

F. C. 'PHOG' ALLEN

- By Harold Claassen -

Lawrence, Kas., Jan. 31, (AP) - Atop windswept Mount Oread, the consistent capital of college basketball, is a man who sticks to horse and buggy coaching tactics- and and makes others like it.

Dr. Forrest C (Phog) Allen, although as modern and intense as a 1939 jittebug, keeps his Kansas University Jay-hawks winning titles with tricks used when Pa-and-Ma danced the dreamy waltzes of 1905.

Successful? Twenty-two of his 28 teams have won Conference championships. In 28 years his teams won 322 games and lost only 70. He is so good he overcame his two sons' natural doubts of a parent's wisdom and made them playing stars.

The advent of the 10-second rule and three-second law and its subsequent modification of the post play sent other coaches to athletic apothecaries for new "system builders."

Not so the doctor of Mount Oread. His quintets kept winning on the theory "a team never won a game in its life- its opponents lost it through errors in fundamentals and poor judgement."

The debonair but vitrollic coach- he once labeled A.A.U. officials "quadrennial oceanic hitch-hikers who chisel their way" to the Olympic games - boasts of having only a few set plays and no distinguishing system.

"Adherence to the principles of sound fundamentals develops confidence in the individual player. If he knows the pass is going to be good, he can be thinking of maneuvering along a path that is not necessarily rehearsed," is the doctor's prescription.

"This is not mechanical play, this is 'versatile play. It is the principle of education through play."

At every game two assistants grade the players on fundamentals - too many bad passes or wrong pivots and the player flunks out of the starting lineup.

Since elimination of the center jump, the pivot on a Kansas team is the "quarterback" and is stationed in the backcourt with the guards.

He calls the signals and handles the ball first on all offensive drives. It's a spot where the player must have a great deal of native intelligence and be as adept with the sphere as a bride with a can opener.

Allen is a graduate of an Osteopathic college but a master of psychology. None of his teams has ever taken the floor but that it knew it was the better aggregation.

The coach himself isn't always that collected and serene. The excitement and warmth of the building makes for a dryness of his throat.

Game time finds him squirming on the bench, surrounded by water bottles. A non-conference game is a six quart affair. But at a conference game he needs a bracer - takes eight quarts.