



DR. JAMES NAISMITH

Chicago, Apr. 2. (P)—Dr. James A. Naismith, originator of the game of basketball, will sit in at the three-day annual meeting of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, starting tomorrow, at which numerous proposed alterations in the rules will be discussed. The business of making changes in the code is up to the rules committee, but the coaches, and around 300 of them will be present to argue pro and con, have ideas for further speeding up a game which coaxed out spectators in large numbers during the past two seasons.

Most of the proposed changes center around more action for the spectator, and a bigger chance for the little player. The center-jump will be the principal target. One suggestion would do away with the center jump, except at the start of Champion Three-year-old Pacer — California

the game and the opening of subsequent periods. Another would have a "jumping-order," with each member of a team taking his turn in the center-circle.

Other factions would retain the center-jump, but with restraining lines, over which no player may step until the ball has been tapped. Still another group wishes to do away with the "pivot-play," and a large argument is expected over the point.

Larger hoops to increase scoring; a graduated point system, under which a field goal from within 15 feet would count one point, one from within 25 feet would be worth two points, and a goal from beyond 25 feet would count three points; and the boosting of the hoop from 10 to 12 feet to reduce congestion under the basket, are among the suggestions.

J. World 2-28, 1935
Dr. James Naismith Invented Basketball
Just 45 Years Ago Today in Massachusetts

Just 45 years after two peach baskets and a volleyball became major equipment for a new indoor game, basketball will be included as an Olympic sport, and Dr. James A. Naismith, who found the new use for the baskets and fathered the game through its early years, is "tickled pink."

Naismith, a sturdy figure of a man for all his 74 years, for many years has been physical education director at the University of Kansas. Since that rainy day of December 28, 1891, when he tied a peach basket at each end of the small gymnasium at the Springfield, Mass., Y. M. C. A. college, he has watched the game's development with keen interest.

When he learned the sport had been added to the Olympic program Naismith said:

"The international popularity of the game is, I believe, due to the fact that it is simple, and at the same time an active game. All the members of the team have a part in the contest, yet it is so simple that an individual can, by himself, perfect himself in the part of the game that makes for scoring. Little equipment is required, yet there is action that is satisfying both to the player and to the spectator."

He suggested that the international competition might make it necessary to impose some handicap, probably based on height. He recalled that the Meiji team of Japan which toured America several years ago was no match for our tall players.

Naismith's interest in the sport is not passive. He studies the game and the proposed rule changes. He took issue with the 10-second rule which provides that the team in possession of the ball must advance beyond the center of the court within 10 seconds. Naismith contended it was the defensive team which encouraged stalling by refusing to go after the ball. Oddly enough, one of the leading exponents of the 10-second rule was Dr. F. C. (Phog) Allen, famed Kansas coach, and the difference

