

With this principle in mind he decided upon a horizontal goal that would require an easy throw rather than a powerful one -- that would require skill instead of brute strength. Knowing that a goal on the floor level would lead inevitably to the line plays of football, he concluded that the goals must be elevated. This would do away with the necessity of players protecting the goals with their bodies, and would eliminate much roughness.

He requested the janitor to get some boxes to serve as goals, but received peach baskets instead. These Naismith tacked to the lower rim of the balcony railing at either end of the gymnasium. Thus the game of basketball, which now attracts more spectators than any other sport, was born. Dr. Naismith pictures the development of the game from the time it was permissible for each team to have as many as 50 players to the present five-man, high speed teams.

The book is written with that dry humor which was so characteristic of Dr. Naismith. Every basketball player and fan will get keener enjoyment from this great game after reading Dr. Naismith's book. It has an introduction by Clair Bee, coach of Long Island University.