



# NEWS

**From: National Council Y. M. C. A.'s  
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Public Relations Office**

NEW YORK, Feb. XX -- If a football teammate hadn't apologized for swearing in his presence, the late Dr. James Naismith might never have forsaken the ministry for athletics, and would not have invented basketball.

This story was revealed here today with the publication of "Basketball -- Its Origin and Development" by the Association Press. In it Dr. Naismith tells the story of his childhood in northern Ontario, of the seven years spent studying theology at McGill University, and how he invented basketball to occupy his restless gymnasium class at the International Y.M.C.A. Training School at Springfield, Mass.

The book is published as the first major event on the Y.M.C.A.'s program to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the invention of basketball. Under plans being made by the Y.M.C.A. the season of 1941-42 will be celebrated as the Golden Anniversary of the sport, with Y.M.C.A.'s, schools, colleges and athletic associations participating. The book is unique in that it tells the story of a great national game by the man who founded it.

When his teammate apologized for his colorful language, young Naismith was surprised, and, we suspect, more than a little disturbed. He discussed the matter with a Y.M.C.A. secretary, and in the course of their conversation stated his belief that there might be other ways of doing good besides preaching. This led to Naismith's interest in Y.M.C.A. work and his going to Springfield College.

While the unexpected apology for swearing caused Naismith to enter "Y" work and invent basketball, the boyhood game of "Duck on the Rock" had a great deal to do with its final form. When working out the details of his invention, Naismith ruled out a vertical goal such as used in lacrosse because the harder the ball is thrown the more chances it has of scoring a goal. He feared this would lead to roughness. He recalled that as a boy the most effective shots in "Duck on the Rock" were high, easy throws in which the stone arched to its goal.