. There would be no two-foul pot shooting because the fouls as attempted lay-ins would be eliminated.

The fact that you have been a basketball player makes it plain to me that it will not be necessary to elaborate upon this, as I am sure you can visualize the situation. For more than fifteen years we have had two 12 foot

baskets installed in our gymnasium to teach the emphasis on the necessity of an arch shot.

I am sending you under separate cover by first class mail the Helms Athletic Foundation Collegiate Basketball Record, prepared and issued by the Helms Athletic Foundation of 117 West 9th Street, Los Angeles, in February, 1943, with Paul H. Helms as sponsor. On page 15 of this publication they name ten of the greatest coaches of the country, and they were kind enough to name me in the number one spot. I am enclosing a clipping from Jack Carberry's sport column "The Second Guess", in the Denver Post of Wednesday, October 25. Mr. Carberry apparently used this same Helms Foundation report for his information in this column.

I am also sending you a clipping from the Ketchikan, Alaska, Chronicle of Tuesday, November 7, 1944, apparently written by one of my A.P. friends in New York. You may send these things back together with the others when you have finished with them. In addition, I am sending you a letter that I wrote Mr. Bus Ham of the Associated Press in Washington, D. C., on May 1, 1943. For years I have been doing this agitating against the gambler in college athletics, and this expression is no new thing, as some writers might make it appear. However, as you said in your editorial, many of these coaches are afraid to stick their necks out, and if they do the next question is asked of me, "How much do you want for your job if you were a commissioner?"

I am not in the slightest way interested. I am not qualified for it, in the first place, and would not consider it in the second place. This position would require a man relatively young in years, past the forty year mark, vigorous, virile and with a proficient background of law, sociology and the humanities. When professional baseball reached in and obtained Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis they engaged a Federal judge for life, a man who was unafraid and who fined the Standard Oil Company fifty-two million dollars for violating a Federal law. We need such a man as this, and he could be found, of course. Naturally the American Association of University Presidents would have much to do with him, but I suggest that the President of the United States nominate such a man. This would give him added prestige and background, and if the college presidents elected him it would dignify his position in such a way that he could render a real service to young men in America who follow the athletic trail in their quest for educational leadership and knowledge. And in the case of his salary of perhaps fifty to seventy-five thousand, or a hundred thousand dollars, I do not want it to appear that I am attempting to set the

commissioner's salary for the college presidents, but only to emphasize that this commissioner's job is perhaps one of the most important jobs in the United States so far as the welfare of the youth is concerned.

Perhaps I should add that I was closely associated with Dr. James Naismith, the originator of the game of basketball, from 1902 until the time of his death in 1939, which occurred at Lawrence, Kansas. I succeeded Dr. Naismith as head of the Department of Physical Education in 1923, and he still remained as professor of Physical Education in the department until the time of his death. Naturally, through those long years of association, I came to learn much of his idealism and his desire that basketball should be kept clean, because this game is the only great game in the world that is the product of one man's brain.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Enc.

EDITORIAL ROOMS

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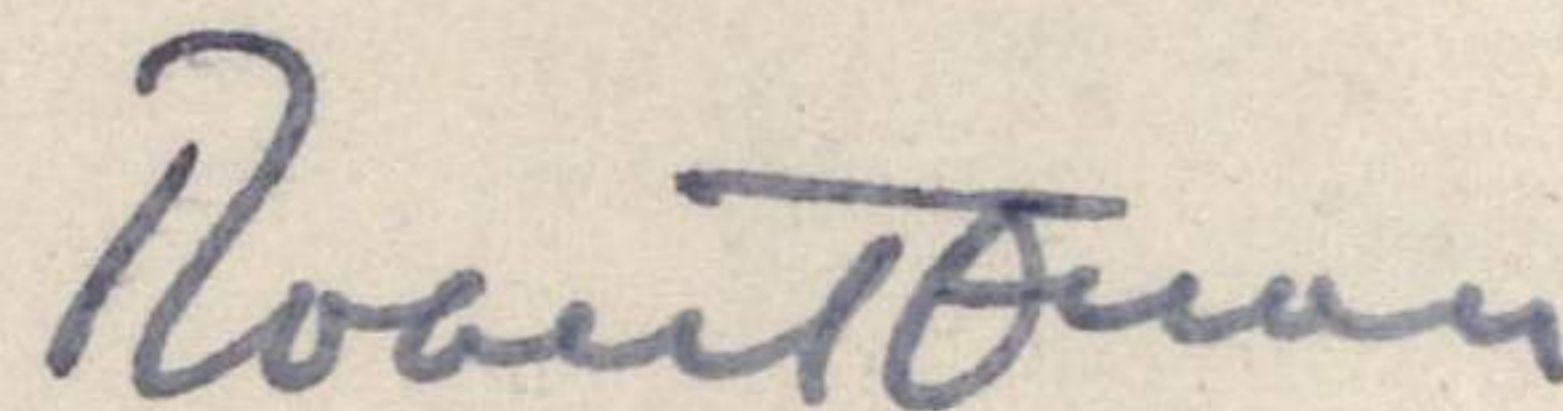
November 20, 1944

