

= James Naismith =

Dr. James Naismith ( November 6 , 1861 ? November 28 , 1939 ) was a Canadian physical educator , physician , chaplain , sports coach and innovator . He invented the sport of basketball in 1891 . He wrote the original basketball rulebook and founded the University of Kansas basketball program . Naismith lived to see basketball adopted as an Olympic demonstration sport in 1904 and as an official event at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin , as well as the birth of the National Invitation Tournament ( 1938 ) and the NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Championship ( 1939 ) .

Born in Canada to Scottish immigrants , Naismith studied physical education at McGill University in Montreal before moving to the United States , where he developed basketball in late 1891 while teaching at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield , Massachusetts . After receiving his MD in Denver in 1898 , Naismith moved to the University of Kansas , later becoming the Kansas Jayhawks ' athletic director .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early years = = =

Naismith was born in 1861 in Almonte ( now part of Mississippi Mills ) , Ontario , Canada to parents who had immigrated from Scotland . He never had a middle name and never signed his name with the " A " initial . The " A " was added by someone in the administration at the University of Kansas . In 1982 Dr. Naismith 's only living child stated that his father never had the middle initial " A " . The Basketball Hall of Fame also clarifies this as do other members of his family and personal friends of his . Noted historian Curtis J. Phillips has done extensive research on the subject .

Struggling in school but gifted in farm labor , Naismith spent his days outside playing catch , hide @-@ and @-@ seek , or duck on a rock , a medieval game in which a person guards a large drake stone from opposing players , who try to knock it down by throwing smaller stones at it . To play duck on a rock most effectively , Naismith soon found that a soft lobbing shot was far more effective than a straight hard throw , a thought that later proved essential for the invention of basketball . Orphaned early in his life , Naismith lived with his aunt and uncle for many years and attended grade school at Bennies Corners near Almonte . Then he enrolled in Almonte High School , in Almonte , Ontario , from which he graduated in 1883 .

In the same year , Naismith entered McGill University in Montreal . Although described as a slight figure , standing 5 foot 10 ½ and listed at 168 pounds , he was a talented and versatile athlete , representing McGill in Canadian football , lacrosse , rugby , soccer and gymnastics . He played center on the football team , and made himself some padding to protect his ears . It was for personal use , not team use . He won multiple Wicksteed medals for outstanding gymnastics performances . Naismith earned a BA in Physical Education ( 1888 ) and a Diploma at the Presbyterian College in Montreal ( 1890 ) . From 1891 on , Naismith taught physical education and became the first McGill director of athletics , but then left Montreal to become a physical education teacher at the YMCA International Training School in Springfield , Massachusetts .

= = = Springfield College : Invention of " Basket Ball " = = =

At Springfield YMCA , Naismith struggled with a rowdy class that was confined to indoor games throughout the harsh New England winter and thus was perpetually short @-@ tempered . Under orders from Dr. Luther Gulick , head of Springfield YMCA Physical Education , Naismith was given 14 days to create an indoor game that would provide an " athletic distraction " : Gulick demanded that it would not take up much room , could help its track athletes to keep in shape and explicitly emphasized to " make it fair for all players and not too rough . "

In his attempt to think up a new game , Naismith was guided by three main thoughts . Firstly , he analyzed the most popular games of those times ( rugby , lacrosse , soccer , football , hockey , and

baseball ) ; Naismith noticed the hazards of a ball and concluded that the big soft soccer ball was safest . Secondly , he saw that most physical contact occurred while running with the ball , dribbling or hitting it , so he decided that passing was the only legal option . Finally , Naismith further reduced body contact by making the goal unguardable , namely placing it high above the player 's heads . To score goals , he forced the players to throw a soft lobbing shot that had proven effective in his old favorite game duck on a rock . Naismith christened this new game " Basket Ball " and put his thoughts together in 13 basic rules .

The first game of " Basket Ball " was played in December 1891 . In a handwritten report , Naismith described the circumstances of the inaugural match ; in contrast to modern basketball , the players played nine versus nine , handled a soccer ball , not a basketball , and instead of shooting at two hoops , the goals were a pair of peach baskets : " When Mr. Stubbins brot [ sic ] up the peach baskets to the gym I secured them on the inside of the railing of the gallery . This was about 10 feet from the floor , one at each end of the gymnasium . I then put the 13 rules on the bulletin board just behind the instructor 's platform , secured a soccer ball and awaited the arrival of the class ... The class did not show much enthusiasm but followed my lead ... I then explained what they had to do to make goals , tossed the ball up between the two center men & tried to keep them somewhat near the rules . Most of the fouls were called for running with the ball , though tackling the man with the ball was not uncommon . " In contrast to modern basketball , the original rules did not include what is known today as the dribble . Since the ball could only be moved up the court via a pass early players tossed the ball over their heads as they ran up court . Also following each " goal " a jump ball was taken in the middle of the court . Both practices are obsolete in the rules of modern basketball .

