

# Passing Of A Grand Old Man

THE INVENTOR OF BASKETBALL IS DEAD

Lawrence Democrat  
Nov 30, 1939

Doctor James Naismith died at 1:50 yesterday morning at his home. He was 78 years old and was born in Canada. He had received a good education and devoted himself early in his career to physical development of young men and young women. While in charge of athletics in the Y.M.C.A. at Springfield, Mass. he saw the need of a game that could be played in-doors during the winter months. With this end in view he invented the game of basketball, a game that swept America from coast to coast, in both the public schools and universities and became known as the father of basketball. When he returned from the Olympic games several years ago, then held in Berlin Germany, he told the writer that it was the proudest moment of all his career when he saw young men and women of practically all the civilized nations of the world playing the game he had invented. He came to Kansas University near the close of the last century in 1898 and for the past 40 years he has seen thousands of young men and women benefited by his kindly advice and instruction. The University buildings were draped at half mast in his honor. Dean W. Malott paid tribute to his sterling qualities as a man and instructor. Dr. F. C. Allen, basketball coach, spoke highly of his love for fair play in the realm of sport.

The funeral will be held tomorrow, Friday, afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the Presbyterian church. The Rev. Theodore H. Aszman officiating. The remains will be laid away in the Masonic section of Memorial Park cemetery.

His wife, the mother of his children, died in March 1937 and he married Mrs. Florence Kincaid in June 1939 who survives him. The surviving children are Mrs. Thomas L. Dawe of Topeka, Mrs. L. H. Dodd of St. Louis, Mrs. George B. Stanley of Pueblo, Colo., John Edwin Naismith of Topeka, and James Sherman Naismith of Dallas Jack Kincaid, Detroit, is a step-son.

**FAMILY RECEIVES MANY MESSAGES**  
Nov 29, 1939  
Friends of Dr. Naismith and Coaches All Over Country Telegraph

**SERVICES ARE FRIDAY**

Messages of condolence came in large numbers by telephone and telegraph today from all over the United States and Canada to relatives of the late Dr. James Naismith.

Funeral service for the 78-year-old inventor of basketball who died yesterday will be held Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the First Presbyterian church.

Following is the list of pallbearers:

Active—W. H. Miffin, Jack Naismith, Jim Naismith, A. B. Mitchell, E. R. Elbel, Jack Kincaid, George Docking, E. Lee Treece, C. E. Holmes and John J. Kistler.  
Honorary—Dolph Simons, T. J. Sweeney, Jr., Frank E. Jones, Dr. Forrest C. Allen, F. B. Dains, H. B. Peairs, A. E. Huddleston, Dean R. A. Schwegler, Charles Sanford Skilton, George O. Foster, David L. Passon, J. R. Holmes, Robert Stewart, and F. N. Raymond.

The Lawrence Masonic Blue Lodge No. 6, of which Dr. Naismith was a past master, will have charge of services at the grave.

"Individual deeds are soon forgotten, but his contribution to the world of sports shall always endure," wired B. T. Grover, Athens, O., president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

From Floyd S. Fields, chairman of the Council of the Chapter of Presidents, Springfield College Alumni association came the following message:

### Alumni Send Words

"Officers and members of the 30 Springfield College alumni chapters who have helped spread basketball around the world desire to take this opportunity to pay homage to our beloved Jim Naismith."

Other messages came from Amos Alonzo Stagg, Stockton, Calif., dean of American football coaches who attended school with Dr. Naismith at Springfield; T. D. Roberson, Montreal, president of the Canadian Amateur Basketball association; John J. Gallagher, director of athletics, Niagara, N. Y., University; E. C. Quigley, St. Marys, veteran athletic official; A. C. Samson, Winnipeg, president of the Tiller and Toiler basketball club; Louis E. Bredberg, Stephenville, Tex., former assistant to Dr. Naismith at K. U.; and from Mrs. Ormand Beach, Sarnia, Ontario, wife of the late K. U. football star.

### Member of Circle

Among the numerous other messages were those from T. D. Patton, Toronto, Canada, and E. S. Libby, Redlands, Calif., the two captains on Dr. Naismith's first basketball teams at Springfield Y.M.C.A.

For many years Dr. Naismith was a member of the Ahikamin Circle of the King's Sons, a small group of Springfield College men who attended school at the same time and who are scattered over the U. S. and Canada. Once each year the group participated in a chain letter. A small booklet went the rounds and each member wrote his annual letter and then sent it on.

The Ahikamin letter came to Dr. Naismith about two weeks ago, but he was unable to attend to it at the time. Members of his family plan some notation in the space left to Dr. Naismith and then the letter will be mailed on to the next man in line, Amos Stagg.

## BASKETBALL GREW POPULAR RAPIDLY

World 11/28/39  
Invention of the Game Raised Dr. Naismith From Obscurity

### DRAFTED FIRST RULES

Dr. James Naismith, who died here today, rose from the obscurity of an instructor in physical education to become known as the "father of basketball."