Dear Dr. Allen:

I am enclosing a carbon copy of the editorial I did based on the material you so kindly sent me. I will appreciate any suggestions you care to make.

I'll return your material as soon as the editorial has been published. If you do wish to make any suggestions, I hope you will do so promptly because this piece ought to be scheduled as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Robert Fuoss
Managing Editor

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
RF*gm

November 24, 1944.

Memo to Mr. Fuoss --

I am, of course, returning your copy of the editorial. Thank you so much for sending it to me.

Off the record, I might tell you that the pressure from above of the N.C.A.A. has already worked. I very politely and quietly was asked by one of my superiors if I could be quite discreet in making charges such as I have made.

I know the modus operandi. I have seen it work before, and it comes from the gentleman that I mentioned in my other letter to you. He never appears in public, but always works behind the scene. That is why I say that we have no forthright administration in intercollegiate athletics in the N.C.A.A. It is all done by wire-pulling pressure methods, and rewarding the lieutenants who are faithful to the trust of secrecy and not covenants openly arrived at.

In this afternoon's mail I am sending you for your perusal a letter from James A. McFarland, who knows a lot and cannot be fooled. I thought you might enjoy it. And too, it explains some of the special police work that the Garden brags about in keeping gamblers away.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

November 11, 1944.

Mr. Robert Fuoss, Managing Editor,
The Saturday Evening Post,
Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Fuoss:

Naturally the minds of many people wonder why the legally constituted athletic authorities of the National Collegiate Athletic Association are not enthusiastic regarding an intercollegiate czar the type of Judge Landis.

I am giving you this information confidentially. You may never want to touch upon it in any way, but it will explain things to you, I believe, that will be helpful in fathoming this situation.

I have known Major John L. Griffith for thirty-five or more years. John Griffith was director of athletics and director of the Drake Relays, as well as the football and other sports coach when one man coached all sports. This was long before World War I. He was a better than average coach and a great personality with organizing ability. Confidentially, he has had a phobia to be in the President's Cabinet for years as the educational athletic advisor of the nation, much after the manner of the Commissioner of Education.

During World War I he was one of the athletic administrators, being stationed at Camp Dodge, just out of Des Moines. In 1916 just before World War I, I signed a contract with George Huff, director of athletics at Illinois, to go to Illinois. The war rumblings were then on and we postponed my going until after the war. After the war things had changed quite considerably and Major John L. Griffith was then an applicant for intramural director at Illinois and one of the administrators of the four-year coaching school course.

Some of my duties and some of Major Griffith's duties were overlapping. I went to Urbana to confer with Mr. Huff regarding the job. Just at that time the possibilities opened here, and I chose the competitive side while Major Griffith, due to his war work, went into the intramural and administrative field.

When a commissioner for the Big Ten was discussed, Tom Jones who was athletic director at Wisconsin, wrote me and asked if I was interested in the commissioner's job. He said there were certain factions promoting Major Griffith of Illinois, and Wisconsin was not at that time

very enthusiastic about him. I said I was not interested. Ohio State, Illinois, and some of the schools supported Major Griffith, and he was elected.

I am not endeavoring to hold myself out as a candidate who might have had any chance at all, but I am trying to show you the trend of things in the life of Major Griffith only as I see them.

L. W. St. John of Ohio State University, the most adroit politician in the conference, formed a fast cleavage with Major Griffith, and at the present time L. W. St. John and Major Griffith run, - literally run the N.C.A.A., her policies and her politics. Major Griffith has served as president of the N.C.A.A. and is now secretary-treasurer.

