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October 8, 1937.

Mr. W. H. W. Hardwick, President,
Canadian Amateur Basketball Association,
7983 Heather Street,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Hardwick:

Thank you for your very good letter of the 30th ultimo regarding the difficulties that you find yourself in with the AAU of C. May I state my position briefly?

Dr. James Naismith, Professor of Physical Education here at the University of Kansas since 1898, a Canadian by birth and naturalized only after the World War, has a tremendous enthusiasm and interest in basketball in this part of the country. I have been associated very closely with Dr. Naismith since 1902.

In the early days the AAU perhaps did great good in enlisting the activities of the younger generation in the athletic clubs and in industrial organizations of the country. The Y.M.C.A. had an organization of its own. Of course, the game was originated at Springfield Y.M.C.A. College, and naturally the Y.M.C.A.'s took the lead. They did nothing much about basketball until along in 1905 when they began to function, but unless the AAU can make money out of anything they soon let it drop.

The National AAU Basketball Tournament went begging even as late as 1920 and 1921. Atlanta and some of the southern towns did take it, but it was rather a begging orphan until the Kansas City Athletic Club in Kansas City began to promote it. The Kansas City people built it up until they had crowds of ten and 12 thousand people in attendance at a single game, then it began to net \$6,000, \$8,000 and \$10,000 to the promoters. Just at that time the AAU went broke, and when I say broke, I mean flat broke, and they began to look around and levy on the things that were making the money. Up to that time the AAU got but ten per cent of the income and the promoters got the swag, leaving the boys who played not with the real expense money but just as much as the promoters could get by with, and that was all.