

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

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