

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR HEALTH

Radio Program

January 5, 1939.

(Jim H. Raport, Instructor in Physical Education, and
Mr. Bruce Kimball, and Mr. Webster Kimball.)

Raport

Tonight we will discuss a sport subject that is fast becoming a leader in many sections of this country. It is the game of badminton. Interest in this section is just beginning to crystalize, and I think this is an opportune time to answer the many questions that have arisen in the minds of many sport loving fans concerning the pros and cons of the game. I am fortunate, indeed, to have with me tonight two men who are excellently qualified to discuss the subject and to answer such questions as I think will interest our listeners tonight.

Webster Kimball, a K. U. student and holder of many important badminton titles, and his father and coach, Bruce P. Kimball, also a former K. U. student of the class of 1913.

Bruce, I think our listeners would like to know something of the history of the game of badminton and what it is like and how it is played. Can you give us a few pointers on this angle?

Bruce

The game originated in India. It is older than the game of golf, and this is a surprising fact to many. From India it went to England, then Canada, and for the past decade it has been established in certain sections of the United States. At present it seems to be more popular on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, but it is fast spreading to the mid-central states, particularly Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. The activity in this district is just getting under way, and since you have been the prime mover, Jim, you might sketch a few of the recent highlights.

Raport

Yes, here at the University this semester we are offering classes in badminton for the first time. The enrollment in the badminton classes has been rather high considering the fact that it is a new sport here and most students knew nothing about it. Both the men and the women seem to find it an ideal social and recreative sport for an after-school activity. As you men already know, last week Mr. Creed, Physical Director of the Kansas City Y.M.C.A., invited us down to give them an exhibition of badminton since many of the people there are very much interested in the sport. I noticed recently where the Y.W.C.A. in Kansas City is including that in its curriculum of sports and games for girls and women. Interest in badminton has also spread to Topeka where a group, called the Topeka Badminton Club, is playing the game. Next Saturday night, January 7, we are going to play a match against the Topeka Badminton Club and also give them a few advanced pointers on the game and on tournament play. We hope in that manner to stir up interest and get people in general interested in the game. The culmination of all this activity, we hope, will be in a Missouri Valley Badminton Tournament. Maybe I am looking too far ahead, but anyway it is good to plan. Many people are of the opinion that the game is expensive and costly to play. However, I have found for our beginning students here at the University that I can purchase rackets for them for as low as \$1.20, which actually is the total cost of the game for the beginner except for the use of the birds, or shuttlecocks. So you can readily see that for the beginner the game is no more expensive than, let us say, a game of handball or a game of aerial darts. But to get back to the game of badminton, Webster, will you describe it briefly for us?