

played. Before this game was originated there were few large indoor arenas that were used for any indoor sports. Thickly dotting the middle western states are high school gymnasias that are much larger in size than the entire school buildings were thirty years ago.

Dr. Naismith was indirectly responsible for the forward pass in football. Until the popularity of basketball began to spring up in the colleges in America in 1905, the forward pass in football was not thought of. Then the football rules committee incorporated the forward pass, or basketball pass, in basketball, and immediately the open game became the element that spread the defense. Basketball has become footballized, and football has become basketballized. The forward pass of today is a Naismith innovation. Today it is the most spectacular of all plays on our gridirons.

Frederick Froebel, a poor, unhappy German boy gave to the world the theory of the kindergarten - education through play. Dr. Naismith, an orphan boy at eight, gave to the youth basketball, a game that takes the youngster from the eighth grade to maturity. Eight nationally known educators, speaking from the same platform, declared that basketball had all the qualities necessary to teach the educable child: poise, rhythm, grace, coordination, development of skills and development of physical vigor. The speakers were not competitive coaches, nor were they athletes. This game, the only international game that is the product of one man's brain, stamps Dr. Naismith as a great educator, a kindly humanitarian, and a practical Christian. He loved youth. He and his classmate, Alonzo Stagg, both working together, chose the profession of physical education over the ministry, in which they were ordained, because they felt they could do more for youth. The youth of the world will arise and call Dr. Naismith blessed.