But I am getting a little ahead of the horse. With the Olympic Games coming on every four years, the N.C.A.A. found herself in the position of furnishing most of the athletes, while the A.A.U. of the United States named all the coaches of the different sports. Major Griffith, working behind the scenes, used General Douglas MacArthur and Major General Palmer E. Pearson in the N.C.A.A. to fight the A.A.U.'s domination of the United States Olympic team personnel and coaches. James E. Sullivan, the president of the A.A.U. in those days, was a powerful figure and he had the A.A.U. lined up then as Major Griffith and St. John control the N.C.A.A. at present. Major Griffith stimulated and incited the fight by the colleges on the A.A.U. So far as I was concerned, I was strong for the N.C.A.A. exerting her rights because the A.A.U. did not own any equipment of any kind, nor did they develop the athletes or even the coaches.

The colleges were in no position to dictate because the International Olympic Games Committee decreed that no athlete could represent a country unless they were certified to by the Olympic Committee of that country. Frederick Rubion of New York, and James E. Sullivan, the president, and Dan Ferris, secretary, had the control of the American Olympic Committee through their association with the A.A.U., and the colleges had no power.

Alonzo Stagg took the first Olympic team to Athens, Greece, and the A.A.U., seeing an opportunity to get hold of the organization, took it early and the colleges were left out. In the early twenties Major Griffith started the fight on the A.A.U., contending that the colleges furnished the participants, therefore they should have college coaches. The fight became so bitter when Avery Brundage was president of the A.A.U.,

between the N.C.A.A. and the A.A.U. that there was verbal war. Major Palmer Pearson fought so bitterly and personalities were so strong that it was necessary for Major Pearson to resign his position as president of the N.C.A.A. so that negotiations could be carried on by the A.A.U. In other words, Major Griffith was leading the fight by staying in the background. He did not get hurt, but the front men did. Then Major Griffith negotiated with Avery Brundage and other people, and Major Griffith emerged the top man. Griffith arranged the deal with Brundage, saying, Give us control of naming the coaches for track and field, crew, swimming and wrestling, and you can have basketball and the other sports. In other words, the N.C.A.A. sold basketball down the river after basketball had been recognized in the Olympic Games. But Major Griffith had made a ten-strike because it gave to him St. John and other powerful figures in the N.C.A.A. the naming of these Olympic coaches and their assistant coaches.

On all the N.C.A.A. committees Major Griffith and his group have named coaches in the eight N.C.A.A. districts of the United States which gives him a powerful leverage.

The Big Ten is considered the top conference in the United States, certainly by the Big Ten officials and many others. Major Griffith, having served as president and now as secretary-treasurer with Phil Badger of New York as president of the N.C.A.A., has a very keen insight in the athletic politics of the country.

When a czar is broached those people of the N.C.A.A. say, Of course we do not need a czar. We have things well under control. Major Griffith, in his Pollyanna attitude, says God is in His heaven and everything is all right with the world. Of course there are a few isolated cases here and there, but by and large everything is o.k.

If a czar were appointed the power of Major Griffith and the N.C.A.A. officials would be lessened perceptibly because this self-perpetuating body would not function the same as it does now, if a czar should come in. The A.A.U. was a self-perpetuating body in the sense that the N.C.A.A. is. They name the people who work with them. The chairmen of committees, as you know, are men who are friendly to the organization. Therefore, that is why the authorities of the N.C.A.A. say there is no need for a czar. Everything is under control.

I have often thought of Major Griffith as a fuse-pincher before the spark gets to the keg of powder. He never permits explosions if he can help it - always softening the thing by some investigation and

then reporting it in its most favorable terms.

The whole N.C.A.A. set-up lacks power to enforce any mandate or edict, and this is equally true of the collegiate set-up. They hire coaches and fire them. The faculty representatives make the laws. But there are no teeth in any of them, and if anything happens it just happens.

I believe you can see by such an arrangement that there is no power like the Landis power to enforce rules against subsidizing, proselyting or professionalism.

Major Griffith's statement often made to me is that the way to handle a school if they are subsidizing illegally recruited men is just to refuse to schedule games with them. The case being as it is now regarding professionalism, there would be few schools playing each other or anyone else.

