

## The Jayhawk Coach

Dr. Forrest C. Allen

One of the outstanding figures in the history of basketball, Dr. Forrest C. (Phog) Allen of the University of Kansas, begins his fourth decade as a coach this winter. The dean of American basketball coaches' record shows 23 conference championships in 30 years of coaching. Brilliant coach, author, organizer and researchist, Dr. Allen has done much for the game of basketball.

Forrest Clare Allen was born at Jamesport, Mo., Nov. 18, 1885. He played basketball when the game was in its infancy, competing on the Independence, Mo. high school team. It was there that he first met Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game of basketball, who was coach at K.U. at that time.

In 1904 Forrest Allen entered the University of Kansas. During his college career, he lettered in basketball in 1905, 1906 and 1907, and in baseball in 1906 and 1907.

The following year, 1908, saw Allen off on the start of his coaching career, with a championship basketball team at K.U. The next year he turned out another title winner on Mount Oread. That same season Dr. Allen also was coaching the Haskell Indian team which won 19 of 24 games and the cage team of Baker University, twenty miles away.

This concluded Allen's coaching efforts for three years, while he pursued the study of medicine. In 1912 he became coach of all sports at Missouri State Teachers College at Warrensburg and his service as a coach has been continuous from that date.

At Warrensburg Allen coached a winner every year for seven years in basketball. The Mules won seven cage titles under his tutelage and the football team also enjoyed considerable success.

In the fall of 1919 he became director of athletics at the University of Kansas, and before the basketball season was over was coaching that sport. In a short time he had put the Jayhawks back up in the championship bracket, a spot which they have been at or near ever since. In one stretch, from 1922 through 1927, Kansas basketball teams won six straight championships.

Last winter a Jayhawk quintet added another bright page to K.U. basketball history by fighting its way to the finals of the National Collegiate tournament. There, a "hot" Indiana team trounced Kansas.

Dr. Allen has been prominent in the progress made by the game. He was one of the founders of the National Basketball Coaches Association and is a past president of that organization. For many years he has been a member of the National Basketball Rules Body.

As a member of this latter organization the Kansas coach has done extensive research in trying out proposed changes in the rules. He was one of the backers of the new streamlined backboards and gave a thorough trial to the Bask-O-Lite goals. For many years he has sponsored the proposal of 12 foot goals to offset the height of young giants.

Primarily through Allen's efforts basketball found a place on the program of the Olympic games in 1936. Previously he had endeavored to get basketball in the 1932 Olympics, but failing there had kept working until the game was included for the first time at Berlin.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament also was an Allen project. He spent a great deal of time working on the organization of this "world series" of basketball.

(more)