

Since my last letter to you Dr. Naismith, the founder of basketball and a former colleague of yours, has passed away. I wrote a tribute to him in the "Manchester City News" as soon as I learned of his death from an obituary notice in the "Christian Science Monitor." If you could send me any further biographical details, Dr. Allen, I would be much obliged.

As I stated in my last letter basketball has not yet been adopted here on a national basis - not in a big way. We have an Amateur Basketball Association, with headquarters at Birmingham, and the secretary, Mr. J. A. Clay, is as keen as I - but not keener! He still keeps the flag flying in the Midlands, though I'm sorry to say many gymnasia have been badly blitzed and I believe he has the use of only one now. In London the Central Y.M.C.A. received a direct hit, but as the gymnasium is in the basement it escaped damage. The gym is used as a dormitory for the Forces, however, and I guess basketball has been forsaken for the duration.

In Manchester the game flourishes so far as it can with a depleted membership. It is really a wonder that basketball is still played at all during the war. Unfortunately, I myself get no opportunity to play, but I always enjoy a work-out - often alone - when I go home on leave.

I have ambitious ideas to foster the sport after the war. Perhaps I shall be able to persuade my employers, the "Daily Herald," to sponsor a campaign to encourage the development of basketball. As a journalist I have a ready-made chance to further the cause of the game. Up to this time the Press has ignored basketball because it isn't "box-office."

Well, Dr. Allen, I won't impose myself upon you any longer. I'm afraid I can barely restrain myself when I dwell on my favourite pastime, and you must excuse my exuberance. Thank you again for your kindness in sending me a copy of "Better Basketball" (I'll acknowledge it on receipt) and I hope you will be able to let me have lots of material about the game as soon as you can. I look forward eagerly to your next communication.

Please remember me to Mr. Cook and thank him for his co-operation - and the splendid basketball I received from him on Christmas Day. With kindest regards and best wishes - and a toast to Victory for the United Nations, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Laurence Nelson
LAURENCE NELSON.