

RIGHT INTO THE OLD PEACH BASKET

By Jo-Ellen Kidd

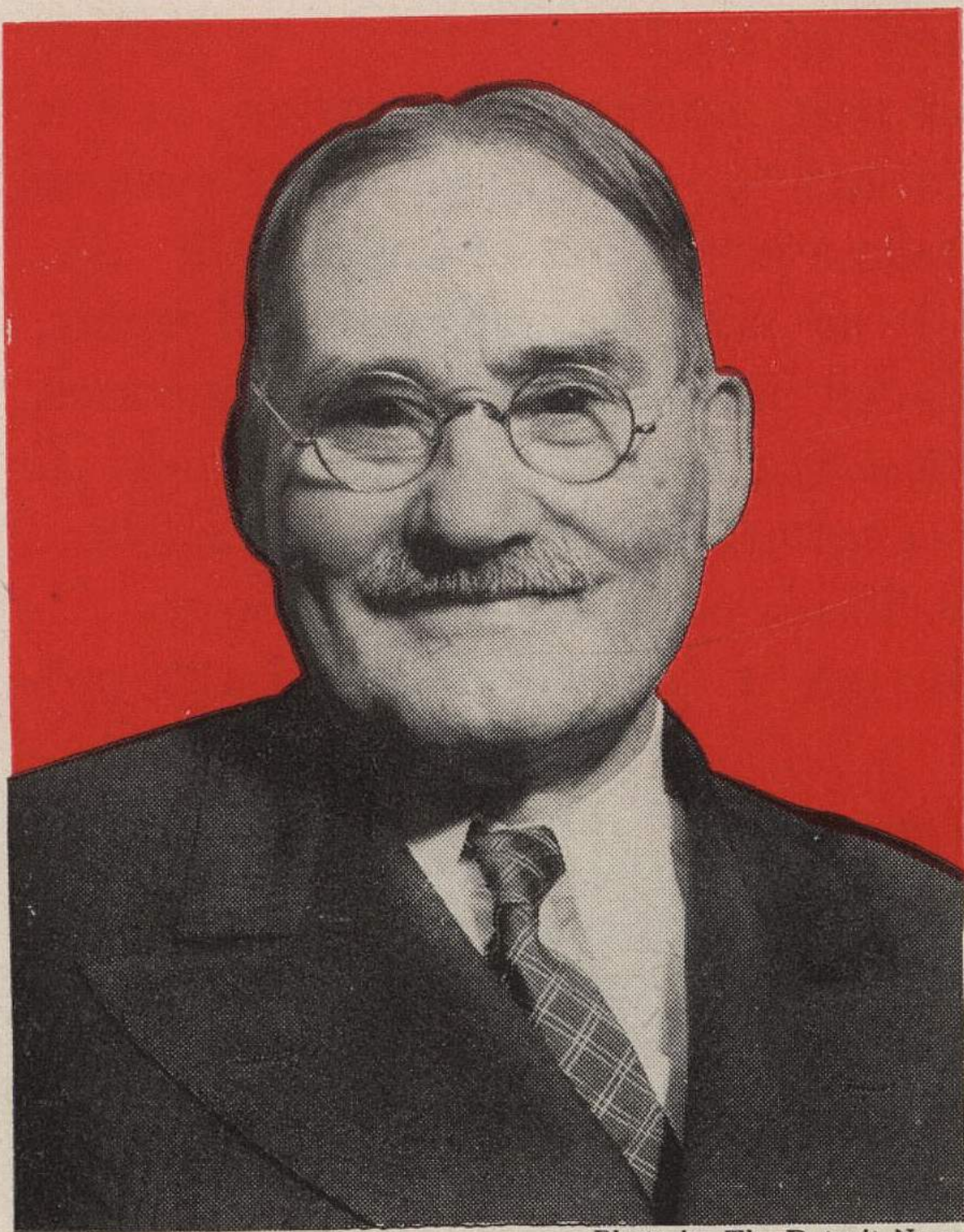


Photo by The Detroit News

Dr. James Naismith invented basketball in 1890 and refused to have it called Naismith ball when the question of a title came up the next year. A cheerful, bright-eyed chap, he went to school all his life, got himself a half-dozen degrees. Somewhere along the line, the press got the idea that his non-existent middle initial was "A." Naismith's reply to this, typical of his wit, was that he couldn't figure out what it stood for unless it was "anonymous."



This picture was posed by the Springfield college basketball team of 1942, and all the players probably had raging nightmares for a long time afterwards. As far as can be ascertained, every foul in the modern rule book is being committed in this picture, and it becomes a deep mystery how the first players survived from season to season to pass the art of the game along to younger and less crippled men. The gentleman wearing the handle-bars and the leer, standing on the step-ladder, is saddled with the responsibility of retrieving the ball when, if ever, the players manage to drop it in the suspended peach basket. He was not allowed to participate in the game actively, but, from time to time, probably kicked, swatted or otherwise maimed his opponents from his high vantage point. Brass knuckles were out, though.

THE TALL, lean red-head dribbled the ball on place to kill time as his eyes darted about the court searching for a teammate in the clear. Then he caught sight of Saunders—streaking down the court toward the basket with not a State man covering him. High over his opponents' heads Red sent the ball twirling into the outstretched hands of the crack shot of the team. Saunders seized the ball and in one motion sent it sailing toward the backboard and right into the old peach basket to win the game

for his alma mater as the final gun sounded.

Right into the old peach basket. And that's what it was—literally—in the early days of basketball. When Dr. James Naismith originated the game in 1890 while he was an instructor at the YMCA college in Springfield, Massachusetts, he asked for two boxes, 18 by 18 inches. Instead the building superintendent brought him two half-bushel peach baskets.

