

Excerpts from Naismith death story ...

Lawrence, Kas., Nov. (1939) -- Dr. James Naismith, who 48 years ago gave the game of basketball to the world, wrote a book in 1918 that had the title of "The Basis of Clean Living."

Those five words characterized the life of the 78-year-old professor emeritus of physical education at the University of Kansas, who retired from active teaching duty in 1937 after 40 years of "building character in the hearts of young men" at K.U.

Dr. Naismith, who at the age of eight was left an orpha, was born in Almonte, Ontario, on Nov. 6, 1861. After making his home with an uncle, he went to McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and graduated with an A.B. degree in 1887. This was the first of his ~~three~~ ^{four} degrees. In 1890 he graduated from Presbyterian College, in 1891 he received his master of physical education degree from Y.M.C.A. College in Springfield, Mass., and in 1898 he earned his doctor of medicine degree from Colorado University.

Dr. Naismith married Miss Maude E. Sherman of Springfield, Mass., in 1894. Three daughters and two sons, all of whom live in the middlewestern area of the United States, were born to this marriage. Mrs. Naismith died in March, 1937.

Dr. Naismith, also preapred for the ministry, but never, as he said, preached a sermon in his life. At least, not directly. His sermon of clean living was delivered indiredtly through teaching young men to love clean athletics. Neither did Dr. Naismith practice medicine, although he was a member of the Kansas Medical society.

Four jobs in the physical education field occupied Dr. Naismith's career. From 1887 to 1890 he was director at McGill, from 1890 to 1895 he directed the work at Springfield Y.M.C.A., from 1895 to 1898 he was director at the Denver Y.M.C.A., and in 1898 he came to the University of Kansas. Here he served 40 years.

Military service during World War I included four months service in 1916 with the First Kansas regiment, and 19 months with the Y.M.C.A. in France from 1917 to 1919.

Dr. Naismith was a member of the following organizations: Society of Directors of Physical Education in Kansas Colleges, Kansas Sate Medical society, National Association of Physical Education, Kansas Association of Physical Eeucation (a president), Pi Gamma Mu,

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