

MY NICKEL'S WORTH

BOB JOHNSON, Acting Sports Editor.

On our desk this morning was a letter from Forrest C. (Phog) Allen, athletic director and head basketball coach of the University of Kansas.

Phog, it seems, got hold of our recent column wherein we retracted several statements about him regarding his charges some months ago about gambling in college basketball. In that same column we again criticized him for not pressing the matter at the time by following through with his charges which might have thus averted the Brooklyn college hoop scandal.

Allen wrote us, in part:

"I want you to know that I sent Ned Irish (president of Madison Square Garden and one of those responsible for taking college basketball into the big arenas) a telegram naming names. But I did not give it to the public press, which, in my opinion, was the right thing to do. If Ned Irish did not give publicity to the telegram I sent him, then he intentionally created the wrong impression. I had the definite information when I wired Ned Irish, as I have it now. I merely wanted you to know."

Be that as it may. We still feel, Phog, that if Ned Irish failed to follow through with the information you sent him you owed it to college basketball to continue pressing the charges yourself if you were so sure of your information. And we don't have the slightest doubt but that you had it, especially since the Brooklyn affair.

Fire and Fight.

We don't care whether you are a Rogers high booster or not, you still have to hand it to those Pirates for the manner in which they have battled in this year's city high school basketball race. We're a Rogers fan—if admiring the school spirit and the fight of its athletic teams makes one a fan of any school. But we're not to be found listed among those who believe the Pirates have the best basketball team in the city, even though they are undefeated in six games. That, we suppose, makes us anti-Rogers to a lot of people, which certainly isn't the case either.

The Pirate students can be doubly proud of their team because the brand of basketball they play is regarded by many to be inferior to that played by Lewis and Clark, for example.

A team that wins 'em with that kind of an outfit depends on the desire to win more than ability. And those Pirates have the desire and that's brought them through the tough spots thus far.

Their toughest three games on the schedule are still to be played and the Pirates need only win one of them to lay claim to at least part of the title. The best way they can assure themselves of full and undisputed possession will be to beat Lewis and Clark Friday night. A lot of people, and we frankly admit that we're among them, feel the South Siders have a better team, a better team in fact, than the one that won the state championship last year. That's an opinion, however, that can be quieted by two things—namely Rogers 27, Lewis and Clark 22, and Rogers 25, Lewis and Clark 21. You can't very well argue successfully when faced with those figures, now can you?

Upsets Can Occur.

What if Lewis and Clark beat Rogers? The Pirates will still win the title if they successfully get past North Central and Gonzaga once more. Incidentally if Lewis and Clark beat Rogers and Rogers is also beaten by North Central or Gonzaga, it doesn't necessarily mean the race will end in a tie. Lewis and Clark must also get past N. C. and the Zags, something that's getting to be tougher to do with each start.

The city league race isn't over yet but right now the Pirates are prohibitive favorites to capture the crown and to go down in Rogers high school history as the first five to win a city title for Rogers and the team that ended Lewis and Clark's domination of high school basketball in Spokane. Two very noteworthy achievements.