

**BASKETBALL  
WAS BORN HERE**







*The first "basket ball" team: back row (l-r) John G. Thompson, Eugene S. Libby, Edwin P. Ruggles, William R. Chase, T. Duncan Patton; center row (l-r) Frank Mahan, James Naismith; front row (l-r) Finlay G. MacDonald, William H. Davis, Lyman W. Archibald*

**How a restless class, a  
challenging supervisor, and an  
inventive instructor at a small  
school in Springfield, Mass.,  
changed the world.**



1891	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-“Basket ball” is invented (name of sport is two words until 1921).</li><li>-First men’s games played at Springfield College using soccer balls and peach-basket goals.</li><li>-Ball is tossed or batted with hands; no dribbling is allowed.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- First women’s basketball games played in Springfield, Mass.</li><li>- First woven wire baskets used.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Smith College becomes first women’s college to play basket ball.</li><li>- Number of players set at five on small courts; number varies on larger courts.</li><li>- Backboards first used to keep balcony spectators from interfering with ball.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Basketballs replace soccer balls.</li><li>- The one-point free throw is introduced as a penalty for a foul and is taken by any team member.</li></ul>	1895	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Teams comprised of five players when court measures less than 1,800 square feet; seven players if court is greater than 1,800 square feet.</li><li>- Free throw line moved from 20 to 15 feet.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Legal playing area defined as not to exceed 3,500 square feet.</li><li>- Rule instituted stating a disqualified player may not be replaced for that half of the game.</li><li>- The Trentons, the first professional basketball team, is formed of players from the Trenton YMCA. In their first game, the first ever professional basketball game, the Trentons defeated the Brooklyn YMCA, 16-1, in Trenton.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Weight of ball specified as 18 to 20 ounces.</li><li>- Field goal reduced from three to two points.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Official women’s rules established.</li><li>- First intercollegiate association basketball league formed.</li><li>- The National Basket Ball League (NBL), the first professional basketball league, is formed.</li><li>- James Naismith begins basketball program at the University of Kansas and becomes the team’s first coach.</li></ul>
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JAMES NAISMITH’S ROAD TO SPRINGFIELD

THE STORY OF HOW JAMES NAISMITH invented the game of basketball tips off in the winter of 1891 at the school that would later become Springfield College—when Naismith was assigned to teach a gymnasium class of restless young students.

But the story really starts long before Naismith came to Springfield College, when he was a young boy growing up in Bennie’s Corners, in northern Ontario, Canada. The small town consisted of a few residences, a blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse, and a store. When they were not working at their chores, Naismith and his friends would climb the maple trees behind the blacksmith shop, engage in contests of jumping, wrestling, and tug of war, swim in the Indian River, fish for pike, and hunt partridges and hares. They also played a game called Duck on the Rock.

In the cold months, when the river froze, the boys would skate. Naismith, an orphan who lived with his uncle (his father and mother had died when he was 8 years old), spent time watching his friends. One evening he returned to the skating area with homemade skates that he had cobbled together from a pair of old files, which were set into place by strips of hickory wood.

It was, perhaps, his first invention.  
It would not be his last.

IN THE FALL OF 1883, Naismith went to McGill University in Montreal to study for the ministry. He was dutiful to his studies and often stayed in his room. One night, two juniors paid him a visit. “Naismith,” said one, “we have been watching you for some time, and we see that you never take part in any of the activities. You spend too much time with your books.”

Naismith took this observation to heart and began to visit the gym and engage in athletics. One day, while watching the football team at practice, the center was injured; Naismith

volunteered to take his place. “For seven years I played without missing a game and enjoyed the sport,” Naismith later recalled.

Naismith would go on to play rugby, as well, and during one rugby practice, as recounted in 2002’s *Big Game, Small World: A Basketball Adventure*, by Alexander Wolff, one of Naismith’s teammate’s accidentally swore. “‘Sorry, Jim,’ he quickly added. ‘Forgot you were here.’...The incident persuaded him that a righteous man could have an influence on the athletic field, which was regarded as a seedbed of ruffianism. He decided to pass up the ministry to pursue the career in physical education that would bring him to Springfield College” (p. 12).

After he finished his studies at McGill, Naismith spent a summer visiting YMCAs in the United States, and then arrived at Springfield College. He asked to meet with the superintendent of the physical department and waited patiently for Luther Gulick to return to his office from teaching class. The two chatted briefly, and Gulick invited Naismith to attend his next class and observe his methods of teaching. That evening, the two met again and discussed for hours “ideas that were of common interest,” Naismith said. He recalled that Gulick convinced him “of the importance of the work of a physical director.”

“Later,” Naismith said, “I was to find that he was one of the few men whose teachings have remained with me and have been a help not only in my profession but in my life as well.”

*Naismith’s recollections about the invention of basketball have provided a valuable resource for Basketball Was Born Here. The quotations used in this booklet are taken from Basketball: Its Origin and Development, by James Naismith, first published in 1941 by the YMCA Association Press, and reprinted in 1996 by the University of Nebraska Press, and “The Origin of Basket Ball,” a speech he delivered at a forum at Springfield College on January 5, 1932.*

THE STORY OF HOW THE GAME OF BASKETBALL WAS INVENTED AT SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE SEEMS SO

WELL KNOWN, SO OFTEN TOLD, THAT IT HAS BECOME AS MUCH A PART OF THE GAME AS THE GAME ITSELF.

IT WAS A PERFECT STORM OF A SITUATION: A RESTLESS GROUP OF YOUNG MEN; A NEW ENGLAND WINTER; AND A YOUNG GRADUATE STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR WHO HAD BEEN ISSUED A CHALLENGE BY HIS SUPERVISOR.

IT WAS THE WINTER OF 1891. Inside a gymnasium in a building at the corner of State and Sherman streets in Springfield, Mass., was a group of restless college students. The building was owned and operated by the School for Christian Workers, today Springfield College. The young men had to be there; they were required to participate in indoor activities to burn off energy that had been building up since their football season ended. The gymnasium class offered such activities as marching, calisthenics, and apparatus work, but these were pale substitutes for the more exciting games the students played in warmer seasons.

The instructor of the class was James Naismith, a 31-year-old graduate student. After earning a theology degree

from McGill University in Montreal, Naismith embraced his love of athletics and headed to Springfield College to study physical education—at that time a relatively new and unknown academic discipline—under Luther Halsey Gulick, superintendent of the School’s physical department.

In the late 1870s, college students became avid participants in sports—in particular, track and football. Indoor gymnastics required during winter months to keep them active and occupied simply did not offer the thrills and high energy of the outdoor sports, nor did body-building work with light and heavy apparatus, which was based on the German system of exercise. Gulick recognized that something new had to be introduced, so he sent Naismith to Martha’s Vineyard (Mass.)

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

*There has been confusion over the precise nature of the official relationship between Springfield College and the YMCA, as it relates to James Naismith and the invention of basketball.*

*The confusion stems in part from changes in the School’s name in its early history, from the School for Christian Workers to the YMCA Training School, then to the International YMCA Training School, and, later still, to the International YMCA College. The School did not officially adopt the name “Springfield College” until 1954, even though it had been known informally as “Springfield College” for many years.*

*But by whatever name, Springfield College has always been a private and independent institution, with no formal organizational ties to the YMCA movement.*

*The confusion was compounded by a small sign on the corner of the building where basketball was invented, at the corner of State and Sherman streets in Springfield, Massachusetts. The sign, carrying the words “Armory Hill YMCA,” is visible in old photographs of the building that have circulated on line. This has led some to believe, erroneously, that the Armory Hill YMCA owned the building, and that James Naismith was an employee of the YMCA.*

*However, in 2010, some historic YMCA documents and Springfield College documents from the period were rediscovered. These documents prove conclusively that the gymnasium in which Naismith invented basketball was located not in a YMCA but in a building owned and operated by the School for Christian Workers,*

*from which today’s Springfield College originated. The building also included classrooms, dormitory rooms, and faculty and staff offices for the School. The Armory Hill YMCA rented space in the building for its activities, and used the small sign to attract paying customers.*

*James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, was an instructor in physical education at the School. It was Luther Halsey Gulick, Naismith’s supervisor and the School’s first physical education director, who challenged Naismith to invent a new indoor game for the School’s students to play during the long New England winter. There is no evidence to suggest that either man ever worked for the Armory Hill YMCA, per se.*

*So now you know the true story of James Naismith and the invention of basketball.*



- 1900
- Official ball required for all match games. Weight of ball specified as 20 to 23 ounces.
  - Official ball designated as made by A.G. Spalding & Bros., Inc.
  - Dribbler can use both hands simultaneously only once during a dribble and may not shoot for a field goal.
  - Changing players takes place only at the half, unless a player is sick or injured.

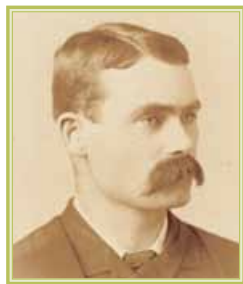
one summer to study the principles of Swedish gymnastics being taught by Baron Nils Posse. After studying with Posse for the summer, Naismith returned to the School and reported to Gulick that, while there were many valuable components in the Swedish system, they would not resolve the students’ ennui and restlessness.

At the start of the academic year in the fall of 1891, Gulick introduced a new course, a seminar in psychology. In class discussions, Gulick stressed the need for a new indoor game “that would be interesting, easy to learn, and easy to play in the winter and by artificial light.” He added, “There is nothing new under the sun,” and that all of the so-called new things “are simply recombinations of the factors of things that are now in existence.”

To this Naismith responded, “Doctor, if that is so, we can invent a new game that will meet our needs. All that we have to do is to take the factors of our known games and recombine them, and we will have the new game we are looking for.”

Gulick challenged the class to try out Naismith’s idea, but no one could come up with a solution.