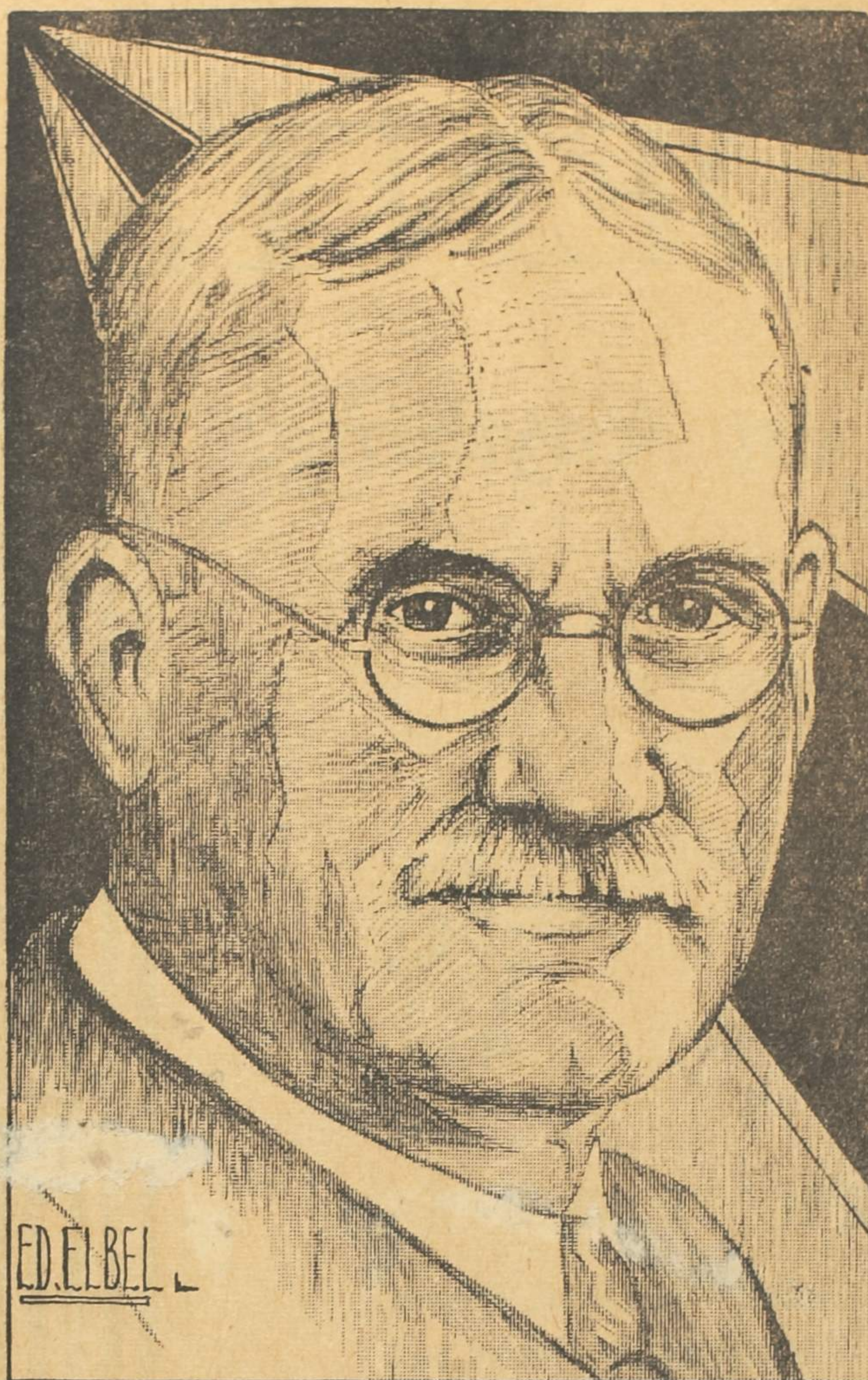


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of opinion resulted in many friendly arguments between the game's founder and one of its leading coaches.

A nation-wide movement to honor Naismith is getting under way under the direction of W. S. Chandler, secretary-treasurer of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. The association at a meeting in Chicago this year voted to promote some recognition for the game's founder, and it was proposed to raise a fund sufficient to send Dr. and Mrs. Naismith to the Olympics in Berlin.

It also is planned to provide for a suitable memorial, either at Springfield, Mass., or at Kansas. It is proposed that every organization maintaining a basketball team set aside one home game in the week of February 9-15 as "Naismith night," and that one cent from each admission be contributed to the fund.



A nation-wide movement is getting underway to honor Dr. James A. Naismith, who introduced the game of basketball and fathered the game through its early years. The game is now to be included as an Olympic sport, having originated just forty-five years ago when two peach baskets and a volley ball served as major equipment.

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Kansas 2-9, 1934
Inventor of Basketball Is Pleased
That Game Will Be Used in Olympics

"I am naturally greatly pleased to learn that basketball—the game I invented 43 years ago—has been approved as one of the contest sports of the Eleventh Olympic games," said Dr. James Naismith this afternoon. "This is recognition of the international character of the game, which I believe is now more widely played than any other game except soccer.

"The wide-spread popularity of the game, I believe, is due to its simplicity, and at the same time its active character. Little equipment is required; it can be played outdoors or inside; and it is full of action, pleasing alike to the player and the spectator. The ball is in play constantly.

"The rules of the game are simple. It calls for team work, and at the same

time an individual player can practice, and perfect himself in the essential part of the game—the tossing of the ball into the basket.

"The game was designed to give the tall, slim player the chance he was denied in the heavier games of baseball and football. This very factor may make it necessary to introduce some form of handicap for international tournament.

"In the same way that wrestlers and boxers are divided into classes by weight, so it may be necessary to divide basketball teams by height. When the diminutive Meiji team from Japan played the tall men of Washburn here a few years ago, the visitors didn't have a chance. The Washburn boys could reach higher than the Meiji men could jump."



Miss Maud L. Naismith, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James Naismith of Lawrence, who will be married this morning at Wamego, Kas., to Thomas Lee Dawe of Topeka. Her father is the inventor of basket ball.

J. World 0, 30, 1935
LEADS COMMUNITY FORUM

Dr. James Naismith Conducts Sunday Morning Discussions

"Neighbors" was the topic for discussion yesterday morning at the Community Forum Sunday school class held at 9:45 o'clock each Sunday morning in the Funk Funeral home chapel. Dr. James Naismith, of the University of Kansas physical education faculty, is leader of the class.

Men of all churches are invited to take part in the discussions which will be over a wide range of subjects during the coming year. The class adjourns in time for regular morning services at the churches. The meeting place is a short distance from the churches on Ninth and Tenth streets.

The Funk chapel has been a meeting place for Sunday school classes for several years. The Wayne W. Curfman Memorial class formerly met there but members of the Methodist organization decided to make the class open to all men who desire to take part in a community forum organization.

Dr. Naismith plans to discuss the subject of "Neighbors" again next Sunday. In yesterday's discussions the class leader said that a man's duty starts with his own family and home and then reaches to his neighbors and finally to his city, state and nation. Several questions asked by the leader started a lively discussion of ways and means to help neighbors.

D. Co. Republican 3-9, 1935
AWARD FOR DR. NAISMITH

Dr. James Naismith, professor of physical education at the University, will go to Springfield, Mass., in June, to be one of four alumni of the Y. M. C. A. College there to receive an Edward Morris Tarbell medallion, in recognition of his efforts for youth.

It was while at Springfield College in 1891 that Dr. Naismith invented the game of basketball, which has since become world-famous, and just recently was announced as a competitive sport at the 1936 Olympics at Berlin.

A movement is on foot among the basketball leaders of the country to have one game in every school set aside next winter as "Naismith night," so that a portion of the receipts may be added to a fund to send Dr. Naismith on a world tour, and especially to see that he attends the Olympic basketball games.

The Tarbell medallion is from a design by the sculptor, R. Tait McKinsey, and is entitled "The Joy of Effort."

K.C. Times 0, 7, 1935
DR. NAISMITH IS IMPROVED.

The "Father" of Basket Ball Has Been Ill With Pneumonia.

(By The Star's Own Service.)
LAWRENCE, KAS., Oct. 6.—The condition of Dr. James Naismith, "father" of basket ball, was reported improved today at his home. Dr. Naismith has been ill since last Thursday with pneumonia.