

D

RADIO PROGRAM

PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR HEALTH

January 6, 1938

"BASKETBALL'S PLACE IN THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM"

- Allen -- Dr. Naismith, we have chosen for our subject of discussion tonight "Basketball's Place in the Physical Education Program". Since you originated basketball and since you were trained in the pioneer school of physical education, namely Springfield, Mass. Y.M.C.A. College, it seems to me that this subject is an especially fitting one on which you can speak authoritatively. Do you think, Dr. Naismith, there is a danger of the physical educator today neglecting the body-building part of physical education and depending entirely on games for a system of physical education? This, of course, has reference to basketball as well as some of the other games.
- Naismith-- Absolutely yes! A great many of our physical educators are looking at it from the standpoint of the interest of the authorities and of spectators, rather than of benefit that can come to the boy, and a good many of these physical educators have been brought up and have received their appointments largely because of their ability in playing games rather than in their technical knowledge of the development of manhood.
- Allen -- Dr. Naismith, I find myself agreeing with you very emphatically in this statement. However, I can also see how an expert in the games would have a basic knowledge of a particular sport. This exceptional knowledge and splendid skill that he has developed in the sport is only symptomatic of his interest in the larger program of play and physical education. Most of these coaches who are now teaching physical education undoubtedly had a basic yearning for play in physical education. This, of course, caused them to continue their study to the point where they specialized in their life's work.
- Naismith -- Dr. Allen, don't think for a moment that I do not appreciate the skill that these boys get in learning a game and in devoting their time to it, --Both the fundamentals and the mechanism of the game; but I do lament the ignorance of a lot of our directors of physical education in the real science of developing the boy into a man. Take, for instance, a man who had been appointed to head the physical education in a city of 80,000, who came to me and told me he didn't know a single thing about anything but football and basketball, and he wondered if I could help him out in making out a program. It is the employment by principals of men of this type that has practically done away with the really physical education program. I was very glad, as I visited your gymnasium the other morning, Dr. Allen, to see the large class of majors who are beginning at the bottom and learning the gymnastic side as well as the recreative side of the development of the body. Now you are developing the men who are going out to head departments of physical education. Is your program, as it is arranged at the present time, comprehensive so as to include all these different parts?