THE INSTRUCTOR



James Naismith

THE SUPERVISOR



Luther Halsey Gulick

Meanwhile, two instructors had tried, and failed, to motivate the restless class. A.T. Halstead, an expert in marching and mass calisthenics, roused little enthusiasm for these activities and requested another class. R.A. Clark dropped the marching and calisthenics and encouraged apparatus work, with other activities thrown in; he reported at the next faculty meeting that “no one could do anything with that group.”

As the faculty discussed Clark’s assessment, Naismith responded, “The trouble is not with the men but with the system we are using. The kind of work for this particular class should be of a recreative nature, something that would appeal to their play instincts.”

The faculty became quiet after Naismith’s statement. Then Gulick turned to him and said, “Naismith, I want you to take that class and see what you can do with it.” Naismith asked to remain with the classes he was teaching and tried to dissuade Gulick from changing his assignment.

As they left the meeting, Gulick walked with Naismith down the hallway. He stopped in front

THE RESTLESS STUDENTS

Lyman W. Archibald

Franklin E. Barnes

Wilbert F. Carey

William R. Chase

William H. Davis

George E. Day

Bemjamin S. French

Henri Gelan

Ernest G. Hildner

Genzibaro S. Ishikawa

Raymond P. Kaighn

Eugene S. Libby

Findlay G. MacDonald

Frank Mahan

T. Duncan Patton

Edwin P. Ruggles

John G. Thompson

George R. Weller

- 1905
- Backboards must be perpendicular, rigid, and made of solid material.
  - Number of players on each team is set at five.
  - Net is opened at the bottom of the basket so the ball falls through.
  - Collegiate rules recommend backboards be painted white.
  - Size of women’s teams reduced to five players.
  - Madison Square Garden holds first basketball tournament.
  - National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) founded by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt.
  - Five-minute overtime replaces sudden-death overtime.
  - Rules Committee allows plate-glass backboards.
  - Second official is re-introduced in order to curb rough play.

of his office and said, “Naismith, now would be a good time for you to invent that new game you said could be invented.”

THE GAME IS BORN

Naismith tried several different ideas for a new game, modifying outdoor sports and games for the gym, but nothing seemed right. He had the students play a game called battle-ball and another that was a modification of cricket. Neither interested the class. He attempted to modify outdoor games by substituting English-style rugby tackling (stopping the runner, rather than throwing him down), soccer, and lacrosse, but the young men’s unbridled energy in tackling, kicking, and wielding lacrosse sticks resulted in more lessons in first aid than in physical education.

Two weeks passed. Naismith had only two days left before he had to report on his progress with the class to the faculty. “How I hated the thought of going back to the group and admitting that, after all my theories, I, too, had failed to hold the interest of the class,” he thought. “It was worse than losing a game.”

The next class meeting found Naismith with nothing new to offer the men. The class ended, and Naismith returned to his office, dejected and discouraged. He listened to the young men as they laughed and joked in the locker room below. They were clearly having a good time. With that realization, Naismith started to think about games in a different way—more philosophically—and with the recognition that “I had been taking one game at a time and had failed to find what I was looking for. This time I would take games as a whole and study them.”

He saw the need to offer a totally different kind of game, and he was quite clear about what its characteristics should be. It should be easy to learn, but complex enough to be interesting.

*“The invention of basketball was not an accident. It was developed to meet a need. Those boys simply would not play ‘Drop the Handkerchief.’”*

—JAMES NAISMITH

THE NEW GAME SHOULD BE EASY TO LEARN, COMPLEX ENOUGH TO BE INTERESTING. IT MUST BE PLAYABLE INDOORS OR ON ANY KIND OF SURFACE, AND BY A LARGE NUMBER OF PLAYERS ALL AT ONCE. IT SHOULD PROVIDE PLENTY OF EXERCISE WITHOUT THE ROUGHNESS OF FOOTBALL OR SOCCER.

It must be playable indoors or on any kind of surface, and by a large number of players all at once. It should provide plenty of exercise without the roughness of football or soccer.

As he grappled with the form such a game might take, he adapted various elements of the games with which he was familiar. He decided the new game should use a ball that was both large and light, “one that could be easily handled and yet could not be concealed.”

He thought about what he felt to be the most interesting game at that time—American rugby (football)—and wondered if the roughness of tackling could be eliminated if a player couldn’t run with the ball. “In my mind, I began to play a game and to visualize the movements of the players,” he recalled. “Suppose that a player was running,

What’s in a Name?

Since 1885, the school at which James Naismith invented basketball—a private, independent institution—has undergone a number of name changes both before and after that fateful day in 1891. Here is a quick guide.

1885 – School for Christian Workers

1890 – YMCA Training School

1891 – International YMCA Training School

1912 – International YMCA College

1954 – Springfield College

**1910** - Distinction is made between technical and personal fouls.  
- No coaching is allowed during progress of a game.

and a teammate threw the ball to him. Realizing it would be impossible for him to stop immediately, I made this exception: when a man was running and received the ball, he must make an honest effort to stop or else pass the ball immediately.”

Naismith added another ball-movement element: the ball could be thrown or batted in any direction, but with the use of a fist prohibited in order to avoid inflicting injury to an opponent.

Next, Naismith questioned the type of goal to use. He reasoned that a vertical goal, like the one used for lacrosse and soccer, invited hard, direct shots. He reflected on a childhood game, Duck on the Rock, that he had played in Bennie’s Corners, Ontario:

I could remember distinctly the large rock back of the blacksmith shop, about as high as our knees and as large around as a wash tub. Each of us would get a “duck,” a stone about as large as our two doubled fists. About twenty feet from the large rock we would draw a base line, and then in various manners we would choose one of the group to be guard, or “it.”

To start the game, the guard placed his duck on the rock, and we behind the base line attempted to knock it off throwing our ducks. More often than not, when we threw our ducks we

- On out-of-bounds throw-in, opponent of last player to touch the ball puts back in play.

missed, and if we went to retrieve them, the guard tagged us; then one of us had to change places with him. If, however, someone knocked the guard’s “duck” off the rock, he had to replace it before he could tag anyone.

In reflecting on this childhood game, Naismith remembered that “ducks” that were thrown hard were less accurate and went a greater distance from the base. But when the “duck” was thrown in an arc, it was often more accurate—and, if it missed, it didn’t travel as far and put players at less risk of being tagged by the guard when it was retrieved.

“With this game in mind,” Naismith wrote in his book, “I thought that if the goal were horizontal instead of vertical, the players would be compelled to throw the ball in an arc; and force, which made for roughness, would be of no value.”

With the equipment and objective of the game in place, Naismith thought about how to start game play. He reflected on the start of a water polo game, when teams were lined up on opposite ends of the pool and a ball was tossed into the center of the pool. The mad rush that ensued convinced him to reject that idea. He then turned to English rugby; an out-of-bounds ball was thrown in between two lines of players. Although the result was less chaotic than water polo, Naismith reasoned that if only one player from each team had a chance to obtain possession of a ball to start the game, rather than an entire team, there would be little chance for roughness.

The next morning, Naismith assembled the elements needed for the new game. First, he considered whether to use a football or soccer ball. “I noticed the lines of the football and realized that it was shaped so that it might be carried in the arms,” he said. “There was to be no carrying of the ball in this new game, so I walked over, picked up the soccer ball, and started in search of a goal.”

He asked the school janitor, “Pop” Stebbins, for two, 18-inch-square boxes to use as goals. The janitor replied, “I have two old peach baskets down in the store room, if they will do you any

*The gymnasium where basketball was born was located in the School’s first building at the corner of State and Sherman streets in Springfield. The 10-foot high lower balcony rails, where the baskets were nailed, became the regulation height for the goals.*

**1915** - For the first time, college, YMCA, and Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball teams follow the same rules.  
- Nets with open bottoms are official, universal rule.  
- Shot for goal is permitted after dribble.

good.” Naismith found a hammer and some nails and put one peach basket at each end of the gym, tacking them to the lower rails of the balcony, which happened to be 10 feet from the floor. (Years later, Naismith noted that if the gallery had been 11 feet high, the goals would most likely be at that height rather than the regulation 10 feet.)

Naismith then drew up the game rules. Besides outlining the method and objective of moving the ball, he described various fouls, such as holding, pushing, or tripping. A referee would be appointed to judge the play, and the game would be divided into two, 15-minute halves, with a five-minute rest between. While any number could play, nine on a side was the original number, as there were 18 men in Naismith’s class. He later suggested this number as the ideal.

While Naismith nervously waited for his class to arrive, a stenographer named Miss Lyons typed the rules. “Just inside the door there was a bulletin board for notices,” Naismith recalled. “With thumb tacks I fastened the rules to this board and then walked across the gym. I was sure in my own mind that the game was good, but it needed a real test. I felt that its success or failure depended largely on the way that the class received it.”

Somewhat dubious about “Naismith’s new game,” the players—clad in the then-usual gym attire of black, full-sleeve woolen jerseys and long gray trousers—nevertheless listened attentively as he outlined the method of play.

**NAISMITH LATER DESCRIBED THOSE FIRST MOMENTS OF PLAY** in mid-December 1891: “There were eighteen men in the class; I selected two captains and had them choose sides. When the teams were chosen, I placed the men on the floor. There were three forwards, three centers, and three backs on each team. I chose two of the center men to jump, then threw the ball between them. It was the start of the first basketball game and the finish of the trouble with that class.”

The game ended, recounts Wolff, when “a YMCA executive secretary-to-be named William Chase . . . scored basketball’s first—and the first game’s only—basket, thrown from 25 feet away.”

