

# Basketball's Jitterbug Era Can't Stall Phog's Tactics

BY HAROLD CLAASSEN

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

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

Successful? Twenty-two of his twenty-eight teams have won conference championships. In twenty-eight 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.

## Horse-and-Buggy Plays

The advent of the ten-second rule and the 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 thru errors in fundamentals and poor judgment."

The debonair but vitrollic coach—he once labeled A. A. U. officials "quadrennial oceanic hitchhikers 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 thru 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.

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.

## Uses Chaser for Water

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

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