

for the ministry. In his desire to do more for youth, he entered Springfield College, along with Alonzo Stagg, his classmate, and during his senior year was given an assignment by his instructor, Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, to originate a game which would take care of eighteen troublesome young men who were students at Springfield College. This game was to take care of the surplus energy of these students between the football season in the fall and the baseball season in the spring. From the brain of Dr. Naismith came basketball, the game in which twenty million people are playing annually. The aggregate attendance at basketball games in the United States is ninety million.

I then compared Froebel, the emancipator of infancy and early childhood to Dr. Naismith, a great educator from the early teen-age until the early thirties of young manhood. I stated that I had heard eight educators from one platform state that basketball had all the qualities necessary for an educable child. None of these speakers were athletic people or coaches. Then I quoted Dr. Naismith's famous words, "Basketball is a game easy to play but difficult to master." And to show his modesty when the National Association of Basketball Coaches raised seven thousand dollars to buy him a home and to send him and Mrs. Naismith to Berlin, Germany to witness the Olympic Games, his very epic statement was as follows: "Do not be afraid to serve humanity and wait for your reward."

I then paid the best tribute I could to this kindly, Christian man and called attention to the fact that this fiftieth anniversary of the game of basketball has deep significance.

I spoke last year at McPherson, Kansas, to the Rebounders Club, a group of devotees and enthusiasts boosting basketball at McPherson. I gave as my opinion the secret of our defeating Southern California for the Western N.C.A.A. championship. After I had spoken a practicing physician there, a Kansas alumnus, came up to me and said, "Say, Phog Allen, did you ever give that talk to the students of the University of Kansas?" And I said, "No, sir, I never have." He said, "Do something for me, will you? Give them that talk at the first opportunity."

I have turned it over in my mind for a year, and when the opportunity presented itself I thought I would try it out. I said to the students that youth is always first to catch the deep currents of human tides and emotions. For the sake of brevity I will quote the following part of my speech.

"About six years ago when the State Board of Regents were of the opinion that the football team was not winning enough games they made a change in the Athletic Association and elected