## 13 Original Rules of Basketball

1. The ball may be thrown in any direction with one or both hands.
2. The ball may be batted in any direction with one or both hands (never with the fist).
3. A player cannot run with the ball. The player must throw it from the spot on which he catches it, allowance to be made for a man who catches the ball when running at a good speed if he tries to stop.
4. The ball must be held in or between the hands; the arms or body must not be used for holding it.
5. No shouldering, holding, pushing, tripping, or striking in any way the person of an opponent shall be allowed; the first infringement of this rule by any player shall count as a foul, the second shall disqualify him until the next goal is made, or, if there was evident intent to injure the person, for the whole of the game, no substitute allowed.
6. A foul is striking at the ball with the fist, violation of Rules 3, 4, and such as described in Rule 5.
7. If either side makes three consecutive fouls, it shall count a goal for the opponents (consecutive means without the opponents in the mean time making a foul).
8. A goal shall be made when the ball is thrown or batted from the grounds into the basket and stays there, providing those defending the goal do not touch or disturb the goal. If the ball rests on the edges, and the opponent moves the basket, it shall count as a goal.
9. When the ball goes out of bounds, it shall be thrown into the field of play by the person first touching it. In case of a dispute, the umpire shall throw it straight into the field. The thrower-in is allowed five seconds; if he holds it longer, it shall go to the opponent. If any side persists in delaying the game, the umpire shall call a foul on that side.
10. The umpire shall be judge of the men and shall note the fouls and notify the referee when three consecutive fouls have been made. He shall have power to disqualify men according to Rule 5.
11. The referee shall be judge of the ball and shall decide when the ball is in play, in bounds, to which side it belongs, and shall keep the time. He shall decide when a goal has been made, and keep account of the goals with any other duties that are usually performed by a referee.
12. The time shall be two 15-minute halves, with five minutes’ rest between.
13. The side making the most goals in that time shall be declared the winner. In case of a draw, the game may, by agreement of the captains, be continued until another goal is made.

*The original rules of basketball were written by Springfield College graduate student-instructor James Naismith in December 1891 and published in January 1892 in the Springfield College school magazine, The Triangle.*



- 1920
  - The art of dribbling develops; "stalling" becomes a problem.
  - "Basketball" officially becomes one word.
  - Backboards are moved two feet from the court wall to prevent players from "climbing" up the padded wall to sink baskets.
- Size of women's teams increased from five to six-to-nine players.
  - Technical fouls are named "violations," and include penalty of loss of possession rather than free throws.
- Player fouled must shoot the foul shot, thus eliminating the "designated" foul shooter.
  - High school player Marie Boyd of Maryland scores 156 points in a game.
- 1925
  - American Basketball League (ABL) is formed.
  - Pasadena, Calif., hosts first women's AAU tournament.
  - New rule recommends 13 pounds as satisfactory inflation pressure of ball.
- Harlem Globetrotters organized by Abe Saperstein.
  - National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) formed as a result of disagreement with Joint Basketball Rules Committee.
  - Five-second rule adopted to help curb stalling and freezing of ball while in possession of dribbler (aka "held ball").
  - Use of "cage" around basketball court eliminated.
  - Double-referee system introduced.

Despite numerous fouls and little team work, the players enjoyed the game. Word spread that something new was going on in Naismith’s gym class, and spectators began crowding the balconies. “Soon,” Naismith later recounted, “there were as many as 100 people watching the game from the gallery.” And the game spread with incredible speed. When students returned to their hometowns for the holidays, they introduced it to their local YMCAs.

The campus magazine, *The Triangle*, which was distributed to YMCAs around the country, published the rules. Thanks to the School’s international student body and graduates who set off to work in countries around the world, basketball was introduced in more than a dozen countries within two years. As early as April 26, 1892, the *New York Times* published the article “A New Game of Ball: A Substitute For Football Without Its Rough Features,” which described a game between students and members of the 23rd Street Branch YMCA, played as a way to open the YMCA’s new athletic grounds. It included a brief description of the game’s rules and objectives.

Basketball quickly moved beyond the YMCA network; private athletic clubs organized basketball teams, and high schools and colleges launched the new sport.

By 1905, basketball’s permanency as a collegiate winter sport had been established.

**Same Game, Different Players:  
The Birth of Women’s Basketball**

Most sports started as men’s-only affairs; it often took women years to join in with their own style and rules. At the time basketball was invented, badminton, cycling, and, sometimes, tennis were considered the “correct sports” for girls.

But the game of basketball was different. Almost as soon as there were men’s teams, women’s teams developed. Early games involving Naismith, his fellow faculty members, and their students were open to the public. Female teachers from nearby Buckingham Grade School were often in attendance. The teachers came to Naismith one day and asked why girls couldn’t play the game. He replied that he saw no reason why

they couldn’t, and the group formed the first girls’ basketball team.

In 1892, after the boys had conducted a basketball tournament, a girls’ tournament was organized, made up of a group of stenographers and wives of the faculty. (One young lady on the newly organized team, Miss Maude Sherman, later became Mrs. James Naismith.)

In 1893, Senda Berenson, director of physical education at Smith College, attended a physical education convention at Yale University and became greatly interested in the game. Naismith told her that the girls at Springfield College were playing it, and Berensen studied the game so she could introduce it at Smith. The same year, *The Republican* in Springfield, Mass., printed an article about a basketball game that had been played between freshman and sophomore teams at Smith; no male spectators were allowed, as the women wore bloomers.

Naismith described basketball’s early appeal with the women in a speech he delivered at Springfield College on January 5, 1932, entitled “The Origin of Basket Ball:”

It was not long until the stenographers of the school got up another team. Some of us young unmarried men got our sweethearts interested and we got a ladies faculty team. The girls asked me to umpire. I agreed to but I didn’t know as much about ladies as I do now. We got along nicely until I called a foul on one of the girls. She asked, ‘Did you call a foul on me?’ and then she told me where I came from, where I was



*Senda Berenson, director of physical education at Smith College, attended a physical education convention at Yale University, became greatly interested in the game, and introduced it at Smith.*

**THE NAME OF THE GAME**

IT WASN’T UNTIL students returned to the campus in January 1892 after Christmas vacation that one of Naismith’s students, Frank Mahan, asked what he was going to call the new game. Mahan suggested Naismith ball; Naismith laughed and told him “that name would kill any game.” Mahan then asked, “Why not call it basket ball?”

“We have a basket and a ball, and it seems to me that would be a good name for it,” Naismith replied.

It wasn’t until 1921 that the official name of the game was made into one word—“basketball.”

going to, and what my character was! I tried to pacify her but couldn’t do it. The only way was to toss up the ball and then she had to fall into her place.

That girl was not different from other girls. They never had a chance to take part in any game where sportsmanship was required. It was something new for them. . . . This is not true today. Some of the finest sportsmanship has been exhibited in women’s basketball games.

**CATCHING ON AT SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE**

DESPITE THE IMMEDIATE SUCCESS of the game as a recreational tool for the Springfield College students, it took a few tries before the game caught on as a competitive sport. As the 1908 *Massasoit*, the College’s yearbook, recalls, “although the game was thoroughly appreciated, the demands of other work made it impossible for a permanent team to be established.” Basketball became a varsity sport in 1898, but was dropped at the end of the season. It was reestablished permanently in 1907 and has been a winter season tradition at the Birthplace of Basketball® ever since.

**SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE:  
THE BIRTHPLACE OF BASKETBALL®**

JAMES NAISMITH’S INVENTION of the game of basketball is one of many innovations and inventions by Springfield College faculty members, students, and graduates. In athletics, William G. Morgan, Class of 1894, invented the game of volleyball in 1895, while Naismith’s classmate Amos Alonzo Stagg was a renowned master football strategist, responsible for many innovations, including the huddle, man in motion, lateral pass, Statue of Liberty play, fake punt, padded field goals, and numbers on uniforms. Naismith’s and Stagg’s superintendent,



*James Naismith and his wife, Maude, handle an original-style basketball and peach basket in March 1939.*



- 1930
  - Circumference of ball specified as 30 to 31 inches.
  - International Amateur Basketball Federation (FIBA) founded in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - Court divided into halves.
  - Three-second rule instituted to help eliminate stalling.
- Stanford's Hank Luisetti pioneers revolutionary one-handed style of shooting, which draws national press attention; the style later evolves into the jump shot.
  - First college doubleheader played at Madison Square Garden.
  - Ball circumference reduced to between 29-and-a-half and 31-and-a-quarter inches.
- 1935
  - Restraining circles for jump balls added to court.
  - U.S. defeats Canada, 19-8, to win gold medal in basketball's first Olympic contest; James Naismith is in attendance and awards medals.
  - Center jump eliminated after field goal and free throw; opponents put ball in play from out of bounds.
  - Hank Luisetti is credited with creating a running, one-handed push shot.
  - "Last-Bilt" molded ball developed by Milton Reach.
  - NBL is re-formed after several on-again, off-again seasons.
  - Women's court changes from three sections to two.
  - Women's teams reduced to six players.
  - James Naismith dies on Nov. 26 at age 78.
  - Four feet added to court length under baskets to decrease amount of rough play.
  - Henry V. Porter, an official with the Illinois High School Association, first coins "March Madness" to describe the statewide high school basketball tournament.
  - First-ever NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament takes place, with the University of Oregon defeating The Ohio State University.

Luther Halsey Gulick, was known as the “father of physical education and recreation in the United States,” and John Ma ’20 is thought of as China’s “father of physical education.”

Academically, Dr. Peter Karpovich, who taught exercise science and physiology at Springfield College in the middle of the 20th century, conducted groundbreaking research in his field while at the College. He invented the electrogoniometer to measure the range of joint motions and the natograph to measure the efficiency of swimming strokes. George Goss ’13 wrote *Life Saving*, the first American book on aquatic rescue. And faculty member Ted Shawn was the first American man to achieve an international reputation in dance and was a key figure in the development of modern dance. He founded Jacob’s Pillow dance venue in Becket, Mass., which is home to the country’s longest-running dance festival and is the only dance institution to be named a National Historic Landmark.

These are just a few of the innovators who have earned Springfield College the slogan, “Great Ideas are Born Here!”

