

It was in 1891, while Doctor Naismith was in Springfield, that he conceived the game of basketball, which has become the outstanding winter sport of the nation. Doctor Naismith saw that the young men had no active sport to keep them occupied when weather prevented football or baseball. Two old peach baskets, a ball, and 13 rules were the original equipment of the game which has spread around the world.

Besides many magazine articles, he wrote three books: "Basketball Rules," 1891; "The modern High School" (section on athletics), 1911; "The Basis of Clean Living," 1918.

Last June he and Mrs. Florence Kincaid, for many years a house-mother for Sigma Phi Epsilon at the University, were married.

At his bedside during his illness were Mrs. Naismith and five children: Mrs. George B. Stanley, Pueblo, Colo.; Mrs. Helen Dodd, St. Louis; Jack Naismith, Topeka; Mrs. Thomas Daw, Topeka; and James Naismith, Dallas. Jack Kincaid, a son-in-law, also was present. Dr. Naismith was active in the Masonic lodge holding important offices in the Scottish Rite bodies.

DR. JAMES A. NAISMITH Nov. 30, 1937

"We need a new game—something to keep our young men busy and in good physical trim during the winter. Build us such a game."

Invested with that responsibility and that authority, the young instructor at YMCA College, Springfield, Mass., soon brought back to his superior two old peach baskets, a ball—and a game called basketball. James Naismith did his job well, back in 1891 and the world acclaimed him for it in 1936, when millions of followers of the sport "chipped in" to send him to Berlin, to see his game played among the greatest—in the international Olympics.

Though he catapulted to fame as the founder of basketball Naismith's conception of his mission in the world was far greater than the mere playing of a game—his ability as a coach never was great, anyhow. Those closest to him agree that his real contribution to human welfare was his own life, patterned after his best-known book, "The Basis of Clean Living." Thousands of young men who attended University of Kansas gained inspiration from the kindly, fatherly, professor of physical education to deal fairly with their fellowmen and to be true themselves. Prepared to practice medicine, his greatest ministration was in the world of the spirit; ordained for the ministry, Dr. James A. Naismith's great and only sermon was preached unspoken in the realm of the physical... the life he lived as a man among men.

DR. NAISMITH Dec. 1, 1937

Dr. J. Naismith died last Tuesday, which is a fact that should strike a responsive chord in the hearts of thousands of youthful Americans.

Dr. Naismith invented the game of basketball, and thereby became an American immortal. Had he merely conceived an improvement in the game of football or baseball, or conjured up some new trick for the sport of horse racing, he would have fallen into the semi-oblivion of moth-eaten sports record books along with hundreds of others who have done the same thing. But as the inventor of a game purely American in conception, and quick to assume a place beside football and baseball as a great American sport, Dr. Naismith singled out for himself a very special pedestal in the hall of fame.

Since 1891, when the game was invented while Dr. Naismith was a Y.M.C.A. instructor in Springfield, Massachusetts, basketball has become a million-dollar sport and one of the major supports of the great American sporting goods industry. Thousands of young athletes play the game in interscholastic and inter-collegiate competition every winter. It has grown in public popularity until professional teams make an honest dollar playing it before ardent fans. It even has been admitted to the list of great competitions in the Olympic games.

DR. JAMES NAISMITH Nov. 29, 1937

Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball, is dead and his passing brings genuine sorrow to thousands of persons, both young and old. The contribution he made to his fellow man merits more than passing attention. Actually, it should be looked upon as one of the finest gifts the youth of this country ever received.

Fortunately, basketball could not die with its inventor. Instead, it will live on—continuing to grow and develop as it has done in such amazing fashion during the past forty-eight years.

Dr. Naismith gave to youth a game which he believed might gain some small measure of attention during the dull season between football and baseball. It was solely an experiment—and that it would one day spread to every city and town and every school in the land undoubtedly was an air castle he hardly dared build. Probably no monument will be erected to the memory of Dr. James Naismith. But the health and vitality and joy of living reflected in the faces of America's boys and girls may be ascribed in part, at least, to the "noble experiment," and are in themselves a worthy tribute to the man who gave this nation basketball.

A MEMORIAL SEEN Dec. 2, 1937

Expect Renewed Efforts to Honor Naismith at K. U. and Springfield

The death of Dr. James Naismith is expected to renew efforts at the University of Kansas and at Springfield, Mass., college for appropriate memorials to the inventor of basketball.

In recent years officials of both schools have given consideration to Naismith memorials.

Several years ago Chancellor E. H. Lindley appointed a committee, after a conference with Dr. F. C. Allen, to consider a K. U. memorial. A field house was discussed at that time.

Coach Allen conferred with Dr. Naismith to get his view on the matter. Dr. Naismith said that altho the game of basketball was invented at Springfield he had spent most of his life in Kansas and preferred that any memorial to him be placed at K. U.

Last year Dr. Allen talked with Dr. John Brown, Y. M. C. A. executive at Springfield regarding that school's proposal to construct a building and dedicate it to Dr. Naismith. Dr. Brown said funds were to be solicited from among Springfield alumni.

It is understood that whatever a K. U. memorial would take depends upon the wishes of the Naismith family.

Additional messages of condolence came today. One was a letter to Jack Naismith from Brutus Hamilton, formerly of K. U., now coach at the University of

Dr. Naismith was not only the inventor of a game, he was a benefactor to the youth of America.

