

From the K. U. Sports News Service, Lawrence, Kan.; H.M. Mason, Director  
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LAWRENCE, Kan., Feb. .---The most underrated factor in the game of basketball today is the matter of weight, in the opinion of Dr. F. C. "Phog" Allen, dean of American basketball coaches.

"People talk about how tall players are, as though that was the only thing that mattered. Actually," says Dr. Allen, "weight is almost as important."

Especially does weight make a difference in the play under the baskets. Holding a position favorable for taking the ball off the backboard is greatly simplified if the player is heavy.

What a huge ball player can do in the way of scoring was demonstrated by Dale Sears, 210 pound U. S. C. center last year at the NCAA tournament in Kansas City. Sears is 6 feet 2 inches tall.

When the Trojans clashed with Kansas the Jayhawk~~s~~ stopped Ralph Vaughan, great U. S. C. forward, only to see Sears run wild. There was simply no one big enough on the K. U. team to handle the ponderous Sears, who dropped in 19 points from close around the basket.

The value of weight in basketball makes Doctor Allen all the more pleased with his brilliant freshman team. Lightest man on the first yearling five scales in at 180 pounds.

The freshmen demonstrated vividly to the varsity last week just what weight can mean. Although the upperclassmen finally won 38-37 in two overtime periods, they were bounced all over the court by the yearlings in scrambles for the ball and in battling for rebounds.

Three 190 pounders and two men scaling in at 180 make up the starting freshman lineup. The heavier trio consists of Charles Black, forward, Kansas City, Mo.; Jack Ballard, center, Kansas City, Mo.; and Don Ettinger, Independence, Mo., guard.

The 180 pounders are Ray Evans and Paul Turner, both of Kansas City, Kan. All of these men, with the single exception of Ballard, played football in high school.

"Theoretically, basketball is not a contact sport," says Dr. Allen, "But anyone who has ever seen a game knows differently. Particularly is this true around the basket.

"Weight is played up strong in the dope on football games and I would like to see height and weight given equal consideration in similar ratings in basketball."