

BASKETBALL IN THE OLYMPICS

Just before the Olympiad at Amsterdam, Holland, in 1928, the writer was named chairman of the Olympic Basketball Committee of the National Basketball Coaches Association, and also Chairman of the Olympic Basketball Rules Committee of the United States and Canada, and immediately began negotiations to gain recognition for basketball in the Olympics.

This appointment came in April, 1928, and the Amsterdam Olympiad opened in late June of the same year. Immediate circularization of the 66 various organizations holding memberships in the American Olympic Association for some demonstration of basketball at Amsterdam left no doubt in our minds that the hour was late for the inclusion of basketball in the sports at Amsterdam and that our requests for a place in this Olympiad would certainly be rejected.

If we gained any ground in this saunter, it was in knowing that the word "basketball" had re-echoed among the controlling powers. So we at once faced our artillery toward the home of the Xth Olympiad, Los Angeles, Calif., to be held in August, 1932, with the ultimate aim of having basketball included in the regular Olympic sports calendars of future years.

We received much encouragement from international figures in foreign lands, but after a four-year siege, owing to lack of support from the local Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, we failed to get a demonstration of the sport at Los Angeles.

The local Los Angeles Olympic Committee chose to include a demonstration game of football between their own North and South Coast teams as the representative American sport for their Olympiad. This was perhaps a wise choice on the part of the Californians. Football, in the vast Olympic stadium with its 105,000 seating capacity and with California's own public definitely football-minded, facilitated the ticking of the turnstiles.