They served the purpose, but they were soon replaced by a net basket



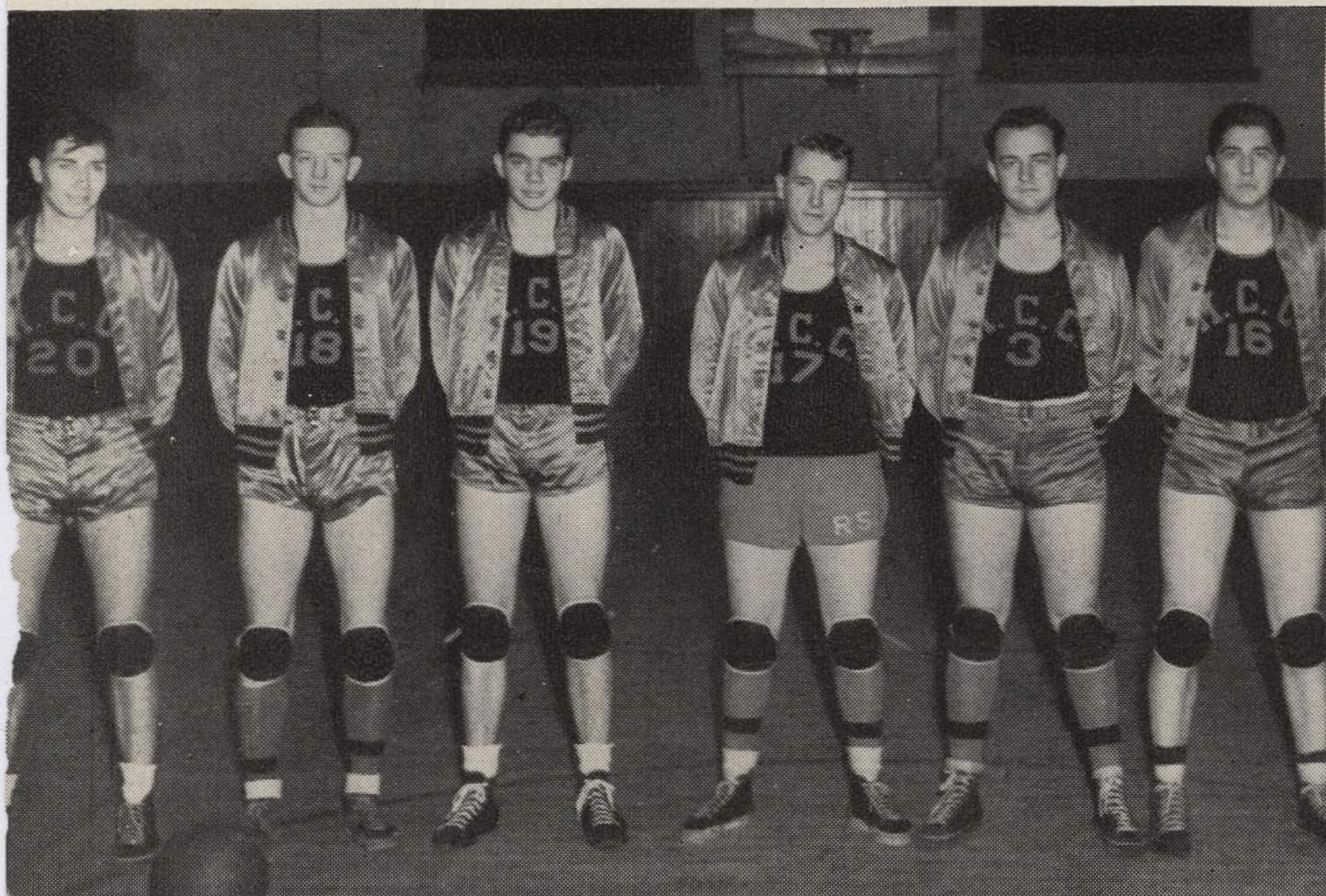
This is the first basketball team, posed on the steps of the Springfield college gymnasium in 1892. In the center row, wearing civilian clothes, is Dr. James Naismith, the gent who started the whole thing. Notice that this nine-man team carried its own baskets. Also notice that seven of the nine men wear lush adornments on their stiff upper lips. What team today could boast of such manliness?

which was similar to the goal as we know it today—without the hole in the bottom. Somehow it just didn't occur to anyone to make an open net, permitting the ball to drop through.

In the very earliest days, no basketball game was complete without an adjunct to the team to perform services similar to the water boy's on the football team and the bat boy's on a baseball team. He was the agile little fellow who was stationed in the gallery behind the backboard or on a ladder beside the basket, all set to retrieve the ball after it hit the mark and fell into the goal.

When net baskets were introduced,

Here are Monsanto's representatives in the Nitro Industrial Basketball league; left to right, John McClain, Pilot Plant supervisor; Wally Dinsmore, Research chemist; Charley Marshall, Control lab; Joe Osborne, Engineering department; Jim Roark, Control lab; and Earl Cooper, Production department. Dave Frazier, A. L. Jordan, Ralph Smith, and Homer Hudnall, all of the Production department, were not able to be present when the picture was taken.



The Story and Chemistry of an American Game that has a Yearly Attendance of Over 90 Million

they, like their peachy predecessors, had no outlet at the bottom. Instead, a chain-gadget was attached which, when pulled, released the ball from the bulging trap. Not until 1905 did goals with open nets come into popular use.

An attempt to find an invigorating indoor game to relieve the monotony of mid-winter school calisthenics resulted in Naismith's invention of basketball. He was interested in building "the tall, agile, graceful and expert athlete" and he believed that a sport which combined the elements of speed and coordination such as are required in his new game would fulfill that aim. He felt that he could produce a happy medium between the "massive, muscular man . . . and the cadaverous greyhound."

Any number of men up to 50 could play on each side in those early days, the size of the team being limited only by the size of the playing field. It was not long, however, until it became obvious that such an abundance of players cluttered the court and prevented any display of skill or of organized teamwork. The number was reduced to nine, then to five.

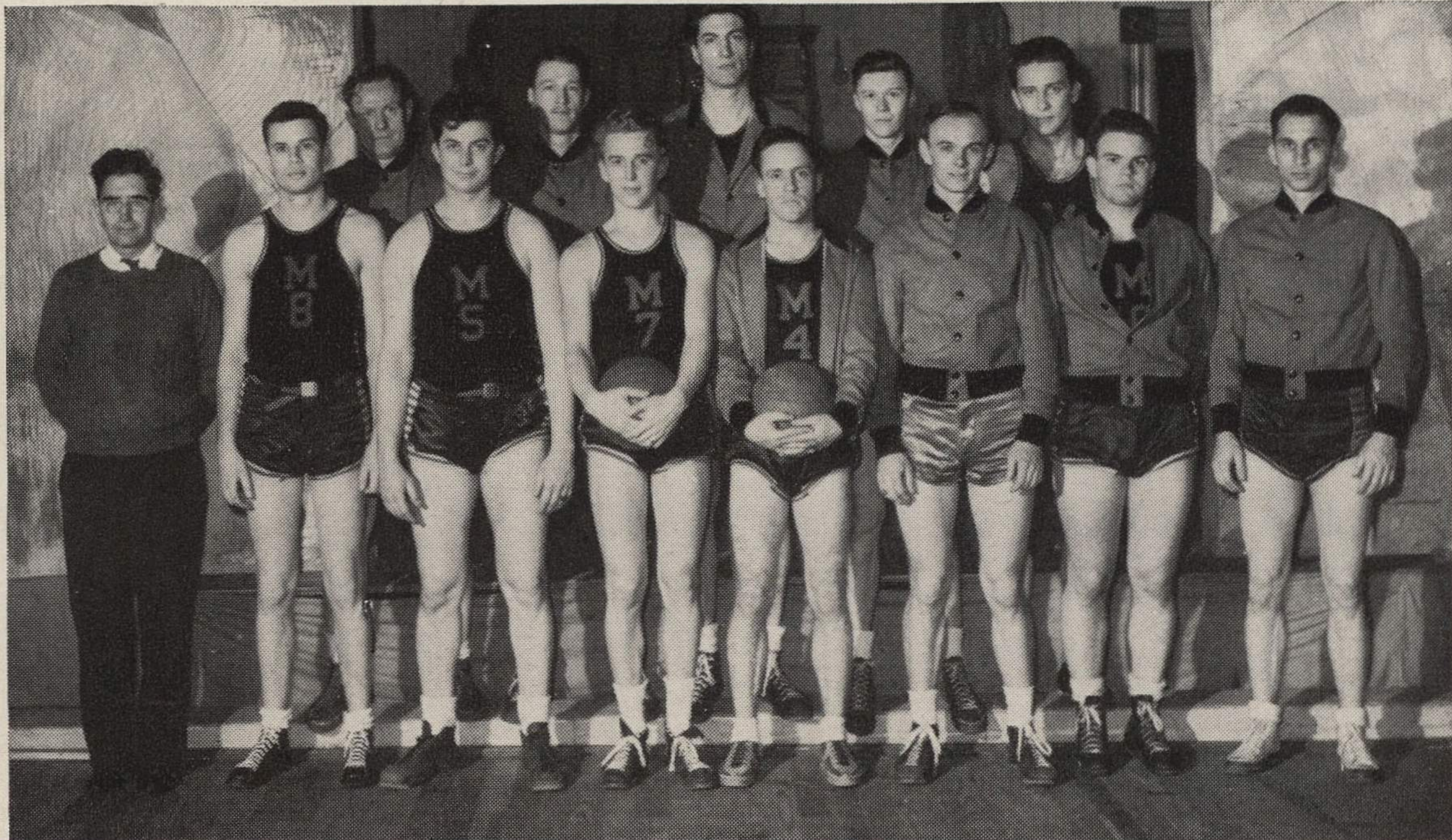
The first game was played with nine men on a team, simply because there were 18 in Naismith's gym class at the YMCA, and everybody wanted to play.

