

NAISMITH TO K. U. AS CHAPEL LEADER

His Life Shaped on Idea of Wielding Good Personal Influence

In the summer of 1898, Chancellor F. H. Snow was seeking a man who could combine the duties of instructor of physical education and of chapel leader.

Chancellor Snow mentioned his quest to Amos Alonzo Stagg, who recalled his Y.M.C.A. college classmate, Naismith, and made the recommendation.

Dr. Naismith came to K. U. in 1898 from Denver. He led chapel for several years, then devoted all his time to basketball.

Dr. Naismith coached basketball at K. U. from 1899 thru 1907. His teams won 54 games and lost 44 during that period.

While he enrolled in his seminary course at McGill, an incident occurred that turned Dr. Naismith's career. One day, it is related, in football practice something went wrong, and the guard next to him began swearing loudly. Suddenly he stopped and turned to Naismith.

"I beg your pardon, Jim. I didn't notice you were there," he said.

"I hadn't paid particular attention," Dr. Naismith related, "for I had heard more fluent swearing than that in the lumber camps of Canada. It set me to thinking about this matter of personal influence, and I talked about it with the Y.M.C.A. secretary.

"He told me of the Y.M.C.A. college, and I was all for stopping my ministerial career right then, and going to that college. However, I was dissuaded, and received my ministerial degree, but have never held a pastorate." Later he went to Springfield.

Dr. Naismith's parents died when he was eight years old and he was brought up by an uncle. Midway thru high school he quit and returned to the farm.

Then came the resolve to become a minister and he reentered high school and two years later entered McGill University.

At McGill, Dr. Naismith joined in sports with his classmates, rising at 6 a. m. to practice football. He devised a cotton flannel headgear to protect his ears—a few years later modern leather headgear, following much the same pattern, appeared.

New York City had basketball as early as 1892. Y.M.C.A. secretaries carried the game to foreign countries. Duncan Patton took it to India in 1894; Emil Thies, to France in 1895; Ishakawa, to Japan in 1900; C. Harek, to Persia in 1901. American soldiers played it during the Boxer rebellion, and the Philippine insurrection.

Yale, Cornell and Chicago had basketball teams in 1893-95 and the Missouri Valley took it up the year after Dr. Naismith came to Kansas.

After Dr. Naismith came to K. U., Kansas became one of the most famous basketball schools in the nation. Its great teams were developed and coached by Dr. Forrest C. Allen, friend and associate of Dr. Naismith. The two disagreed good-naturedly over many rules and rules changes.

He once told Allen: "Basketball is just a game to play. It doesn't need a coach."

For many years Dr. Naismith served as a member of the K. U. athletic board. When the board of regents ruled that no member of the physical education staff could serve on the board, Dr. Naismith withdrew. The regents later rescinded their previous action, but by that time Dr. Naismith had retired from active duty and did not return to the athletic board.

Deaths and Funerals

Mrs. Lillie Agnes Funk

Mrs. Lillie Agnes Funk died early Monday morning at her home at 941 Connecticut street.

Funeral services will be held from the First Methodist church Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Dr. R. A. Hunt will officiate. The body will lie in state at the Rumsey

DEATH COMES TO JAMES NAISMITH

(Continued from page 1)

world and was played in the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin.

A Hearty Individual

A man of remarkable stamina, Dr. Naismith was hale and vigorous until he was stricken with his recent illness. The straightness of his carriage resembled that of a man many years his junior. His stride as he walked was brisk. In recent years he continued to practice fencing, a sport at which he was considered unusually adept.

Dr. Naismith was a charter member of the Saturday night club, a discussion group organized more than 30 years ago. H. B. Pears is now the last surviving member of the original group of 12 men.

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

To Olympic Games

"The happiest moment" of his life, Dr. Naismith once said, came in 1936 when he attended the Olympic games in Berlin and saw the game of basketball played for the first time in the international competition. "The father of basketball" was sent to Berlin following a national drive for funds by spectators, officials and players, who wanted to have Dr. Naismith present when the teams of all nations filed in behind flags of their countries. Dr. Naismith addressed the assembled players before the start of the tournament—and, he said later, his eyes were misty.

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

Dr. Naismith's 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 stepson.