**RECOGNITION OF JAMES NAISMITH BY SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE**

THE SPORT OF BASKETBALL has been a part of Springfield College life since the day James Naismith first walked into the gym carrying his 13 rules. While the gymnasium where Naismith introduced his game is no longer in existence, Naismith also taught in Judd Gymnasia, the oldest building on campus, which underwent an extensive renovation in 2010 to create the Stitzer YMCA Center and to create space for the Springfield College Museum, where Naismith is remembered. In addition, the College has embraced its role as the Birthplace of Basketball® and has long recognized Naismith’s invention of the game on its campus, proudly displaying “Birthplace of Basketball®” on its campus through banners and other signage. The College’s website includes information on the history of James Naismith, and photos and items from Naismith

are housed in the Springfield College archives. Naismith and the invention of basketball were prominently featured within the Springfield College display at the Museum of Springfield History in downtown Springfield. On campus, the main green is known as Naismith Green, and the road leading to the Physical Education Complex was renamed Naismith Circle during the College’s centennial celebration in 1985.

On November 30, 2007, the College dedicated its refurbished court in Blake Arena as James Naismith Court, hosting several members of the Naismith family for the celebration and a special dinner. In 2010, as part of the College’s 125th anniversary celebration, the College issued a series of posters observing the many ways in which the College has distinguished itself—including a poster highlighting James Naismith’s invention of basketball.

Also in 2010, the College celebrated “Basketball Week,” a week-long celebration of the sport and its history at the College.



Bronze statue of James Naismith on Springfield College campus

In addition to several basketball-themed events and activities, Springfield College unveiled a life-size, specially commissioned bronze statue of Naismith near the Richard B. Flynn Campus Union, which opened in January 2010. The sculpture was created by Elden Tefft, who founded the sculpture program at the University of Kansas and taught there for 40 years. In 1960, Tefft started the International Sculpture Center, which became the world’s largest association of sculptors. He spent seven years working on the Naismith sculpture at Tefft Terra, his studio in Kansas. Tefft continues to sculpt full-time and is a professor emeritus at the University of Kansas.

**The Naismith Good Sportsmanship Award:**  
On December 9, 1999, Springfield College was awarded the Naismith Good Sportsmanship Award by the Naismith International Basketball Foundation (NIBF). Created by

renowned artist Michael Roche, the award consists of a three-dimensional sculpture of James Naismith in a gymnasium of the 1890s. The award’s base incorporates three plaques—two of which are inscribed with the full text of Naismith’s game rules. A third, central plaque includes a quotation from Naismith on sportsmanship and is inscribed, “In Recognition of Significant and Lasting Contributions to the Sport, and the Spirit, of Basketball.” NIBF was established by three grandchildren of Naismith in response to family concerns for the growing need to elevate and remember the sport and the spirit on which it was founded. Recipients of the award are selected by NIBF for their role in furthering the values of fun, respect, and teamwork that Naismith wrote into his original game rules. The College’s award is on display outside James Naismith Court at Blake Arena. Other recipients include Michael Jordan, the late Red Auerbach, and the late John Wooden.



James Naismith Court at Blake Arena

- Fan-shaped backboards once allowed eventually voted out due to unpopularity with college coaches.
- The first televised basketball game features a doubleheader at Madison Square Garden between Fordham University and the University of Pittsburgh, and New York University and Georgetown University.

- Rules Committee recommends molded ball for superior shape, reaction, and durability; NABC disagrees and votes stitched ball the only legal ball for college play.

- Seven-foot-tall Bob Kurland and six-foot-ten-inch George Mikan enroll at Oklahoma and DePaul, respectively, and are the first of the "big men" who would become a dominant force in the game.

- Number of timeouts increased from four to five.
- Unlimited substitutions are permitted.
- A ball on downward flight toward a hoop cannot be touched by a defensive player.
- Five personal fouls per player limit is established.

- Wyoming University's Kenny Sailors is credited for developing the jump shot.

- Wheelchair basketball is first played at Veterans Administration hospitals.
- The Basketball Association of America (BAA), forerunner of today's National Basketball Association (NBA), is founded.

- BAA outlaws zone defense.
- Transparent backboards are authorized.

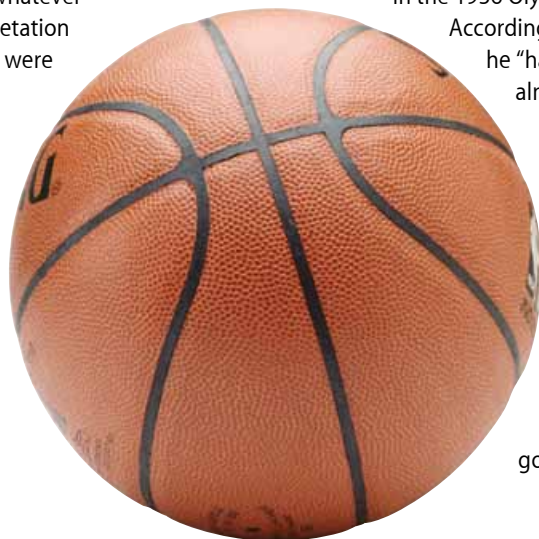
- First non-VA wheelchair basketball team is formed in Kansas City.
- Rectangular transparent backboards are made official for college play.

- First National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA) tournament is played.
- Coaches are allowed to speak to players during timeouts.
- BAA and NBL merge to form the NBA.

## THE SPORT OF THE WORLD: BASKETBALL'S INTERNATIONAL GROWTH

**FROM ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS** at Springfield College, basketball became a truly international sport. In fact, no other major sport's popularity has spread as quickly. Many of the College's graduates went on to work in YMCAs and taught people to play basketball throughout the world. The national and international structure and organization of the YMCA provided a perfect vehicle for those graduates to propel the rapid spread of basketball to almost all parts of the world and, by the turn of the century, the game was being played on five continents. Additionally, the game was popular in the military because of its simple equipment and rules, indoor location, and competitive and endurance requirements. According to Naismith, World War I "did much to increase the popularity of basketball in foreign countries; as a direct result of seeing the Americans play the game, it has been taken up and accepted by nations that previously knew little of basketball."

With basketball's whirlwind, worldwide growth, each country adopted playing rules from whatever American rule translation and interpretation could be devised. Pregame meetings were held to establish agreeable rules for competition. The sport progressed quickly in Europe because of its high population density and short distances between countries, but the game faced challenges due to equipment that was scarce, expensive, and not durable enough to last on primarily outdoor courts, tennis courts, or adapted soccer fields.



### **Formation of the Federation Internationale de Basketball Amateur (FIBA):**

The creation of the International Amateur Basketball Federation (FIBA) in June 1932 provided yet another exciting component of basketball's growth. (FIBA later changed its name to the International Basketball Federation but kept the same acronym.) The organization was formed at the first international basketball conference held in Geneva, Switzerland. Elmer Berry, director of the School's Geneva branch and a Springfield College graduate (Class of 1902), and Swiss basketball leaders Leon Bouffard, Class of 1928, and R. William Jones, Class of 1928, founded the organization with the expressed purpose of unifying basketball rules and separating basketball from the governing bodies of other sports. FIBA adopted a set of international rules to be used worldwide and achieved international federation unity, independent basketball governance, recognition by the International Olympic Committee, and the right to participate in the 1936 Olympics—all within a span of three years.

According to Wolff, by Naismith's death in 1939, he "had collected translations of the rules in almost 50 languages and dialects."

### **Basketball Enters the Olympics:**

In 1936, the Olympic Committee decided to include basketball as a regular event. Naismith was in attendance, thanks to the National Association of Basketball Coaches, which had raised money to send him to Berlin. He watched the first Olympic basketball games ever, witnessed the U.S. team defeat Canada, 19-8, and presented the team with its gold medal.

## THE FAR-REACHING DRAW OF THE GAME

**IN 1961, ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY** of James Naismith's birth, the United States Postal Service issued a four-cent stamp celebrating the life of the inventor and the impact basketball has had on the country and the world. The stamp depicted a hand releasing a basketball into a hoop, and on the side were the words "Naismith 1861-1961."

Such was the appeal of basketball that, in a few short years, a classroom experiment became an Olympic sport and a celebrated piece of culture in the United States and around the world. Naismith's goal was to create a game that could be played anywhere and by anyone. As Wolff wrote in *Big Game, Small World*:

(Nothing) altered Naismith's conviction that his game should be for the masses, not an entertainment spectacle played by the competitive elite. In notes appended to the first edition of the rules, published in 1892, he wrote, "At a picnic the baskets

may be hung on a couple of trees and the game carried on as usual." He even envisioned goals being stuck at either end of a football field, and as many as a hundred people playing with several balls at once. . . . Naismith believed the purpose to which he had devoted his life—the development of muscular Christianity through sport—was best served when players were taught the basics of the game and left to themselves.

Today basketball leagues abound for a variety of age groups and abilities—from professional to amateur, youth to adult, and girls and women to boys and men. Games are played on regulation courts in large arenas, back yards, city parks, YMCAs, and youth centers. In thousands of cities across the country and around the world, people of all ages engage in a sport that was created by a gifted instructor to expend the energy of restless student-athletes. James Naismith's simple game, which was born at Springfield College, has become an enduring symbol of the value of sportsmanship.

### **Springfield College: 1965 Global Ambassadors of the Game**

**SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE**, the Birthplace of Basketball®, became basketball's global ambassador in 1965 when the U.S. State Department called upon the College to assist in fostering international goodwill and promoting the game of basketball.

Over 62 days, 10 Springfield College basketball players—who were accompanied by the College's Athletic Director and Coach Ed Steitz; Tony Scolnick, assistant coach; and George Wood, Jr., communications director—competed in 26 games and 20 exhibition games, and gave 111 clinics in front of an estimated 250,000 people in eight countries. The group (pictured at right) spent three days in Paris, three days in Rome, three weeks in Ceylon (today known as Sri Lanka), one week in Pakistan, one day in Bangkok, three days in Hong Kong, and three days in Tokyo.

The trip was a unique and successful one, including one game in India where 30,000 curious onlookers gathered. With the goals of representing Springfield College, the sport of basketball, and the United States, the trip was a success.





- Boston Celtics Coach Red Auerbach, one of the winningest coaches in the game, drafts Charles Cooper, the first African-American to be drafted into the NBA.

