



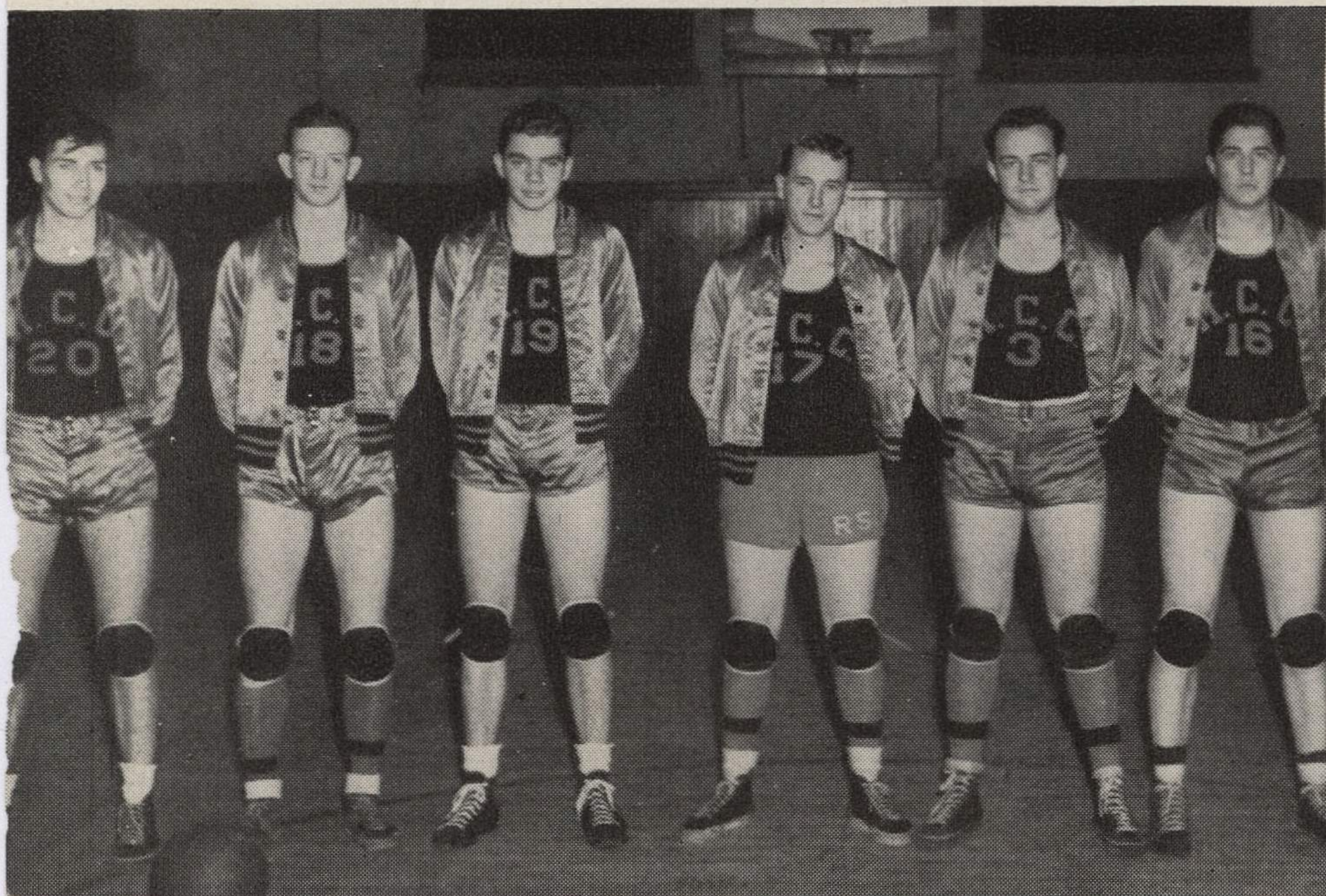
This is the first basketball team, posed on the steps of the Springfield college gymnasium in 1892. In the center row, wearing civilian clothes, is Dr. James Naismith, the gent who started the whole thing. Notice that this nine-man team carried its own baskets. Also notice that seven of the nine men 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.

