

Phog -  
For Your Information

Capt. R.G. Braden  
Ft. Ord

Kansas '35

# EAST VS. WEST AGAIN



BY ED NEAL

Dr. Forrest C. Allen, the explosive University of Kansas basketball coach who is quoted from coast to coast about this time every season when he takes his cagers to New York, has crashed the public prints again, and on this trip he's down on the record with a tirade against the sport as it is played in the staid East.

His latest outburst is tied in with a charge of professionalism, but he does not make pay-for-play college athletics his major premise. Instead, he accuses the Eastern mentors of backing up their teachings with the rougher aspects of the professional cage sport, which was cherished in the East but never did take root elsewhere in the country.

The Easterners play the men instead of the ball, in direct violations of the teachings of the late Dr. James Naismith, the game's inventor, he declares. Dr. Allen, known more familiarly as Phog Allen, was coached by Dr. Naismith, who held forth at Kansas for years.

Describing basketball in the Midwest as a beautiful game of checkers, the man who has brought 24 Big Six championships to Kansas in 26 years decries Eastern tactics of pushing, contact and slowing down the game "with lack of skill which would not exist if they followed the rules."

This influence, according to Dr. Allen, stems from the professional game. As he puts it, some of the East's leading coaches are products of professional basketball and hence foot the blame.

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Foregoing comment on the backgrounds of Eastern coaches but sticking strictly to the question of a comparison of basketball as it is played in the East and West, we contacted two of the Bay Region's veteran coaches, Nibs Price of California and Jimmy Needles of the University of San Francisco, for their comments.

Price, who took his Bears back to New York in the '35-'36 season, agreed the Easterners play a far more bruising type of play, at least they did then.

"At that time," Nibs recalls, "the East was using a strict man-for-man defense. When we went back there, I believe we showed one of the first zone defenses seen in Gotham, and our opponents screamed



Dr. Phog Allen uses contests of toilet kit to illustrate his basketball theory.

