

Ned Irish promoted basketball in Madison Square Garden. When fifteen to sixteen thousand people attended a basketball game in New York the newspaper men thought it was marvelous, but in the Big Ten and in our own section the attendance was limited only by the size of the field-houses where the teams played, especially when the rivalry was close in a conference game. But the New Yorkers thought this was something.

You see, Dr. Naismith originated basketball at the behest of Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick because there were eighteen obstreperous young men at Springfield during the winter who had nothing to do, and this was to use up the energies of the eighteen troublesome men. That would be nine men on a side. It was Dr. Naismith's theory that fifty or one hundred people could play on each side and throw the ball into this hoop. He had no conception of basketball being broken up into the small numbers and the intricate passing and set plays that are now indulged in. His idea was more like the game of cage ball that used to be played in the army where the large ball was handled by a group and tossed into the net high above their heads.

Personally, I think basketball is headed for greater things because the educators, not the coaches, think that basketball has all the qualities necessary for the educable child. I heard eight outstanding educators make that statement from one platform two years ago. Just as you teach education through play in the kindergarten, the elements of basketball are so blended that they hook up with the educators' theory of education through play. The single individual can enjoy the game from practice on free throws, push and rebound shots, and the team is of such a unit that most any type of group can have a basketball organization. "It is a game very easy to play but very difficult to master", these are Dr. Naismith's words.

I think the growth of basketball is only in its infancy because sections like California, Texas and the southland are building fieldhouses where the game can be played. This has only come about in the last year or so. Foreign countries are increasing their interest. So I think that basketball has a great future.

Better floors, better lighting facilities and more education along sportsmanship standards are ways in which the game can be improved. There is nothing radically wrong with basketball, only in some sections they permit it to become too rough. When roughness and holding are permitted, then