

VITAL BASKETBALL FUNDAMENTALS IN WAR-TIME AMERICA

Dr. Forrest C. Allen
University of Kansas

So many changes have occurred in the basketball coaching personnel in our American high schools and colleges that a re-inventory of the most vital and elemental fundamentals seems apropos at this time.

The Chinese philosopher made the observation that our game of basketball, in fact all of our American games, are made up of "do nots". However, we have learned that through inhibitions we become civilized and educated.

In my office here at the University of Kansas I have a photostatic copy of Dr. Naismith's first draft of the basketball rules. There were thirteen simple rules in his first draft, and the unusual feature about the original rules of basketball of 1892 is that they have survived the impact of the years remarkably well. Below these rules are written in Dr. Naismith's own handwriting: "First draft of the basketball rules hung in the gym that the boys might learn the rules, February, 1892. James Naismith."

The first draft was hung in the college gymnasium at Springfield, Massachusetts, where Dr. Naismith originated the game by hanging two peach baskets on the running track, which happened to be ten feet from the floor. Unto this day the height of the basket has remained unchanged, although the altitude of the players has increased markedly.

It is a long cry from the skill of the game first played in 1892 up to the present time, but good basketball fundamentals have never changed. It is with the idea of emphasizing these correct basketball fundamentals that we offer these suggestions. We will make positive suggestions rather than clothe them in the negative terminology.