



JUST TAKE IT EASY—Basket ball was invented in 1891 to keep eighteen boys studying to be Y. M. C. A. secretaries busy during the winter months, but girls soon adopted the sport, too. Here Dr. Naismith is coaching a pupil of fifteen years ago.



AND IT KEEPS ON GROWING—Dr. Naismith is shown with the Meiji university team of Japan, which toured the United States a few years ago. The players made a special stop at K. U. to visit the "father of basket ball."



HOW TIMES CHANGE—Above is pictured the first K. U. women's team, dressed in uniforms of 1904. Below are Dr. Naismith and Dr. F. C. Allen, the man whose efforts gained Olympic recognition for the sport.

From a Peach Basket in 1891 To the Olympic Games of 1936

Dr. Naismith Is Happy His Sport Found a Spot on the International Program, But Is Happier Because It Is Growing and Bringing Exercise to Youths All Over the World.

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(By a Member of The Star's Staff.)

LAWRENCE, KAS., Feb. 11.—From a peach basket in 1891 to a spot in the 1936 Olympic games—that is the new chapter being written this year into the history of basket ball. To Dr. James Naismith, the inventor, however, the real thrill comes from the fact the game is spreading over the world. "Happy? Of course, I'm happy basket ball has found a place in the Olympic program," he said today. "But to me the real joy comes from the fact that more persons are playing the game annually."

A Dream Comes True.

"I started out to be a minister. When I was a boy, I thought there was nothing more attractive than to preach to the young people—hoping, through my study, to find something that would make life more pleasant for them."

"Then I dreamed that some day I would invent a sport that would keep young people interested and active from the close of the football season to the opening of baseball. That dream was realized by the invention of basket ball, and as soon as the game caught the fancy of youth, I decided to turn my entire attention to sports."

IT WENT IN HERE—Dr. James Naismith, who is being honored throughout the country this week by basket ball teams, tells Miss Alta Mae Zeigler of Lawrence how a peach basket was first used as a goal in the court sport.

This is National Naismith week in the United States. Members of the National Association of Basket Ball Coaches will honor the founder of their sport by raising a fund through which they hope to send him and his wife to the Olympic games and, possibly, to start an annuity in his behalf.

All Schools Participate.

Ward schools, high schools, colleges and universities are collecting a penny from each admission to contribute to the fund.

Strange conditions will greet the cagers from this country who journey to the Olympic games. Instead of the smooth maple surface in a well-lighted gymnasium, the teams will be forced to play out-of-doors on a gravel court. In case of rain, they'll just let it rain and the game will go on.

How does this appeal to Dr. Naismith, who has watched his "baby" grow until it now draws as many as 18,000 in Madison Square Garden?

"Fine," he replied. "The sport is meant to be played anywhere, indoor or out. Anywhere where two baskets can be hung so the boys can peck away with a ball and get exercise."

The gravel court presents several difficulties, such as the impossibility of a good dribble, accurate long shots, or, in case of rain, a slippery ball.

Strict on Pivots.

Also, in Europe, the referees are unusually strict on pivots and often call them traveling. There is no center line, and any stalling or freezing of the ball is perfectly legal. Most teams play man-to-man defense, and a fast running attack through deep passing and double crossing.

Dr. Naismith was studying the rule books from the various countries today. He smiled at what he termed the "radical changes" of the last few years. These changes haven't caught on in foreign lands.

The game's inventor still is opposed to the 10-second law and the center line. He says the burden is placed too heavily on the offensive team. Measures taken to prevent so-called stalling should be directed toward the defensive team, he said, "since it frequently goes into a shell under its own goal and refuses to force the offensive team into action."

So the Olympic games will be played not under the present American rules, but under the rules of a few years back before coaches could convince the makers of the code the feasibility of the 10-second rule and center line, or before coaches began experimenting with the elimination of the center jump.

Agrees With Europe.

All of these facts add to the happiness of Dr. Naismith, who sometimes ventures the opinion that rules makers don't know when to let well enough alone. So the Olympic games will give him an opportunity to see his game played as he thinks it should be played.

Dr. Naismith also agrees with Europe in ruling pivots traveling.

"The true pivot," he said, "is where a player twists his body without taking a step to pass the ball backward or sideways. Whenever a player takes a step in his pivot, and it is legal in this country, he is traveling."

The invention of this winter game has been told and retold, but here it is in the words of the man whom all the nation is honoring this week:

"Dr. Luther Gulick, head of the Y. M. C. A. school, called me into his office one day and asked me what I could think of in the way of exercise for eighteen young men in training to become Y. M. C. A. secretaries."

A Lively Bunch.

"These young men were a lively bunch, difficult to interest in gymnasium work. They wanted action, but the active outdoor sports were too rough for indoors. I set to work."

"I recalled from my boyhood days in Canada the game of duck-on-the-rock. I remembered that the stone hurled sharply would drive the 'duck' farther, but the stone lobbed over was surer to hit. I decided for my new game to have a game with a horizontal goal. But, if it were on the floor, the scramble to get it might cause difficulty, so I decided to put the goal higher than the player's heads."

"Then I considered the possibility of injury to the player running with the ball, and decided the player would pass the ball to a teammate and let the others do the running. Thus the forward pass was invented."

"A baseball would be too small to toss about, so I called on our old friend soccer. Lacrosse suggested the placing of the players as forwards and guards."



AT HOME—Above are Dr. and Mrs. Naismith in their home at Lawrence. Below is the first Kansas Jayhawker basket ball quintet, which was coached by Dr. Naismith. He is at the extreme right in the last row.

Only One Goal.

"The janitor offered me a couple of peach baskets when I asked for boxes, and as the balcony of that old Y. M. C. A. gym was ten feet from the floor, that became the standard height."

"And that was the way basket ball was invented."

It's a long way from a peach basket to the Olympic games and Dr. and Mrs. Naismith are "delighted" they will have ringside seats, but Dr. Naismith:

"Olympics, isn't it wonderful! But think of the millions over the world who are enjoying the game, boys and men taking part in good healthy exercise. To me that's the one goal of my game."