I have endeavored to show you in my sketchy way the reason why, in my opinion, the authorities of the N.C.A.A. are not overly enthusiastic about a czar.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

November 10, 1944.

Mr. Robert Fuoss,
Managing Editor,
The Saturday Evening Post,
Philadelphia 5, Pa.

Dear Mr. Fuoss:

I will endeavor to give you fulsome information regarding my knowledge of the gambling situation in Ned Irish's circuit.

I am enclosing a letter from Sam Smith, United Press sports editor in Kansas City, Mo. Sam, a Missouri man, wrote me for a basketball yarn. I try to accommodate the boys when I can. On September 22 I dictated a letter rather hastily to give him some ammunition.

Mr. Fuoss, my primal purpose in giving Smith this information was to arouse the university and college presidents of the United States to what I considered their duty in preventing a collegiate scandal that might rival or excel the Black Sox scandal. Certainly I did not desire to take a crack at Ned Irish, nor was I that "lone voice crying in the wilderness" endeavoring to purify college athletics by remote control. But rather, I wanted to give not only the college presidents, but the public, some startling facts regarding the gambling racketeering which I thought they did not know.

If the college presidents could get a czar like Judge Landis in intercollegiate athletics, - and it could be done, - then educational institutions would regain the prestige they have lost through the proselyting, subsidizing, recruiting and gambling.

This gambling situation does not pertain to college games alone. The high school games are getting as bad. I am enclosing a clipping from Lt. Jim Reed regarding the high school games at Miami, and I am sending you a confidential copy of the letter he wrote me together with his clipping.

Much of this stuff you necessarily cannot use, but it will give you the background that will enable you to hit the thing the hardest.

I am also sending you a letter from Asa Bushnell, a copy of my letter to him, and his reply. I have not heard from him as yet, but I am sure that he recognizes the vulnerability of his position.

Now, to the meat of the thing. My son, Robert E. Allen, M.D., graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School this past year.

He took his A.B. degree at the University of Kansas. He played three years on the varsity basketball team, and was mentioned by some authorities as All-American for 1940, when Kansas defeated Southern California for the Western N.C.A.A. championship and lost to the University of Indiana for the national title. Your publication carried a story the following winter on "Give The Ball to Junior", which alludes to him. Bob received a good deal of attention from the basketball clientele at the University of Pennsylvania. He and a group of his colleagues won the intramural championship a couple of years back there. He loves the game and played it as a conditioner to offset his long hours of medical study.

In 1942 while Bob was at Penn, Kansas played St. Joseph's College, winning 65 to 38. The play of the Kansas team that night was highly praised by sport writers and as a result of this game Bob got to know many more basketball fans in Philadelphia. He invited some of his medic friends to sit with us on our bench or just behind it. I believe on that night, although it was raining badly, we drew the largest crowd that has ever attended a basketball game in Philadelphia. Ray Evans and Charlie Black, two of our All-American boys, played phenomenal ball.

Stan Novak was a star on the Temple team of the year 1942-'43, and last year, 1943-'44, as a V-12 student he starred at Penn. He and Bob were very close friends. Bob says that Novak was outstanding, as were Musi, Katz and Snyder, on the 1940-'41 team. Stan Novak and Bob were discussing what happened to a boy named Albie Ingerman. Ingerman was the outstanding set shot of the east. Novak told Bob, confidentially, that Albie Ingerman was investigated for accepting a bribe from the gamblers and Josh Cody kicked him and two other boys off the squad. It was just after this affair that Josh had to go out and get some high school boys to finish his playing season.

Bob Allen said that Stan Novak is a man of high character. Stan is going back to Temple after the war and of course does not want his name used in any way, and I did not use his name to Irish. I am sending you a copy of Ned Irish's wire and my reply to him. To substantiate Novak's statement, I received an unsigned letter dated October 24th which I am sending to you. I will ask only that you return the original copies of the correspondence I am enclosing. You may make copies of any of the originals that you desire.

I am also sending you a letter from James A. McFarland, of Long Island, New York. From every place, those in on the know substantiate these statements.

Ned Irish wrote me on October 24th, and I am sending you a copy of his letter together with a copy of my reply. I am not persecuting or prosecuting Irish. He is a businessman handling a hot rock, and one would naturally expect him to try to endeavor to protect his business interests. He is a fine man.