Another oddity of the game in its original form was its scheme for setting the ball into motion. An official tossed the ball into the center of the court from the sidelines and all members of the two teams rushed for it from their respective ends of the field. This melee was quickly modified to the toss-up.

The first game, played in a gym class, was a far cry from the accurate, speedy contest as it was in the Olympic games in Berlin in 1936, when Dr. Naismith saw his game played for the first time in international Olympic competition. The National Association of Basketball Coaches raised funds to send the inventor to Europe for that momentous occasion, and it marked the first time that Naismith made a penny out of basketball.

It is now an international sport, played in more than 60 countries, including Hawaii, where as many as 434 teams are organized on the Island of Maui, population only 48,000. Although it has not received the pro-

Monsanto has its basketball teams, too, and this John F. Queeny plant team is made up of 12 good men and true. They are, first row, from left to right, R. J. Gillon, Time office; Wally Stanton, Analytical lab; Ted Fancher, Mechanical department; Will Allen, Operating department; Don Sarter, chemist at Monsanto, Illinois; S. W. Hemmen, Operating department; Bob Nellums, Analytical lab; and Ken Lindley, Operating department; second row, Glen "Red" Robinson, Operating department; Jack Vahle, Mechanical department; Will Reed, Analytical lab; Bruce Merrifield, Analytical lab; and Will Werder, Accounting department.



fessional popularity which is accorded baseball, it is by far the most popular sport played in high schools throughout the country. The Midwestern conference can honestly boast that 98.9 per cent of the high schools in that area support basketball teams.

In 1941 a golden jubilee of basketball was held in Springfield, the place of its origin. At that time a campaign was initiated in which funds were raised to construct a Temple of Basketball. It will someday stand in Springfield, immortalizing Dr. Naismith, and acting as the permanent shrine of All-America teams, past, present and future.

James Naismith had another "first"

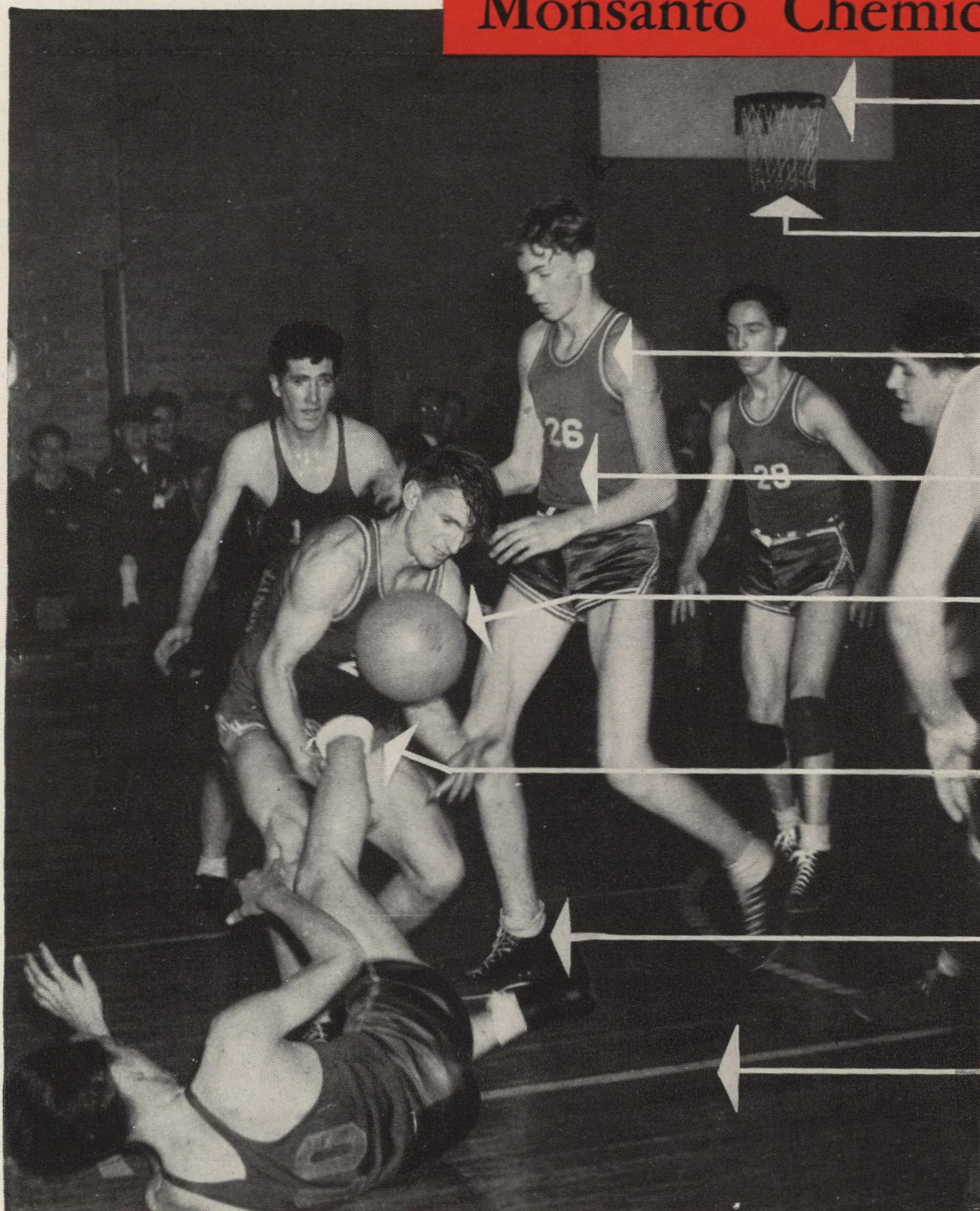
to his credit. As center on the Springfield college football team, he enlisted the aid of the girl who later became Mrs. Naismith to concoct what became the earliest forerunner of the present-day football headgear. She sewed together several thicknesses of cotton flannel into a cap-like device designed to protect his ears rather than prevent shock.

