

T. World Jan. 22, 1937
Dr. Naismith Recalls First Basketball Game as New York Plans to Re-enact Scene

The young instructor, a soccer ball in hand, addressed the group of lightly-clad youngsters whose gaze wandered questioningly toward two peach baskets, one nailed to the balcony railing at each end of the gymnasium.

"The idea," he explained, "is for one side to get the ball in a basket without running with the ball, striking it with the fist, or holding, tripping, pushing or shouldering an opponent. Let's see, there are 18 here. That will make nine on a side."

That scene, enacted at the Springfield, Mass., Y. M. C. A. college back in 1891, marked the origin of basketball. The originator, now sturdy, erect, 75-year-old Dr. James A. Naismith of the University of Kansas physical education department, expressed keen interest today in plans for the reenactment in Madison Square Garden, New York, January 27 of that first game.

"I recall very clearly the boys' reaction when they entered the gymnasium that day and saw the baskets," chuckled Dr. Naismith. "They said: 'Oh, ooh, just another game,' but, full of vigor and vitality, they welcomed any change from the 1-2-3-4 routine of dumbbells and Indian clubs."

"Yes, that first game was a pretty wild affair, but the boys soon

caught on."

"The gymnasium was next to the street," he recalled. "The laughter and shouting lured passersby, and among them was a number of teachers from a nearby public school. Soon they asked if they couldn't organize a team. Consequently women were playing the game within a month after our first efforts."

The original 13 rules drawn up by Dr. Naismith were typewritten and posted on the gymnasium door. Twelve still are in effect. No mention was made of the number of players.

Oddly enough, Dr. Naismith never played the game, except a few times on faculty teams.

"I had some good workouts as an official, though," he said. "Play was more spontaneous then, the primary purpose of all players being to get the ball to the forwards so they could score."

Dr. Naismith suggested that the original game might well be reenacted when basketball coaches and the rules committee meet in New York in March.

Eugene Libby of Redlands, Calif., a real estate operator and Duncan Patton of Toronto, Canada, retired Y.M.C.A. secretary, captained the two original teams. They correspond frequently with Dr. Naismith.

ing quintets.

MAY SUSPEND RULES.

"It's a shame," the father of basketball said, "that there are not six of the Dionnes, because that is the required number for a girls' basketball team. However, I think we can overlook the rules this time, and build a team of five feminine players."

"You'll have to wait until they grow up," Dr. Dafoe replied. "But I think you'll still be living when they are old enough to play the game."

"I am surprised that in your 76 years, you have maintained your health as you have. You should live to be 100 years old."

In the discussion, Dr. Dafoe told many stories concerning the quintuplets which press agents have not allowed the public to learn, and then took him to the Dionne nursery to view the famous five.

"It is a fact," Dr. Dafoe revealed, "that the babies will not ask for things they want. Although they have learned to talk to a certain extent, they prefer to cry when they want something. We are trying very hard to teach them to talk more."

THEIR HAIR A SURPRISE.

Dr. Naismith expressed surprise at the color of the babies' hair. It is much lighter, he said after seeing them, than he was led to believe from the many photographs he had seen.

The father of basketball has been in Canada since the close of the school year. While there he was honored at several dinners, but declared the climax of the trip was the meeting with Dr. Dafoe.

The two men contrasted sharply in appearance at the meeting. Although Dr. Dafoe is 54 years old, twenty-three years younger than Dr. Naismith, he appeared to be the older of the two. His Hitler-type mustache has turned completely white, while Dr. Naismith's mustache still shows many traces of dark hair.

Following his visit with Dr. Dafoe, the inventor of basketball left for Toronto where he was honored by another group. Following that, he was to return home by way of Wisconsin, arriving in Lawrence, Kas., about next Friday.

T. World Jan. 22, 1937
BIG WEEK FOR BAKER

Dr. and Mrs. Naismith to be Guests at Wesleyan Game

Baldwin, Kan., Feb. 8.—Having perched themselves on the top round of the Kansas Conference basketball ladder by winning consecutive games from C. of E., Ottawa, Bethany and McPherson, the Baker University Wildcats are facing a most strenuous week of competition beginning with Monday night when they meet the speedy quintet of Coach A. B. Mackie, of Kansas Wesleyan.

In a recent statement Mackie declared his Coyotes were still in the conference championship running. Consequently the Wildcats are anticipating a tough battle and no doubt Dr. and Mrs. James Naismith, who are to be honor guests at that game Monday night, will witness a close contest. In a preliminary to the Baker-Wesleyan bout, the Baker Kittens will play Fort Scott Junior college.

Although the Bakerites won from the Rockhurst basket shooters earlier in the year, the proteges of Emil S. Liston always plan for a close battle, and on Wednesday night at Redemptorist Court the Orange and Green will meet for their final game of the season.