Hy Goldberg, in his "Sports in The News" column of the Newark News, says it is much easier to "fix" the basketball outcome than it is in any other sport. I emphatically agree with him. He writes as follows:

"It wouldn't be a question of throwing the game. Betting on basketball is confined pretty much to a point basis. As long as his team wins, the average player isn't too interested in the score, and if a wily citizen can induce a key performer not to run up the tally, once his team is in the lead, well, it might not sound too bad. . . . but it's probably easier to 'fix' a basketball contest than any other team game that comes to mind. Football pools have been rampant in the country for years, but no single member of a football squad can control a game as can a key scorer on a five-man basketball team. A baseball player is similarly incapable of taking charge of the situation. But in basketball, the high scorer need only narrowly miss the basket on a few shots to hold the score down, and not even his own teammates could detect it. In fact, that sort of thing was a common practice for years in professional court circles. It wasn't necessarily a matter of heavy wagering. The big pro outfits simply avoided humiliating the hometown team. They 'made it close', usually with an eye toward a return engagement."

Bob Considine in writing on the term "cooperation" used by Lou Greenberg, former manager of the Syracuse, N. Y., Reds, professional basketball team, said that pro players had told him of their alleged cooperation in having the point scores in their college games fit the gambling odds. Dan Parker, sports editor of the New York Daily Mirror, and Bob Considine, sports editor and columnist, have often flayed the gambling interests in their 'in the middle' gambling on basketball games. Considine wrote recently:

"Most of the warnings . . . have centered around the curious way in which so many of the final scores of Garden games have ended 'in the middle'. 'In the middle' is a gambling expression denoting a final score which is just right for the gambler - in that he collects from both wagering sides. For instance, a gambler ordains that one team is '15-13' over another, meaning that if you want to bet on the favorite you must bet not that the favorite will win, but that the favorite will win by at least fifteen points, or if you want the underdog you bet that said underdog will come within thirteen points of winning. A lot of games have been ending in the middle, which, in the hypothetical case outlined above, would mean that the winning team wins by only fourteen points. Thus the bookmaker collects from both bettors. There have been a few too many in-the-middle games to suit the lovers of the law of mathematics. . . ."

I have been quoted as saying that a basketball czar was the thing. I haven't been interested in a basketball czar. I have only been interested in having some outstanding jurist of national reputation and standing, even nominated by the President, head up such an organization as a national collegiate czar. He necessarily would have to be a lawyer because only a man with legal training and experience could set up a workable program with the necessary rules and regulations. He of course would have to be a college-bred man to know the athletic traditions of the colleges of our land. His powers would be absolute.

I am also sending you an article by Lawton Carver, the International News Service sports writer. His first statement that I had "backed down" led me to send him the wire, a copy of which I am enclosing. His INS release of October 25th was printed in the San Francisco paper, but Jack Carberry of the Denver Post says it was withdrawn by his service.

These fellows who get cuts from the game naturally flay someone who comes out in the open and shows the public what is going on. This Invitation Tournament that is handled by Ned Irish first started as a Sport Writers Invitation Tournament. These sport writers naturally got their cut because they promoted the tournament. And then when it was so obvious as to what was being done they changed it to the Invitation Tournament, and Irish handled it. Irish always has the newspapers boys at Toots Shor's restaurant with every income game attraction to mingle with the coaches and to get stories. These stories are, of course, legitimate. The boys write feature stories and get three to five hundred dollars for their article, which is o.k., but the fact that the newspaper men figure in the out of the gate receipts on these Invitation Tournaments is still questionable because no reform can ever take place when the boys are protecting their own situation.

However, if we had a national czar with the character and power that Judge Landis exercises in professional baseball, he would correct things in a reasonably short while, and at the same time he would lift the odious burden from the college presidents who now have a stinker on their hands. He might even deny college teams playing in the Irish circuit or similar circuits until the difficulty was eradicated. I have been told by reliable authorities that Mr. Irish's most profitable and consistent customers are the boys who make wagering their business. Mr. McFarland re-emphasizes this in his letter. He also states if the Garden management were to rely on lovers and followers of basketball they would average only about eight thousand people a game, whereas now they average close to fifteen thousand.