He unwittingly made still another important contribution to football. Basketball's forward pass gave the football rules committeemen something to think about, and when American colleges became wholeheartedly interested in basketball about 1905, football was quick to recognize the

advantages of a play that would put speed in its game.

The remarkable popularity of basketball is perhaps due chiefly to its adaptability. It requires only the simplest of equipment, very little preparation, and a minimum of cash. But not only is it popular with the players, it is also well liked by spectators. It has been estimated that basketball plays to more than 90 million people annually. The game is easily comprehended, speedy, exciting to watch. Many spectators prefer it to football and baseball because they may sit close to the playing court and thus easily recognize each player and see each play.

Monsanto Chemicals in the Game



Metal Ring

— Pickling Acids, etc.

Net on Basket

— Kier Boiling Chemicals, etc.

Uniforms (Rayon)

— Dye Intermediates, Caustic Soda, Acetic Acid, etc.

Laundry Chemicals and Medicinals

Basketball

— Sodium Sulfide, Sodium Sulfhydrate, Santotan, Wetting Agents, Rubber Chemicals

Rubber Sole Shoes,

Canvas Shoes

— Accelerators, Antioxidants, Merchlor Bleach, etc.

Socks (Wool)

— Sulfuric Acid, Aluminum Chloride, etc.

Floor, Wood Backboard Paints

— Oil Soluble Phenolics, Phthalic Anhydride, Maleic Anhydride, Carbon Blacks, Plasticizers, Solvents, etc.

It is sad, but true, that many people will not believe in things they cannot see and touch. And because they do not believe, they can never see and must spend their lives in a semi-darkness unilluminated by the sparkling, dancing creatures who are the perpetual delight of children. Some grown-ups can see them, but few, very few. These incredulous, unbelieving people laugh at the mention of the Never-Never Land, simply because they cannot see it and cannot go there. Perhaps most of these people have never been to London, either. Are they *sure* there is such a place? This is a simple story, and it actually happened this way. Believe it or not, as you will.

IN THE first place, let me warn you—this is an extremely personal narrative and you'll be seeing a lot of the first person singular from now on. It's extremely personal because it concerns only me, Gwa O'Rourke and some of his pals.

Most writers, when they're confronted with the problem of telling of events in a vague limbo-land where men are seldom permitted to travel, can fall back on those convenient artifices of the trade and begin their stories, "I fell into a deep troubled sleep in which wind sounds and night and strange forms were all inextricably mixed, and when I awoke—."

I'm afraid I can't handle Gwa O'Rourke that way, because the first time I saw him he was working hard in the cold light of a normal day in a place far removed from fantasy and hazy dreams—I saw him in our research laboratories in St. Louis on one busy afternoon while chemists were busily engaged in cracking apart another tough problem. Gwa was energetically ladling acid out of a beaker and dumping it into another beaker, thereby effectively ruining an important experiment.

Now, I want it understood that I believe in leprechauns and pixies and elves and fairies, both good and bad, or I never would have seen Gwa that day. No one else saw him. And except for the fact that Gwa had a slight accident just then I never would have known him. Little people can be just as stupid and clumsy as we, and,

Gwa O'Rourke

The Story of the Ageless Elves that Haunt the Chemical Industry

By Johnny Keen

knowing this, I was not too surprised when Gwa leaned over the edge of the acid beaker to see how much more acid he could ladle out, and slipped. His feet went up and his head went down and he hung precariously over the edge of the beaker, unable to fall either in or out and helpless to move although he worked frantically with his hands and feet against the slickness of the glass walls. His benzene ring middle held him on one side, while his jack-knifed spindly legs held him on the other, and his round bottom agitated from side to side in his panic. Even chemists don't like to bathe in acid.

I plucked him off his glassy perch, put him in my pocket and retired to my office to examine my find. I put him down on the desk pad and he sat down heavily, clutching his stomach and breathing heavily. When he had recovered, he looked at me, got to his feet, and walked to the edge of the desk. He looked over, shivered at the sight of the drop before him, and walked to the other side. There was no way off, so he resignedly settled down behind my books to wait for something to happen. I whistled softly and his head popped out from behind the dictionary, then popped back again.

"Hey, you!" I called, "you behind that book! I can see you, you know, so come on out and let's have a look at

you." With my thumb and forefinger I pinched his jacket and pulled him out. That convinced him and he became formal and dignified. He removed his cap and bowed as gracefully as his generous mid-section would permit.

"Sikronik," he said, "fir mutsim copignatom gihuit dif, Gwa O'Rourke kilamerd li." He bowed again and replaced his cap.

"Gormaniggif," I replied, "hirtufid mi lert gasthutiss, le Johnny Keen firsignen."

We stared at each other in astonishment. I had understood him, and, what's more, had replied well enough for him to understand me. He had said, literally, "Bare-head-to-you, to me is acid killing stuff from which you kindly took, Gwa O'Rourke now becomes sun-to-plant." I had replied, "Water-to-mist, high is low, broad is wide, from Johnny Keen goes thankfulness." He had greeted me, then thanked me for saving his life and pledged his friendship and eternal service, and I had replied, "Forget it, pal, it's all the same to me, glad to do it any time."

From then on, we were friends, and for the next few weeks Gwa traveled with me and initiated me in the fine art of chemlinology. He told me ancient stories, for his people are as old as the world, and we spent many long hours together just talking of many things. When we went on the road he

M
December 27, 1939.

Professor Frank L. Brown,
School of Engineering,
University of Kansas.

Dear "Chief":

No, I did not have any idea of starting a drive toward a suitable memorial for Dr. Naismith and a field house for K. U.

Certainly I would not be a party to ask students, faculty and alumni of the University for money under present conditions. You remember you and I were in on that stadium drive and how much fun we had and how hard we worked, but we are both several years older now, and as far as I am concerned, I am perfectly willing to let some younger man carry the burden of such a thing.

