

When a check of over \$7,400 was handed to Dr. Naismith at one of our basketball games as the proceeds from these games over the United States, Dr. Naismith, in a calm and grateful voice, said, "Do not be afraid to serve humanity and wait for your reward." During the interim, Mrs. Naismith died of a heart attack, but Dr. Naismith went to Berlin and with moist eyes watched while the opening games were played.

I would like to go back a moment to 1903. At that time there was a great flood here in Lawrence, Kansas, when the Kaw River flooded North Lawrence. Dr. Naismith manned a rowboat and personally saved many lives by taking people out of their homes in North Lawrence. Dr. Naismith never failed to respond to any urgent call for anything. He was a great Christian gentleman and a regular one, but he was a very quiet and humble person.

Getting back to my university life with him. During my coaching experience with Dr. Naismith, he would come to me many times with suggestions, such as having the referee toss the ball up at varying heights--once fourteen feet and again sixteen feet. The purpose was to make the players more versatile in jumping. But I do not think that Dr. Naismith took the crowd into consideration in making this suggestion. The spectators would not stand for this type of procedure, but Dr. Naismith was interested in finding the answers to the thing and not always in pleasing the crowd. He was more for participation in sports by individuals, and would not go strongly for this thing we call spectatoritis--that of the spectators watching the game and not participating.

When Dr. Naismith was brought to the University in 1898, I am told that the principle consideration in his coming at that time was his ability to pray. They wanted someone to lead chapel exercises. I am told that Chancellor Snow, of the University of Kansas, wrote to President Harper wanting to know where he could get a preacher, and Mr. Harper went to Amos Alanzo Stagg, who was coaching football at Chicago. Mr. Harper said to Stagg, "Lonnie, where can we get a preacher for the University of Kansas?" It is reported that Alanzo said, "Get Jim Naismith out at Denver. He is head of the Denver YMCA and is studying medicine at the Denver Medical College." So I am told that his job here depended largely upon his ministerial duties and not because he was the inventor of basketball.

I remember when he jokingly said to me, "They want you to coach basketball down at Baker." I rather seriously said, "What's wrong with that?" And he shouted in great surprise, "You can't coach basketball--you just play it!" So you see, Dr. Naismith did not think that basketball could be coached.

On my desk here I have an autographed picture of Dr. Naismith which reads: "With kindest regards to Dr. F. C. Allen, the father of basketball coaching from the father of the game.....James Naismith, 1936."