This letter is entirely too fatiguing for your own benefit, I fear. But there are two additional angles that I think you should have as a background. The gambling interests who print dope sheets or form sheets for football and basketball are now engaging the sports writers of our college papers to furnish them inside information on the condition and strength of the varsity teams. This information is supplied by the sport writers or sport editors and it is a clandestine arrangement. Of course, no publicity is ever given to it, but the sport writer or sport editor is paid by these nationally unlisted publications proportionately on the correctness of the information given.

Confidentially, I have talked to the manager of our University Daily Kansan, and for the past two years the gamblers have had such an arrangement with the sport editor of the Kansan, and this year he is even more of an outstanding sports writer because he is reporting for one of the largest city dailies in the country, and at the same time is enrolled in work in journalism in the University. The head of the department can do nothing about it, although they consider this illegitimate work. The football coach does not know of such activity, and certainly it is not my position to inform him because it will open up a field similar to the expose that was made in regard to gambling in the basketball games in the Garden. Of course, it is difficult to prove because the individual could deny it.

This sinister influence has its matastices in all forms of our collegiate athletics that have the power to attract the public to the games with the consequential gambling on the events. The gamblers' slimy fingers are working in the remotest spots that the college presidents and even the athletic authorities know little of. Personally, I have not said a word to our chancellor or to Ernie Quigley, our director of athletics, because this information was given to me by the faculty member of the Kansan staff, and I figured that if he wanted to transmit that to our authorities it was more his business than mine. However, some time in the near future when I can have a full evening with Mr. Quigley I expect to lay some of these things before him because I do not believe that he dreams of the situation. Although a college man, Mr. Quigley has been identified with professional baseball and knows all the angles of that game, but this administrative angle of intercollegiate athletics is a little new to him. But it will not be long, because he learns fast.

The second situation is where the gamblers are not contacting members of the football squad, asking them to give to these gamblers and their syndicate the confidential information on the physical condition of the squad, the esprit de corps and all possible valuable information that will permit more accurate estimates.

Kansas Played Tulsa University this past fall. Ernie Quigley, our athletic director, was tied up on a radio broadcast and asked that I represent him at Tulsa in an alumni gathering of Kansas alumni and Tulsa alumni prior to the Tulsa-Kansas football game at Tulsa. I spoke at the Quarterback Club meeting at Tulsa where there were about ten millionaires in the group, and in that meeting I spoke of the dangers of gambling, as I have fifty or a hundred times before they broke the story on basketball in the Garden. At each one of these meetings I have stressed the necessity of a czar for all collegiate sports.

Coach Henry Frnka of Tulsa University was present at that meeting, and so was President Pontius of Tulsa University. After I had finished speaking, Coach Frnka got up and said, "Coach Allen is not overstressing this one iota. Only last week one of my boys came to me and told me that he had an easy job which would fix him up for the rest of the year." Coach Frnka stated that a gambler had approached this boy, and turning to me, he said, "Dr. Allen would know the gambler." And in exchange for valuable information that the squadman of Tulsa University was to give this gambler, the gambler was to pay well for this information.

Frnka said to the boy, "Do you know what you are doing to the Tulsa football team?" And the boy said no, he didn't see anything wrong with it, and the Frnka explained to him. "Well," the fellow said, "the same deal is being worked now at S.M.U. and they are not doing anything about it there." Whereupon Coach Frnka said he called Jimmy Stewart, the athletic director and coach at S.M.U., and appraised him of these facts.

I think I should tell you regarding a statement that Mr. Vadal Peterson, coach at the University of Utah, made at the Boone, Iowa, Chamber of Commerce this summer. We were at Boone for the Iowa State High School Athletic Association Coaching Association. There were some 250 coaches in attendance, and the faculty was comprised of Ray Eliot, coach at the University of Illinois, Vadal Peterson and myself, as well as Bud Parmalee, former pitcher for the New York Giants who was representing the American Association, Pie Traynor, formerly of the Pittsburgh Pirates, who was representing the National League, and Lou Fonseca, former Chicago White Sox manager, who was representing the American League. We heard Vadal Peterson in a public address before 150 members of the Boone, Iowa, Chamber of Commerce, make the statement that a gambler knocked on the door of his hotel room at six o'clock in the morning after the Utah team arrived in New York, and he asked Peterson how much it would take for Utah to lose in the N.C.A.A. finals that night against Dartmouth. Peterson knocked him out of the doorway and slammed the door in his face.