In a radio interview in January 1939 , Naismith gave more details of the first game and the initial rules that were used :

? I showed them two peach baskets I ? d nailed up at each end of the gym , and I told them the idea was to throw the ball into the opposing team ? s peach basket . I blew a whistle , and the first game of basketball began . ? The boys began tackling , kicking and punching in the clinches . They ended up in a free @-@ for @-@ all in the middle of the gym floor . [ The injury toll : several black eyes , one separated shoulder and one player knocked unconscious . ] ? It certainly was murder . ? [ Naismith changed some of the rules as part of his quest to develop a clean sport . ] The most important one was that there should be no running with the ball . That stopped tackling and slugging . We tried out the game with those [ new ] rules ( fouls ) , and we didn ? t have one casualty . ?

By 1892 , basketball had grown so popular on campus that Dennis Horkenbach ( editor @-@ in @-@ chief of The Triangle , the Springfield college newspaper ) featured it in an article called " A New Game " , and there were calls to call this new game " Naismith Ball " , but Naismith refused . By 1893 , basketball was introduced internationally by the YMCA movement . From Springfield , Naismith went to Denver where he acquired a medical degree and in 1898 he joined the University of Kansas faculty at Lawrence , Kansas after coaching at Baker University .

The family of Lambert G. Will has claimed that Dr. Naismith borrowed components for the game of basketball from Will to dispute Naismith 's sole creation of the game , citing alleged photos and letters .

= = = University of Kansas = = =

The University of Kansas men 's basketball program officially began in 1898 , following Naismith 's arrival , just six years after Naismith drafted the sport 's first official rules . Naismith was not initially hired to coach basketball , but rather as a chapel director and physical education instructor . In these early days , the majority of the basketball games were played against nearby YMCA teams , with YMCAs across the nation having played an integral part in the birth of basketball . Other common opponents were Haskell Indian Nations University and William Jewell College . Under Naismith , the team played only one current Big 12 school : Kansas State ( once ) . Naismith was , ironically , the only coach in the program 's history to have a losing record ( 55 ? 60 ) . However , Naismith coached Forrest " Phog " Allen , his eventual successor at Kansas , who went on to join his

mentor in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame . When Allen became a coach himself and told him that he was going to coach basketball at Baker University in 1904 , Naismith discouraged him : " You can 't coach basketball ; you just play it . " Instead , Allen embarked on a coaching career that would lead him to be known as " the Father of Basketball Coaching . " During his time at Kansas , Allen coached Dean Smith ( 1952 National Championship team ) and Adolph Rupp ( 1922 Helms Foundation National Championship team ) . Allen , Smith and Rupp have joined Naismith as members of the Basketball Hall of Fame .

By the turn of the century , there were enough college teams in the East of the U.S. that the first intercollegiate competitions could be played out . Although his sport continuously grew , Naismith long regarded his game as a curiosity and preferred gymnastics and wrestling as better forms of physical education . However , basketball became a demonstration sport at the 1904 Games in St. Louis . As the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame reports , Naismith was also neither interested in self @-@ promotion nor in the glory of competitive sports . Instead , he was more interested in his physical education career , receiving an honorary PE Masters degree in 1910 , patrolled the Mexican border for four months in 1916 , traveled to France , published two books ( A Modern College in 1911 and Essence of a Healthy Life in 1918 ) . He took American citizenship in 1925 .

In 1935 , the National Association of Basketball Coaches ( created by Naismith 's pupil Phog Allen ) collected money so that the 74 @-@ year @-@ old Naismith could witness the introduction of basketball into the official Olympic sports program of the 1936 Summer Olympic Games . There , Naismith handed out the medals to three North American teams : United States , for the gold medal , Canada , for the silver medal , and Mexico , for their bronze medal win . During the Olympics , he was named the honorary president of the International Basketball Federation . When Naismith returned he commented that seeing the game played by many nations was the greatest compensation he could have received for his invention . In 1937 , Naismith played a role in the formation of the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball , which later became the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics ( NAIA ) .

Naismith became Professor Emeritus in Kansas when he retired in 1937 at the age of 76 . Including his years as coach , Naismith served as athletic director and faculty at the school for a total of almost 40 years . Naismith died in 1939 after he suffered a fatal brain hemorrhage . He was buried in Lawrence , Kansas . His masterwork " Basketball ? its Origins and Development " was published posthumously in 1941 . In Lawrence , Kansas , James Naismith has a road named in his honor , Naismith Drive , which runs in front of Allen Fieldhouse ( the official address of Allen Fieldhouse is 1651 Naismith Drive ) , the university 's basketball facility . The university also named the court in Allen Fieldhouse James Naismith Court in his honor , despite Naismith having the worst record in school history . Naismith Hall , a college residential dormitory , is located on the northeastern edge of 19th Street and Naismith Drive .

