

PROGRESS OF THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL CAMPAIGN

By A. LESTER CRAPSER

Secretary, Naismith Memorial Committee

THE FINE interest and cooperation being accorded the Golden Jubilee of Basketball and the Naismith Memorial Campaign by the members of the National Association of Basketball Coaches warrants their being kept informed up to the minute of the progress of the campaign.

Statistically the story as this is written is as follows:

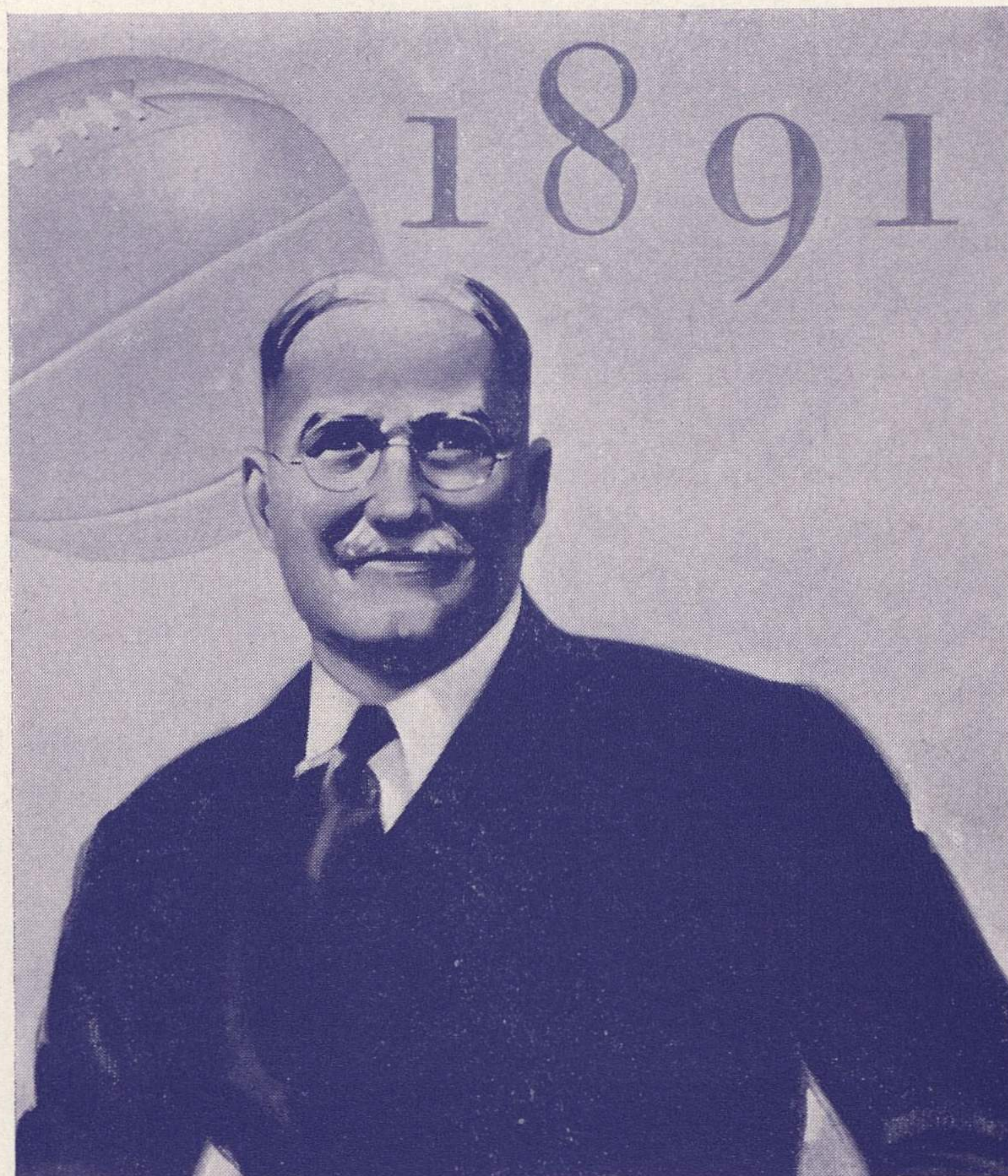
Approximately twelve hundred Golden Ball Games have definitely been registered. Every one of these forty-eight United States is represented in the registrations, plus the District of Columbia, Canada, Central America, Alaska and Hawaii—The latter are calling for someone to pinch hit for them while they are putting up a "zone defense" against the Japs.

The correspondence and rate of daily registrations indicate that there will be no question but that twenty-five hundred Golden Ball Games will be registered before the middle of February.

The Y.M.C.A.'s lead in proportionate Golden Ball Games with approximately one out of every six Associations registering games. The Colleges are next with one out of every eight in the country falling in line. The High Schools have about one in every forty registering games—but it must be stated that this is because of their greater number—actually about one-half of the Golden Ball Games registered are from the High Schools of the country. New York State leads all the others in total registrations.

Every type of basketball team is represented in the campaign from small Boys' club teams, little rural high schools, independent teams, Y.M.C.A., Y.M.H.A., Catholic Youth Organization and Parochial Schools, Recreation Center teams, Junior Colleges, College, University, A.A.U., Athletic Club teams, and Professional teams. No truer cross-section of basketball as it is played could be represented.

Not only are basketball teams contributing, but the larger organizations such as the Eastern Intercollegiate Basketball League, the Big Ten Conference, the National Board of Approved Basketball



Officials, Local Official Boards and individuals who have played the game in the past. All are being more generous than was anticipated in their contributions to erect a Hall of Fame for basketball as a memorial to its inventor, Dr. James Naismith. Very definite sacrifices are being made by places with small spectator facilities, in making substantial contributions to the campaign.

The Golden Jubilee received a fine send-off by the Golden Jubilee Tournament held in Madison Square Garden on November 19th and 24th and is now in full swing around the country.

It has been estimated that for complete success of the campaign approximately four to five thousand games will be needed. These are in sight, and if the Coaches Association members will urge their colleagues to register for games there is no question but that the campaign for a Hall of Fame for basketball will go over the top.