

It is reasonable to suppose that most of these educational institutions have gymnasias. These gymnasias are built and maintained by public tax money. The maintenance of a basketball court is small and the equipment is inexpensive. Due to the fact that no cancellations of basketball games occur on account of weather conditions, the games can be played in all climates at regular times. Basketball can be an individual game as well as a team game. Children of practically all ages, therefore can play it without serious consequences.

In the words of the great inventor who said, "Basketball is a game easy to play but difficult to master." The ball is always out in the open. It is not hidden from view as it is in football, when mass play is in the order. Many midwestern university coaches have told me that they have checked every able-bodied boy entering the university and have failed to find a single active boy who has not played basketball in high school.

(2) Perhaps by accident or by place of invention the game of basketball has a real missionary significance. At the International Y.M.C.A. College, Springfield, Massachusetts, "the cradle of basketball", physical directors, medical missionaries and general secretaries were trained. These emissaries of good will planted the game early in our century in many foreign countries and islands of the sea. The United States soldiers, in 1900, introduced basketball in the Philippine Islands. The American army of occupation taught it to the German populace in 1919. During the Inter-Allied games in Paris, June, 1919, the United States, France, and Italy played for the championship, which the United States won rather handily. After the Armistice was signed, two American teams, by invitation from the British government, demonstrated basketball in the British area of the war zone. The British took to it readily.

Practically every foreign country has fashioned its basketball rules after our American game. They look to us as the mother country of the sport,