

I just find that Dr. Naismith is leaving for New York Sunday evening, February 20. He will arrive there the 22nd and expects to stay at the Pennsylvania Hotel. He is on the air in New York on February 24 on Frederick Lord's station, "We The People". I imagine his subject is concerning some angle of basketball. So with this information before you you should be able to do yourselves some good.

When I asked him about your letter he stated that he did not receive it, and then I read him your letter to me over the phone and he said, "Oh, yes, I did receive that letter just before I was starting on a trip and I failed to answer it." You want to remember that Dr. Naismith is 75 years of age, and he does not have the éclat that would become a younger man. He is very vigorous and very appreciative of things that people do for him, and I am very sure that if the proper attention were given him that you would get a very good response.

He is a total abstainer from nicotine and alcoholics, but he has a very broad and sympathetic view of human life. For some background of conversation that might aid you, he and Alonzo Stagg were classmates at Springfield University; however, he graduated from McGill University in Toronto, and comes from a sturdy stock of Canadian pioneers. His home was in Altmont, Canada. He was left an orphan and was raised by his uncle, Peter Naismith. He was not naturalized an American citizen until after the war in 1919. He served overseas with the Y.M.C.A. group and on the Mexican border with the same outfit. He played football at Springfield with Stagg and other early pioneers of physical education. He is a grand old gentleman. He has never profited from basketball in any way. It was for that reason I thought he had something coming to him when I initiated this Naismith Fund.

Hope you have good luck, Ev.

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

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