Peterson also related that upon his first arrival in New York at the Invitation Tournament in the game between the University of Kentucky and Utah, when the game was practically over the little Japanese boy on the Utah team shot a goal which narrowed the lead between Utah and Kentucky from ten points to eight points in favor of Kentucky. The bookies were favoring Kentucky to win by ten points, and in the waning seconds of the game the little Japanese boy on the Utah team shot a goal. Peterson stated that from his bench he could observe a spectator running excitedly out on the floor toward the Japanese player. Peterson said, "Oh-oh, international trouble." And Peterson started in pursuit of the spectator who was pursuing the Japanese boy. Before Peterson arrived the spectator excitedly grabbed the little Japanese and kissed him. When Peterson got to the scene he said, "What in the world is the matter with that fellow?" And the fellow said, "Boy, your shot just made me fifteen thousand dollars."

Just today I received a copy of an open letter to Red Smith, Ed Pollock and Art Morrow, all of Philadelphia, from Mr. Leonard Orman. I am sending this correspondence also for your perusal.

There is a mass of additional information with which I hesitate to tire you. However, if there is anything further that you wish to ask me I will be very glad to supply you with the best information possible.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH
Encl.

October 30, 1944.

Mr. Robert Fuoss,
Managing Editor,
The Saturday Evening Post,
Philadelphia 5, Pa.

Dear Mr. Fuoss:

I need not tell you that I was immensely pleased to have your letter of the 25th instant.

Your diagnosis of the situation was exactly correct. Already Ned has sugar-coated the proposition so far as he is concerned. And there will be sporadic backer-uppers in the form of sports writers who will say that God is still in His Heaven and all is right with the world.

I can appreciate your position regarding an article. However, I think an editorial could be much stronger than an article because it would show that the Post has taken a stand and the influence wielded by your publication would be many times stronger than an article. Certainly an editorial on the subject for publication around Christmas time would be climactic.

It will be several days before I can get you the full gist of the stuff I desire to send you. But I will make it fulsome and informative enough for you to give them plenty.

My kindest regards to Ben Hibbs. We have always been intensely fond of him.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

FCA:AH

EDITORIAL ROOMS

THE SATURDAY
EVENING
POST

FOUNDED BY

Benjamin Franklin

BEN HIBBS
EDITOR

THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA 5

October 25, 1944

Dr. Forrest Allen
Kansas University
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Allen:

As an ex-basketball-player of more enthusiasm than ability, and as a current spectator, I have been very much interested in the ruckus you stirred up by your charges that the gamblers have moved in on basketball. My own observation, after seeing a good many of last winter's games, both in Philadelphia's Convention Hall and in the Garden, is that, if anything, you have understated the case. I doubt that I could make my beliefs stand up in court but I am personally convinced, nevertheless, that there were a lot of strange doings on the big-time basketball circuit last winter.

After reading the papers here, I suspect that your colleagues, including Ned Irish, are going to sugar over your statement in the hope that the public will forget the whole thing before the season begins. I feel, as you do, that it would be a mistake to pretend that gamblers haven't gotten next to some of the boys, and I am wondering if there isn't something the Post can do to keep the issue alive.

Obviously, we can't print an article on the subject because such a piece would have to be libel-proof and, aside from the specific case you've mentioned, I doubt that we could get together enough evidence to make an article stick. On the other hand, I am wondering what you would think of our doing a brief editorial on the subject for publication around Christmas time? The season will then be in full swing and the editorial might, at least, let the boys know that the issue is by no means dead.

If you think well of this notion, I'd appreciate any tidbits of new information you can give me. I have a little ammunition of my own, but not enough to do the job I have in mind.

Sincerely,

Robert Fuoss

Robert Fuoss
Managing Editor

RF*gm

P.S. Ben Hibbs sends his regards.

KNOCK OUT THE GAMBLING MOB
or
REALISM IN COLLEGE ATHLETICS

It is now high time for our college presidents of America to drop their academic mantle and face realism in college athletics. At the present time it is definitely known that on several ~~campuses in our land~~ ^{of our college campuses}

1. The gamblers are hiring, 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;

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

3. The gamblers have now a central clearing house working through professional agents or dope collectors. They issue weekly form sheets which are synonomous with race forms. They set prices on wholesale information on ^{college} sports events throughout the nation.

