

"Why Forrest," he exclaimed, "basketball is just a game to play. You don't coach it."

Basketball was responsible for what Dr. Naismith regarded as the greatest experience of his life. In 1936, as a gesture of honor to the game's inventor, one week of the season was set aside and a penny from each admittance charge went into a fund to send Dr. and Mrs. Naismith to the Olympic Games in Berlin where basketball was to be played for the first time in the International Games.

Illness prevented Mrs. Naismith from making the trip, but her husband saw the United States win the first Olympic championship and was suitably honored and recognized for his tremendous contribution to the sports world.

Upon his return home he told a friend that seeing the game played by teams from many nations was the greatest compensation he could have received for his invention, from which he never profited a cent, except for royalties received from sales of a ball bearing his name.

Dr. Naismith was born in Almonte, Ontario, November 6, 1861. He was graduated from McGill University in Montreal in 1887, and was director of physical education there three years while he studied for the ministry at Presbyterian College.

He decided that he could be of more value in YMCA work than in the pupil so he went to the YMCA training school at Springfield, Mass. There he studied and then moved up to the faculty. The gymnasium at Springfield was the birthplace of basketball during the winter of 1891-1892.

Dr. Luther H. Gulick, head of the physical education department of the school, assigned Dr. Naismith the task of devising some game to occupy the students in the winter months when the weather kept them from playing games outdoors. The father of basketball often recalled how he tried to dodge the assignment, but Gulick was insistent.

As a rugby player, Dr. Naismith started with the idea of incorporating that game into some kind of an indoor contest. Tackling had to be eliminated since it