

And that, of course, is precisely the point. Unless a man is prepared to submit proof, he has no right whatever to broadcast charges of crookedness.

### He Must Name Names Or Keep Quiet

Allen makes his living, or at least part of it, out of basketball. The very least he owes the game in return is to put up or shut up. He must name names publicly, and give the accused a chance to make a public defense. Or else he must stop rapping the sport that feeds him.

The good doctor's discovery that some people bet on basketball games will not astonish fans in the East. The literate ones have been reading storm warnings for years.

It has been pointed out time and again that gambling on college games has attained approximately the proportions of the steel industry. Professionals exchange such copious and minute information about teams that a bookie in New York can learn what the star center of Sioux City Normal ate for breakfast three days before a game, and how it sat on his stomach.

A coach may think his team is in perfect physical and mental condition for a big game, but some total stranger in Jersey City knows the left forward has a slightly sprained ankle, the right guard has been fighting with his girl friend, the first-line substitute can't sleep on a Pullman and the custodian of the water bucket is ailing with a cut suffered while shaving.

With gamblers maintaining such intimate contact with players, it is a mortal cinch that some day somebody is going to get to a kid with a financial proposition—if it hasn't happened already.

Even without selling out, it is possible for a player to make at least a good try at influencing the payoff on bets based on the score of a game. The big wagering is done on a point basis, money being staked on the proposition that Team A will beat Team B by, say, 10 points.

Angle guys insist they have seen cases in which a boy on Team A seemed determined that his club shouldn't win by more than eight points.

I don't know whether any college player ever bet a dime or accepted a penny from a bettor. But I do know Allen is right when he calls gambling a menace to the game. The mealy-mouthed complaint that his statements betray a "lack of faith in American youth" is as sensible as a protest that maintenance of a police force reflects distrust of the American people.

However, one can't agree with Allen that the menace can be removed by appointing a basketball czar like baseball's Judge Landis. Basketball has no such national organization as baseball to invest a commissioner with authority, and a commissioner wouldn't have the indispensable power to fine offending players, teams or colleges.

There is a suspicion that Dr. Allen, suggesting appointment of a czar like Landis, also is prepared to recommend a candidate for the job. Any guesses as to the candidate's name?