

- Voice 1 - But he didn't leave immediately. A faculty member talk him into staying another year, and he graduated from McGill in 1887 with an A.B. degree. The same year that he graduated, he was hired by McGill as director of physical education. Here's how he got his first job:
- Voice 2 - One evening a couple of upperclassmen came to my room to admonish me to take more exercise, and urged that I attend the gym class. I laughed them off -- until they had gone, but I decided there must be something to their advice. I went to the gym the next night, seized a pair of Indian clubs, and took my place in front of the instructor. Later I learned that he reserved the front rank for his more proficient pupils. Death of a gym instructor a short time later opened a place for me on the staff.
- Voice 1 - He was director at McGill for three years 1887 to 1890. Then in the fall of 1890 he entered the YMCA college in Springfield, Mass., with Alonzo Stagg, who was to remain a life-long friend and achieve fame as a football coach. Soon James Naismith was on the staff of the Springfield college. Then in 1891 came the invention of the game of basketball which happened this way:
- Voice 2 - Invention of the game of basketball was no accident. After my first year at Springfield I was put on the staff. One of my duties was with a class of 18 prospective secretaries. No problems arose as long as we could get out of doors for exercise, but when winter came, my worries began. These boys simply would not play drop the handkerchief. Dr. Luther Gulick, head of the school, put the problem squarely up to me, and kept bringing the matter up in matter in faculty meetings until I realized I really had to do something about it. Dr. Gulick had reminded me on one occasion that there is nothing new under the sun. What appears new is just a combination of older things. So I began to recall my boyhood games, and to study the problem in that light. I took football, duck-on-a-rock, and lacrosse. . .
- Voice 1 - The inventor, at that time 30 years old, was not so sure that the game would be successful. He was a little anxious when he introduced it to his class. He said:
- Voice 2 - "Just another game" was the first exclamation when the 18 rollicking secretaries-to-be came infor their exercise. But I divided the squad, named off the positions, and started the game. It took!
- Voice 1 - Thus was born the game of basketball which today is played, statisticians say, by 20 million persons in 40 nations. Then came busy years for James Naismith. In 1891 he was graduated from the Springfield college. He wrote his first book, "Basketball Rules." In 1892 the New York Times praised the game "new game." He was made director of physical education at Springfield. In 1894 he married Miss Maude E. Sherman. The same year he heard that his game had spread to the West Coast, to France, and to India.