

A NAISMITH STAMP.

Originator of Basketball Was Born 100 Years Ago.
K.C. Star 9-28-61
 Washington, Sept. 27. (AP)—The Postoffice department will issue a commemorative stamp November 6 honoring Dr. James Naismith, originator of basketball.

Rep. Edward P. Boland (D-Mass.) told the House the date marks the 100th anniversary of Naismith's birth.

A native of Almonte, Ontario, Naismith went to the training school of the Young Men's Christian Association college in Springfield, Mass., where he originated basketball. The first game was played in December, 1891.

Kansas members of Congress noted that Naismith spent most of his adult life at the University of Kansas at Lawrence. He introduced basketball there when he arrived in 1898 to head the physical education department.

Naismith retired in 1937. He died in Lawrence in 1939.

It's doubtful, though, that he cheered those young men. He attended all K. U. home games, but watched impassively for the most part. All around him the game he had wrought might be creating bedlam, but Dr. Naismith never yelled at a basketball game.

Naismith's Daughter Says—

Basketball Got Away

By BOB HURT

(Capital-Journal Sports Editor)

As the story goes, Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball, was astounded when Dr. Forrest C. (Phog) Allen announced he was becoming a basketball coach.

"Why, Forrest," Naismith is quoted, "you don't coach basketball. You just play it."

"That's probably a true story," says Mrs. Hellen Naismith Dodd. "My father never visualized anything like this. I remember once he said basketball had gone far beyond his wildest expectation. He had no conception of what it would be. And that was in 1936, when basketball was introduced into the Olympic program."

Mrs. Dodd, who now is in Topeka visiting her son, teaches retarded children in St. Louis County, currently



HELLEN NAISMITH DODD
 ... Daughter of Inventor

Dodd confesses she has lost some of her enthusiasm for the game. She thinks her father might feel the same way if he were alive.

"It's grown away from the game he started," she said. "Everybody joins in it. It's a professional game—a show. He liked the pattern play, the set shot. A 100-point game to my father would have been unconceivable. To him, 30 or 40 points was a big game."

"HE NEVER thought it would get beyond the gym. It was designed for the 18 men who were in his class in Springfield in 1891. But those men were from all parts of the world. When they went home, they took the game with them. And it spread."

Mrs. Dodd said her father was opposed to the elimination of the center jump. At this point, Mrs. Dodd's son, first of Naismith's descendants to play basketball, joined the conversation.

"He wouldn't have liked the foul system, either," said Leslie, a consulting engineer. "He believed in no contact. He didn't believe anyone should touch another player. Height wouldn't be such a factor if they had stayed with that principle."

MRS. DODD says she now doesn't see much basketball except on television. The last "live" game she saw was in Madison Square Garden when she and her two sisters and two brothers returned to the east for the dedication of the Naismith Hall of Fame building in Springfield on Nov. 6.

Mrs. Dodd rues the fact that much has been written about the game her father invented but little about the man himself. And, Naismith was truly a remarkable man.

A native of Almonte, Ontario, Canada, Naismith was orphaned at the age of nine. He quit school at 14 to work in the lumber camps. At 19 he was determined to get an education.

HE DID IT in a hurry. Four years of high school were completed in two years. He earned degrees in physical education and theology before going to the Springfield YMCA school, where he hung up those famous peach baskets which started it all. Then he obtained his medical degree in Denver before coming to the University of Kansas, where he was to serve as athletic director. He died in Lawrence in 1939—still never fully aware of the magnitude of the game he had invented.

Dr. Naismith

The United States will issue a special 4-cent postage stamp Monday at Springfield, Mass. The stamp will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. James Naismith and the 70th anniversary of his invention of the game of basketball.

Oddly enough, Dr. Naismith was a physical education teacher who felt that wrestling was much better exercise than basketball. He never coached the sport he founded, preferring instead to devote such tutorial time to the field of fencing. Yet whether he wanted it that way or not, Naismith is best remembered as the inventor of a game that annually involves millions of participants and their followers.

Dr. Naismith invented basketball while on the physical education staff at Springfield College, a YMCA school at the time. He felt "the boys" should have something more constructive to do between football and baseball seasons, so he nailed peach baskets at either end of a gym and let them go at it. The ultimate aim was to get the ball in the baskets, but while we complain about roughness in the game today, those first conflicts on the Springfield court must have been something to make women faint and strong men turn their heads.

