

The K.U. NEWS BUREAU

W. A. DILL, Director

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, LAWRENCE

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Copy [Signature]

October 27, 1938.

Editor, Liberty Magazine,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir,

The article, "It's Basketball Now---The Game that Has Everything" in the November 5 Liberty is most interesting and illuminating, and in the main, I believe, accurate. I would like, however, to call attention to a few glaring errors. Dr. James (no middle initial) Naismith, and Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen, and John Bunn, now at Stanford, all are connected with basketball at the University of Kansas, not at Nebraska. Dr. Naismith, called "Doc" by his friends here, rather than "Pop" as your writer nicknamed him, has been on the University of Kansas staff for 40 years, and the game has been played that long at this institution. Dr. Allen, as student and coach, has been at the University of Kansas more than 20 years.

The original rules numbered 13, not 1 as your article indicates. I have seen the original rules that were posted, but the page has disappeared from Dr. Naismith's files. The present rules may number 113, but there are numerous sections to some of them, many subpoints a, b, and c, and an occasional "interpretation."

The printer must have confused the formation of the rules body with "ed Irish's invasion of Madison Square Garden, for there have been books of rules long before 1934. In fact the National Association of Basketball Coaches, of which Dr. Allen was one of the organizers and first president, was formed at least eight years before that.

John Bunn's "jumpless" game is not entirely jumpless, for held balls are still put in play by being jumped for, and this, Dr. Allen points out, is more unjust than the center jump after scores, for both teams usually arranged for their tallest men for this jump, whereas a held ball may bring together players of distinctly different size. Dr. Naismith insists that the present rule, giving the ball to the team scored on, and under the basket, really slows the game, or at least makes delay possible. Under the old rules time was "out" after a score until the ball was tossed again at center---if timers didn't stop their clocks they were not following the rules. Now the ball goes into play out of bounds, and the player has five seconds to start, and another ten seconds before he has to be into the forward court. A rapid-fire type of play, which could have been used under the old rules, has come into fashion in recent years and has apparently speeded the game.

The University of Kansas has been playing conference basketball for 30 years, starting in 1908. In that time, Kansas has won the undisputed championship of the conference 17 times, and tied for championship three more. Fifteen of these Kansas champions were coached by Dr. Allen, and he coached seven years of conference championships in basketball, plus other sports, at Missouri State Teachers at Warrensburg. Since the retirement of Dr. Maxwell of Wisconsin, he is the dean of basketball coaches.

Yours truly,