

Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph
Oct. 23, 1944

Keck Says:

Scandal in Basketball Overshadows Grid Games

By HARRY KECK, SPORTS EDITOR

Overshadowing the football results of the weekend was the blast let forth by Dr. Forrest (Phog) Allen, Kansas basketball coach, to the effect that the life of the college game is menaced by the actions of gamblers, especially at the doubleheaders played each winter in New York's Madison Square Garden.

Phog, always a volatile figure in the sport, calls upon the basketball and college authorities to do something about the situation, and there is plenty



Phog Allen

of corroborating testimony to his charges. He makes the flat statement that at least one player "sold out" to the gamblers last winter and that many players and teams have been approached by the men who wager large

sums on the games. The player in question, Phog says, has been dismissed by his college.

Dr. H. C. Carlson, coach of the Pitt team, which has played in the New York college games and tournaments, is one of those who confirms the charges. He told me that he saw Ned Irish, promoter of the Garden, order a gambler ejected from the premises and said Ned is doing what he can on his own accord to eliminate the evil.

Ev Shelton, coach of Wyoming University, says he has been cautioned by Irish to guard his players from contact with the gamblers, and Coach Vadal Peterson, of Utah, says he was approached by a gambler before his team's game with Dartmouth at the Garden last winter.

Allen has been in frequent conflict with his brother coaches in the East and has been a consistent dissenter from some of the rules changes, but in his present crusade he appears to have the backing of the members of his profession.

Gambling on basketball games has been a growing racket in recent years, extending even to the high school games. There is considerable money-changing on the scores of the games and the bettors operate in the open at the local and sectional tournaments.

The solution obviously is to have the police pick up the gamblers on sight and also for the colleges and schools to issue warnings that any monkey business by players will be penalized not only by prompt disbarment from the squad but also by dismissal from classes. Many states have laws making "fixing" of any athletic contest a criminal offense, and it would not take many arrests to discourage manipulations.

Baseball cleaned its house, boxing commissions have done a pretty good job of weeding out their undesirable elements, and now basketball plainly has a job to do.

* * *