A MASTER SPORTSMAN

Dec. 1939 Graduate Magazine

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, ed-'34, of Topeka, and James S. Naismith, ed-'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

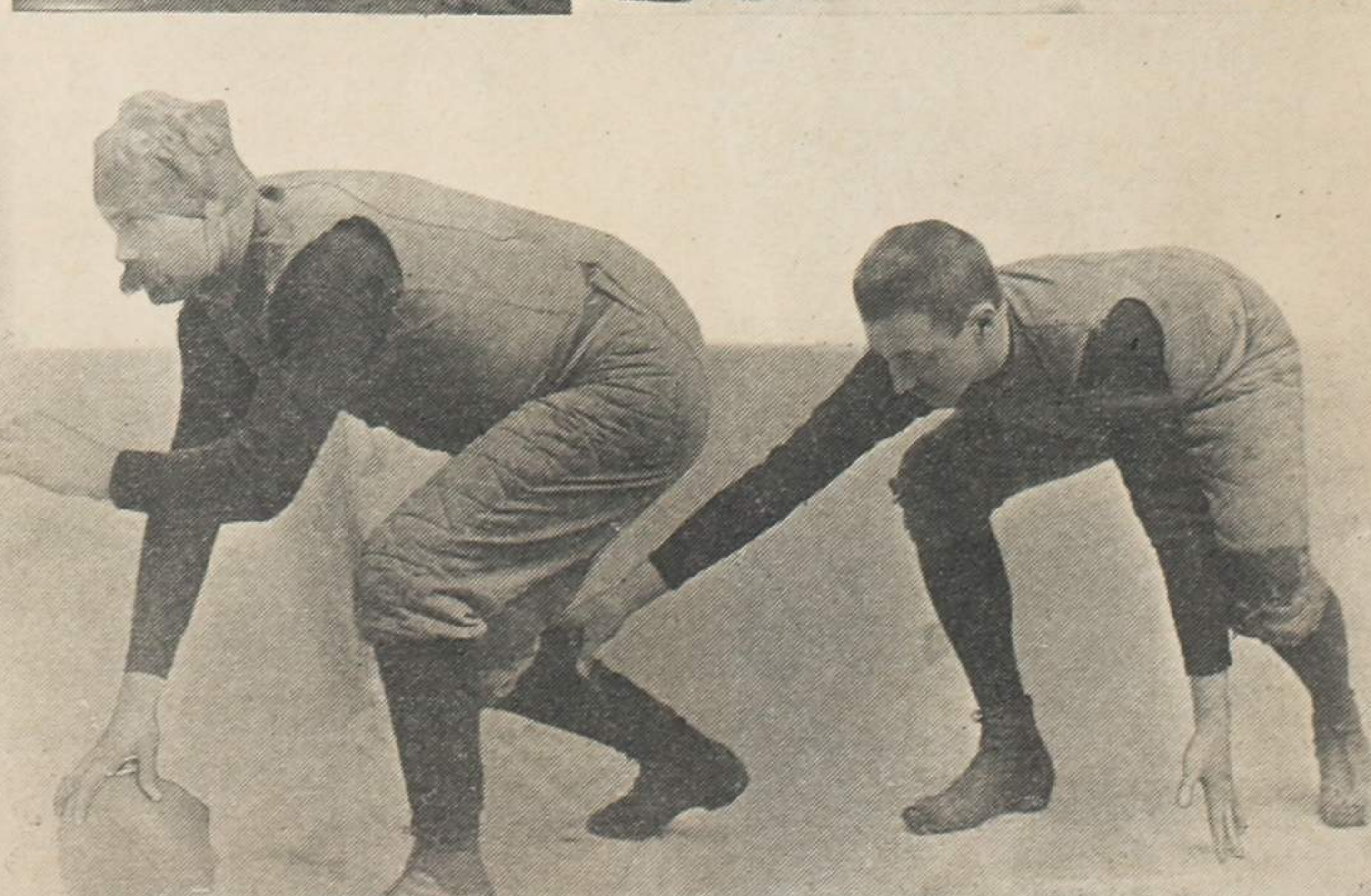
Three-in-One
"I helped myself to soccer, lacrosse and duck-on-a-rock for the fundamentals of the game of basketball."

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."



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Scenes in the Life of a Leader in Physical Education, Great Spirit in the World

At upper left Dr. Naismith views with interest a recent Kansas basketball game.—In center above he is with his college classmate and life long friend, Amos Alonzo Stagg, when Stagg visited Lawrence in 1932 as referee of the Kansas Relays.—Right above, a Japanese basketball team gathers about him when they made a pilgrimage to his office several years ago while on an American tour.—At lower left is the first University of Kansas basketball team. Members are, first row: left to right—Coe Russell, Raymond Hoyt, and Henry Yahn. Middle row—Hubert Avery, S. C. Emley (deceased), William Sutton, and W. A. (Bill) Hess. Back row—Herb Owens, Royal Henderson, Walter Sutton (deceased), and Dr. James Naismith, coach.—At lower right is Dr. Naismith in college days as a football player. He is in front over the ball with the quarterback behind giving him the signal to snap the ball by pinching his leg, which was the regulation signal in those days. Basketball is not the only Naismith invention. Here he wears a headgear made of several thicknesses of cotton flannel. He made it chiefly to protect his ears. From that headgear was developed the modern leather helmet.