

K. U. NEWS BUREAU

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Lawrence, Kansas

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Director

- Voice 1 - He was thinking that he had to get an education. This business of quitting school would never do. With both parents dead and living with an uncle, the decision to get a college education, must have taken considerable thought. He went back to high school, skipped a grade, and took a Latin and Greek examination for college entrance. He tells the story simply:
- Voice 2 - I decided I must go to college; I even aspired to become a preacher, so I completed my high school and entered McGill. In return for summers on the farm, my uncle made attendance at McGill possible. I dug into my studies with vim.
- Voice 1 - At McGill in the year 1874 James Haismith first came into contact with athletics not counting the games of duck-on-a-rock, racing, and such which he had played with neighborhood children. He went out for the football team. Because the boys had to leave soon after classes in the afternoon, the team practiced at 6 o'clock in the morning. But athletics were not looked upon with favor in those days:
- Voice 2 - When I was in college, athletics and gymnastics were considered inventions of the Devil, intended to lead young men astray. Someway, I couldn't help feeling that if athletes had a power to attract young men, that power should be used to attract them to better ways of living.
- Voice 1 - The idea stayed in his mind. Athletics and clean living. How to unite the two? was his problem. Then in 1887 came an incident which changed his career from ministry to physical education:
- Voice 2 - It was while playing football at McGill that I received one of my strongest urges to make athletics become an avenue of preaching. One day in practice something went wrong, and the guard next to me let loose a stream of profanity. Suddenly he stopped and exclaimed, "Excuse, me, Jim. I'm sorry." I hadn't said a thing; in fact, I had hardly noticed his swearing, for I had heard some pretty fancy profanity in the Canadian woods. But the incident set me thinking, and I talked to the YMCA secretary about it. He told me of the Springfield college, and I was all for moving to Springfield right then.