The Bakerites will entertain the St. Benedictines of Atchison here Friday. In a hard and rough game earlier in the season, the Ravens were victorious, 40-32.

KANSAS—TUESDAY, Journal World
NAISMITH OFFERS CAGE SUGGESTIONS
March 16, 1937

Game's Inventor Would Reduce Roughness, Penalize Delays

LIKES CENTER JUMP

Two suggestions for making basketball more attractive to spectators are suggested by Dr. James

A. Naismith, inventor of the game and professor of physical education at K. U.

"I believe the spectators want a game that is full of action and at the same time does not have roughness," said Dr. Naismith. "In basketball the thrill should lie in the unexpected, in suspense."

"One way to get better action and less roughness would be to enforce rule 15, section 9. Under this rule the player dribbling down the court must make an 'obvious effort' to avoid colliding with a defense man. This past season the player who maintained his place on the floor as is his right, was charged with the foul."

"Another way to lessen roughness would be by returning to one of the original rules—the one requiring the ball to be handled by the hands only. When a player hugs the ball to his body, roughness inevitably results."

Opposes 10-Second Rule

Dr. Naismith also suggested that more odium should attach the making of fouls.

"Instead of saying that a team 'won on free throws', we should say that a team 'lost because of fouls,'" Dr. Naismith said.

The inventor is not in favor of the "ten-second" rule.

"The more crowded the playing floor, the more chance for roughness," he said. "To those who wanted the rule to prevent stalling, I would say that it has not necessarily stopped that. Since the adoption of the ten-second rule, I have seen an A.A.U. game in which one team stalled 12 minutes. When I noted the stalling, I counted the times the ball was passed in the back court and reached 57 before a scoring attempt was made, then following 48 passings and another scoring attempt. Then came 343 passes taking 12 minutes of time."

"My remedy? I'd penalize the defense for delaying the game. It's their business to go after the ball. As an alternative, I'd make a goal from a point farther from the goal than the most distant defense man count for more points than a near shot."

Dr. Naismith opposes the elimination of the center jump as done by the Big Ten conference last week-end.

"Giving the ball to the opponent after a score is too much of a handicap for the stronger team," he said.

T. World Jan. 22, 1937
MRS. JAMES A. NAISMITH DIES

Wife of Basketball's Inventor Played on First Girls' Team.

(By The Star's Own Service.)

LAWRENCE, Kas., March 4.—Mrs. James A. Naismith, 67, wife of Dr. James A. Naismith, inventor of basketball, died of heart disease at her home early today.

Before her marriage, Mrs. Naismith was Miss Maude Evelyn Sherman of Springfield, Mass. She met Mr. Naismith while he was attending the Springfield Y. M. C. A. college and married him in 1893, two years after he invented the game. Mrs. Naismith, as a girl, played on the first girls' team to take up the game. The Naismiths moved to Lawrence in 1898. Besides her husband, she is survived by three daughters, Mrs. George B. Stanley, Ordway, Col.; Mrs. Leslie Dodd, St. Louis, Mo., and Mrs. Thomas Dawe, Lawrence, and two sons, Jack Naismith, 10 East Thirty-second street terrace, Kansas City, and James S. Naismith, Dallas, Tex.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Saturday at the Presbyterian church here.

T. World Jan. 22, 1937
Basketball's Inventor Meets Dr. Allan Dafoe

Two famous doctors, Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball and a professor of physical education at the University of Kansas, and Dr. Allan Dafoe, overseer of the Dionne quintuplets, met recently for the first time at Callander, Ont.

"It's a shame," said the inventor of basketball, "that there are not six of the Dionnes, because that is the required number for a girls' basketball team. However, I think we can overlook the rules this time, and build a team of five feminine players."

"You'll have to wait until they grow up," replied Dr. Dafoe, "but I think you'll still be living when they are old enough to play the game."

"I am surprised that in your 76 years, you have maintained your health as you have. You should live to be 100 years old."

After their conversation Dr. Naismith was introduced to the famous "quints."

Following the Callander visit Dr. Naismith left for Toronto where he was to be honored at a meeting. The K. U. professor, accompanied by Duke D'Ambra, left here several weeks ago and they visited in the eastern part of the United States before going into Canada. The two men will return home by way of Wisconsin and are expected to arrive in Lawrence about next Friday.

T. World Jan. 22, 1937
Dr. Naismith To Start National A.A.U. Tourney

Dr. James Naismith has accepted an invitation to toss up the basketball for the opening of the National A. A. U. basketball tournament at Denver, March 15. The tournament will decide the two teams which will represent the A. A. U. in the Olympic tryout tournament in Madison Square Garden in April.

Dr. Naismith will leave tonight for Waterloo, Ia., where he will be guest of honor at an all-sports banquet tomorrow night for high school athletes.

