

World 11/28/39

His Influence Lives



Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball and professor emeritus of physical education at K. U., died early today at his home following a heart attack.

MOURN HIS DEATH

Chancellor and Coach Allen Comment on Passing of Naismith

Praising his contribution to the sport world as well as to the youth of all nations, Chancellor Deane W. Malott and Dr. F. C. Allen, head basketball coach, today expressed sorrow at the death of Dr. James Naismith.

The flag atop Fraser hall was at half-mast this morning when students came to classes and word spread of the death of the famous, beloved man. Funeral services will be held Friday while students are away on the Thanksgiving vacation.

"In behalf of the University of Kansas I express sorrow at the death of Dr. James Naismith, professor emeritus of physical education," said Chancellor Deane W. Malott today.

"Not only the University and the state of Kansas, but the United States and many nations of the world as well will feel the loss of this man who set high standards of personal clean living and was able to infuse the same standards into the lives of hundreds of young men. His contribution to the athletic world of the game of basketball will leave a mark that even time cannot erase."

"The youth of the world has lost a great benefactor in Dr. James Naismith, the father of basketball," said Dr. F. C. Allen, K. U. basketball coach. "Eighteen million young men all over the world are playing his game of basketball which he originated for eighteen troublesome young men in a class at Springfield, Mass., Y.M.C.A. college in 1891. Dr. Naismith is directly responsible for all the large field houses, the large auditoria and gymnasias where basketball is played today. Before this game was originated there were few large indoor arenas that were used for any indoor sports. Dotting the middle western states are high school gymnasias that are much larger in size than the entire school buildings were 30 years ago."

"Dr. Naismith is indirectly responsible for the forward pass in football. Until the popularity of basketball which began to spring up in the colleges of America in 1905, the forward pass in football was not thought of. Then the football rules committee incorporated the forward pass or basketball pass in football, and immediately the open game became the element that spread the defense. Basketball has become footballized and football has become basketballized. The forward pass of today is a Naismith innovation. Today it is the most spectacular of all plays on our gridirons."

"Frederick Froebel gave to the world the theory of the kindergarten—education thru play. Dr. Naismith gave to the youth basketball, a game that takes the youngster from the eighth grade to maturity. I once heard eight nationally known educators speaking from the same platform declare that basketball had all the qualities necessary to teach the educable child: Poise, rhythm, grace, coordination, development of skills and the development of physical vigor. The speakers were not competitive coaches nor were they athletes. This game, the only international game that is the product of one man's brain, stamps Dr. Naismith as a great educator, a kindly humanitarian and a practical Christian."

"He loved youth. He and Alonzo Stagg both working together chose the profession of physical education over the ministry, in which they were ordained, because they could do more for youth, they thought."

"The youth of the world will arise and call Dr. Naismith blessed."

Death Comes to James Naismith

Heart Attack Fatal to 78-Year-Old Inventor of Basketball

FUNERAL IS FRIDAY

A Native of Canada, He Had Served 41 Years on K. U. Faculty

Dr. James Naismith, who gave the world the game of basketball, died at 1:50 a. m. today of a heart attack at his home on University Drive near the K. U. campus where he had served as a member of the physical education staff for 41 years.

The 78-year-old professor was stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage November 19 and recovered sufficiently to return to his home November 22. Last Thursday he suffered the heart attack which led to his death.

Funeral services will be held from the First Presbyterian church Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The Rev. Theodore H. Aszman will officiate. Burial will be in Memorial Park cemetery.

The body will lie in state at the Funk chapel until Thursday evening, when it will be taken to the home.

Born in Ontario

Dr. Naismith, who at the age of 8 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, Canada, and graduated with an A.B. degree in 1887. This was the first of his 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 was summoned to McGill University commencement last year and the degree of doctor of divinity was conferred upon him by McGill Theological Seminary.

Dr. Naismith married Miss Maude E. Sherman of Springfield, Mass., in 1894. Three daughters and two sons were born to the marriage. Mrs. Naismith died in March, 1937.

Became A Minister

Dr. Naismith, also prepared for the ministry, but never held a pastorate. His sermon of clean living was delivered indirectly thru teaching young men to love clean athletics. Neither did Dr. Naismith practice medicine, altho 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 as chaplain with the Kansas regiment on the Mexican border and 19 months with the Y.M.C.A. in France from 1917 to 1919.

Honorary Rules Chairman

Dr. Naismith was a member of the following organizations: Society of Directors of Physical Education in Kansas Colleges, Kansas State Medical Association, National Association of Physical Education, Kansas Association of Physical Education (president), Pi Gamma Mu, Sigma Phi Epsilon, International Basketball Federation (honorary president), Basketball Coaches Association (honorary president), Basketball Rules Committee (honorary chairman and life member), Presbyterian church, and Masonic lodge.

