

## BASKETBALL

Professor Smith and athletes, it is with extreme pleasure that I appear before you this evening to discuss a subject which I hope you will approve. An incident occurred to me just a few miles out of town that struck me in an amusing light, but later I realized its true significance. In stopping for slight repairs on my car, I asked the station attendant as to my position from this town. He looked at me rather sharply and said that I must certainly be a stranger for everyone knew where Rosewater was in this district, since they have one of the best football teams in the state. I could have easily replied that I knew of their team, but was merely curious concerning the time that it might take me to cover the remaining distance.

It has always seemed rather odd to me that when two alumni of a high school or college get together they always discuss their alma mater in the realm of its athletic achievements. For example, when I go back to my home town I inevitably return to the Y.M.C.A. where the grads congregate and discuss the old athletic heroes and contests. I am sure that wherever you roam you will at some time run across an old school chum, then it is my wager that the two of you will speak of the "grand old days" and that last minute victory over "Paduch."

My presence, in reality, is due to happenings that occurred some 49 years ago. A professor at the Y.M.C.A. college in Springfield, Mass. set the stage and gave birth to a peach-basket game called basketball. He was given charge of a gym