

the local gambling mob.

Occasionally one appears who claims he has ventured as much as \$500 on a sporting event. The word spreads all over town like wildfire. When you check up you find the bet was fifty—not five hundred.

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JERRY HECKERT, writing in the Topeka, Kan., State Journal—one of "Phog" Allen's neighbors—sums the situation up quite well this way:

"Allen, being from Kansas, would be the first to pop his eyes when a New Yorker flashed a roll during a tournament in the east. Why? Well the Sunflower State never has gone in for gambling in public.

"Betting is more or less considered completely legal in the Gotham state. They lay the Morgenthau paper on the horses all of the time. They put it on the boxers. It's common as getting up and dressing every morning—gambling in the east.

"But out here in Kansas the guys who have an extra buck they'd like to wager have to (or should have to, according to law) sneak thru backrooms to lay it on the line. There's plenty of parlay cards in the state and plenty of dough going on them each week.

"Of course, we realize this isn't the type of gambling that Allen is campaigning to crush. But he may be a bit confused because he saw it being done openly in New York and misinterpreted the whole affair."

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I DO NOT think Allen is confused at all. Allen, as far as I can read his writings, has no beef about the type of gambling that goes on in Kansas or anywhere else, where betting is a friendly wager. The fact is such betting lends interest and zest to all sports.

What Allen is talking about, I think, is described in the following article by Leonard Cohen, sports columnist for the New York Post. The New Yorker writes with authority, for he is on the scene:

"Sooner or later the charge that gamblers had tried to fix the basketball games at the Garden had to come out in the open. The surprising angle of Dr. Forrest C. (Phog) Allen's statement that the heavy betting gentry last season had fixed at least one player (whose name Allen was reported to have sent to Ned Irish, Garden promoter) was that Allen should have started the fuss months after the incident was supposed to have occurred, and two months before the coming season got under way.

"We don't intend to get into any controversy with Dr. Allen, who may know something of a really sinister nature. We do know, however, that the bettors and gamblers have probably been more active at the college basketball games at the Garden than they have been at the professional sports of boxing and hockey.

"College basketball at the Garden could ill afford any scandal to be attached to it. Irish is smart enough to realize that if the general run of court fans smell a rat in the form of a fixing scandal, his attendance at the Garden will drop as fast as it rose. Allen's idea of awakening the college presidents to stop the gambling by appointing a czar, similar to baseball's Landis, sounds like a bad dream to us.

"How to keep out about a thousand or more of the gamblers who crowd into the Garden for every game seems to be a problem which even Irish will have trouble solving. However, what he can do, if they gain admittance to the Garden, is to stop them from congregating in the lobby where for several seasons they have been openly quoting odds and making bets. Irish has built up a tremendous business out of collegiate basketball, one which you can be sure he will do anything in his power to keep flourishing and untainted by any breath of scandal.

"Another danger confronting Irish, aside from the possible loss of interest by the spectators who have filled his coffers, is that the colleges themselves will refuse to play at the Garden. The teams have been getting nice cuts of the gate, it is true, but graduate managers will quickly be told by their university councils not to schedule games for the Garden if the educators suspect their undergraduates are being exposed to corruption.

"We think the headache is Irish's. He's known about the gamblers; he's seen them, even as you and I, standing around the lobby, smoking their big cigars, talking quietly but none the less obviously in terms of points, etc. We don't know how seriously he's tried to stop them in the past, but his highly successful basketball monopoly is now in jeopardy and we look for him to put the pressure on the betting fraternity this winter as never before. It was the success of his basketball venture that led to his becoming acting president of the Garden in the wartime absence of Brigadier General Kilpatrick. Irish likes the prestige and the financial stipend that go with the title too much to have his dream-empire-come-true totter and disappear without putting up a terrific fight in self-defense."