- Molded ball becomes the standard in college play.  
- Crowd of 75,000 attend a Harlem Globetrotters game in Berlin's Olympic Stadium.  
- First NBA All-Star Game is played at Boston Garden.  
- Games played in 10-minute quarters instead of 20-minute halves.

- One-and-one free throw rule is introduced except for last three minutes of a game, when every foul earns two shots.

- First use of a 24-second shot clock in an NBA game.  
- Game time changed back to 20-minute halves.

- Free-throw lane is expanded from six to 12 feet to reduce rough play.  
- Wilt Chamberlain begins playing at the University of Kansas; Coach Phog Allen has 12-foot basket set up in KU gymnasium, at which Chamberlain begins dunking.

- San Francisco becomes the first NCAA championship team to complete an undefeated season.  
- The two-shot penalty in the last three minutes of a game is eliminated.

- Oscar Robertson becomes first college sophomore in history to win an NCAA scoring title.  
- Use of single-digit numbers is prohibited on uniforms.

- Ground is broken at Springfield College for a basketball hall of fame.

## THE CONTINUED INFLUENCE OF SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

### Edward Hickox

**ED HICKOX** graduated from Springfield College in 1914, and in 1926 began his 16-year coaching career on the sidelines for the College's men's basketball team (compiling a 209-85 record). He also served as director of athletics. Hickox served on the National Basketball Rules Committee from 1930 to 1948, and was chairman for the last three years. He was a charter member of the National Association of Basketball Coaches in 1927, was its president from 1944 to '46, and was its Man of the Year in 1949.



Edward Hickox

In 1949, Hickox volunteered to be the executive secretary of the nonexistent basketball hall of fame. His contributions laid the groundwork for building the

first Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on the campus of Springfield College. Unfortunately, Hickox, who died in 1966, did not live to see the building's opening, which took place in 1968.

### John Bunn

**BORN IN** 1898, John Bunn attended the University of Kansas and played basketball under Phog Allen, the famous coach who took over the basketball program there from James Naismith and coached for more than 30 years. Upon receiving his bachelor's degree in 1921, Bunn was an assistant under Allen until 1930, when he became the head coach at Stanford University (coaching college great Hank Luisetti).

Bunn started coaching at Springfield College in 1946, amassing more than 125 wins, served as the director of athletics, and in 1949, became the chairman of the basketball hall of fame committee. He would hold the position of chairman even after he left Springfield College to coach at Colorado State College (now the University of Northern Colorado) in 1956.

In 1959, Bunn was elected editor of the *NCAA Basketball Guide* and the official rules interpreter. Today, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame annually presents the John Bunn Award to "an international or national figure who has



John Bunn

*Coach Ed Hickox and the 1942 basketball team recreate the photo of James Naismith and his first players (inside first cover) on the 50th anniversary of the invention of the game.*

contributed greatly to the game of basketball. Outside of Enshrinement, the John Bunn Award is the most prestigious award presented by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame" ([www.hoophall.org](http://www.hoophall.org)). In addition, Bunn authored six books on coaching, officiating, and team play. He died in 1979.

### Edward Steitz

**AFTER SERVING** in the U.S. Army during World War II, including taking part in the Normandy invasion in France and receiving six battle stars and the Presidential Unit Citation, Ed Steitz



Edward Steitz

earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1946. His master's degree came from Springfield College in 1948, the same year Steitz began a 41-year career of teaching physical education at the College. In 1956, Steitz took over the basketball program and the director of athletics position from John Bunn. He coached until 1966, and remained the director of athletics until his retirement in 1989. Steitz again followed in Bunn's footsteps by taking over his position as the editor of the *NCAA Basketball Guide* and the official rules interpreter in 1967. In that role, Steitz oversaw many significant changes in the game of basketball, including:

- calling penalties for fouls away from the ball in 1974,
- the reinstatement of the dunk in 1976 (after it was banned in 1968),
- the elimination of the jump ball except at the start of the game, in 1981, with the introduction of the "alternating possession arrow,"
- the creation of the 28-inch coaching box in 1983,
- the introduction of the 45-second shot clock in 1985,
- the introduction of the 3-point play in men's college basketball in 1986,



*Patiala, India, in 1972, when Steitz returned to India to conduct clinics for players and coaches at the national sport institute*

- awarding possession of the ball and two shots after intentional fouls in 1988.

In addition to his time as a rules interpreter, Steitz served as a trustee to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

In 1974, Steitz co-founded the Amateur Basketball Association USA (ABAUSA), the national governing body for men's and women's basketball in the United States, and was president for 10 years. During his time at the helm, the United States' men's and women's basketball teams won gold medals in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The ABAUSA became USA Basketball in 1989. Steitz was also a U.S. representative to the International Amateur Basketball Federation (FIBA) and served as the organization's assistant treasurer.

Steitz died in 1990, months after stepping down as a professor and director of athletics at Springfield College.



- 1960

- The Minneapolis Lakers move to Los Angeles, Calif., locating pro basketball on both the East and West coasts.

- Springfield College Director of Athletics John Bunn becomes secretary rules-editor of the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee.

- The United States Postal Service issues a stamp in honor of the 100th anniversary of James Naismith's birth.

- Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors scores 100 points against the New York Knicks in Hershey, Penn.

- When assessed a personal foul, the player must raise an arm.

- Boone Trail High School of Marners, N.C., defeats Angier (N.C.) High, 56-54, in 13 overtimes.

- Rule is established to keep coaches from inciting undesirable crowd reactions toward officials.
- 1965

- Springfield College men's basketball team embarks on a worldwide goodwill tour to promote the game.

- Continuous dribble becomes official in the women's game.

- Bill Russell becomes the first African-American head coach of an NBA team, as player-coach of the Boston Celtics.

- Texas Western College (now the University of Texas-El Paso) wins the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship with the first all-African-American starting lineup, defeating the all-white University of Kentucky team.

- American Basketball Association (ABA) begins its first season.

- Dunks are banned in intercollegiate games.

- Jerry Harkness of the Indiana Pacers scores a 92-foot field goal.

- Grasping the hoop is classified as a technical foul under unsportsmanlike tactics.

- Springfield College Director of Athletics Ed Steitz becomes secretary rules-editor of the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee.

- The original Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame opens on the campus of Springfield College.

- Pittsburgh Pipers win the first ABA championship, defeating the New Orleans Buccaneers.

- Dunks are banned during games and pre-game warm-ups.

- Boston Celtics win their 11th NBA championship in 13 years.

Edward Bilik

FROM HIS TIME as a student to his years as a faculty member and coach, Ed Bilik was an institution at Springfield College for more than 40 years. Bilik received his bachelor's degree in 1957 and his master's degree in 1962 (both in physical education) from the College, and took over the men's basketball team in 1966, a position he would hold for 20 years. Bilik was also a professor of physical education, and in 1989, he replaced Steitz as the director of athletics. In that role, Bilik oversaw the transition of the Springfield College athletics program to Division III from Division II, and introduced junior varsity sports



Ed Bilik '57, G'62, coached the Springfield College men's basketball team from 1966 to 1986.

into the program. As a coach, Bilik remains the winningest in Springfield College men's basketball history, with a 322-196 record, and was named New England Coach of the Year in 1970. He was elected to the Springfield College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995. Bilik also conducted a number of basketball clinics around the world. In 1997, Bilik was named editor of the NCAA Basketball Guide and the official rules interpreter, a position he held until 2010. While there, the 3-point arc for men's college basketball was moved back one foot, to 20 feet, nine inches. In 2002, the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC), of which he was a member, honored him with a "Guardians of the Game" award for advocacy, for his tenure on the NCAA rules committee and his involvement in the NABC.

Charles Brock

A 1976 GRADUATE of Springfield College (where he also received his master's degree in 1980), Charlie Brock has coached the College's men's basketball team since 1998. Brock has been involved in a number of basketball committees, including the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee, of which he has been a member since 2002. In 2006, he was named to the NABC Board of Directors, as well as to the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Committee, of which he was named the chair three years later.

Naomi Graves

NAOMI GRAVES has coached the Springfield College women's basketball team since 1991. She is a past president of the Women's Basketball Association, a past member of the East Coast Athletic Conference Selection Committee, and a past District 1 representative for the NCAA Division III Coach of the Year committee. She is currently a member of the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and the New England Women's Basketball Coaches Association.



The Springfield College men's basketball team is coached by Charlie Brock '76.



The Springfield College women's basketball team is coached by Naomi Graves.

GAME PLAY: THE EVOLUTION OF EQUIPMENT AND RULES

IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING the game of basketball, Naismith determined five fundamental principles:

1. There must be a ball; it should be large, light, and handled with the hands.
2. There shall be no running with the ball.
3. No man on either team shall be restricted from getting the ball at any time that it is in play.
4. Both teams are to occupy the same area, yet there is to be no personal contact.
5. The goal shall be horizontal and elevated.

These principles have remained intact since the game's inception. However, the game's popularity sparked numerous inquiries regarding the original rules. In 1894, Gulick suggested that a clarification and expansion of the 13 rules would help answer such questions. Naismith left Springfield College in 1895 to accept the position of head of the physical education department at the YMCA in Denver, Colorado, thereby leaving rules clarification and editing responsibilities in Gulick's hands. It proved to be an overwhelming job. Gulick suggested forming a committee that would have oversight of rules and enforcement. Rather than call people together from across the country, he sent out a questionnaire for offering suggestions for changes to the rules. The responses that he received provided the basis for rules changes made in the following year.



- Women's full-court game is adopted.
- Number of players on women's teams drops from six to five.
- Non-jumping players cannot change position during a jump ball until the ball has been tapped.
- The Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) inaugurates a national collegiate championship for women.
- College freshmen become eligible to play varsity basketball.
- U.S. loses its first Olympic basketball game in history, 51-50, to the U.S.S.R. in Berlin.
- Rule awarding a free throw after the first six common fouls per team per half is eliminated.
- Official may charge player with a technical foul if the player creates the false impression that he or she has been fouled (also known as "diving").
- ABAUSA is officially formed to become the U.S. governing body of FIBA.
- Moses Malone becomes the first player to go professional directly from high school.
- Officials penalize for fouls that occur away from the ball.

