



FORREST C. ALLEN, Director of Physical Education and Recreation, as well as Varsity Basketball and Baseball Coach at the University of Kansas, was closely associated with Dr. Naismith from 1903 until the latter's death in 1939. He played on the team coached by Dr. Naismith and knew him perhaps as well as any man in the athletic world.

## A FOSTER SON HONORED HIS MOTHER COUNTRY

**"DO NOT** be afraid to serve humanity and wait for your reward." So said Dr. James Naismith when he was informed of the action of the National Association of Basketball Coaches back in 1936 when this organization raised funds to send the kindly inventor of the game of basketball to Berlin. Until this time Dr. Naismith had never made a penny out of basketball. The happiest moment of his life, Dr. Naismith said, came in 1936, when he attended the Olympic Games in Berlin and saw the game of basketball played for the first time in international Olympic competition. The teams of all nations filed in behind their respective flags and Dr. Naismith addressed the players.

The youth of the world lost a great benefactor in Dr. James Naismith. Eighteen million young men all over the world are playing his game of basketball—a game which he originated for eighteen young men in Springfield College. Dr. Naismith is directly responsible for all the large field houses, the large auditoria and gymnasias where basketball is played. Before this game was originated there were few large indoor arenas that were used for any indoor sports. Thickly dotting the middle western states are high school gymnasias that are much larger in size than the entire school buildings were thirty years ago.

Frederick Froebel, a poor, unhappy German boy, gave to the world the theory of the kindergarten—education through play. Dr. Naismith, an orphan boy at eight, gave to youth basketball, a game that takes the youngster from the eighth grade to maturity. Eight nationally known educators, speaking from the same platform, declared that basketball had all the qualities necessary to teach the

educable child; poise, rhythm, grace, coordination, development of skills, and development of physical vigor. The speakers were not competitive coaches, nor were they athletes. This game, the only international game that is the product of one man's brain, stamps Dr. Naismith as a great educator, a kindly humanitarian, and a practical Christian. He loved youth. He and his classmate, Alonzo Stagg, both working together, chose the profession of physical education over the ministry, in which they were ordained, because they felt they could do more for youth. The youth of the world will arise and call Dr. Naismith blessed.

When it is recalled that Dr. Naismith was a Canadian by birth, and yet became one of the greatest sports' benefactors this country ever had, the homage the world is paying him today, takes on a larger aspect. He gave to our country, which, virtually all his life was his country, its most popular pastime. Surely it is a case of a foster son having honored his mother country.

And you tonight sitting in comfortable seats in this building dedicated to a wonderful sport doubtless can make a small contribution which will keep alive the memories and traditions of a young man who struggled and who gave of himself the finest qualities that he had. He gave them to youth, and youth can pass along the durable things of life to the next youthful generation.

Please remember that the youth of fifty-two nations of this world are playing basketball: It is not a national sport—it is an international one. And the United States is the mother country of this game, to whom it was given by her foster son, James Naismith.