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

Has Completed His Assignment

DR. JAMES NAISMITH, originator of the game of basketball, died at his campus home Nov. 28 after having been stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage, Nov. 19.

Dr. Naismith had been actively connected with the University's department of athletics since 1898 and was professor emeritus of physical education since he resigned full-time teaching duties in 1937.

The game that he conceived in 1891 at Springfield (Mass.) Y.M.C.A. College has outstripped both baseball and football in number of spectators and in number of participants. It has been adopted by countries which never have been tempted by the attractions of other American sports. Twenty-two nations sent championship basketball teams to the 1936 Olympiad at Berlin, where the games were watched with keen interest by Dr. Naismith himself, who was an honored guest sent by basketball fans throughout the U.S.

Dr. Naismith wrote several books pertaining to physical education and one published in 1918 had the title, "The Basis of Clean Living." Those five words characterized the life ideal of the 78-year old man who spent his life "building character in the hearts of young men."

Dr. James Naismith, was born at Almonte, Ont., Canada, in 1861. In boyhood he determined to be a Presbyterian minister, and after finishing at McGill University obtained his doctor's degree in theology at Presbyterian College, Montreal. He decided, however, that because athletics attract youth, he could do more for souls by working through athletic channels, this despite the fact that athletics and gymnastics were regarded as works of the devil in those days.

He taught physical education at McGill and then went to the Springfield, Ill., "Y" college. In 1895 he went to Denver in charge of the Y.M.C.A.'s physical department and at the same time earned his doctor's degree from the medical school which later became a part of Colorado University. In 1898 he came to Kansas where his service

was uninterrupted except for war service. He served as chaplain with the U.S. troops on the Mexican border in 1916 and with the "Y" in France.

In 1894 Dr. Naismith married Miss Maude E. Sherman of Springfield.

Three daughters and two sons, all of whom live in the mid-west, were born to the marriage. The children are Mrs. Thomas L. Dawe of the home in Lawrence, Helen Naismith Dodd, '20, of St. Louis, Mrs. George B. Stanley of Pueblo, Colo., Jack E. Naismith, '34, of Topeka, and James S. Naismith, '33 of Dallas. Mrs. Naismith died in March, 1937.

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

Some Quotes from Dr. Naismith

Three-in-One
"I helped myself to soccer, lacrosse and duck-on-a-rock for the fundamentals of the game of basketball."

The Devil Can Be Beat
"I felt that if the devil was making use of athletics to lead young men to evil, there must be some natural attraction in sports that could be used to lead young men to a good end."

He "Worked For Humanity."
"Speaking as one who is soon to lay down the working tools of life, to those who are just taking them up, let me say: 'Do not be afraid to work for humanity and wait for the reward.'"

The Forgotten Age
"It is a sad commentary on our social system that there is so little to interest the youths from 16 to 21. It is natural for boys to want to travel, to go places, and not surprising that they go to the wrong places. The sad thing is that the juvenile court can do nothing because the lad is more than 16; the police can do nothing until he has committed some overt violation of the law. The age 16 to 21 is, indeed, the forgotten age."

Strange Preaching But It Worked
"Strangely enough, though I qualified and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister, and have an M.D. degree, I have never held a pastorate, nor have I put out a physician's shingle. The nearest to preaching came in Y.M. Service with the Twentieth Kansas on the Mexican Border before the World War, and in two years of service with the Y. in France. And the preaching was of a rather indirect kind, at that. For example, too many of the boys got into devilment in the town. We set up a boxing ring near the camp entrance and would start a lively match about the time the boys began starting on 'leave.' They stopped to watch; then begged to participate; and the next thing they knew it was time to be back in quarters. Prize fights may sound like strange preaching, but they did the work."



Life of a Leader in Physical Education, Great Spirit in the World
Naismith views with interest a recent Kansas basketball game.—In center above he is with his col-friend, Amos Alonzo Stagg, when Stagg visited Lawrence in 1932 as referee of the Kansas mens basketball team gathers about him when they made a pilgrimage to his office several can tour.—At lower left is the first University of Kansas basketball team. Members are, Russell, Raymond Hoyt, and Henry Yahn. Middle row—Hubert Avery, S. C. Emley (de-d W. A. (Bill) Hess. Back row—Herb Owens, Royal Henderson, Walter Sutton (deceased), ach.—At lower right is Dr. Naismith in college days as a football player. He is in front over behind giving him the signal to snap the ball by pinching his leg, which was the regulation ball is not the only Naismith invention. Here he wears a headgear made of several thick-made it chiefly to protect his ears. From that headgear was developed the modern leather

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