*"Basketball's great advantage would be that it was invented, and thus had a proprietor to see it through nearly its entire first half century. The game's rules weren't handed down like some sacred text, with each successive generation more intimidated than the last to amend them. Basketball allowed for all sorts of necessary tinkering, from the formalization of the dribble and elimination of the center jump after a basket to the introduction of the shot clock and the three-pointer. Naismith sat on the rules committee from its very founding in 1898, and never stopped worrying about the health of his baby."*

—ALEXANDER WOLFF

The first basketball rules committee was called the Basketball Co-Operating Committee and was comprised of the men who had answered the questionnaire. In 1905, a group of men representing several colleges that were part of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) felt they should publish the rules, since the game had been widely adopted by universities. Representatives from seven schools put together the rules that were published by the A.G. Spalding & Bros., Inc., in the *Official Collegiate Basket Ball Guide*.

Later, the Collegiate Basket Ball Rules Committee was formed (it was renamed the National Basketball Rules

Committee, which governs men's and women's basketball today). Originally comprised of four members, the Committee expanded in 1910 to a 10-person council, and included James Naismith.

The influence of the Birthplace of Basketball® on the development and interpretation of rules continued well into the 20th and 21st centuries, as three former Springfield College athletics directors have held the title of secretary rules-editor for the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee almost continuously for 50 years—John Bunn (1960-67), Ed Steitz (1967-90), and Ed Bilik (1997-2010).

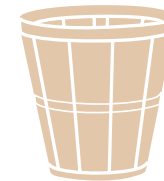


Ball reads: "Stanford vs. Berkeley; 9 to 1; Apr. 4, 1898."

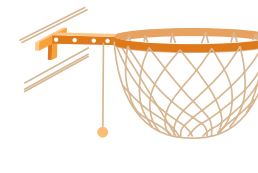


1927 Springfield College team

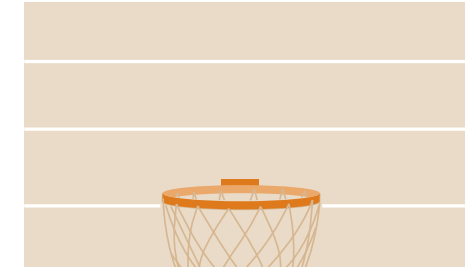
- First women's game (Immaculata versus Queens) in Madison Square Garden is played before more than 11,000 fans; Queens is coached by Springfield College alumna Lucille Kyvalles '55.
- Women's basketball becomes an Olympic sport; the U.S.S.R. wins the gold medal in Montreal and the U.S. wins silver.
- Rules are established to define the legal guarding position and ascertain the rights of defensive players in blocking and jumping.
- Dunking is allowed in college basketball.
- ABA holds the first ever Slam Dunk contest at its All-Star Game in Denver.
- The ABA is dissolved; four teams—Denver, Indiana, New York, and San Antonio—become members of the NBA.
- Darlene May becomes the first woman to officiate a men's international game.
- Dunking is made legal overall.
- First Women's Professional Basketball League (WPBL) game is played in Milwaukee, Wisc.
- NBA adds a third referee.
- NBA adopts the 3-point field goal and eliminates the third referee.



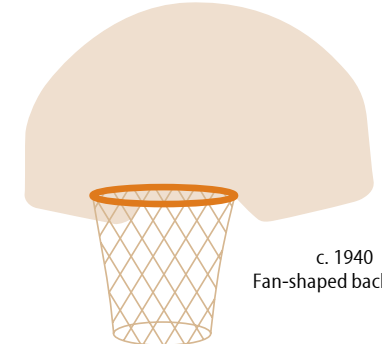
c. 1891  
Half-bushel peach basket



c. 1897  
Iron hoop with net basket



c. 1905  
Solid backboards mandated  
(previously wire mesh)



c. 1940  
Fan-shaped backboard  
c. 1906  
Netting opened at bottom

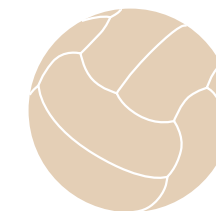
**The Hoop and Basket:** The original receptacle for scoring was a peach basket, which required someone to retrieve balls from baskets so play could resume. The peach baskets were, in Naismith's words, "so frail that they would last only a short time."

The peach basket eventually went through four major modifications before evolving into the hoop of today. From cylindrical baskets of heavy woven wire to an iron-rimmed cord basket and to an iron hoop and a net basket, complete with a hanging string which, when pulled, inverted the bag and ejected the ball.

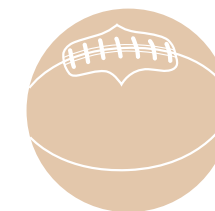
Eventually, in 1906, the bottom of the basket was cut. The rules stated that the net must hang 18 inches from the iron ring and must keep its cone shape to make it more noticeable when a goal had been scored. Later, nets were shortened so the ball traveled through them more quickly. In 1949, the rule stating that the iron ring must be painted black was changed after it was discovered that painting it bright orange improved shooting accuracy.

**The Ball:** Naismith's development of basketball equipment was supported enthusiastically by A.G. Spalding & Bros., Inc., which pioneered many improvements, especially in basketballs. The first basketballs were made from panels of leather stitched together, with a rubber bladder inside. A cloth lining was later added for support and to make the ball more uniform.

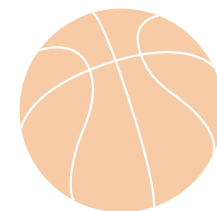
With controversy surrounding the size and weight of the ball, rules were put in place to designate an "official ball." In 1901, the following rule was instituted: "The ball made by A.G. Spalding & Bros., Inc., shall be the official ball. Official balls shall be stamped as herewith and will be in sealed boxes."



Soccer balls were used for the first games.



Stitched balls were used in college games until 1950.



Molded, leather-covered ball was patented in 1937.

- 1980

- Additional rules are established to define legal guarding position and ascertain the rights of defensive players in blocking and verticality.
- First-ever women's NCAA Basketball Championship is played between Louisiana Tech and Cheyney State.
  - All fouls charged to bench personnel shall be assessed to the head coach.
  - CBS broadcaster Brent Musburger adopts the term "March Madness" to refer to the NCAA Division I basketball tournament.
- Collegiate coaches experiment with the shot clock and 3-point field goal.
  - U.S. President Ronald Reagan sends \$10,000 worth of basketball equipment to Burundi, one of the world's smallest and poorest nations.
- Circumference of women's ball is specified as 29 inches.
  - The NBA reinstitutes the Slam Dunk Contest at its All-Star Game in Denver.
  - Georgeann Wells, a six-foot-seven-inch junior at West Virginia University, becomes the first player to slam dunk in a women's collegiate game against the University of Charleston on Dec. 21.
- 1985

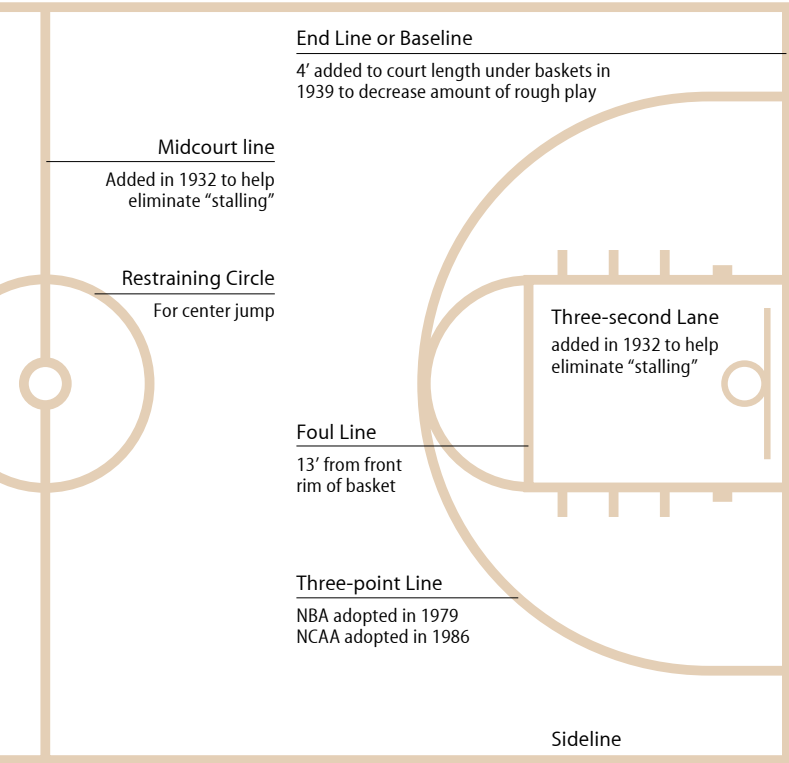
- The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame moves from the Springfield College campus to downtown Springfield, Mass.
  - The United States Basketball League (USBL) is formed.
- Three-point field goal is officially adopted for NCAA men's games, at 19 feet, nine inches.
  - Forty-five second shot clock is adopted for NCAA men's games.
  - The head coach may stand during the game; other bench personnel must sit.
- Three-point field goal is adopted for women's intercollegiate games and boys' and girls' high school games, at 19 feet, nine inches.
  - Boston Celtics becomes the first NBA team to win 2,000 regular-season games.
  - Use of television replays are allowed to correct a scoring or timing mistake.
- NBA adds the Charlotte Hornets and Miami Heat franchises.
  - NBA votes to return to the three-referee system.
  - Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame records its one-millionth visitor.
- NBA adds the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Orlando Magic franchises.

*"I can distinctly remember one boy about fifteen years old who used to come into the balcony and take a place directly behind the basket. He came early in order that he might always get this seat. He patiently waited for an opportunity to help his team by darting his hand through the rail at the proper time to help the ball into the basket."*

—JAMES NAISMITH

*"... we made a practice of drilling a hole in the bottom of the peach baskets in order that a wand might be inserted from below and the ball might be punched out in this manner. Since the pole was often missing, we had to resort to many other devices. On account of the inexperience of the players, fortunately, the goals were few and far between."*

—JAMES NAISMITH



**The Backboards:** Because baskets were nailed to the edge of balconies, spectators would sometimes interfere with the ball entering the goal. Backboards were first introduced in 1894, with the purpose of keeping spectators away from the goals.

