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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. Dotting 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.