= = Head coaching record = =

In 1898 , Naismith became the first college basketball coach of the University of Kansas basketball team . He compiled a record of 55 ? 60 , and is , ironically , the only losing coach in Kansas history . Naismith is at the top of massive and prestigious coaching tree , as he coached Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame coach Phog Allen , who himself coached Hall of Fame coaches Dean Smith , Adolph Rupp , and Ralph Miller who all coached future coaches as well .

= = Legacy = =

Naismith was the inventor of basketball and wrote the original 13 rules of this sport . The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield , Massachusetts , is named in his honor , and he was an inaugural inductee in 1959 . The National Collegiate Athletic Association rewards its best players and coaches annually with the Naismith Awards , among them the Naismith College Player of the Year , the Naismith College Coach of the Year and the Naismith Prep Player of the Year .

After the Olympic introduction to male athletes in 1936 , women 's basketball became an Olympic event in Montreal during the 1976 Summer Olympics . Naismith was also inducted into the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame , the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame , the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame , the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame , the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame , the McGill University Sports Hall of Fame , the Kansas State Sports Hall of Fame , FIBA Hall of Fame , and The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame , which was named in his honor . The FIBA Basketball World Cup trophy is named the " James Naismith Trophy " in his honour . On June 21 , 2013 , Dr. Naismith was inducted into the Kansas Hall of Fame during ceremonies in Topeka .

Naismith 's home town of Almonte , Ontario , hosts an annual 3 @-@ on @-@ 3 tournament for all ages and skill levels in his honor . Every year this event attracts hundreds of participants and involves over 20 half court games along the main street of the town . All proceeds of the event go to youth basketball programs in the area .

Basketball is today played by more than 300 million people worldwide , making it one of the most popular team sports . In North America , basketball has produced some of the most @-@ admired athletes of the 20th century . Polls conducted by ESPN and the Associated Press named basketball player Michael Jordan respectively first and second greatest North American athlete of the 20th century , and both polls featured fellow basketball players Wilt Chamberlain ( of KU , like Naismith ) and Bill Russell in the Top 20 .

In December , 2010 , the original rules of basketball written by James Naismith in 1891 , considered to be basketball 's founding document , was auctioned at Sotheby 's in New York . Josh Swade , a University of Kansas alumnus and basketball enthusiast , went on a crusade in 2010 to persuade moneyed alumni to considering bidding on and hopefully winning the document at auction to gift it to the University of Kansas . Swade eventually persuaded David G. Booth , a billionaire investment banker and KU alumnus , and his wife Suzanne Booth to commit to bidding at the auction . The Booths won the bidding and purchased the document for a record \$ 4 @,@ 338 @,@ 500 USD , the most ever paid for a sports memorabilia item , and gifted the document to the University of Kansas . Swade 's project and eventual success are chronicled in a 2012 ESPN 30 for 30 documentary " There 's No Place Like Home " and in a corresponding book , " The Holy Grail of Hoops : One Fan 's Quest to Buy the Original Rules of Basketball " . The University of Kansas constructed an \$ 18 million building named the DeBruce Center , which houses the rules and opened in March 2016 .

= = Personal life = =

Naismith was the eldest child of Margaret and John Naismith , two Scottish immigrants . His mother , Margaret Young , was born in 1833 and immigrated as the fourth of 11 children to Lanark County , Canada in 1852 . His father , John Naismith , was born in 1833 , left Europe when he was 18 , and also settled down in Lanark County . On June 20 , 1894 , Naismith married Maude Evelyn Sherman ( September 6 , 1870 ? March 4 , 1937 ) in Springfield , MA , USA . The couple had five children : Margaret Mason ( Stanley ) ( July 2 , 1895 ? October 1976 ) , Helen Carolyn ( Dodd ) ( December 21 , 1897 ? August 21 , 1980 ) , John Edwin ( November 3 , 1900 ? December 18 , 1986 ) , Maude Ann ( Dawe ) ( October 22 , 1904 ? April 1972 ) and James Sherman ( May 7 , 1913 ? May 6 , 1980 ) . He was a member of the Pi Gamma Mu and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternities . Naismith was a Presbyterian minister , and was also remembered as a Freemason . Maude Naismith died in 1937 , and on June 11 , 1939 , he married his second wife Florence B. Kincaid . Naismith suffered a major brain hemorrhage on November 19 the same year and died nine days later in his home located in Lawrence , Kansas . Naismith was 78 years old . Naismith is buried with his first wife in Memorial Park Cemetery in Lawrence , KS . Florence Kincaid died in 1977 at the age of 98 and is buried with her first husband Dr. Frank B. Kincaid in Elmwood Cemetery in Beloit , KS .

During his lifetime , Naismith 's education and academic positions held were as follows :