

## NAISMITH HONOR GUEST

### Inventor of Basketball at Kansas City League Opening

11/10/1931  
Dr. James Naismith, veteran member of the physical education faculty at the University of Kansas who invented the game of basketball forty years ago, was the guest of honor last night at the opening games of the Kansas City, Mo., high school basketball league played in Convention hall.

A crowd of about 7,000 attended the games. In a short address given during one of the intermissions, Dr. Naismith praised the sportsmanship of the students. He remarked that this section of the country including Kansas City is the capital of basketball.

"When we finally evolved basketball we played it with peach baskets for goals. The girls played it in high-heeled shoes. They wore their bustles. It was a mess," he said.

indictments were fallacious and groundless.

"All charges against football come from observers on the sidelines whose knowledge is superficial," Dr. Naismith said. "Football is an integral part of our school systems."

#### TOO MUCH WORRY OVER DEATHS.

"We view the forty deaths of the current season with so much surprise that you'd think death had never resulted before from play on the gridiron. We blame it on the wedge from kick-off, and promptly begin measures to eradicate the kick-off.

"In the old days of the flying wedge, when football was less open than today, men were killed. I played four years in the day of the flying wedge. I came out all right. Then a few weeks ago I started to take a bath, slipped in the tub and broke three ribs.

"There are thousands of boys and young men playing football. A few are injured fatally. The game is one of contact; injuries will occur. Thousands of persons bathe daily, too, and many of them slip in the tub, and are killed or injured."

#### DENIES THE ALUMNI CONTROL.

Dr. Naismith asserted that more than forty years of association with schools in athletic departments had failed to convince him that the alumni controlled athletics.

"They proffer their help," he said. "They're interested. For that reason alone you could not cut out football. Try to imagine old grads returning for a homecoming in the Latin department. Football draws them back; football sustains their interest in the school, but they do not control the gridiron sport."

"It has been shown by statistics that a football squad, in the semester of its season, attains higher marks than a random group with no extra-curricular activity picked from the student body.

"Subsidization lately has been a synonym for boys working their way through school in restaurants and filling stations, as janitors and in all the other part-time jobs in which poor boys earn their way."

#### JUDGE BURNEY PRESIDES.

Judge Clarence A. Burney presided. The Kansas coaching staff, H. W. Hargiss, J. M. Getto, Larry Mullins, Stephen Hinshaw and Leon Bauman, accompanied the Kansas squad here from Lawrence.

#### Others present at the dinner:

The Star's all-star selections—Peter Lapetina, Frank Carpenter, Henry Jost, Albert Thomson, Edward Ironsmith, Manual Stoeltzing, Jess Trowbridge, Ivan Tweedie, Barnabus Hays, Ray McDaniel and Marvin Silvey.

Paseo high school squad—Denzil Miller, Ray Dowling, Nelson Burruss, Tony Basile, Elmer Nester, Ray McDaniel, Ellsworth Van Orman, T. J. Settle, James Wright and John Drvey.

K. U. squad—Carnie Smith, Elmer Schaaque, Otto Rost, James Burcham, Arthur Baker, Zvonimir Kvaterinik, Joe Zvolanek, Earl Foy, Jewel Campbell, Gilbert Hanson, Ray Dumm and Peter Mehringer.

Kansas City high school coaches: M. E. Davis, Northeast; Louis House, Southwest; Harley Selvidge, Paseo; Harry S. Slaymaker, Central; John McMurry, Manual Training; J. C. Cohlmeier, East, and Harris R. Newman, Westport.

Several members of the Jayhawk football squad were at Manhattan, participating in the Kansas-Kansas State basket ball game.

schools and second for the honor of the father of the game, their guest of honor at the opening of the high school basket ball series in Kansas City.

No doubt he thrilled. He had invented basket ball. He was responsible for the amplified sounds of a zoo whenever the ball flicked the netting around the basket. He was responsible for the vast crowd and its vicarious battle.

#### A CREATIVE GENIUS.

For the first time in his life, perhaps, Dr. Naismith, venerable professor of physical education at the University of Kansas, realized that he was a creative genius. It requires a stretch of imagination to grant creative genius to a gymnast or athlete. But Dr. Naismith had conceived this drama forty years ago and had given it to youth to be interpreted again and again in innumerable ways.

Forty years ago, Dr. Naismith was a teacher in the Springfield, Mass., college of physical education, a young man 29 years old, a bit too old for athletics, a bit too young for mature teaching.

"Here," said the dean, "is a problem for you to work out between classes. The middle West can't play baseball and football in the colder part of winter. It can't play hockey, or ice skate. The South has summer games in the winter, the North has arctic sports. We've got to have a cold-weather sport for the middle West."

#### TRIED VARIATIONS OF OTHERS.

Young Naismith tried variations of baseball. Then he concentrated on football—indoor football—without the run, without the tackle. Then he decided upon a game of the hands and swiftly moving bodies, a game of grace and rhythm.