Leoti high school should consider his name with the kindest of thoughts, for he invented a game at which the school teams have shown exceptional proficiency down through the years.

is with deepest regret that we learned of the passing of Naismith. If it is at all feasible I would appreciate it if you would express my sympathy to surviving members of his family. It goes without saying that his loss will be deeply mourned by all who have had any connection with the fine game which he devised.—Pierce "Caddy" Works, head basketball coach, University of California, at Los Angeles.

"Creighton University and the basketball squad join me in expressing sympathy to those who have been so closely associated with Dr. James Naismith. We shall all experience a great loss but will forever be thankful for his promotion and leadership in a great game."—Ed Hickey, head basketball coach, Creighton University, Omaha, Neb.

★ Basketball Inventor Much Improved; Suffers Cerebral Hemorrhage Sunday

Dr. James Naismith, 78, inventor of basketball and professor emeritus of physical education, who suffered a cerebral hemorrhage Sunday night, was described as greatly improved by his physician last night.

Dr. Naismith was stricken at his home about 7 o'clock Sunday night during dinner and was taken to the Lawrence Memorial hospital, where his condition was said to have been "very critical."

During the night, however, Dr. Naismith rallied and continued to improve yesterday. His physician said last night that his chances for recovery were "good."

Dr. Naismith had not been ill previous to the sudden hemorrhage, members of the family said.

Dr. Naismith retired from full-time teaching duty in June, 1937.

IN FINAL TRIBUTE Dec. 1, 1937

Funeral of Dr. James Naismith Is Held This Afternoon

Friends who attended the funeral services of Dr. James Naismith at the First Presbyterian church this afternoon heard the inventor of basketball described as "truly one of God's noblemen" by the Rev. Theodore H. Aszman.

Present to pay final respects to the 78-year-old professor emeritus of physical education who during his lifetime was ordained a Presbyterian minister and completed a medical course, were members of the Douglas county medical society, the Masonic Blue Lodge No. 6, and members of Sigma Phi Epsilon, social fraternity. Members of the fraternity served as ushers.

Strong Hinman, physical education director of the Kansas City, Mo., schools, attended as the official representative of Springfield college of which Dr. Naismith was a graduate. E. C. Quigley, St. Marys, well-known athletic official, also was present.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in me." The words of this psalmist, Dr. Aszman said, epitomizes Dr. Naismith and his life.

"He preferred to do his preaching in active living rather than from the pulpit. His business was to prevent human wreckage rather than wait to patch it up. He built a fence at the top of the cliff so that others might not fall off," the minister said.

"Building character was basic to Dr. Naismith," Rev. Mr. Aszman continued. "He watched the game he invented not as a rabid fan, but as a teacher. He wished to observe the influence of the game on the mind and character of the individuals who played it."

But Dr. Naismith would have been well-known even if he hadn't invented basketball and became noted around the world, Dr. Aszman said.

"The testimony to him was to a man, not to an inventor," he said.

Burial was in Memorial park cemetery where members of the Masonic lodge were in charge of the graveside service.

Active pallbearers were: John J. Kistler, George Docking, Jack Naismith, Jim Naismith, A. B. Mitchell, Jack Kincaid, E. Lee Treece, C. B. Holmes, W. H. Mifflin and E. R. Elbel.

Honorary pallbearers were: A. E. Huddleston, Dean R. A. Schwegler, Dr. F. C. Allen, Robert H. Stewart, Charles S. Skilton, George O. Foster, F. N. Raymond, T. J. Sweeney, Jr., Frank E. Jones, Dolph Simons, David Passon, J. R. Holmes, F. B. Dains, and H. B. Peairs.

In a letter to the Naismith family today, Gov. Payne H. Ratner said:

"I feel that the nation owes a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Naismith for what he has done in behalf of the youth of our country. Basketball, the game which he originated and did so much to foster, has developed into such proportions that it has become a mold of youthful characteristics and has furnished an opportunity for physical improvement among both boys and girls of our land."

"We have been proud of Dr. Naismith's long connection with our state University."

DR. J. NAISMITH Nov. 29, 1937

SUCCUMBS TODAY

Inventor Of Basketball Dies At Lawrence After Illness Of A Few Days

Lawrence, Kans., Nov. 28—(AP)—Dr. James Naismith, aged 78 years, who invented basketball 48 years ago to entertain youths between the football and baseball seasons, died early today of a heart attack.

Dr. Naismith 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.

Was Well Educated
Dr. Naismith, who at the age of eight was left an orphan, was born in Almonte, Ontario, on November 6, 1861. After making his home with an uncle, he went to McGill University in Montreal, Can., and graduated with an A. B. degree in 1887. This was the first of his three 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 Middle-western area of the United States, were born to the marriage. Mrs. Naismith died in March, 1937.

Dr. Naismith, also prepared 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 indirectly through teaching young men to love clean athletics. Neither did Dr. Naismith practice medicine, al-

though he was a member of the Kansas Medical Association.

Four jobs in physical education 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 the World War 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 many organizations.

Invented Game In 1891

The game of basketball was originated in 1891 by Dr. Naismith at the Springfield Y. M. C. A. to fill the need of a winter sport. Two old peach baskets, a ball, and 13 rules were the original equipment of the game which has spread around the world and was played in the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin.

Last spring Dr. Naismith and Mrs. Florence Kincaid, for many years a housemother for Sigma Phi Epsilon at K. U., were married.

Dr. Naismith first was stricken ill on November 19, at the home on University Drive. He made a remarkable recovery from effects of the cerebral hemorrhage and was released from the hospital to return to his home on November 22. A relapse in his condition came Thursday.