

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 they had. The fact of the matter be real danger in tackling. That is, they didn't like to do anything gave me the thought that if a lad but play. It was a troublesome can't run with the ball, he don't have to be tackled, and if we don't have to tackle, the roughness will be eliminated. I can recall to

that this day how I felt when that thought came to me. I snapped my fingers and shouted: "I have it!"

Dr. Naismith, by this time, was interested in telling the story of his invention of basketball that end of the football season and he shouted, "I have it," very loud. beginning of baseball, he began to Members of the family hurried out to the porch to see what the matter could be.

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

"I didn't learn much at Martha's very minute. I decided if a player Vineyard," stated the doctor. "It couldn't run with the ball, he had was a slow, monotonous sort of to throw it. Then I thought maybe thing, and I knew it wouldn't interest these live fellows we had at throw it. I decided right away that college. I told Dr. Gulick when I the ball, which would be large and returned to Springfield that Swedish light, should be hit with the open calisthenics was too slow and lady-hand, not with the fist."

"Doctor, we can invent a new game to meet our needs. All that old game I had played at my home we have to do is to take the factors of our known games, recombine them, and we will have the game zonal goal, but I decided this we are looking for!" "This hit the spot, for like a bolt from the sky the president replied:

Tried Modified Rugby

"Naismith, I want you to take that class and see what you can do with it!" "Well, I set to work trying a lot of things. I attempted to put over a modified form of Rugby. That kind of ball is a good game, but when it was changed to meet indoor requirements it didn't work. I had the same sort of luck with my modified kind of soccer. It was to go to bed until I had a game worse."

"Then I tried to see how I could doctor up lacrosse to make it a pleasant, indoor sport. I consider lacrosse the best game there is in the whole bunch. It takes in more factors than any other. It is a skilled game, and a great one."

The young Canadian-born Scotch teacher didn't have the hoped-for success with lacrosse, good as that game is. But it takes a great deal of work to stop a lad whose father was from the Scottish highlands and whose mother was a pretty wee lass

intendant. "It was all right with him. He from Scotia's lowlands. A youth of such parentage doesn't stop until he reaches the goal he has set for himself. "I did so, I couldn't help but wishing a few peaches had been left in the boys in the locker room having rules for my new game, which didn't have a name. But I was ready for to me. I made up my mind to find the boys when they came up won-

Began in 1891

Dr. Naismith explained that he had feared something like this would come to him that fall, so 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

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"I had just a single idea, but was sure I could work out a game," my host continued, paying no attention to the bearers of first-aid. "So I got right down to work that

"I got right down to work that very minute. I decided if a player couldn't run with the ball, he had to throw it. Then I thought maybe he might run a few steps, then throw it. I decided right away that the ball, which would be large and light, should be hit with the open hand, not with the fist."

"With these things settled, I next

"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 about it all night. Remember, the beginnings of the game, when I had a horizontal goal, but I decided this wouldn't do. Then I figured on having a box on the floor into which the ball had to be thrown. But I quickly saw that the men could easily block the ball by standing around the box."

"When I decided on the overhead goal, I about completed my water polo, I think, of things. I attempted to put over the beginning of the game, when I had a horizontal goal, but I decided this wouldn't do. Then I figured on having a box on the floor into which the ball had to be thrown. But I quickly saw that the men could easily block the ball by standing around the box."

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