Later Naismith came to Kansas University where hundreds of freshmen studied hygiene under his tutelage. He had a strong sense of humor, but he demanded performance and was quick to pounce on wayward students.

But though the sport of basketball was steadily gaining popularity, Naismith stayed away from personal involvement. In 1908, a young man named Forrest C. Allen told Naismith he was going to coach a basketball team scientifically. Naismith exclaimed:

"Why, basketball is just a game to play. It doesn't need a coach." Naismith never ceased to be amazed—and even amused and bewildered—by many of the "wrinkles" that Phog Allen introduced to the Naismith invention.

Dr. Naismith continued to teach at KU until his retirement in 1937. His death occurred in 1939. He was a frequent spectator at basketball games here but he never allowed himself to get emotionally involved. Critics of the sport that has had more than its share of notoriety in recent years contend that perhaps Dr. Naismith may have been sorry about what he had done.

The fact remains that Naismith made a great contribution to our society with his invention. As he is known as the Father of Basketball, Phog Allen is known as the Father of Basketball Coaching.

Because of these two men and the great roles they played as members of the Lawrence and KU communities in past years, we have an understandable interest and pride in the commemorative stamp that will be issued Monday.

Honoring Dr. Naismith

Next Monday at Springfield, Mass., the 100th anniversary of Dr. James Naismith and the 70th anniversary of his invention of the game of basketball will be commemorated with the issuance of a special 4-cent postage stamp.

Dr. Naismith is best remembered, of course, for being the originator of basketball while a member of the physical education staff of the YMCA college at Springfield. But hundreds of University of Kansas freshmen remember him too as the kindly professor who taught classes in hygiene.

Hygiene was a one-hour course required of all freshmen and in the days when the classroom load was far less than in today's heavy enrollment, Dr. Naismith conducted most of the hygiene classes in a lecture room in old Robinson gymnasium. A Canadian by birth, Dr. Naismith was easy-going in his classroom approach but he could put an erring freshman quickly in his place, if need be. His sense of humor endeared him to his young pupils.

Basketball, becoming one of the greatest sports of our time, grew from the humble beginning given it by Dr. Naismith in the 1890s, but from 1898 until his retirement, Dr. Naismith served KU and its students faithfully and well as a faculty member. The commemorative stamp to be issued next week is another fitting recognition of Dr. Naismith's legacy to character and sport.

Naismith Issue Planned by U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Post Office Department will issue a commemorative stamp Nov. 6 honoring Dr. James Naismith, originator of the game of basketball.

The date, Rep. Edward P. Boland, (D-Mass.), told the House Monday marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Naismith.

Naismith, in the fall of 1890 and the next year, originated the game of basketball and drew up the rules.

Boland said a basketball hall of fame on the Springfield (Mass.) College campus will house a museum, library, auditorium, memorial room, amphitheater and a large bronze statue of Naismith.

Kansas members of Congress noted that Naismith spent most of his adult life at the University of Kansas. He introduced basketball there when he arrived in 1898 to head the physical education department.

Naismith retired in 1937 and continued to live in Lawrence, Kan., until his death in 1939.

Mrs. Leslie H. Dodd and four children of Maplewood, Mo., who came to Lawrence for the funeral services of Mr. Dodd held yesterday afternoon, returned to their home today. They were accompanied by Mrs. Ollie Babcock of St. Louis, who drove them to Lawrence and who was the guest while here of Mrs. W. C. Hunsinger.

Helen Naismith



STAMP HONORS HUSBAND—Mrs. James A. Naismith (right), widow of the man who invented the game of basketball, is shown with Dalton Muck, Beloit, Kansas, postmaster, as the two hold sheet of U. S. postage stamps between them. The stamps were issued to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Dr. Naismith, November 6, 1861. First day of the stamp sale was yesterday in Springfield, Mass., birthplace of basketball. The stamp, 4-cent in price, is brown in color, depicting a hand showing a basketball goalward with goal and net in background. Mrs. Naismith is a resident of Beloit—(Associated Press photograph). *K.C. STAR 11/7/61*