

#3. The International Growth of Basketball.

appeal. This country has long economized in play space. Her gymnasiums have for centuries been the gathering places for her Turnverein-her men of exceptional physical skill. These gymnasiums are now being turned over to basketball and other indoor sports. Basketball is Olympic bound.

The German physique, big and powerful, and the German mind, progressive and inventive, are especially adapted to basketball. The only thing that will prevent the rapid growth of basketball in Germany will be her failure to build large arenas rapidly enough to keep pace with her enthusiasm for her new national play-program.

Practically every foreign country has fashioned its basketball rules after our American game. The reason for this is self-evident. They look to us as the mother country in this sport and have a right to expect guidance in formulating rules and in shaping their ideals of sportsmanship.

If it has not already been done, it would be a splendid service for the Joint Basketball Rules Committee to render, if copies of the Code of Sportsmanship, translated into every language where the game has gone, could be sent to these foreign neighbors. Such efforts most certainly edify sports and keep us in touch with the athletic leaders of other lands.

I know of no finer message to send to the workers in remote lands than that contained in the words of the code.

Keep the rules.

Keep faith with your comrades.

Keep your temper.

Keep yourself fit.

Keep a stout heart in defeat.

Keep your pride under in victory.

Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body.
