



DR. JAMES NAISMITH

Chicago, Apr. 2. (P)—Dr. James A. Naismith, originator of the game of basketball, will sit in at the three-day annual meeting of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, starting tomorrow, at which numerous proposed alterations in the rules will be discussed.

The business of making changes in the code is up to the rules committee, but the coaches, and around 300 of them will be present to argue pro and con, have ideas for further speeding up a game which coaxed out spectators in large numbers during the past two seasons.

Most of the proposed changes center around more action for the spectator, and a bigger chance for the little player. The center-jump will be the principal target. One suggestion would do away with the center jump, except at the start of

the game and the opening of subsequent periods. Another would have a "jumping-order," with each member of a team taking his turn in the center-circle.

Other factions would retain the center-jump, but with restraining lines, over which no player may step until the ball has been tapped. Still another group wishes to do away with the "pivot-play," and a large argument is expected over the point.

Larger hoops to increase scoring; a graduated point system, under which a field goal from within 15 feet would count one point, one from within 25 feet would be worth two points, and a goal from beyond 25 feet would count three points and the boosting of the hoop from 10 to 12 feet to reduce congestion under the basket, are among the suggestions.

Champion Three-year-old Pacer — California

J. World 4, 2, 1935

Dr. James Naismith Invented Basketball Just 45 Years Ago Today in Massachusetts

Just 45 years after two peach baskets and a volleyball became major equipment for a new indoor game, basketball will be included as an Olympic sport, and Dr. James A. Naismith, who found the new use for the baskets and fathered the game through its early years, is "tickled pink."

Naismith, a sturdy figure of a man for all his 74 years, for many years has been physical education director at the University of Kansas. Since that rainy day of December 28, 1891, when he tied a peach basket at each end of the small gymnasium at the Springfield, Mass., Y. M. C. A. college, he has watched the game's development with keen interest.

When he learned the sport had been added to the Olympic program Naismith said:

"The international popularity of the game is, I believe, due to the fact that it is simple, and at the same time an active game. All the members of the team have a part in the contest, yet it is so simple that an individual can, by himself, perfect himself in the part of the game that makes for scoring. Little equipment is required, yet there is action that is satisfying both to the player and to the spectator."

He suggested that the international competition might make it necessary to impose some handicap, probably based on height. He recalled that the Meiji team of Japan which toured America several years ago was no match for our tall players.

Naismith's interest in the sport is not passive. He studies the game and the proposed rule changes. He took issue with the 10-second rule which provides that the team in possession of the ball must advance beyond the center of the court within 10 seconds. Naismith contended it was the defensive team which encouraged stalling by refusing to go after the ball. Oddly enough, one of the leading exponents of the 10-second rule was Dr. F. C. (Phog) Allen, famed Kansas coach, and the difference



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of opinion resulted in many friendly arguments between the game's founder and one of its leading coaches.

A nation-wide movement to honor Naismith is getting under way under the direction of W. S. Chandler, secretary-treasurer of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. The association at a meet-

ing in Chicago this year voted to promote some recognition for the game's founder, and it was proposed to raise a fund sufficient to send Dr. and Mrs. Naismith to the Olympics in Berlin.

It also is planned to provide for a suitable memorial, either at Springfield, Mass., or at Kansas. It is proposed that every organization maintaining a basketball team set aside one home game in the week of February 9-15 as "Naismith night," and that one cent from each admission be contributed to the fund.