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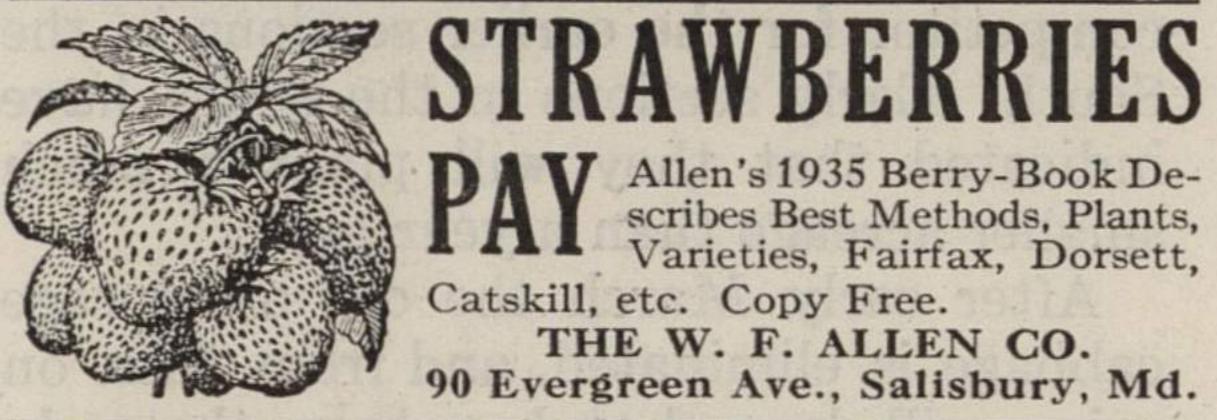
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DUNKING ISN'T BASKETBALL

(Continued from Page 19)

pride in the locals, he described how, after losing the first game 40-36, the Blue Diamonds had come back to take the second no more outdoor sports the students be-30-28, and to swamp the champions 45-14 in the final. Those were the roughest games concrete and the knees and elbows of the players were like beefsteak when the series ended. Our success in the last game was due to the quickly invented high, full-arm hook pass, which hadn't been seen before.

CHAMPIONSHIP YEARS

AFTER that I felt competent to coach a over the basketball post at Haskell, the Indians in the evenings.

In 1908 I went to Kansas University as basketball coach and we succeeded in winning two straight Conference championships. The seven years following I coached all sports at the State Teachers College, at Warrensburg, Missouri, winning basketball titles all seven years. In 1919 I came back to my first love, Kansas, as director of athletics and basketball coach. The gods of sports and Lady Luck have smiled on us here. Starting in 1922, when thirty-four consecutive Conference vic-1924. Our 1923 team was ever victorious.

That year Minnesota University invited swear to the authenticity of this tall tale. us to come to Minneapolis during the holidays to practice with their team and it 000 people are playing basketball all over was one of the most pleasant training the world. Our baseball and football, with periods I have ever known. We appreci- few exceptions, have failed to excite the ated their invitation more, probably, than Old World. Basketball is gaining here in it seemed when we defeated them 32-11 in our country and abroad. Just this winter a game that wound up our stay. They it has been made an Olympic sport. Ernest didn't mind losing that game, for it didn't Quigley, the famous National League umcount, but they did go on from there, pire, wrote me from Japan one year that winning five straight games when the the game had taken an unusual hold upon Western Conference season opened.

WHEN STAGG RAN THE BALL

THIS past season we won the flag in the Bix Six circuit for the fourth consecutive time. Strangely enough, when I think us in both games we played them. We did of the rules. get a grain of comfort in our intersectional play when we nosed out California by one point after they had whipped us twice. All by lacing us good.

football at Chicago University for many forward of one of the teams that played the first game at Springfield Y. M. C. A. College, in 1891. I mentioned Coach Stagg's name to Doctor Naismith one time and he shook his head with a smile.

"Lonny was a great athlete," he said, "but he was a football player, and a grand one, and at first he wasn't much good to himself and start running with the ball. In that day a foul put a man on the sideline for a time, just like a hockey penalty today, and a team had to play for a while minus one man. Incidentally, those first teams had nine men on a side."

Basketball was a child of necessity. When winter closed down and there were gan to chafe under inactivity. In an effort to check this restlessness—and to I ever witnessed or played in. The floor was check downright mischief—the school authorities gave an assignment to the class to bring in some plan of a game that could be played indoors, and the next day young Naismith showed up with a soccer ball and two peach baskets and a plan.

At first the baskets were nailed horizontally to the end walls, moderately close to the floor, but that didn't work so well, and almost immediately Naismith offered college team and I took the Baker of- the idea of nailing the baskets to the rim fer, despite Doctor Naismith's amusement. of the running track. That rim happened I not only coached Baker but I also took to be just ten feet from the floor. The hoops have always been that height; I've Indian school at Lawrence, working with wondered what would have happened if the Baker boys in the afternoons and the the rim of that track had been different twelve feet, say.

