

Thursday, Dec. 28, 1944

Once Over Lightly

—By Andy Rooney—

NEW YORK, Dec. 27—Do you detect an odor? Do you smell something funny? Whether you detect it or not, something is beginning to smell, and it is the big time gambling racket which is moving in on amateur and, in particular, college sports.

A few weeks ago University of Kansas basketball coach Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen popped off again. Good Doctor Allen is always popping off about



PHOG ALLEN

this time of the year, but nevertheless he had something to say.

Simply, Phog told everyone who wanted to hear it and some who didn't that gamblers have become a threat to college athletics. Specifically Allen pointed out the case of Utah University Coach Vadal

Peterson, who answered the door in his hotel room in New York before a game in the Garden and was confronted with a man who asked the question: "How much will it cost me to have you see to it that your boys lose to Dartmouth in the finals of the NCAA basketball tournament?" Peterson slammed the door.

Allen offered further information without laying himself open to a libel case about two college players who sold their own team to professional gamblers for a price. And lastly, Allen suggested that there is a scandal in the making which will make the Black Sox mess look like a penny pick-pocket affair.

MOSTLY what Phog Allen was talking about was Madison Square Garden, where the biggest basketball business in America is being carried on every winter by Ned Irish. The facts are that hundreds of thousands of dollars are exchanging hands on the results of the Garden winners and where there is that much involved someone is going to get approached. College gambling is not a haphazard affair participated in by a few track bookies during the off season; it is a big time racket all by itself. These odds often quoting the prices the gamblers are offering are not set by guess work and too often they are set by information not available to the public.