### 1) A Gym Teacher Invented The Game

A Canadian physical education teacher, James Naismith, is credited to have started Basketball way back in the 1890s. He simply wanted to find a way to keep his gym class occupied on rainy days when they couldn’t go outside to exercise.

Little did he know that his experiment in physical education class would change the sports world!

### ****2)**** The Game Actually Had Baskets

When the game first came into existence, the basketball hoops were in fact peach baskets with the bottoms intact. So once someone scored a basket, the officials had to stop the match and retrieve the ball from the basket. The concept of having a net came about only in the early 1900s, probably when some bright guy decided that there were too many pauses in one game.

### ****3)**** Spectators Would Interfere

The early basketball hoops were nailed to the balcony floor, where the spectators would sit. This posed a problem when eager fans decided to interfere with the shots made by the rival team.

Many teams faced an unfair defeat before people wised up and invented the backboard which is still a part of the game today.

### ****4)**** Dribbling Wasn’t A Thing

Ever since its inception, Basketball was played with a soccer ball and players would rub coal dust on their hands to grip the ball properly. The soccer ball also did not allow for a lot of dribbling, and players were allowed to hold the ball and move a couple of steps before stopping and tossing it into the hoop.

The modern Basketball was invented only in the 1950s after which dribbling became an integral part of the game.

### ****5****) Free Throws Were A Lot Freer

Before 1921, if you got fouled, you could choose the best shooter in your team and have them take the free throw. It’s only after the 1920s that a new rule came into play which stated that the person who got fouled must take the free throw.

### ****6)**** The Game Was Predominantly White

Earl White, Nat Clifton, and Chuck Cooper were the first African Americans to ever play professional Basketball in the NBA. They played for the Washington Capitals on the 31st of October 1950.

These are a few of the various elements that went into making Basketball the game that it is today. Do you know any more wacky facts about this awesome sport? Let us know in the comments below!

### 7) First Basketball Match In Europe

The first ever basketball match in Europe was played in the year 1983, 92 years after the game’s invention, at YMCA in Paris, France. The game was arranged by Mel Rideout.

### 8) Only 2 Women Drafted In The NBA

There have been only 2 women drafted in the NBA. The first woman was Denise Long who was drafted by the San Francisco Warriors in the 13th rounds while the second woman was Luisa Harris by the New Orleans Jazz as the 137th overall draft pick.

### 9) Basketball Becomes A Part Of The Olympics

Did you know that it was during the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics that Basketball became an official Olympics event? The Olympic basketball games were not played indoors, but on modified tennis courts.

### 10) Most Infamous Brawl In History Of NBA

The day was 19th November 2004 when the most infamous brawl of NBA history known as the “Malice in the Palace”.

The fight involved not only players from the two teams but also the spectators. In total 9 NBA players were suspended and a total of $ 11 million were lost in salaries. But this was not it, as many as 5 fans were banned from piston home games for life and also received criminal charges.

### 11) Longest Basketball Match in NBA History

We know that a typical basketball match is played for 48 minutes which is broken down in 4 quarters of 12 minutes each. But on the 6th January 1951 during the match between Rochester Royals and Indianapolis Olympians, the match lasted for 78 minutes and had 6 overtimes.

The Indianapolis Olympians won the game 75 to 73.

### 12) Basketball Match Win With The Biggest Margin

The day was 17th December 1991, the match was played between Cleveland Cavaliers and Miami Heat when the former created a record of a win with the biggest margin as they demolish the Heat 148 to 80. With a point difference of 68 points.

13) Harlem Globetrotters Corey ‘Thunder’ Law made a shot from 109 feet, 9 inches, setting world record.

14) One of the most superstitious basketball players was Jason Terry.

15) Michael Jordan is considered to be one of the best basketball players in history. His record score of 32,292 points during his career made him a legend in the world of basketball. As of July 2021, the all-time scoring leader is Kareem Abdul-Jabbar with 38,387.