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Inventor of Basketball Is Pleased That Game Will Be Used in Olympics

"I am naturally greatly pleased to learn that basketball—the game I invented 43 years ago—has been approved as one of the contest sports of the Eleventh Olympic games," said Dr. James Naismith this afternoon. "This is recognition of the international character of the game, which I believe is now more widely played than any other game except soccer.

"The wide-spread popularity of the game, I believe, is due to its simplicity, and at the same time its active character. Little equipment is required; it can be played outdoors or inside; and it is full of action, pleasing alike to the player and the spectator. The ball is in play constantly.

"The rules of the game are simple. It calls for team work, and at the same

time an individual player can practice, and perfect himself in the essential part of the game—the tossing of the ball into the basket.

"The game was designed to give the tall, slim player the chance he was denied in the heavier games of baseball and football. This very factor may make it necessary to introduce some form of handicap for international tournament.

"In the same way that wrestlers and boxers are divided into classes by weight, so it may be necessary to divide basketball teams by height. When the diminutive Meiji team from Japan played the tall men of Washburn here a few years ago, the visitors didn't have a chance. The Washburn boys could reach higher than the Meiji men could jump."