Originally, backboards were made of strips of screen, six feet by four feet, which were placed in back of each basket. Two years later, the rules stated that the inside basket rim should extend six inches from the flat perpendicular surface of the backboard, a rule that is still in place today.

**The Court:** The first of Naismith's original 13 rules concerned the court. According to his rules, the game could be played on any kind of ground or in a gymnasium, large room, small lot, or large field. Since one of the essential requirements of the game was that it should be played by a large number of players at one time, this necessitated a large area. Gymnasiums at the time were primarily designed for gymnastic exercise, and there was little uniformity in size or shape or in the materials used for flooring and walls. Consequently, the first rules omitted a definite measurement of the court.

However, it was quickly determined that the size of the court did matter. After experimenting with the game played in

unlimited space, it was found that unless definite regulations pertaining to the court were established, the game would lose its science and become a rough and unskillful exhibition.

Today, the NBA and colleges have set a standardized court at 94 feet long by 50 feet wide (4,700 square feet). High school courts are less regulated, although the current size is 84 feet by 50 feet (4,200 square feet). The FIBA mandates standard basketball court dimensions of 28 meters (91 feet, 10.4 inches) long by 15 meters wide (49 feet, 2.6 inches). Smaller courts are allowed in national federations, but are advised to be no less than 26 meters (85 feet, 3.6 inches) by 14 meters (45 feet, 10.8 inches).

**The Players:** One of Naismith's main objectives in creating the game of basketball was to involve a large number of players at one time, but that proved unworkable when the small gymnasium court became too crowded. The only way to accommodate more players was to increase the number of teams and allow unlimited substitutions.

Thanks to another Springfield College visionary—Amos Alonzo Stagg—five-man basketball was created and endures today.



Amos Alonzo Stagg, Class of 1891, popularized the practice of five-man basketball

Stagg, whose long football coaching career earned him renown as the "grand old man" of football, introduced football to Springfield College when he was a graduate student and athletics instructor. He became the College's first football coach in 1890 and served as head football coach until 1892. And, he played a role in the

early history of basketball, scoring the only faculty team point in the first faculty-student game of basketball played at the College on March 11, 1892 (the faculty lost, 5-1).

Stagg brought basketball from Springfield College to the University of Chicago in 1892, where he was the director of athletics and coached football, track, baseball, and basketball. He coached the school in the first-ever interscholastic basketball game, a 15-12 win over the University of Iowa on January 18, 1896. In addition, he popularized the practice of five-man



1902 YMCA five-man team



- A Soviet high school team comes to the U.S. for a five-game tour.

- The 100th anniversary of basketball's invention.

- Three free throws are awarded to a player fouled during an unsuccessful 3-point attempt.
- Professional basketball players are allowed to take part in Olympic competition; the U.S. Dream Team, consisting of some of the day's biggest names in the game—including Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Charles Barkley, David Robinson, and more—went an unstoppable 8-0 en route to a gold medal.

- Shot clock is reset when the ball strikes the basket ring instead of when the ball leaves the shooter's hands.
- The NCAA Rules Committee changes the shot clock to 35 seconds from 45 seconds in men's basketball and adopts a measure that the clock be stopped for each made basket with under one minute remaining in the game.

*“Although basketball was supposed to eliminate the roughness of football, there was in the early period of the game one play that sometimes closely approached football tactics. The early rules stated that when a ball went out of bounds, the player who first touched it was entitled to throw it in without interference. . . . I remember distinctly. . . a game played in a gymnasium with a balcony. Early in the first half, the ball went into the gallery, and immediately the players from one team scrambled for the narrow stairway, crowding it so that they could make little speed. Two of the players on the other team boosted one of their mates up until he could catch the lower part of the balcony, swing himself up, and regain the out-of-bounds ball.”*

--JAMES NAISMITH

basketball and, through his organization of the University of Chicago National Interscholastic Basketball Tournament, improved and standardized the rules and interpretation for high school play. Today, the football field at Springfield College is named in his honor.

Through the first few years of basketball's history, the number of players allowed on the court was based on the size of the space. In 1893, five men were suggested for small gyms, nine for larger. In 1894, rules set the number at five for courts smaller than 1,800 square feet, seven for courts larger than 1,800 square feet. In 1895, according to Naismith, the number was “fixed at five, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon. It was definitely settled in 1897 that a basketball team should consist of five men.”

The magic number of five players per side became the ideal number of players who could be on the court at the same time,

run at high speed in a small space, and make the game one of skill and science. This rule has received few challenges through the years.

**Scoring:** From the start, all scoring was by goals. The original 1891 rules stipulated that a goal was made when the ball was thrown or batted into the basket and stayed there. In 1893, field goals counted as three points; committing a foul resulted in the opposing team receiving one point. The value of a field goal changed to two points in 1897.

**Fouls:** Many of the actions that were counted as fouls over a century ago, such as striking the ball with the fist and traveling, are considered violations today. From the beginning, Naismith's intent was to create an exciting game, but one that was not overly rough. Those two considerations have led to numerous changes in the way fouls have been defined and penalized over the years.

*“In the early days of the game, the officials were subjected to such indignities and abuse that it is hard for us to realize the conditions under which they worked. . . . I remember talking to an official named Fields about these conditions. He told me that whenever he refereed a basketball game, he was very careful to see that the window in the room where he dressed was left unlatched, in order that immediately after the game he could, if necessary, grab his clothes and leave unnoticed.”*

—JAMES NAISMITH

- Ed Bilik, director of athletics at Springfield College, is appointed secretary rules-editor and national interpreter for the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee.

- NBA announces a list of the 50 Greatest Basketball Players in NBA History and the 10 Greatest Coaches in NBA History.

- American Basketball League (ABL), a professional women's league, begins in October.
- Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) begins its inaugural season.

- Springfield College alumna Nancy Darsch '73 is the first coach of the WNBA's New York Liberty.
- ABL ceases operations in December.

Cover of 1898 Official Basket Ball Guide edited by the College's Luther Gulick

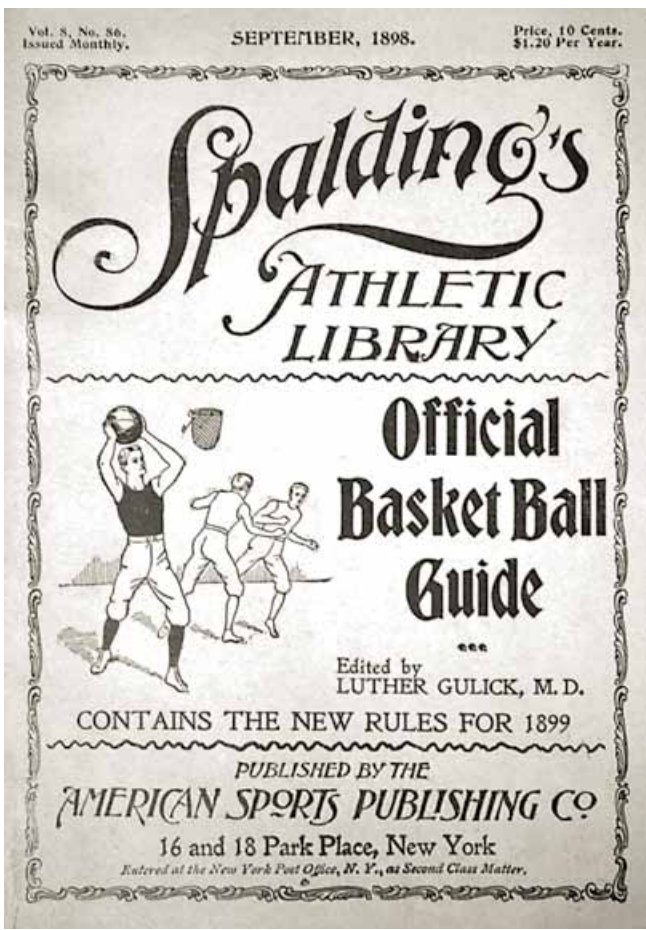
Reducing the level of physical contact has been a constant concern since Naismith wrote the first set of rules. Originally, there was no clear differentiation between fouls against the ball and fouls against players. But one thing that was clear: penalties could often be extreme. An 1897 rule stated that a player *could be* disqualified from a game after the first offense—and *would be* disqualified after the second, for the game or “such further period as the committee in charge of that league shall determine.” After three consecutive fouls of any kind, the opposing team would be awarded one point, at that time, the equivalent of a field goal. In addition, actions such as “striking, hacking, or kicking” resulted in disqualification of that player “for one year without appeal.”

As the sport and its rules have progressed over time, James Naismith's main objective has not been lost—to create an action-packed, athletic game with minimal physical contact.

**Dribbling:** In the first season of 1891-92, the ball could be batted in any direction with one or both hands, but no dribbling was allowed. As players were unable to run with the ball, this greatly restricted movement, as the ball could only move up the court by passes to other players. Soon, dribbling was allowed, but with rules and regulations intended to keep the game moving.

*“The dribble was originally a defensive measure. When a player had possession of the ball and was so closely guarded that he could not pass it to one of his team mates, the only thing that he could do was to lose possession of the ball voluntarily in such a way that he might possibly recover it. He did this by rolling or bouncing the ball on the floor. This rolling or bouncing was the start of our present-day dribble.”*

—JAMES NAISMITH



- The NBA Development League, consisting of eight teams, debuts as the NBA's official minor league basketball organization.

- Current Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame opens on Sept. 28.  
- Lisa Leslie of the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks is the first woman to dunk in a professional game on July 30 against the Miami Sol.

