

The Golden Jubilee of Basketball

THE season of 1941-42 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of basketball. In the short period of half a century, this truly American game has not only flourished here in its own country, but has found favor in virtually all the far flung places of the world. Quietly and steadily it has enlisted a vast army of millions of players and innumerable enthusiasts, until today it is the most popular sport in the entire category of competitive athletics.

Basketball, even in its crude beginnings, was a friendly game, easy to play, yet difficult to master. It appealed to large and small, fast and slow, adept and clumsy, regardless of age or sex. Small wonder it caught the fancy of youth the world over, and spread the wholesome doctrine of fair play and good sportsmanship among its heterogeneous adherents.

Because of the popularity of the game, its far reaching influence on youth, and its importance in the American scheme of things, the fiftieth anniversary of the invention of basketball by Dr. James A. Naismith at Springfield College in 1891 will be observed in a year of international celebration beginning in December, 1941.

The focal point of the celebration will be the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, and it is from there that the Naismith Memorial Committee has arranged to direct the activities of the Golden Jubilee of Basketball on the widest possible scale. The United States, Canada, Mexico, and South American countries will take part in the memorial celebration. It is hoped conditions will make it possible for many other countries to participate in the Golden Jubilee of Basketball.

Obviously, it is only fitting to do honor to the memory of a man who made such a generous contribution to American sports. And it is proper and just that this monument to Dr. James A. Naismith rise on the site where his far-reaching work was begun—in the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Birthplace of Basketball.