

5. World 0.4.1936  
**TALLER AMERICANS  
HAD AN ADVANTAGE**

Dr. James Naismith Describes Basketball at Olympics in Berlin

**THRILLS IN BIG RACE**

The United States, which took premier basketball honors in the Olympics at Berlin, won largely because of the great height of the individuals comprising its team. Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game, said today in a talk before the Kiwanis club at its weekly luncheon meeting.

"The probable necessity of dividing the game into two divisions, the tall and the short, was indicated when the teams of the various nations came together in Berlin," Dr. Naismith said. "On the United States team were players 6 feet 8 inches and 6 feet 9 inches in height. Obviously the teams of other races which do not grow so tall were at a disadvantage which was not caused by their lack of skill in the game."

**Chance For Comparisons**  
Olympics basketball gave Dr. Naismith many opportunities for comparisons.

"In general, we Americans can't teach the others much about basketball," he said. "China, Japan, Bulgaria, Esthonia and others played a great style of game—better than some we have seen in this country because there was no stalling."

"A thrilling game was the one between Uruguay, champion of South America, and Esthonia, champion of Europe. It was so close that the lead changed six times in the last 10 minutes. It was good basketball all the way, with no stalling."

Touching upon the 1500 meter race which Glenn Cunningham lost to Lovelock, Dr. Naismith said, "It was magnificent. Lovelock took a five yard lead at the stretch, which Glenn was able to cut down only by about one yard before the finish. The setting of a new world's record tended to throw into the background the fact that each of the first six men across the finish line in that race had broken the old one. Both Cunningham and San Romani were in that list."

**Too Much Honor for Winner**  
"A noted athletic authority who saw it commented on the circumstance that gave recognition only to the winner of that race. He said it could not be too strongly emphasized that while Lovelock holds the world's record, each of the other five broke a world's record."

Dr. Naismith said he chose his own route thru Europe, going to the Olympics, visiting the byways to learn how people live now rather than studying the castles and cathedrals to learn how they had lived in the past.

He went first to Scotland, which was his father's country. In Glasgow he found the chief sports event during his brief stay was greyhound races, in which interest centered chiefly in the betting. On one street corner he counted 35 boys and young men standing around with nothing to do. In England he saw signs of economic recovery, but the same neglect of the young men. The general wearing of wooden shoes made him wonder how the Belgians would rank in athletics. They are pretty good, he said, but nothing is being done for idle youth.

**Germany Trains Youth**  
Contrasting with this neglect of the young, he found the government in Germany much occupied with the physical training and other development of youth. "We are about a generation behind them," he commented. "Germany not only builds up its youth physically but in the process instills into them a national spirit. As far as nationalism is concerned, you can't beat Germany. "It may be that development in that direction can be overdone. But when I saw the effect of their training upon German youth, I thought of the instances in this country where superintendents of American

schools objected to putting up the American flag and to having anything patriotic said in their schools."

A Mormon missionary quartet from Utah appeared before the club in musical selections. Its members are Lynn R. Bishop, Salt Lake City; R. Keith Spencer, Logan, Utah; Fielding H. Harris, Salt Lake City; and Paul W. Ahlstrom, Idaho Falls, Idaho. They sang the "Levee Song," "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes," and "Kentucky Babe." On the xyloimba, Spencer played "Song to the Evening Star," Wagner, and "The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise." The musicians were warmly applauded.

5. World 5.15.1936  
**INVENTOR OF GAME  
ENJOYED OLYMPICS**

Dr. James Naismith Was Thrilled at Basketball Games in Berlin

Highly pleased with the way basketball made its initial bow in Olympic competition, and with the reception given him by the basketball teams from 21 nations, Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game, returned to Lawrence Sunday night. Dr. Naismith attended the Olympic games as the guest of American basketball fans, who last February observed "Naismith nights," and raised a fund of several thousand dollars for his use.

Dr. Naismith was honored while in Berlin by being elected honorary president of the International Federation of Basketball Leagues.

For the opening of the basketball games, a demonstration was organized in Dr. Naismith's honor by Karl Diem, general secretary of the Olympic committee, R. W. Jones of Rome, Italy, secretary of the International Basketball federation, and Mr. Tobin of New York.

"It certainly was an impressive sight as the 21 contesting teams, each with their national flags, lined up on the field, and were addressed by Dr. Diem and myself," said Dr. Naismith. "And then I must extend greetings to representatives of each of the teams."

Dr. Naismith was impressed both by the high quality of play of the various teams, and the splendid sportsmanship shown. Considering the varied nationalities, and different languages spoken, there were a surprisingly small number of disputes over decisions.

"The final game, that between the United States and Canada, was especially noteworthy in this respect," said Dr. Naismith. "One Chinese officiated, and there was not a single questioning of his rulings."

"An especially interesting game was the one in which the draw brought together Uruguay, champion of South America, and Esthonia, champion of Europe.

"Another illustration of the fine sportsmanship came in a game—which one, I do not actually recall,—but one team had no eligible players to replace one banished for four personals. The captain of the opposing team at once appealed to the officials to permit another player to go on. He did not want to play his five against four.