I thank you for your good wishes, but like you, I feel that I have enough to do at the present time, and I also feel that this is no time to ask the students and faculty of this institution for a contribution.

Assuring you I appreciate your writing me about this,
I am

Very sincerely yours,

FCA:AH

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED MECHANICS
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

December 9
1939

Doctor Forrest C. Allen
Department of Physical Education
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Doctor Allen:

I have heard some rather vague rumors to the effect that a movement might be initiated looking toward a suitable memorial for Doctor James Naismith, and a field house for K.U. was mentioned as a possibility. Nothing could be more appropriate, of course; but to ask the students, faculty and alumni of the University for \$400,000 or \$500,000 under present conditions would require considerable temerity. It is likely, however, that there are thousands of persons in the United States not associated with K.U. who would contribute to such a memorial. Why not make it a nation-wide drive? The idea is intriguing, at least. Perhaps it is already being considered; whether or no, I believe it is worth full attention.

Cordially yours,



Frank L. Brown
Professor of Applied
Mechanics

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Dr. James Naismith

Dr. James Naismith, who 48 years ago gave the game of basketball to the world, wrote a book in 1918 that had the title of "The Basis of Clean Living". Those five words characterized the life of the 78-year old professor emeritus of physical education at the University of Kansas, who retired from active teaching duty in 1937 after 40 years of "building character in the hearts of young men" at K.U.

Dr. Naismith, who at the age of eight was left an orphan, was born in Almonte, Canada, on Nov. 6, 1861. After making his home with an uncle, he went to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and graduated with an A.B. degree in 1887. This was the first of his three degrees. In 1890 he graduated from Presbyterian College, in 1891 he received his master of physical education degree from Y.M.C.A. College in Springfield, Mass., and in 1898 he earned his doctor of medicine degree from Colorado University.

Dr. Naismith married Miss Maude E. Sherman of Springfield, Mass., in 1894. Three daughters and two sons, all of whom live in the middlewestern area of the U. S., were born to the marriage. Mrs. Naismith died in March, 1937.

Dr. Naismith, also prepared for the ministry, but never, as he said, preached a sermon in his life. At least, not directly. His sermon of clean living was delivered indirectly through teaching young men to love clean athletics. Neither did Dr. Naismith practice medicine, although he was a member of the Kansas Medical Association.

Four jobs in physical education occupied Dr. Naismith's career. From 1887 to 1890 he was director at McGill, from 1890 to 1895 he directed the work at Springfield Y.M.C.A., and from 1895 to 1898 he was director at the Denver Y.M.C.A., and in 1898 he came to the University of Kansas. Here he served 40 years.

Military service during the World War included four months service in 1916 with the First Kansas regiment, and 19 months with the Y.M.C.A. in France from 1917 to 1919.

Dr. Naismith was a member of the following organizations: Society of Directors of Physical Education in Kansas Colleges, Kansas State Medical Association, National Association of Physical Education, Kansas Association of Physical Education (president), Pi Gamma Mu, Sigma Phi Epsilon, International Basketball Federation (honorary president), Basketball Coaches Association (honorary president), Basketball Rules Committee (honorary chairman and life member), Presbyterian Church, and Masonic Lodge.

The game of basketball was originated in 1891 by Dr. Naismith at the Springfield Y.M.C.A. to fill the need of a winter sport. Two old peach baskets, a ball, and 13 rules were the original equipment of the game which has spread around the world and was played in the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin.

Besides many magazine articles, Dr. Naismith wrote three books: "Basketball Rules", 1891; "The Modern High School" (section on Athletics); 1911; "The Basis of Clean Living", 1918.

"The happiest moment" of his life, Dr. Naismith said, came in 1936 when he attended the Olympic games in Berlin and saw the game

of basketball played for the first time in the international competition. "The father of basketball" was sent to Berlin following a national drive for funds by spectators, officials, and players who wanted to have Dr. Naismith present when the teams of all nations filed in behind flags of their countries. Dr. Naismith addressed the assembled players before the start of the tournament--and, he said later, his eyes were misty.

In the spring of 1939 Dr. Naismith and Mrs. Florende Kincaid, for many years a housemother for Sigma Phi Epsilon at K.U., were married.

Dr. Naismith's children are Mrs. Thomas L. Daw, of Topeka, Mrs. L. H. Dodd of St. Louis, Mrs. George B. Stanley of Pueblo, Colo., John Edwin Naismith, of Topeka, and James Sherman Naismith of Dallas.

Dr. Naismith was first stricken ill on Sunday night, Nov. 19, at his home on University Drive. He made a remarkable recovery from effects of the cerebral hemorrhage and was released from the hospital to return to his home on Wednesday, Nov. 22. A relapse in his condition came Thursday, and he died on Nov. 28, 1939.

1206 E. Jefferson
Bloomington, Illinois
October 29, 1940

Mr. Forrest Allen, Director
Physical Education and Recreation
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Allen:

Thank you for your letter of October 18. I hope that your schedule will permit you to stop off at Bloomington in November. Perhaps we could get a few of the Kansas alumni together. I only know two or three myself, but the alumni secretary might be able to give me the names of others who live in or near Bloomington. I know that Mr. Young will be mighty glad to see you, too.

I believe that such a memorial as we discussed should be more than just a gymnasium. I think that it should incorporate all the features of an ultra-modern basketball gymnasium, but in addition to this, should have a section devoted to basketball history, early equipment, etc. Obviously much of this which was used during the last half century is still available, but it will not remain available indefinitely.

I do not know the details of the Rules Committee set-up, but if this could be built on the Kansas campus as a National Home for basketball, it would have a strong appeal. It might be that offices of the Rules Committee could be maintained there and meetings held there inasmuch as it is a central point in the United States.

I talked with Mr. Lomborg over the telephone when in Chicago a few weeks ago. He was interested and his comment was favorable, but he emphasized the fact that it would be a huge undertaking. Mr. Arch Ward at the TRIBUNE was out of town and Marvin McCarthy at the TIMES was busy for the only time I had to go there was just ahead of press time.

Brick Young asked that I see Major Griffith, but I hesitated to do this without knowing more of the official set-up and without having more definite plans to outline.

I do not believe it would be hard to get major sports writers behind such an undertaking, nor do I feel that leading basketball coaches would do other than cooperate to the fullest extent.

Inasmuch as the year after the coming one is the fiftieth anniversary of basketball, it would be easy to have the game written up and featured together with the Naismith Memorial in such magazines as COLLIERS, LIFE, etc.

Mr. Forrest Allen

Page #2

October 29, 1940

No subject in the sports line would have a stronger appeal since I understand that no other game is played by so large a number of people. No other game is played at the season of the year when there is little if anything else in the line of sports to detract from it.