The game, originated as a means of winter exercise for a class at the Y. M. C. A. training school at Springfield, Mass., now Springfield college, met with popularity from the beginning.

Unlike other games which evolved from middle century sports or resulted from years of changes and perfections, basketball came into being almost on the spur of the moment. That was back in 1891 when the physical training class at Springfield consisted of 18 men.

Dr. Luther H. Gulick, then head of the physical training department, was hard put to keep the men busy outside the regular class exercises during the period from December to March. He wanted something that would keep the men in the top of physical condition during the winter so they could take up their spring activities without undue fatigue or over-exertion.

### He Got the Assignment

Discussing with Dr. Naismith the problem that confronted him, Dr. Gulick instructed his assistant to invent some sort of a game that



—Acme Telephoto  
The above photo, taken at Springfield, Mass., in 1892, shows Dr. James Naismith, founder of the game and his first team. Dr. Naismith is shown sitting at extreme left. As professor emeritus of the department of physical education at Kansas University he gained nation-wide renown and remained at this post until shortly before his death.

would occupy all the men and which could be played on the gymnasium floor.

Dr. Naismith began a study of various games and forms of exercises, including duck-on-the-rock, la crosse and Rugby football. In a short time he presented his plan and it met with immediate approval. Duck-on-the-rock suggested to him the tossing in an arc rather than hurling an inflated ball, la crosse contributed the arrangement of the players and Rugby furnished the means of putting the ball in play.

A goal on the floor was deemed too easy to defend, so it was decided to elevate them. The balcony around the gymnasium was ten feet above the floor and that served to solve the problem of the goal's position. The baskets, as they were named, were attached to the balcony at the end of the court and that elevation became the standard for the game.

### Nine-Man Teams

Basketball as originally played at Springfield college had nine men on a team because of the necessity of taking care of the 18 members of the class. The number later was reduced to seven and finally to five.

When a member of his class suggested the new game be called "Naismith ball," in honor of the originator, Dr. Naismith immediately disapproved the idea with the comment: "Such a name would kill it instantly." Another member of the class, Frank Mahan, suggested "basketball," which was approved by Dr. Naismith, and it was adopted.

In the beginning there were only the fundamental rules governing the scoring. The first important change in the code was that which prohibited spectators from touching the ball. Previous to that they often helped their favorite team or hindered opponents in the scoring on a goal.

When the popularity of basketball extended outside the confines of Springfield there was a demand for a set of fixed rules. Dr. Naismith drafted these in 1892.

### Played At Yale Early

Yale is said to have been the first of the universities to take up basketball. Its adoption by others as well as by athletic clubs came rapidly until virtually every college, university, high school and athletic club was represented on the basketball court.

Organization of leagues in various parts of the country helped extend the popularity of the game and necessitated amendments to the rules from time to time. A joint committee on rules, which included representatives of the various organizations interested in the game, resulted. Dr. Naismith was honored with appointment as honorary chairman for life.

Dr. Naismith devoted his entire life to physical training and the development of physical education. When basketball was criticized as too strenuous he made a study of several years of the exact time all players in a game were in action. He made a tabulation of the results and declared that he failed

to find the sport too strenuous for boys and girls of high school age; further he expressed the belief that the game could be played with safety for girls and young women.

### IN TRIBUTE TO NAISMITH

Nov 28, 1939

### Members of Chicago K. U. Club to Attend Loyola Game

Members of the Chicago K. U. club will pay a tribute to the late Dr. James Naismith when the Jayhawk quintet goes there to meet Loyola University January 8, it was learned today.

A letter received at the alumni office here indicates that a large number of K. U. alumni living in and near Chicago have made plans to attend the game. The letter states that plans are going forward for a program in memory of Dr. Naismith and that Dr. F. C. Allen will be honored during the evening.

It further states that final plans for a large Chicago alumni dinner will be announced at the game.

The K. U. team will leave for Chicago Saturday.

### PLAN A NAISMITH MEMORIAL

K.C. Times 12/8/39

Late Basketball Inventor.

(By The Star's Own Service.)

LAWRENCE, KAS., Dec. 7.—An appropriate memorial to the University of Kansas to the inventor of basketball, Dr. James Naismith, is again being discussed here.

Several years ago Chancellor E. H. Lindley of the university appointed a committee to consider a K. U. memorial at which time a field house was considered. Since that time little has been done. But the death of Dr. Naismith this week is expected to renew efforts along that line.

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

Coach Allen also conferred with Dr. Naismith to get his view on the matter. Dr. Naismith said that although 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.

The memorial, it is understood, would depend upon the wishes of the Naismith family.

Graduate M. Dec. 1939



### Two Ancestries

The late Dr. James Naismith holding the original basketball, compares it with the modern ball held in the hands of Dr. Forrest C. "Phog" Allen. Bob Allen, son of Phog and one of the mainstays of this year's varsity team, forms the background for the 'old and the new.'