

ST. JOSEPH A



UNSIGNED letters belong in the waste basket. That's where they go, ordinarily. There's an exception to every rule, however. Despite its lack of signature, this letter, mailed at a railroad postoffice, deserves an answer.

The writer identifies himself as "A DENVER POST reader" over the last ten years, and goes into Dr. Forrest C. (Phog) Allen's charges relative to the alleged "throwing" of college basketball games in Madison Square Garden. He writes:

"As you remember, after Ned Irish's tournament in New York last spring, Bob Considine came out with charges about the same as "Phog" Allen's, but not so broad. His complete charge was carried in THE DENVER POST and he claimed that gambling was very bad in these basketball tournaments. In fact, his words were similar to these: "Gambling is rife and is all over the country, New York, Los Angeles and in Denver, another cage crazy town." He was speaking of basketball.

"As you have always insisted that sports be carried on the level in Denver, I waited patiently for your answer to Considine's charges, but to date you have never mentioned anything. Surely if the above charges are not true it is your duty to defend Denver. If they are true I would keep mum . . ."

It is true there is "betting" on basketball games in Denver. But betting here is of the "I'll bet you a buck" variety. What Bob Considine was talking about, and what "Phog" Allen is talking about are two widely different things. Nobody—and I think this includes "Phog" Allen—objects to wagers being made on ball games, even when these wagers are made by what we in Denver laughingly call "gamblers."

What Allen is talking about is gambling syndicates, who have thousands upon thousands of dollars riding on the points of a game—like the fellow who rushed out on the floor in Madison Square Garden, kissing a Utah player whose basket, he said, made him \$15,000.

The plain fact is you can take all the so-called gamblers in Denver—every last one of them—and I doubt if they own that much between them in cash, personal property and real property. Between them they couldn't raise enough ready cash to pay off anybody to throw a ball game. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to name names—to list our so-called "gamblers" who make a habit of betting on basketball games. The majority of them think they have a big day when they wager and win five bucks.

To the very best of my knowledge, and I think I would know something about it if it ever happened, no so-called "gambler" in our town ever approached either a member of or a team appearing in the National A. A. U. tournament. The principal reason is that any such approach would, in the first place, require something more in the way of cash than the price of a beer—and that's about the extent of the wealth of