I shall certainly appreciate the privilege of meeting you if you have the opportunity to come to Bloomington, and I shall appreciate knowing the thoughts of your Chancellor Deane W. Malott, and your Alumni Secretary, Fred Ellsworth.

Very truly yours,


G. F. Alcott

GFA: DLY

October 18, 1940

*Copies sent to:
Chancellor Malott
Fred Ellsworth*

Mr. G.F. Alcott
1206 E. Jefferson
Bloomington, Illinois

Dear Mr. Alcott:

Your good letter of August 9 was acknowledged by my secretary, in which she explained that I was away from the office on my summer vacation.

I left for the University of Texas to teach a short course in their basketball clinic there, then the following week I was in Topeka, Kansas with the Kansas State High School Coaching School. From there I went to Louisville and then to Chicago to attend a meeting of the National Collegiate Executive Committee. We were discussing the National Collegiate Basketball Tournament.

I enjoyed your letter very much. Regarding the Baker faculty man, I am wondering if that could be C.S. Parmenter. He was a grand fellow. It happened he was a son-in-law of Bishop Quail, another outstanding gentleman.

I was happy indeed to hear from Brick Young and to know of your association with Herbert "Scoop" Olson. Yes, he played on my team and I was quite fond of him.

I have some speaking engagements in Ohio and Wisconsin the early part of November. If it is at all possible, I will make it a point to drop by and see if we can have a conference.

I am passing on your information to our Chancellor, Deane W. Malott; and our Alumni Secretary, Fred Ellsworth. I would like very much to get their opinion on the Naismith Memorial idea.

You will hear from me in the event I can make connections.

Very cordially yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA:lg

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August 9, 1940

Dr. Forrest C. Allen.,
Director of Physical Education.,
University of Kansas.
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Allen:

Thank you for your splendid letter of August 3rd.

Yes, your old friend, Brick Young is still here. He is sports editor of the local paper, and does quite a bit of service as a sport's official. He tells me that in years past he has worked some of the Kansas-Missouri games.

Mr. Young is one of those with whom I have talked on the subject. He feels that it is entirely possible, and a worthy undertaking. He tells me that he can be counted on for any publicity or service that he can render. Mr. Young has quite a file on Dr. Naismith and the evolution of basketball, and gives talks on the subject.

I have been gone much of the week, and will be in Chicago a good portion of the coming week. However by the end of that time I will have an opportunity to write you more fully on my ideas and suggestions, for your consideration.

My wife worked as a secretary to a Baker faculty man, who was secretary to the Kansas Conference while she was in school. She handled the eligibility lists of players in Kansas Conference schools, and says that she recalls the picture of the team you coached there.

While in school one summer at Emporia, I roomed with an ex-K.U. player, and I believe captain --Herbert "Scoop" Olson. He was assistant city engineer, and we were at the Y.M.C.A. for the summer. I believe he married that fall, but I do not know where he is now.

If he is in town, I hope to get the opinion of Dutch Lonberg while in Chicago next week.

Sincerely,



G. F. Alcott.,
1206 E. Jefferson St.,
Bloomington, Illinois.

J *

The youth of the world has lost a great benefactor in Dr. James Naismith, the father of basketball. Eighteen million young men all over the world are playing his game of basketball which he originated for eighteen troublesome young men in a class in Springfield, Mass., Y.M.C.A. College in 1891. Dr. Naismith is directly responsible for all the large field houses, the large auditoria and gymnasias where basketball is played today. Before this game was originated there were few large indoor arenas that were used for any indoor sports. Dotted the Middle Western states are high school gymnasias that are much larger in size than the entire school buildings were 30 years ago.

Dr. Naismith is indirectly responsible for the forward pass in football. Until the popularity of basketball began to spring up in the colleges of America in 1905, the forward pass in football was not thought of. Then the football rules committee incorporated the forward pass or basketball pass in football, and immediately the open game became the element that spread the defense. Basketball has become footballized and football has become basketballized. The forward pass of today is a Naismith innovation. Today it is the most spectacular of all plays on our grid-irons.

Frederick Froebel gave to the world the theory of the kindergarten - education through play. Dr. Naismith gave to the youth basketball, a game that takes the youngster from the eighth grade to maturity. I once heard eight nationally known educators speaking from the same platform declare that basketball had all the qualities necessary to teach the educable child: poise, rhythm, grace, coordination, development of skills and the development of physical vigor. The speakers were not competitive coaches nor were they athletes. This game, the only international game that is the product of one man's brain, stamps Dr. Naismith as a great educator, a kindly humanitarian, and a practical Christian.

He loved youth. He and Alonzo Stagg both working together chose the profession of physical education over the ministry, in which they were ordained, because they could do more for youth, they thought. The youth of the world will arise and call Dr. Naismith blessed.

December 6, 1939. N

Mr. Oren Bingham,
University Photographer,
University of Kansas.

Dear Oren:

I want to thank you and Mrs. Bingham for the very important part you had in the tribute to Dr. Naismith at the basketball game last night. I thought the effect was beautiful and very impressive.

I hope to make arrangements so that you and Mrs. Bingham may attend all of our home basketball games, and will take it up with Mr. Falkenstien in the near future.

Very sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation,
Varsity Basketball Coach.

Naismith Rites Will Be Held Friday at 2:30

★ Reverend Theodore Aszman, Presbyterian Minister, Will Officiate; Wife, Five Children Survive

Services for Dr. James Naismith, professor emeritus of physical education and inventor of basketball, will be held at 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon at the First Presbyterian church here. The Rev. Theodore Aszman, pastor of the church, will officiate at the services.

Doctor Naismith died early yesterday morning at his home on University Drive, after having been suddenly stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage Nov. 19.

Among the survivors are his wife and five children: Mrs. Thomas L. Daw and John Edwin Naismith of Topeka, Mrs. George B. Stanley of Pueblo, Colo., Mrs. L. H. Dodd of St. Louis, and James Sherman Naismith of Dallas.

Began Duties in 1898

Doctor Naismith had been actively connected with the University's department of athletics for 40 years, having begun his duties here in 1898. He resigned from full-time teaching duties in June, 1937.

"The youth of the world has lost a great benefactor in Dr. James Naismith, the father of basketball," Dr. F. C. Allen, chairman of the department of physical education and head basketball coach, said yesterday.

"Eighteen million young men all over the world are playing his game of basketball which he originated for 18 troublesome young men in a class in Springfield, Mass., Y.M.C.A. college in 1891.

'He Loved Youth'

Basketball's Father Passes Away---



The University of Kansas lost one of its most beloved professors Monday night when Dr. James Naismith died. His game of basketball, which he invented in 1891, is one of the most popular of sports.

"He loved youth. He and Alonzo Stagg working together chose the profession of physical education over the ministry, in which they were ordained, because they could do more for youth, they thought. The youth of the world will arise and call Doctor Naismith blessed."

