

From: THE K.U. NEWS BUREAU  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

21 March 1951

TOM YOE, Director  
Phone KU 216

Dear Senator Becker:

At the request of Ray Nichols I've gleaned the attached from a bulky file of miscellany on Dr. Naismith. I hope it serves the purpose for which you intend it.

One document is a resolution passed by the Athletic Board in 1940. It suggested that Dr. Naismith be memorialized in some manner.

I wasn't around here for the next six years, but my memory and nothing I've found indicates that anything was ever done about it. Until this afternoon I never realized K.U. had been so remiss in preserving the memory of so distinguished a servant.

This is a backhanded way of saying that if you think the fieldhouse ought to carry the Naismith name, well then you'll get only support from me.

And methinks that if more coaches were concerned about character, as was Dr. Naismith, we'd not have had the sorry tales of the fixes that have graced the sports pages the past month.

Sincerely,

Tom Yoe

given me a class of irreconcilables. "But as I kept thinking it over, these boys didn't like the work I began to see that there would be real danger in tackling. That is, they didn't like to do anything but play. It was a troublesome class."

### Began in 1891

Dr. Naismith explained that he had feared something like this would come to him that fall, so in the summer of 1891 he began to get ready. Realizing that something would have to be found to interest the students between the end of the football season and the beginning of baseball, he began to worry.

Hearing that a class in Swedish calisthenics was being taught at Martha's Vineyard, the young teacher went over to learn something. Amos Alonzo Stagg, today the grand old man of football, was one of the instructors in the Swedish movements.

"I didn't learn much at Martha's Vineyard," stated the doctor. "It was a slow, monotonous sort of thing, and I knew it wouldn't interest these live fellows we had at college. I told Dr. Gullick when I returned to Springfield that Swedish calisthenics was too slow and lady-like for our school. Then I told him:

"Doctor, we can invent a new game to meet our needs. All that we have to do is to take the factors of our known games, recombine them, and we will have the game we are looking for!"

"This hit the spot, for like a bolt from the sky the president replied:

"Then my number two big idea came to me: Put the goal above their heads. Water polo, I think, gave me that idea. But I worried over the thing all night. Remember, the beginnings of the game, when I shouted, 'I have it,' came to me early one night after I had been working and thinking for hours. I right then made up my mind not to go to bed until I had a game worked out that satisfied me."

"When I decided on the overhead goal, I about completed my study. But as I said, I worried about it all night. The next morning I asked the superintendent of buildings for a couple of boxes. He didn't have any. But in running around we found a couple of old peach baskets the janitor had forgotten to throw away.

"I'll try these," I told the superintendent.

"It was all right with him. He was glad to get rid of them. So I nailed up the two old baskets. As I did so, I couldn't help but wish in a few peaches had been left in them. Then I hurriedly wrote some rules for my new game, which didn't have a name. But I was ready for the boys when they came up won-

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