"The Olympic rules limited a team to seven, and permitted a player, withdrawn from the game, to return but once. I like the idea of limiting the team, but believe seven is too small a number. Ten would be better, I believe."

Dr. Naismith said the outdoor courts occasioned little difficulty, even in the rain. The surface, as well as that of the tracks, was covered with a composition made up of sand, sawdust, and salt. Like sea sand, it packed harder when wet than dry.

The inventor of the game liked also the Olympic rule that did not include the present American center line.

"The players were all over the court," he said. "There was no stalling, and not infrequently a player would rush in, get the ball, and dash the length of the court for a score." Dr. Naismith left the United States late in June and visited first in Glasgow, ancestral home of his parents, then to England, Holland, Belgium, and Germany. After the Olympic games he visited Switzerland, and attended two games between the Swiss and the Philippine

teams. While there he was honored again by being named honorary president of the Swiss basketball league and, much to his embarrassment, was presented with a huge bouquet of flowers.



In our few years of newspaper duties we have often heard speakers tossing off that good old line about such and such being a "rare privilege." As time has passed we have come more and more to the point of putting down the use of these words as a mere flight of oratory or a pleasantry passed on by the speaker to his audience. And yet yesterday we discovered that the words "rare privilege" can aptly apply to an occasion.

We refer to the Chamber of Commerce luncheon honoring Dr. James Naismith, inventor of the game of basketball, and having been there we believe we have at last caught up with and experienced a "rare privilege."

The hundred or more men who gathered for this luncheon in the grill room at the Hotel Eldridge came to honor a distinguished fellow citizen, and they left knowing they had broken bread with a real man—real physically, real mentally, real spiritually.

Of all the men at that affair Dr. Naismith alone, perhaps, is destined to be remembered down thru the years to come by peoples all over the world. For he has given the world a game that has found favor and is destined to last long after he and those who gathered with him yesterday are gone.

Of all the great games of competitive sport basketball alone has come full blown from the brain of an individual who is known and still living. How great a privilege we of Lawrence enjoy to have daily contact with the inventor of that game.

Like all great gifts to the people basketball has brought little in the way of material gain to its inventor. Millions have and countless millions of the future, will gain thru this game enjoyment and physical benefit. And who can say that in that knowledge Dr. Naismith has not gained more than riches?

Courage to do the daily tasks, and incentive to do them well, were gained from Dr. Naismith's remarks in his brief response at the luncheon. Basketball resulted when he was given a class assignment in his training for physical education teaching to work out an indoor game to bridge the gap for gym classes between the football and baseball seasons. Just a class chore, so to speak, and he didn't feel especially grateful toward his teacher for giving him the task. But he did the assignment as best he could and it so happened that he evolved a game that has become known and played in many parts of the world.

To the world at large Dr. Naismith is known for the game he created. He will be remembered perhaps for that game alone. Yet to the thousands of K. U. students of the past 38 years, and to many citizens of Lawrence he is known for his character, his love of work with youth, and his deep understanding of what physical education is all about.

In his remarks at the luncheon Dr. Naismith sounded a warning that in his estimation a bit too much emphasis is being placed by coaches and some athletes on the competitive side of games such as basketball, football and baseball. The fundamental purpose of the games is the thing to keep uppermost in mind, Dr. Naismith believes. Sports for sport's sake is not to be forgotten in the mad scramble for competitive glory, he believes. The thought is worth pondering by college administrators and coaches. If the drive for winning teams and gate receipts requires so much emphasis on competitive strength that the athletes are unable to enjoy the game, then something eventually must be done to lessen the pressure if the sport is to survive.

The additional contributions were \$31.34 from the Kansas City Santa Fe Trails, supplementing a check sent in previously by the Kansas City Philcos for the game in Convention hall between the two teams; and \$5 from A. D. Weaver of Lawrence.

NUMBER 156  
Kansas May 10, 1936  
**National Fund  
For Dr. Naismith  
Reaches \$4,500**

**Kansas Figure of \$1262,  
More Than One-fourth  
Entire National Total  
Contributed**

The National Naismith Fund will be more than \$4500, and will soon be turned over to Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball, as a tribute from the followers of basketball throughout America.

Word that the total contributions reached \$5,403.63, from which expenses of \$749.50 had to be deducted, came today to Dr. F. C. Allen, director of athletics, at the University of Kansas, from W. S. Carpenter of Milwaukee, chairman of the National Naismith Fund committee. This committee was appointed a year ago by A. C. Longborg of Northwestern, president of the National Association of Basketball coaches.

Mr. Carpenter writes that the funds have been coming in from the states contributing, and that a check for \$4654.13 will soon be sent to Dr. Naismith. The money was contributed at basketball games last February, at the rate of one cent per person, to provide a fund by which Dr. and Mrs. Naismith might go to the Berlin Olympics and there see played in intramural competition the game which Dr. Naismith invented in 1891 at the Y.M.C.A. College of Springfield, Mass.