Chancellor Deane W. Malott yesterday made the following statement on the work and influence of Doctor Naismith:

"In behalf of the University of Kansas, I express sorrow at the death of Dr. James Naismith, professor emeritus of physical education. Not only the University and the state of Kansas, but the United States and many nations of the world as well, will feel the loss of this man who set high standards of personal clean living and was able to infuse these same standards into the lives of hundreds of young men. His contribution to the athletic world of the game of basketball will leave a mark that even time cannot erase."

A.B. From McGill

Doctor Naismith was the possessor of three degrees. He received an A.B. degree from McGill University in Montreal in 1887, in 1891 he received his master of physical education degree from Y.M.C.A. college in Springfield, Mass. In 1898, he earned his doctor of medicine degree from the University of Colorado.

Doctor Naismith married Miss Maude E. Sherman of Springfield, Mass., in 1894. Three daughters and two sons were born. Mrs. Naismith died in March, 1937.

Doctor Naismith, who at the age of eight was left an orphan, was born in Almonte, Ontario, Nov. 6, 1861.

This spring, Doctor Naismith and Mrs. Florence Kincaid, for many years a housemother for Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, were married.

March 3, 1941

Mr. E.B. Black
Black & Veatch
Consulting Engineers
4706 Broadway
Kansas City, Missouri

Dear Mr. Black:

Thank you for your letter of February 14 enclosing the clipping from the Washington Evening Star. We have placed the clipping on the bulletin board in our Varsity dressing room.

Yes, I agree with you that it is a pretty nasty shame that the whiskey interest can chisel in on a reputable and college sport to further their nefarious business.

Thanking you again for sending the clipping,
I am,

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA:lg

E. B. BLACK
N. T. VEATCH, JR.

BLACK & VEATCH
CONSULTING ENGINEERS
4706 BROADWAY
KANSAS CITY, MO.

A. P. LEARNED
J. F. BROWN
C. I. DODD
F. M. VEATCH
H. F. LUTZ

February 14, 1941

E. L. FILBY
W. G. FOWLER
W. D. THOMPSON
G. C. BREWSTER
R. E. LAWRENCE

Mr. Forrest C. Allen
Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

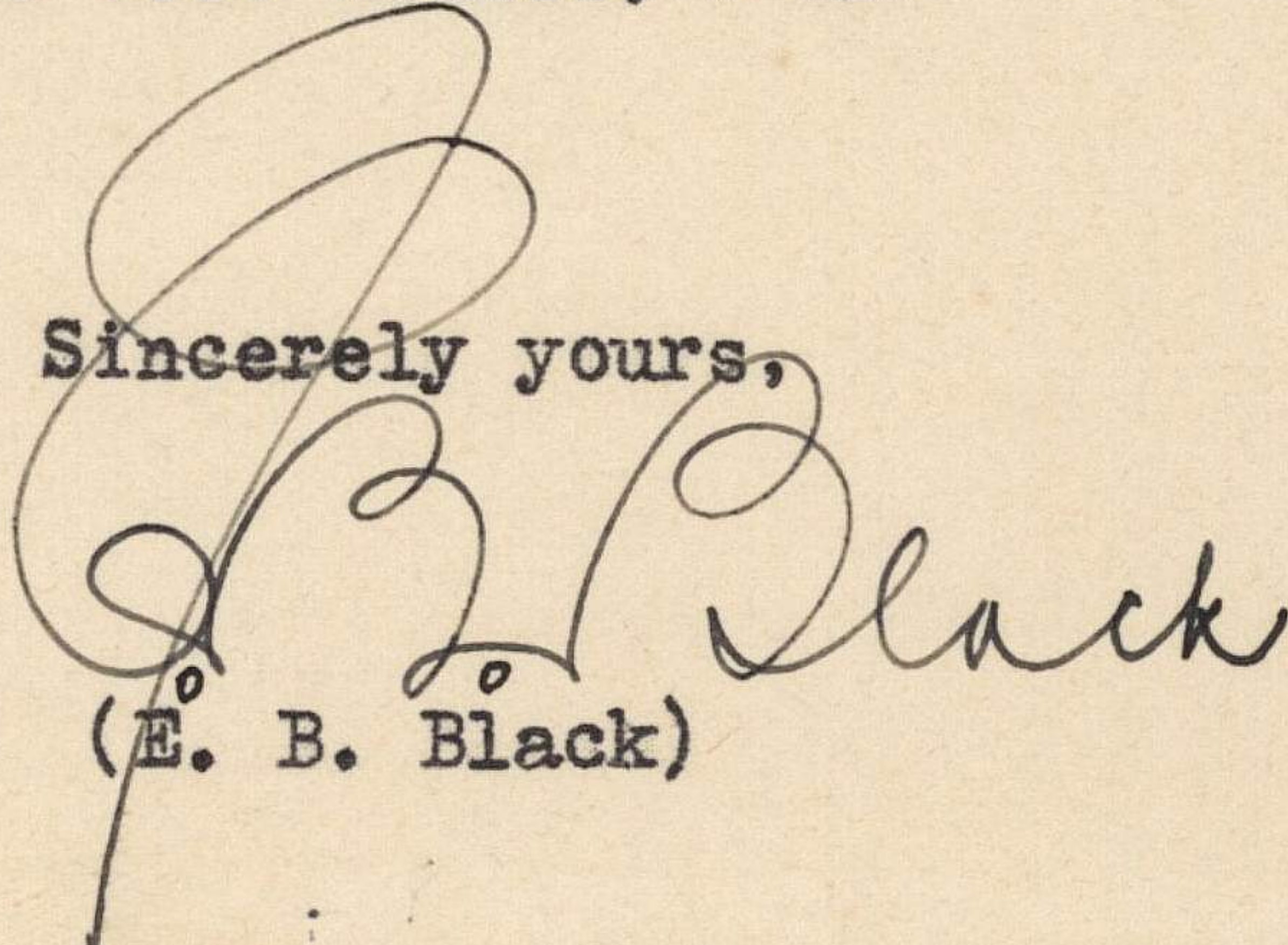
Dear Mr. Allen:

Absence from Kansas City has prevented acknowledgment of the receipt of your letter of February 4 about Dr. Burdick's opinion of the possibility of preventing the use of Dr. Naismith's name and reputation and college basketball generally, from being the drawing card to liquor advertisements. It seems to me that such practice is to be regretted and I am sorry that nothing can be done to stop it.

In Washington the other evening I picked up a copy of the Washington Evening Star, and was very much pleased to see the center of the page write-up about Engleman. I also noted the reference to "Coach Phog Allen", and am attaching page A13 of the February 13 issue of the Evening Star for whatever use you wish to make of it.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


(E. B. Black)

EBB:ML
Encls.

