

Morning World-Herald

Sports Section

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Oldstuff---

Danger!

READERS of this paper didn't get to see a torrid piece on Phog Allen, written by Lawton Carver and sent out over the INS printers Wednesday.

They didn't get to see it, because a "kill" was sent out a couple of hours after the story was filed.

And someone in the INS organization made a wise decision in stopping publication. The story certainly was unfair to Kansas' veteran basket ball coach.

It was perfectly all right to call him a "loud-mouth," a "publicity-seeker" and a "popoff" because Phog probably is all of those things. But it was going too far to call him "a bumpkin of no particular standing and of questionable ability as a basket ball coach."

Regardless of what you think of Allen personally, you can't deny his ability as a coach. Few in the nation outrank him at the business of showing boys how to make more points than their opponents.

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THIS latest Allen explosion, involving charges of gambling on games in the Madison Square Garden tournament, isn't such a wild outburst, actually, as some of Phog's previous ravings.

It's a ticklish question, this gambling on college sports. It's one most fellows have dodged when talking for publication. Other coaches have expressed grave concern over the trend, but have lacked the courage to bring it out into the open as the Kansan has done.

We wouldn't say Allen was justified in charging some college boys had taken money from gamblers to hold down the score, but we do think he's right in saying the gambling element constitutes a distinct threat to the future of amateur sport.

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BETTING on college football as well as basket ball games has grown tremendously in the past few years. It's a definite evil.

The great number of so-called sports fans who have become habitual gamblers no longer belong in the "fan" class. They aren't unselfishly cheering for a team because they enjoy having it win. They want the club to win or lose by a certain margin, in order to whip the parlay operators. The element of sport is gone.

Friendly wagers between a couple of office workers never will harm college sport. But it has advanced far beyond that stage now. It's big business—a cold, hard, money-making proposition.

Since thousands and thousands of dollars change hands on the outcome of almost every major football and basket ball game, it's only natural that big gamblers sooner or later will attempt to buy off some of the competitors.

So Phog Allen is right on one point. College leaders should recognize the danger, and do something to correct it before it's too late.

Floyd Olds,
Sports Editor.