

Notes From Dr. Naismith

Faculty Meeting --- Dr. Gulick was told by several of his professors that the class he had assigned them to was impossible to manage. Dr. Naismith told him that it was probably due to their method. Dr. Gulick after meeting as they were walking down the hall said, "Now Naismith it would be a good time for you to invent that new game that you have been thinking of." Dr. Gulick had lecture once that there was nothing new under the sun that everything was a modification of something else or a combination. After that Naismith thought that with the present games, football, soccer, and lacrosse he should be able to invent another game. Now he had on his hands a class that was almost impossible to handle and also the additional responsible of inventing a new game. After Dr. Gulick gave him the assignment he ~~thought that it was impossible to handle~~ was very much displeased for the burden that was placed on his shoulders. The reason this gym class was so hard to handle was due to the fact that they were ~~gym students~~ gym students and after football was over they had no indoor sport to play.

Naismith's next step was that of trying to modify football. Not practical indoors. Football fellows tried soccer, lacrosse, as an indoor sport and the fellows that played these games could not stomach it. He said that he needed some principle in which to base a new game. Before he was to make a report to Dr. Gulick and he was about to give up for he had tried many ideas and they all seemed futile he began to evaluate the ideas up-to-date. He ~~thought~~ thought something like this- nothing that he had done was pleasing them. Why? Take football it was too rough to be played indoors. Well then he reason that if it was too rough why tackle. The principle then that he based basketball on was that when one had the ball you shouldn't run. When in your possession what were you going to do with it? Every game a goal, but what kind of a goal for basketball? In soccer and lacrosse you ~~kick~~ threw the ball hard, the harder the more chance of making a goal. Throwing the ball in a curve was Dr. Naismith's idea. In ~~his~~ analysis of games he found that carrying or throwing a ball was fundamental. He recalled his boyhood game of duck-on-the-rock, and that the tossed rock was more accurate, even though it did not drive the "duck" as did the hurled rock. He decided to toss the ball, in his new game. Since a goal on the floor would be too easy to defend, he decided on the elevated goal; because the janitor had a couple peach baskets but no boxes, the baskets were used; because the gallery railing of the gym was 10 feet from the floor, that became the est. height. A larger ball could be more easily handled than a small one, so the soccer ball was adopted.

Running with the ball involved too much danger to the player trying to stop the ball carrier, so he determined to let