

Phog Allen Says Lexington Is Biggest Gambling Center

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Phog Allen—Dr. Forrest C. Allen — outspoken crusader against gambling on college sports; basketball coach at the University of Kansas, the man who gave Adolph Rupp his training in hardwood science, today stated in a long distance telephone call from Lawrence, Kansas, that "Lexington is probably the biggest high school and college gambling center in the United States."

Dr. Allen, long an advocate of "cleaning out" gambling within college sports, made the assertion a few days ago that Lexington was the college gambling center of the nation and repeated his charge in the telephone conversation.

The Kansas coach said that headquarters for the wagering customers was a room above the Mayfair bar, located at 224 East Main street, and that the telephone number was 3730. Dr. Allen said that he did not know whether there was any connection between management of the bar and the gambling joint.

"But I do know that a gigantic

handbook agency is located above the Mayfair," the coach continued, "and that the establishment, during the period of racing, handled considerable money on horse races, and that on Saturdays during the football season handled as much as \$500,000 on college football games. The place has been doing a big business in basketball gambling. The joint has telephone lines to a number of major cities," Dr. Allen went on, "and, with a monthly telephone bill of around \$2,500, can put calls through to these cities in less time than can an Army general."

Predicted Scandals

Dr. Allen long has argued that gambling on college sports was choking the very life out of such sports, and months ago predicted that if college authorities didn't wake up they would be confronted with scandals which would make the White Sox World Series affair of 1919 seem tame by comparison. His contentions were borne out to a marked degree with the recent disclosure of the Brooklyn College "sell-out."

Though primarily a "basketball" man, Dr. Allen says that he is concerned with the threat which other sports face—football being endangered most of all.

"Even track," he said, "has now

been invaded by the gamblers, especially in the eastern cities and in the midwest."

The Kansas coach believes that the only solution is the selection of a "czar" who is empowered to wield a heavy club in college athletics much in the manner the late Judge K. M. Landis did in baseball.

Dr. Allen said he has no quarrel with the subsidization of college athletes if it's done in the right way. But since there is little supervision of such tactics and since there is little that can be done to schools violating agreements, he believes that a commissioner of college sports is the only logical answer.

"Subsidization is all right, but doing it surreptitiously—as it's being done—is very dangerous," he asserted.

Deplores Proselyting

One of the most deplorable practices in college athletics, according to Coach Allen, is that of proselyting. "Coaches go after a boy, who already has settled at some school; offer him a large amount of money and take him away."

But getting back to the question of gambling, Dr. Allen stated that athletic directors and not "long bearded deans and professors" should be in full charge of athletic programs at educational centers.

"Athletic directors should be in full charge of sports programs," he said. "They, and not faculty representatives who know nothing about the business, should determine policies and be answerable for all criticisms."

He continued that under the present set-up in most sections coaches and athletic directors are nothing more than business managers. These two groups should be made full professors, Dr. Allen believes, with the powers and privileges and the respect accorded to professors.

And another thing. Dr. Allen says the threat to college sports will not be removed until gamblers, who invade the sanctity of the campus, are jailed for offenses.

"Those Brooklyn gamblers are still laughing about the affair at the college there. They've been gambling on college sports for years, and they'll keep on until the law puts a stop to it. The Brooklyn College scandal was a small thing by comparison to what goes on. And as long as we have places like the one there in Lexington the threat to our colleges and to our college boys will continue."