

The Golden Jubilee of Basketball has no provincial barriers. It is a nation-wide undertaking, because we feel that this distinctly American sport -- in the sense of origin -- should prompt all its adherents to participate in honoring its founder.

The backbone of the campaign will be a chain of Golden Ball Games to be played by colleges, high schools, A.A.U. clubs, professional teams, and Y.M.C.A. organizations from coast to coast. Part of the proceeds of those games will be donated to the Naismith Memorial Committee fund. These games are not extra scheduled contests but are merely regularly scheduled games which have been designated as Golden Ball Games by various teams. Each team that plays a Golden Ball Game will have its picture and a record of the game preserved in perpetuity in the archives of the Hall of Fame.

Already our early invitations to play Golden Ball Games have met with a most gratifying response. Teams and institutions everywhere have manifested a surprising enthusiasm and the willingness to lend their full support. Hundreds of acceptances have come pouring in. Teams and institutions that have a policy prohibiting any of their athletic receipts from being allocated to any benefit funds have almost unanimously declared themselves willing to make a separate contribution to the Naismith Memorial Committee.

I am convinced that basketball as an entity will profit tremendously by the impetus which it will get through the Golden Ball Games and through the Golden Jubilee National Campaign.

And finally, may I say that while the Naismith Memorial Committee feels that they have a challenging and worthy cause, an idea, and appropriate machinery to set the Golden Jubilee of Basketball in motion, our Committee is also definitely aware that to go through to a successful conclusion, it will only be possible through the untiring efforts of sports writers and commentators. When this campaign is completed we will have a Hall of Fame for Basketball as a Memorial to its inventor, Dr. James Naismith, and a full appreciation of the part that you men have played in it. Thank you.