18,000,000 PLAYERS

AFTER the start at Springfield the game caught on immediately and other schools in the cold winter country took it up with enthusiasm—Cornell with a little too much, at first. Thinking that teams should be big enough to accommodate everybody who wanted to play, Cornell tried it out with fifty men on a side. They were playwe tied Missouri for the championship, ing in a large barnlike structure—it may we won the title outright during the five have been a barn. In a scrimmage some following years, running up a string of player threw the ball to the opposite end of the building and the hundred Corneltories before Oklahoma knocked us off in lians charged after it like a herd of bison and took out the end of the building. I do not

I have seen estimates that some 18,000,the Orientals, almost as much as baseball. Quig is a basketball fan and an accomplished referee. I've seldom seen an official equal him in keeping an exciting game under control.

One year Quigley was working a game at St. Louis between Washington Univerback through the basketball wars I can't sity and Nebraska. Ewald "Jumbo" keep my mind off the 1928 season. It al-Stiehm, the Nebraska football coach, also ways pokes its head up to torment me. handled basketball, and he was up against That's the year we lost Harry Kersen- a team coached by one of his former footbrock, and just before the season opened ball stars, Dick Rutherford. With the our other center, Ramsey, broke his hand teams tied and a fierce battle raging on the boxing. We were battered from pillar to court, Quigley called a foul on a Nebraska post that year. We lost all but one of our man. Stiehm jumped from the bench and Conference games; Notre Dame walloped started for the floor to protest—a violation

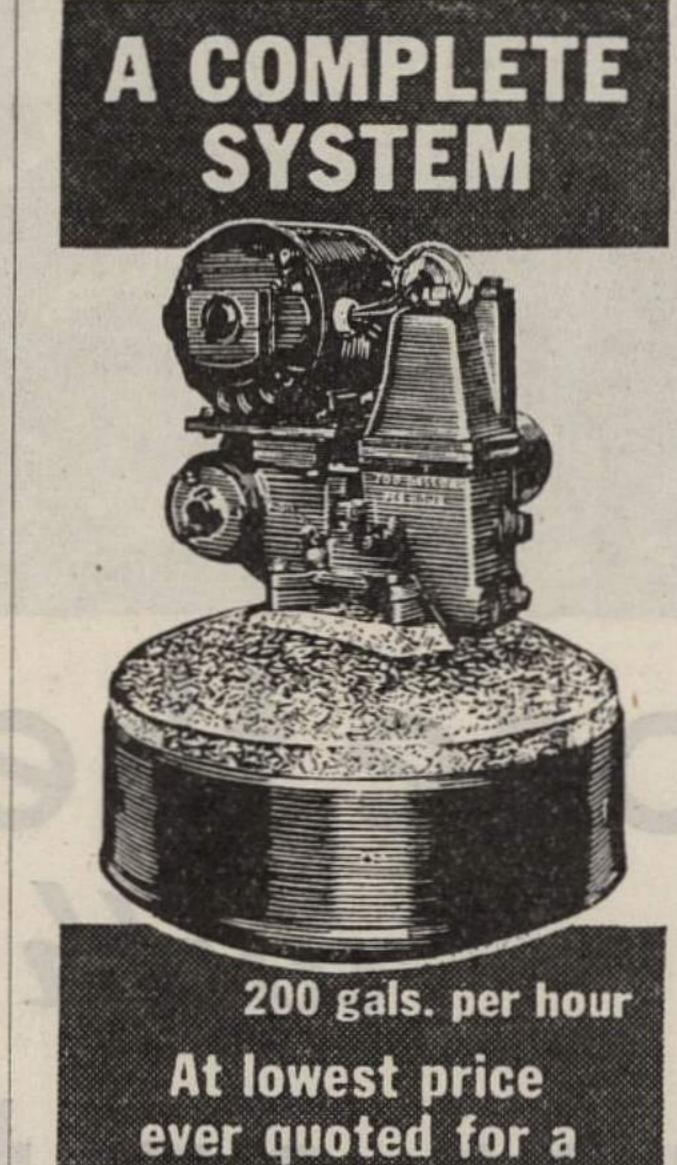
WARMING UP THE BATTLE SLOGAN

the little schools around us had their day OUIGLEY saw him start from the bench. With his finger pointed like a pistol The birth of basketball has been told the official halted Stiehm and said with many times, but possibly some do not deadly calm: "Shoot one for every step know that Alonzo A. Stagg, who coached it takes you to get back to the bench." And Stiehm, his anger dissolved, grinned years, and is now coaching at the College and took two Brobdingnagian steps back of the Pacific, in California, was captain and to his seat. The penalty was two shots, anyway, so Jumbo didn't harm his team's prospects; but he didn't charge out onto the floor again either.

It's winter again and basketballs are popping against backboards, and it's sweet music to my ears. The baskets are ten feet high and two feet from the end lines. Field goals still count two points—but a basketball team, for he would forget, we're not worrying about that. What we're worrying about are Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas State and Iowa State. We've got some old scores to settle with them. And while we are waiting for them we are warming up our old battle slogan: "Hold 'em in the 'teens."



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