Mrs. Dawe was in the office this afternoon and left word that certain angles have been presented which makes it impossible for the Naismith family to take away the privilege of the "Inter-Collegiate Athletic Association" ⁱⁿ offer ^{ing} the Dr. James Naismith Trophy in memory of Maude Naismith. She asked that you do nothing further on this until she can talk to you. She is leaving town (Topeka) tomorrow and will be gone until Monday.

August 16, 1940

Mr. G. F. Alcott
1206 E. Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois

Dear Mr. Alcott:

Your letter of August 9 addressed to Dr. Forrest C. Allen arrived at his office after he had left for the University of Texas. He expects to be there until tomorrow, the 17th, for a short basketball coaching clinic. The following week he will be in Topeka for the Kansas High School Coaching School.

As soon as Dr. Allen returns to the office your letter will be brought to his attention.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. F. C. Allen

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Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. F. C. Allen

August 9, 1940

Dr. Forrest C. Allen.,
Director of Physical Education.,
University of Kansas.
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Allen:

Thank you for your splendid letter of August 3rd.

Yes, your old friend, Brick Young is still here. He is sports editor of the local paper, and does quite a bit of service as a sport's official. He tells me that in years past he has worked some of the Kansas-Missouri games.

Mr. Young is one of those with whom I have talked on the subject. He feels that it is entirely possible, and a worthy undertaking. He tells me that he can be counted on for any publicity or service that he can render. Mr. Young has quite a file on Dr. Naismith and the evolution of basketball, and gives talks on the subject.

I have been gone much of the week, and will be in Chicago a good portion of the coming week. However by the end of that time I will have an opportunity to write you more fully on my ideas and suggestions, for your consideration.

My wife worked as a secretary to a Baker faculty man, who was secretary to the Kansas Conference while she was in school. She handled the eligibility lists of players in Kansas Conference schools, and says that she recalls the picture of the team you coached there.

While in school one summer at Emporia, I roomed with an ex-K.U. player, and I believe captain--Herbert "Scoop" Olson. He was assistant city engineer, and we were at the Y.M.C.A. for the summer. I believe he married that fall, but I do not know where he is now.

If he is in town, I hope to get the opinion of Dutch Lonberg while in Chicago next week.

Sincerely,

G. F. Alcott.,
1206 E. Jefferson St.,
Bloomington, Illinois.

August 3, 1940

Mr. G. F. Alcott
1206 E. Jefferson
Bloomington, Illinois

Dear Mr. Alcott:

I acknowledge with pleasure receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo.

Some fifteen years ago I visited with Dr. Haismith and asked him this question. I said, "Doctor, if a memorial were planned in your honor where would be your choice of location as concerning states?" Dr. Haismith replied, "Well, I had thought some of going to California to spend my latter days but since I have lived in Kansas most of my life, my family was raised and educated here, I am determined to spend the rest of my days in Kansas and, of course, I would like to see anything that is done for me placed at the University."

Mr. Glenn Frasier, an artist who has sculptured under Lorado Taft in Chicago, made a life mask cast of his face and head. He did this while Dr. Haismith was well and strong because we had learned that so many men wait until later years to have photographs taken or masks made. I have this plaster paris likeness of Dr. Haismith in his prime in the safe so that when someone plans something to his memory it will be lifelike. I certainly agree with you that a utilitarian memorial is something that would give pleasure to millions of people and would add dignity to the splendid life that Dr. Haismith has lived.

I agree with you that time is too short to do it this season. It would take a lot of planning and since this coming year is the fiftieth anniversary of basketball, it would be the logical time to organize a committee of nationally prominent educators and coaches. It seems to me as if it would be necessary for one man to devote most of his time to such a project. All of us have a desire to do things honoring great people, but when it comes to taking the time away from our bread and butter schedule it is generally delayed.

I appreciate more than you know your writing the letter and initiating this thought. Knowing that you attended Washburn College and the College of Emporia and since your home is in Chanute I can conceive your great interest and love for Dr. Haismith and this memorial.

Aug. 3, 1940

I once coached Baker University; the first coaching job in basketball I ever had. We turned out a wonderful team down there. Mason, Hoover, Sample, Preston, Arnett, Brainard, Withrow, Bristow, and Leo Jones and that group were the boys that played on the team. Joe Bristow was the manager of the team and we had a fellow named Bacon who had some active part in it. I was very strongly attached to Baker.

A few years ago I learned that Dr. Naismith had lost his home through the foreclosure of a mortgage. This was just before the Olympic games in 1936. I visited Major Griffith and members of the National Basketball Rules Committee and put the proposition before them that we have a Naismith night in which one penny of each person's admission should go toward that fund. Over \$7,000 was realized and this money was turned over to Dr. Naismith. When this was presented to him he made this wonderful statement, "Do not be afraid to serve humanity and wait for your reward." Truly he was a wonderful character and he did not expect any reward for the things he did.

I am very sure that some scheme could be worked out such as you suggest, but the fact that you have a Kansas background might make you more enthusiastic than someone who has never lived in Kansas or had anything to do directly with Dr. Naismith. I am wondering if some people would not think we were endeavoring to become materialistic and building a field house, as they might call it, at the expense of Dr. Naismith's good name. If you could give me the opinion of some of these people who have talked to you who are not connected with Kansas or with the University of Kansas, then your statement would strengthen my hope that such a movement as you suggest would result in building a great basketball palestra as a memorial to Dr. Naismith. Certainly a National Naismith Memorial Committee should be organized and that organization should determine the success or failure of the project.

Please give my regards to Brick Young if he is in or around Bloomington. I have known him for many years and consider him a wonderful friend.

With all good wishes and hoping to hear from you at your convenience,
I am,

Sincerely yours,

Director of Physical Education and Recreation
Varsity Basketball Coach

FCA:lg

Mr Forrest C. Allen -
Laurens, S.C.

Dear Mr Allen -

I received your
letter, this morning
and hasten to

reply - I received the

copy, of Spaldings
Basket Ball Guide -

several days ago -
and appreciate it

very, very, much

I thought the
article you have
written has put in the
bond, is so fine -

Very true, and complimentary
to Mr. Karsenith, and his
slips -

I wish to thank you
personally, for your fine
friendship, which
you have always shown
to us, & his work
I shall always remember
and value, very highly. -
I'm very sure, that
he has my sentiment
expressed, & would be
his also.

In regard to the
address, of Mrs
George B. Stanley,
think her address
is, 1043 Berkeley Ave.,
Pueblo, Colo. I at least
she was there this
fall. I think she is
still living there.
I do not know where

Jack Naismith is, as
I haven't seen, or heard
from him, since last
Spring I do know that
he isn't in Supta,
and sorry I can't
give you any information,
as to his whereabouts -

Kind regards
to yourself, and
Mrs Allen. If you
have occasion to
come to Lincoln, to any
of the Basket ball games,
this winter, - would love
to have you visit me,
at the Big Epi. house -
Sincerely, yours -

Wm James Naismith
601 N. 16th St
Lincoln, Neb -

Nov
18th