Contributions to the fund from Kansas and Oklahoma were handled through Dr. Allen's office. Oklahoma high schools and colleges contributed \$74.66, and from Kansas high schools, colleges, and universities, and basketball officials, a total of \$1311.73, less \$49.50 for expenses. The Kansas net of \$1262.23 is more than one-fourth of the national total.

Kansas June 12, 1936  
**Dr. Naismith to Olympics**  
**The Inventor of Basketball Starts on  
European Trip**

Dr. James A. Naismith, professor of physical education, and Mrs. Naismith left Sunday on the first phase of the trip which will take Dr. Naismith to the Olympic games in Berlin and 13 other European countries this summer. The trip is made possible by funds contributed at basketball games last winter, in recognition of his services in inventing the game of basketball.

After spending three weeks with a son and daughter in Dallas, Tex., the Naismiths will go to New York City and Springfield, Mass., where Mrs. Naismith will spend the summer. Dr. Naismith will sail from Boston July 11 for Glasgow, Scotland, where he has relatives.

After a short visit in Scotland and England, he will go to France, where he served in the Y.M.C.A. during the World War, and will arrive in Berlin August 1 for the opening of the Olympic games. Basketball competition begins August 8. When the Olympics have closed, Dr. Naismith will make a tour of Europe, covering some 14 countries in all.

Kansas July 10, 1936  
**Naismith Sails for Europe**  
**First Stop of Inventor of Basketball  
Will Be in Scotland**

Dr. James A. Naismith, inventor of basketball and professor of physical education at the University, was scheduled to sail from Boston yesterday for Glasgow, Scotland, on the first leg of a trip that will take him to the Olym-

pic games in Berlin, and to nearly a dozen other European countries.

The National Naismith Fund, contributed by basketball lovers of the United States to pay for Dr. Naismith's trip, was boosted to \$4,771.57 by a check for \$71.57 received this week. Kansas led in contributions to this fund, with \$1,262.23, and Illinois was second with \$588.71.

Mrs. Naismith and daughter, Mrs. L. H. Dodd of Dallas, Texas, are staying in Springfield, Mass., while Dr. Naismith is gone.

Kansas June 12, 1936  
**Add to Fund for Naismith**  
**Contributions Come in From Canada  
and Bartlesville, Okla.**

W. J. Saunders, principal of the high school at Almonte, Ontario, Canada, sent a New York draft for \$20 yesterday to Dr. Forrest C. Allen, as a contribution of the high school students of Almonte to the Naismith National fund. Dr. Naismith was born at Almonte nearly 75 years ago.

Paul Endacott of Bartlesville, Okla., captain of the ever-victorious basketball team of 1923, added \$3 to the National Naismith fund yesterday. This was in commemoration of the fact his infant son, Donald, had just seen his first basketball game.

KC Sport for Winter.

There has been a great deal on the sports news pages this winter in recognition of Dr. James Naismith of the University of Kansas. Some forty years ago Dr. Naismith fastened a couple of bushel fruit baskets to opposite walls in a gymnasium room and, by the simple action of tossing a ball into the baskets, gave the sports world the germ of a game that is now played, indoors and out, by more young folk in more different countries in the world than any other athletic sport.

The physical stimulus to athletics generally contributed by Dr. Naismith's famous game has been fully recounted by expert observers in other departments of this newspaper. But too little has been said concerning the great debt parents who buy clothing and shoes owe to the inventor of this entrancing game, which can be played, and often is, with an economical and often almost disconcerting lack of personal equipment.

Up to the time basket ball began to hold sway, the ingenuity of American youth as applied to novel and effective ways of wearing out shoes and trouser-seats enjoyed full play. Most athletic sports in the old days were outdoor games depending largely upon the presence of ice and snow, but for the long periods when water didn't freeze and snow didn't fall, the boys fell back upon games of their own invention, affording much amusement to themselves, to be sure, but which seemed to their parents to have the single object of going through a new pair of shoes every two weeks, and through a new pair of trousers in even less time.

"Shinny," for example, was played on ice if Fowler's pond was frozen over, but if the weather was mild it was played on the school grounds, with a battered tomato can for a puck, and with clubs cut from tough-fibered trees. A well chosen club of tough green Osage orange might last all winter, if somebody didn't steal it; but a club that couldn't outlast three suits of clothes and four pairs of shoes wasn't much of a club.

Even less strenuous pastimes, such as football, duck hunting, trapping and coasting, furnished their peculiar and inevitable stimulus to the shoe and clothing trades, because even mild midwestern winters made up with mud and water what they lacked in ice and snow. Later on, some genius in the shoe trade devised scooters, which took a queer form of shoe toll by wearing out one shoe in each pair, leaving throughout the country a trail of orphaned footwear, almost as good as new, but made for the wrong feet and upon which there was no salvage value.

Dr. Naismith's reform, like all true reforms, didn't descend overnight, but has grown steadily for more than forty years. It still isn't complete; the inventive American youth still finds ways of raiding the family budget. But Dr. Naismith has forced him to broaden his field of depredation beyond shoes and seats