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RAY HEADY
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Tribute to Dr. James Naismith, Dec. 6, 1939.

Voice 1 - Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game of basketball, was born Nov. 6, 1861, in Almonte, Ontario, Canada. He died Nov. 28, 1939. The 78-year old father of basketball who gave America an American game spent the last 41 years of his life at the University of Kansas, where it is proper this tribute should be made at the beginning of another season of the sport which he loved so well.

All material used in this tribute is taken from newspaper files, and the quotations are actual words, fitted into a pattern, that Dr. Naismith uttered. These quotations will speak more truthfully of his character than any eulogy that could be written.

Winters were severe in Canada and the young Naismith, like other boys of his age, worked hard and played hard. They went hunting. They walked miles through the snow to school. They helped with heavy farm work. However, when James Naismith was eight years old, both parents died, and he went to live with an aunt and uncle. The influence of his mother lived close to his heart, however, for in 1875 he tells this story:

Voice 2 - I was working one day with the farmers as they were repairing the roads, working out their poll tax. One of their number passed a black bottle from which many took drinks. On the second round, he insisted that I drink also. At my refusal, another man somewhat tipsy, came over and declared; "James Naismith can take a drink if he wants to, and he can leave it alone if he wants to. I knew his mother, and I don't think she would want him to drink, and there isn't a man here that can make him if he doesn't want to."

Voice 1 - James Naismith was a vigorous young man. Straight and strong. Even when he was in his 70's he stood and walked erect. He tells here how he developed his physique:

Voice 2 - Exercise came naturally for me, for I had grown up in the lumber camps near my native Almonte. The two and a half miles to high school through snow and sub-zero weather was no child's play. As I recall I was much like the other boys getting into fisticuffs occasionally and taking part in all games. It took me eight battles to get the better of one lad. When it seemed I was going with a rough crowd in high school I quit, but I had lots of time to think as I drove the lead team on my uncle's woodlot. My