4. With the racetracks of America now closed there will be thousands of gamblers looking for a new racket, and our college sports will be the next thing they will ^{turn to} take over.

To offset this gambling menace to our college sports, it is thinkable that a courageous, farsighted band of college and university presidents could assemble and give unlimited power to a High Commissioner of college sport.

Baseball gave unlimited power to Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis and he built confidence in a sport that had received a knock-out by the gamblers.

Certainly this is a job with dignity that could attract a Supreme

Court justice or a personality the type of J. Edgar Hoover, ~~Carte Blanche~~

General Douglas MacArthur or
Carte Blanche → *This High Commissioner should have a sympathy and a fondness for and a belief in the educational value of college sports rightly conducted.*
authority should be given this man to devise a workable system whereby all

of the better colleges of America could be brought in to a scheme that would

prove a mighty force in striking out against ~~proselyting~~ *gambling, illegal subsidizing* and rank profession-

alism in college sport. *and at the same time restoring the integrity of college athletics* The salary ~~for~~ *and tenure rightly* such a man should be ~~sixty to seventy-~~

commensurate with that of Judge Landis
five thousand dollars, and the tenure should be for life.

Instead of divorcing this man from college sports, *as some contend,* he would be very

intimately associated with the colleges because it would be from the authority

of the presidents that this man would derive his power. *He would be an integral part.* The ~~salary of \$75,000~~

The salary would be no great obstacle because each school would pay its share according

to the student population. The small college of 350 would pay its proportion-

ate part of the salary as would a university with 20,000 enrolled.

Students enrolled This High Commissioner should of necessity be legally trained for the

purpose of writing *the* constitution and by-laws for the conferences and the

colleges of America under which they would operate. The odium on college

athletics would be lifted because there would be a confidence in the adminis-

Students enrolled in American colleges
(excluding normals and teachers colleges) in
1937-38 -- 1,350,000. This was taken from
the World Almanac for 1940.

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tration of college athletics similar to 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 have a free hand since there is no one in the college organizations to ^{capably} oppose them.

Subsidizing and overt professionalism in college athletics is the second great danger facing the life of college athletics. In addition to attempting to wipe out the gambling evil, the High Commissioner would have absolute power over all athletic directors, coaches and employees of the athletic department. He would prescribe rigid rules for the conduct and behavior of the men in athletics, ~~as regards professionalism and subsidizing.~~ ^{proselytizing}

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.

Just as a state bank examiner supervises the deputy bank examiners, so would the conference commissioners work under the High Commissioner. Each conference

would have its own laws, but there would be an integration, ^{with} and the High

Commissioner would outline ^{outlining the various college conferences, relationships} in the national set-up.

relationships of the

It is thinkable that this association of conferences ~~and colleges~~
in this commissioner plan, would be a voluntary organization. ^{Only member} ~~it would~~
~~naturally be directed and encouraged by the college presidents because they~~
~~would, of course, underwrite it.~~ ^{schools would be permitted to schedule member}
^{sports in athletic contests. The sheep from the goats idea.}
The deputy commissioners would not
necessarily be excessively high-priced men, because the organizing, motivating
and enforcement would be under the supreme command of the High Commissioner.
His edicts and laws would be final. The college presidents would delegate
that power to him ~~for them~~. And by this act the college presidents would
be relieved of the burden and the stigma which overhangs our present - day
varsity competition.

Football is a gigantic business and its ^{smaller} ~~tiny~~ brother, basketball, is
edging its face into the picture. Where there is so much involved, financially,
men and organizations will take short cuts unless there is rigid supervision
with teeth in its laws.

The old so-called amateur law is outmoded. Scholarships have long
been given to outstanding college athletes. Some conferences pay their men
a monthly stipend ^{with} ~~and some~~ conferences ^{approve} ~~approve~~ that plan. The commissioner
would set up a conference agreement for scholarships and so forth, with the
understanding that no additional outside funds would be forthcoming to the

athlete. This would be as a protection against proselyting. If these laws were violated, sanctions would be enforced against coaches, athletic managers, players, or those individuals who broke the laws.