

# Irish Wants to Duck Gambling Charges

Good old Ned Irish.

The acting president of Madison Square Garden hastens to brand basketball "fix" charges by Dr. Forrest "Phog" Allen, University of Kansas Basketball coach, as so much hogwash.

It's actually comical how these promoters, fight or otherwise, bare their bleeding hearts to the public and attempt to besmirch those who have a wholesome love of clean sports.

Like the fight game, that plays such an important part in the financial life of New York's Madison Square Garden, basketball has been coming in for its share of "unusual" happenings, but when a decent, respectable and responsible college coach, with no axes to grind, tries to prevent what will ultimately develop into a rotten mess, the fellow is immediately tossed to the wolves.

Remember the fate of Willie Ritchie suffered here in California. Willie was presumptuous enough to call the fight game a "filthy, rotten business."

Willie was literally slaughtered by the fight mob and a lot of the folks he sought to protect, sided with that element of boxing that's on the ugly side.

Now watch 'em go to work on the Kansas coach. Irish fired the opening gun yesterday, when he answered Allen's charges with the flat statement that "here is nothing more than a baseless repetition of allegations which he picked up by way of heresay."

It's amazing how these promoters can always come up with that "baseless charge" gag, wherever the gamblers are concerned.

Irish, in further replying to charges by Allen that gamblers had arranged to "fix" the results of certain college cage games played in Madison Square Garden, said: "There is nothing new in what Dr. Allen alleges."

## Watch Attempt to Besmirch "Phog" Allen

That Brother Irish would like to get out from under and duck the whole issue, a well known habit of those who are trapped, is clearly indicated in his further comments. Irish says:

"The situation he refers to was investigated thoroughly by local authorities and the newspapers, when the rumor first developed last season.

"That investigation proved that the rumor was baseless. No player was ever disciplined and no other action was taken. I would like to let the entire matter drop rather than give Allen a chance to talk again.

"He has been doing that sort of thing for years now, and the mystery to me is that people take him seriously in the light of his previous false prophecies.

"However, in this instance, it was a very serious thing for him to do, based strictly on a second-hand story, and in justice to the players he named, I feel moved to say there was nothing to it."

Good old Mr. Irish confirmed that he had received Allen's telegram in which he named the players allegedly involved in the "fix." But he doesn't want to hear anything more about it.

How like the average boxing promoter is Brother Irish. He gets the lowdown on a dirty mess, but he would "like to let the entire matter drop."

In my book, the guy has everything—but courage.