"When we finally evolved basketball," he said, "we played it with peach baskets for goals. The girls played it in high-heeled shoes. They wore their bustles. It was a mess."

In 1891, basket ball made its debut. The audience was small. Athletic games were unpopular. It was still the day of the drinking, swaggering, cursing athlete. Churches condemned athletes. They condemned athletics.

But the basket ball dribbled on. It has dribbled around the world. They are shooting goals in Egypt now, in India, China, France, Argentina. The basket ball that Dr. Naismith discovered forty years ago is fought over in every nation on earth except England and Russia.

And last night, in Kansas City, the "capital of basket ball," as he himself called it, Dr. Naismith saw the drama and glamor of the game at their height.

#### NOT SAME OLD GAME TO HIM.

Southwest high school defeated Manual, 28 to 17. Dr. Naismith sat on. It was not the same old game over and over to him.

"Every game is a new adventure," he said when the cheers subsided. "I am amazed at the speed and grace of the players. I didn't dream what the game could be. I believe more students are playing basket ball today than any other game. Today in one of your high schools I learned that ninety-two teams had been organized by the physical education department."

Central high school won from Paseo, 23-15. East high school beat Westport, 29-17. The last man to leave the games was Dr. Naismith. He sat like a dreaming scientist over the curious machine he had invented. He lingered over the bright plays as a composer lingers over his music.

A cheer went up from the young crowd when his name was announced. It was like a cry of "Author! Author!" He responded and walked like an athlete to the microphone which had been set for him in the center of the arena.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SPORTSMANSHIP.

"I marvel at your sportsmanship," he said. "There was a day in basket ball when the referees left by the window. I think your men play magnificently. I have watched your progress for years and you improve year by year.

"Kansas City is the capital of basket ball. The game has reached its height here. And the interest, too, is greater here than in many parts of the world, although 785 high schools in Indiana have just entered a fierce tournament for the state championship.

"You stir me profoundly. I am very proud to have lived to see this." In the crowd which surged from the doors of the hall at 11 o'clock last night, Dr. Naismith shouldered his way. He looked like anybody else,

as the students say. They didn't know him. They had seen him from afar when he spoke. They didn't recognize his black mustache and his kindly smile. Razzberries, those insistent rubber whistles students blow, squawked in his ears as well as those of everybody else. But he was stirred. He was very happy, he said, to be there. He had created the game and created the glory show.

## Dr. Naismith Defends Football in Address

12/17/1931  
Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball and professor of physical education at the University of Kansas, gave a defense of football last night in his address at the annual Jayhawk club football banquet in Kansas City, Mo. Coaches and members of the K. U. football squad were guests at the annual banquet.

In his address at the banquet Dr. Naismith said:

"All charges against football come from observers on the sidelines whose knowledge is superficial. Football is an integral part of our school systems."

Noting the number of grid fatalities this year, the basketball creator said that the game was one of contact, where injuries would occur.

"In the old days of the flying wedge, when football was less open than today, men were killed," he continued. "I played four years in the day of the flying wedge. I came out all right. Then a few weeks ago I started to take a bath, slipped in the tub and broke three ribs."

Years of observation, he declared, had failed to convince him that the alumni controlled athletics.

"They proffer their help," he said. "They're interested. For that reason alone you cannot cut out football. Try to imagine old grads returning for homecoming in the Latin department. Football draws them back; sustains their interest in the school, but they do not control the gridiron sport."

The speaker declared that "subsidization lately has been a synonym for boys working their way through school."

## NAISMITH FOR FOOTBALL GAME IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF SCHOOL SYSTEMS, HE SAYS.

12/17/1931 K.C. Times

High School Stars and the K. U. Gridiron Team Hear the Inventor of Basket Ball at University Club.

Dr. James A. Naismith, the inventor of basket ball, last night forgo the sport he created to defend football against current indictments which charge the game with subsidization, alumni control, severe physical injuries and scholastic retrogression on the part of the players.

Speaking at a dinner given at the University Club by the Jayhawk Club of Kansas City for the Star's all-star Kansas City interscholastic eleven, Kansas City high school coaches and the football elevens of the University of Kansas and Paseo high school, interscholastic champions, Dr. Naismith asserted such

## NAISMITH FOR FOOTBALL GAME STIRS ITS CREATOR

Jan. 10, 1931

DR. NAISMITH A THRILLED WATCHER AS HIGHS COMPETE.

Basket Ball in Its Fullest Drama and Glamour Moves Inventor at Realization of His Own Genius.

DR. NAISMITH A THRILLED WATCHER AS HIGHS COMPETE.

Dr. James Naismith, a mild, broad-shouldered man almost 70 years old, sat in a box at Convention hall last night, almost deafened by the roar of 7,000 cheering students. He flinched at times when it seemed that several hundred howling boys with swollen neck veins and violently colored berets were about to swarm over the balcony rail and trample him down in their eagerness to get into the game.

The game! It flashed back and forth across the polished arena. When he could get his mind off the ferocious rooters at his back, he steadily observed every intricate movement of the teams. They were playing first for the honor of their