*"I remember walking across the gym floor one day and seeing a boy toss the ball toward the basket, recover it, and toss it again. An hour later, as I came back through the gym, the same boy was still at his play. For some time I had been trying to discover what there was about goal throwing that would keep a boy at it for an hour. I stopped and asked him why he was practicing so long. The boy answered that he did not know, but that he just liked to see if he could make a basket every time he threw the ball."*

--JAMES NAISMITH

## THE CREATION OF THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

**FITTINGLY, THE FIRST INCARNATION** of a basketball Hall of Fame came at the Birthplace of Basketball®—the campus of Springfield College. Beginning in December 1941, Springfield College led a worldwide celebration of basketball's Golden Jubilee anniversary, and as part of that, a campaign to create a Naismith Memorial began. According to the 1941 Massasoit yearbook, the idea was to erect a "modern building to house a model basketball court, a museum of historical curios from the game, and a basketball 'Hall of Fame.'" The Naismith Memorial Committee included Springfield's Mayor Roger Putnam and Lester Crapser, a professor of health and physical education at the College.

In October 1949, Edward J. Hickox, Class of 1914, became the executive director of the initiative and, on September 11, 1959, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The Hall was officially opened on the campus of Springfield College on February 17, 1968, at a cost of \$650,000, and remained there until June 9, 1985.

On June 30, 1985, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame relocated to downtown Springfield, with more than 6,000 visitors participating in its dedication. In the late 1990s, the city's planners began to formulate a vision for an expanded and revitalized urban environment along the Connecticut River. The Springfield Riverfront Redevelopment Project included a new shrine to James Naismith's game and its legendary players

and, on September 28, 2002, a brand new Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame opened adjacent to the former museum. In attendance were Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the Harlem Globetrotters, and more than 2,700 Springfield children who participated in the Great Hall of Fame Basketball Pass—shepherding a basketball from Springfield College through the streets of Springfield to the new Hall.

The new Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is unlike any sports museum in the world, uniquely capturing the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm of the sport. Utilizing technology, fans get incredible inside views of the game by peeking over the shoulder of a coach during a game huddle or by placing themselves in the shoes of an official making the big call in a critical game. Multimedia tributes to the game's legendary players, coaches, and contributors; theme exhibits; a variety of interactive stations; and more provide a fitting tribute to James Naismith.

From 1979 to 2006, the Hall sponsored the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic, in which two top Division I teams would "tip off" in the first game of the college basketball season. In 1991, then-Springfield College Director of Athletics Ed Bilik joined the executive committee of the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic and was a game coordinator for the event. Current Springfield College Director of Athletics Cathie Schweitzer has also served on the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic executive committee. In 2010, the

- The NBA Development League changes its official name to the NBA D-League and expands to 15 teams.

- NCAA Rules Committee moves men's 3-point line back a foot, to 20 feet, nine inches.

- Pat Summitt of the University of Tennessee women's basketball team becomes the first coach—male or female—to win 1,000 games.  
- U.S. President Barack Obama installs a basketball court at the White House.  
- The Springfield Armor becomes the 16th team in the NBA D-League, playing its home games a short drive from the Birthplace of Basketball.® Its NBA affiliates are the New Jersey Nets, New York Knicks, and Philadelphia 76ers.

Hall announced a "re-birth" of the Tip-Off tournament, with three days of competition. Springfield College men's basketball team was selected as one of 12 teams from across the country to play in the Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off.

The connection of Springfield College to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame continues to this day. College students in the sport management, communications/sports journalism, and other programs have regularly taken on internships at the Hall. Each year since 2002, Springfield College and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame have co-sponsored the Spalding HoopHall Classic, an invitational tournament for some of the top boys and girls high school teams in the country held at Springfield College's Blake Arena. Games have been televised nationally, and many players have gone on to play at the Division I college or professional levels.



*The original Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame was located on the Springfield College campus before moving to downtown Springfield in 1985.*



*The third and current Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame opened in downtown Springfield, Mass., in 2002.*





*James Naismith strongly believed that the game of basketball was “for the benefit of young people of the world.”*



*James Naismith Circle at Springfield College*

## SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE INDUCTEES TO THE NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME



**JAMES NAISMITH** invented the sport of basketball in 1891 while an instructor at the school that would become Springfield College. He developed the original 13 rules and was an original member of the Collegiate Basketball Rules Committee, the precursor to the National Basketball Rules Committee. He later coached the men’s team at the University of Kansas. Naismith was elected as a contributor in 1959.



**LUTHER GULICK**, former superintendent of the physical department at the school that would become Springfield College, challenged then-instructor James Naismith to create a new indoor game. The “father of physical education and recreation,” Gulick became chairman of the Basketball Rules Organization in 1895 and later served on the Olympic Committees for the 1896 Athens Games and the 1908 London Games. He is also credited with forming the Public School Athletic Teams in New York, as well as co-founding Camp Fire Girls. Gulick was elected as a contributor in 1959.



**EDWARD HICKOX**, Class of 1914, was athletic director and basketball coach at Springfield College and compiled a 209-85 record in his 16 years as basketball coach. He served on the National Basketball Rules Committee for 18 years, including a term as chairman, and was a charter member—and, from 1944 to 1946, president—of the NABC. He was NABC Man of the Year in 1949 and later served as a volunteer executive secretary to the Basketball Hall of Fame from 1949 to 1963. He was elected as a contributor in 1959.



**AMOS ALONZO STAGG**, Class of 1891 and Springfield College’s first football coach, scored the only basket for the faculty when it played the students at Springfield College in the first public basketball game. Stagg took the game with him to the University of Chicago in 1892, where he originated five-man basketball, and served as football coach and athletic director. He organized the University of Chicago National Interscholastic Basketball Tournament in 1917, which improved and standardized the rules and interpretation for high school play. Known as the “grand old man” of football, he transformed college football and coached continuously for a total of 57 years—the longest coaching career in the history of the sport. He was elected to the Hall in 1959 and is the only person inducted into both the basketball and football halls of fame.



**ARTHUR SCHABINGER**, Class of 1915, coached Creighton University to four Missouri Valley Conference championships and a record 12 winning seasons out of 13. He played a role in forming the NABC and served as its president in 1932. He also served on the Amateur Athletic Union Basketball Committee and helped conduct tryouts for the first Olympic basketball team in 1936. Schabinger was elected as a contributor in 1961.



**JOHN BUNN**, Springfield College basketball coach from 1946 to 1956, was a national and international authority on basketball. He served as an assistant at the University of Kansas before becoming head coach at Stanford University, Springfield College, and Colorado State College, retiring with a 313-288 career record. From 1959 to 1967, he was editor of the *NCAA Basketball Guide* and official rules interpreter. He also authored six influential books about basketball. Bunn was elected as a contributor in 1964.



**R. WILLIAM JONES**, Class of 1928, co-founded the International Amateur Basketball Federation (FIBA, now the International Basketball Federation) with Elmer Berry, Class of 1902. Jones was the group’s first general secretary and was instrumental in spreading basketball around the world through his activities as an organizer of international basketball tournaments, including the Olympics. Jones was elected as a contributor in 1964. As a native of England, he was the first international inductee into the Hall of Fame.



**FERENC HEPP**, Class of 1935, introduced basketball in Hungary and was an international leader as a basketball administrator. He was the first director of the National School of Physical Education and Sports in Hungary, president of the Hungarian Basketball Federation, and actively involved in the FIBA. Hepp also wrote extensively on physical education, sports, and sports psychology. He was elected as a contributor in 1980.



**EDWARD S. STEITZ**, Springfield College coach and athletic director, had a major impact on the development of basketball as secretary, editor, and national interpreter of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Rules Committee. He was also active on the Basketball Association of North, Central, and South America, a member of the FIBA Rules Committee, and founder and president of the ABA/USA (now USA Basketball). He served in an official capacity at eight different Olympiads and was a charter trustee of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Steitz was elected as a contributor in 1983.



## ABOUT SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

**FOUNDED IN 1885**, Springfield College is known worldwide as the Birthplace of Basketball® and for the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy—educating students in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others. With its foundation of academic excellence and rich athletic heritage, Springfield College prepares students with real-world leadership skills for tomorrow's careers. A range of undergraduate and graduate degree programs are offered in fields of health sciences, human and social services, sport management and movement studies, education, business, and the arts and sciences. Doctoral programs are offered in physical education and physical therapy. The College is ranked in "America's Best Colleges" in the top tier of "Best Regional Universities—North Region" by *U.S. News & World Report*, and is designated as a premier Leadership Development Center by the YMCA of the USA. Today, more than 5,000 traditional, nontraditional, and international students study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its School of Human Services campuses in 11 U.S. locations.



**SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IS INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED** for innovation that has improved people's lives. Stellar visionaries from the College have made indelible marks on society, culture, and health and wellness. James Naismith invented the game of basketball. William Morgan, Class of 1894, invented the game of volleyball. Dr. Luther Gulick earned renown as the father of physical education and recreation in the United States, and Dr. Peter Karpovich was recognized worldwide for his research in exercise physiology. Faculty and alumni have been founders and early leaders of such organizations as the American College of Sports Medicine, Camp Fire Girls of America, National Parks and Recreation Association, Jacob's Pillow, and more.

Springfield College continues to transform lives and communities in many ways, such as advancing sports for women; conducting research on health and wellness topics; and organizing and participating in the Olympics. In more than 60 countries around the world, alumni provide inspiration and leadership in the fields of health, sport and movement studies, human and social services, education, business, and the arts and sciences.



**For information about applying to Springfield College, contact the Admissions Office toll-free at 800-343-1257 or visit [www.springfieldcollege.edu](http://www.springfieldcollege.edu).**

Publishing History

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*"Thousands of times... I have been asked whether I ever got anything out of basketball. To answer this question, I can only smile. It would be impossible for me to explain my feelings to the great mass of people who ask this question, as my pay has not been in dollars but in the satisfaction of giving something to the world that is a benefit to masses of people."*

—JAMES NAISMITH, *BASKETBALL ITS ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT*, P. 110



*Naismith (center) on his last visit to Springfield College in March 1939.*





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