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HOLD AWARDS COURT

Dr. James Naismith Tells Boy Scouts of Canadian Trip

The Court of Awards for the Boy Scouts was held at the Chamber of Commerce last night under the direction of Ralph Graber, chairman. The following men also assisted Graber in making the awards: Earl D. Hay, J. J. Lavery, W. W. Pierce, Jim Putnam and Elmer Horseman, Jr.

The following Scouts received awards as listed:

Troop 51—Bob Bayles, music; Alan Stutz, first aid; David Hay, printing.

Troop 52—Ralph Ward, second class.

Troop 53—Eldred Jones, pioneering; Dennis Hubbel, second class.

Troop 55—Billy Jay Burgess, pioneering; Carl Barlow, pioneering; Dale Anderson, personal health; Junius Penny, handicraft; Billy Underwood, handicraft, personal health; Homer Dunham, metal work; Burnett Howard, second class.

Troop 56—Jerry Correa, art, cooking, dairying, safety.

Following the Court, Dr. James Naismith discussed his trip to the eastern coast of the United States and into Canada with Duke D'Ambra. One of the highlights of the trip was the interview with Dr. Dafoe who has become famous as the physician of the Dionne quintuplets. D'Ambra took a picture of Dr. Naismith shaking hands with Dr. Dafoe just outside his office. D'Ambra will present this picture to the troop in Lawrence having the largest number of advancements at the December Court of Awards.

Paul N. Campbell, Scout executive and Tom Anthony, assistant Scout executive, of Kansas City, were present and made an announcement regarding the Cubbing conference which will be held at Ottawa, November 6 and 7, starting 2 o'clock Saturday and ending 4 o'clock Sunday.

T. World Jan. 22, 1937
MRS. NAISMITH DIES

Heart Attack Fatal to Wife of Basketball Inventor

Mrs. James Naismith, wife of the internationally known professor of physical education, died early this morning at her home at 1708 Mississippi street. Altho in failing health for several years, death came unexpectedly following a heart attack in the night.

Mrs. Naismith had been a resident of Lawrence for nearly 40 years, coming here in 1898 as a young woman with her husband who had accepted a position as physical director at the University of Kansas. They were married five years earlier in Springfield, Mass., while Dr. Naismith was a student instructor at the Springfield Y. M. C. A.

She was born in Springfield in 1869 and became acquainted with Dr. Naismith while he was a student at the Y. M. C. A. It was there that Dr. Naismith invented the game of basketball and his bride-to-be was a member of the first girls' basketball team.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by five children; Mrs. George B. Stanley of Ordway, Colo.; Mrs. Leslie Dodd of St. Louis; Jack Naismith of Kansas City; Mrs. Thomas Dawe of Lawrence; and James Sherman Naismith of Dallas, Tex.

Funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. Theodore Aszman at the First Presbyterian church, Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

T. World Jan. 22, 1937
NAISMITH ON TRIP

Accompanied by Duke D'Ambra, He Visits in Canada

Dr. James Naismith of the University of Kansas physical education staff, and Duke D'Ambra, Lawrence photographer, will leave Monday evening by auto for a month's trip which will take them thru the eastern section of the United States and into Canada.

Dan Rhule, K. U. football player from Aspinwall, Pa., will accompany Dr. Naismith and D'Ambra as far as Pittsburgh.

Dr. Naismith will attend the Springfield, Mass., Y.M.C.A. college commencement week which will be held June 10 to 14. He was graduated from the school in 1891. After that the two men will go into Canada where they will visit McGill University, Montreal, which Dr. Naismith attended as a young man. Dr. Naismith also will visit his birthplace near Ottawa.

D'Ambra will combine business and pleasure on the journey. He plans to take pictures of interesting sights and places and also do some fishing with Dr. Naismith.

What! No Contact?



The good Dr. James Naismith who invented the great game of basketball as an indoor winter sport based his game upon the idea of no contact by the players. It perhaps is hard for Dr. Naismith to recognize his brain child in some of its present day manifestations. Above is a picture taken at a recent Madison Square Garden game in New York City. The scene is not unlike many seen at games here. Basketball has aped football in some ways, and contact of players is the rule rather than the exception as the game is now played.

T. World Jan. 22, 1937
FAMOUS FIVES THEIR JOB

DR. NAISMITH AND DR. DAFOE EXCHANGE SHOP TALK.

Kansas University's Father of Basketball and the Noted Quintuplets' Physician Have Numerical Fame in Common.

Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball and professor of physical education at K. U., who now is 76 years old, will live to be 100, a prediction by Allan Dafoe, of quintuplet fame, is true. The father of the cage sport is looking forward to teaching the game to the five Dionnes, it developed in a recent meeting of the two noted men at Callander, Ontario.

Both of these men, who attribute their fame to the figure five, Dr. Dafoe to the birth of the quintuplets, and Dr. Naismith to the quintets of basketball scattered all over the world, met the other day at the home of Dr. Dafoe at Callander, and held a lively 30-minute discussion regard-