

I got hold of some peach baskets and nailed them up for goals. They've just finished marking the floor on the gym.....

GULICK: Why, Naismith, you've really figured out a game here. This is just exactly the thing we've been looking for. Zip and action, with no danger to the players from roughness. (Rattles Paper) Let's go into the gymnasium and explain the rules to the boys. (Starts Fading) I want to see how this looks in action.

NAI: Yes sir. I started outlining the rules to some of the fellows in class yesterday.....

(Music Up WBC 577 H Fade)

NARRATOR: And so the first game of basketball was played on the makeshift court of the Springfield, Massachusetts, YMCA.... With peach-baskets for goals. Every time a player made a goal, an official had to poke the ball out of the basket with a long pole, through a hole in the bottom of the basket. The game spread rapidly to other YMCA's, and soon regional tournaments were scheduled. Within two years, major colleges and universities had started teams, and it wasn't long before there were intercollegiate contests, played on regular schedules.

Down at the Philadelphia YMCA, Director Chadwick said:

CHAD: No, Dr. Gulick, I'm not including this basketball game of Naismith's in our sports calendar. Personally, I can't see why only a few players should be privileged to enjoy a game. We use games here in which more boys can participate.

GULICK: Mr. Chadwick...You probably have had some idea of this... But in case you didn't know it, already some of your YMCA boys are playing basketball...As long as they can't play it here, there's danger that they may be drawn away from the center of 'Y' activities. Because you've refused to let them play here, a group of boys have rented a warehouse, down in the industrial district, and fixed a court. I was down there yesterday. Chadwick, they like the game! In our search for Christian recreation, I believe that any such wholesome, clean sport should.....