

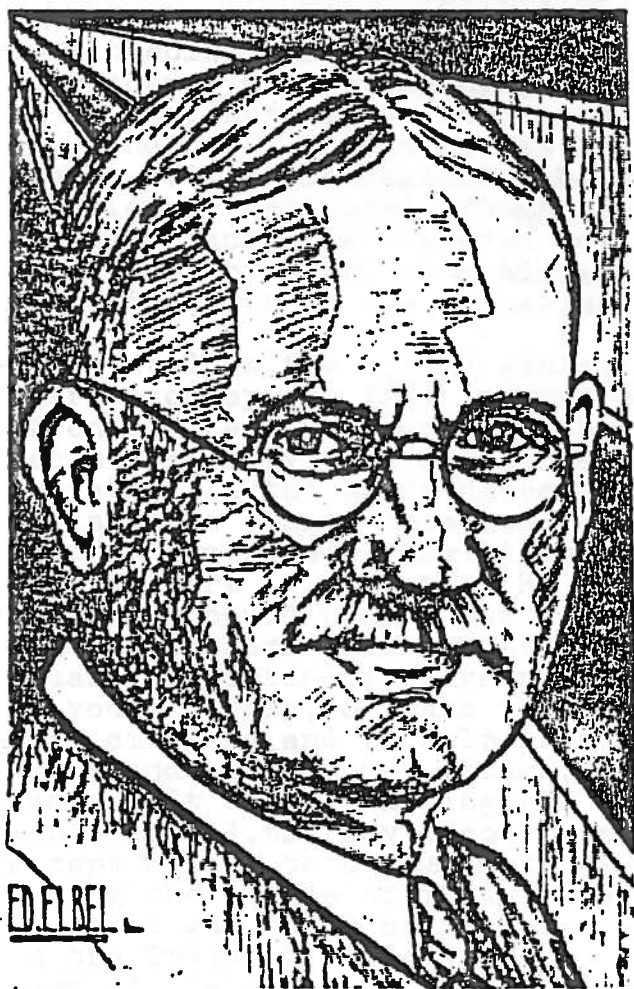
DR. JAMES NAISMITH

1861 - 1939

INVENTOR OF THE GAME OF BASKETBALL

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

ORDAINED MINISTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Biographical Sketch of James A. Naismith
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- 1858(Ansei:5) 1.19 -John Naismith and Margaret Young were married.
-Jim's sister, Annie was born.
- 1861(Bunkyu:1)11.6 -Jim was born on a farm in Almonte, Ontario, Canada.
- 1867(Keio:3) -Jim's brother, Robbie was born.
- 1870(Meiji:3) 7.17 -Grandfather Robert Young died(68).
10.19 -John died of typhoid fever(37).
11. 6 -Margaret died of the same illness(37).
-After their parents' death, the little Naismith came to live permanently with the Young in the two-story stone house halfway between Bennie's Corners and Almonte.
-The Naismith children made their home there with their grandmother Anne Young and their young uncle Peter.
-They attended the Almonte Grade School at Bennie's Corners.
- 1873(Meiji:6) 1. 3 -Grandmother Anne Young died, so Uncle Peter became their only guardian. He was 26 years old. At this time Annie was 14 years old.
-The Naismith children grew up too fast. Jim had already taken over a man's work, and Annie turned housekeeper overnight when their grandmother was burried.
-They were brought up in a fine Christian home, frequently visited by their pastor at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Almonte, William Mckenzie and of course his son R. Tait Mckenzie there very often.
- 1875(Meiji:8) -Jim has completed his grade school and attended the Almonte High School. But he did'nt intend to stay in school long.
- 1876(Meiji:9) -He dropped out of the high school.
-During next winters he worked in logging camps, and in the summers he stayed home to help with the farmer work.
- 1881(Meiji:14) -He started again at the beggining of the second year of high-school study.
-He passed the Latin and Greek examinations required for university entrance.
- 1883(Meiji:16) -Jim graduated the high school. He obtained a scholarship from McGill University, and in the fall he left the farm for Montreal.
-The first thing he did after making his new decision was to head for the gymnasium. He began to spend a lot of time on the floor of the gymnasium.
-Thus Jim began participating in the McGill athletic program, starting in the gymnasium.

- Outdoor team games followed in due course, and from a certain vantage point it began to look as if he were deserting scholarship for athletics.
- Jim was drawn to all sports going, being particularly intrigued by rugby football, McGill's strong point in team athletics.
- 1884(Meiji:17)12.31-Jim's brother, Robbie died of a ruptured appendix.
- 1885(Meiji:18) -R. Tait McKenzie, after completing his schooling at Almonte High School and at the Collegiate Institute in Ottawa, came to enroll at McGill and became Jim's roommate. A fine companionship developed between them.
- 1887(Meiji:20) 4.30-Jim received his B.A. degree.
- After graduation from the university, Jim enrolled a theological school, the Presbyterian College.
- As a theological student in the full three-year course of the college, Jim did his part, of course. But he was not a model theological student. Although he was brilliant enough to win theological scholarship and religiously dedicated enough to promote Presbyterianism, he dismayed colleagues and professors by continuing his activity in athletics, both in the gymnasium and outside it.
- Interested in the varied athletic activities carried on by the YMCA in Montreal, Jim had often visited the gymnasium there and had become friendly with D.A. Budge, the general secretary. In the early uncertainty of his decision to change vocations, Jim told Budge that he was considering giving up the ministry to work in athletics. He thought that a man who could play a masterful, clean game and help others learn to play it had an unequalled opportunity to gain the confidence of young people, to teach them to become good citizens, and to help them become worthwhile and happy human beings.
- 1890(Meiji:23) 4.18-And, summit of his theological studies, he was licensed, thereby becoming eligible to accept a call to a pastorate.
- Taking the advice of YMCA secretary Budge, he would go to Springfield for enrollment in the Training School.
- Part of the summer of 1890 he spent at Brantford, Ontario, where he introduced himself into YMCA work.
- He spent a few days at the YMCA school in Springfield, where he met Luther Halsey Gulick, Jr. Gulick did his part to convince Naismith of the importance of the work of

- a physical director.
- 1890(Meiji:23) 9. -Jim enrolled the International YMCA Training School, Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A. He said: "I felt that if the devil was making use of athletics to lead young men to evil, there must be some natural attraction in sports that could be used to lead young men to a good end."
- Jim became imbued with Gulick's idea of "working for young men, not simply for their bodies, minds and souls, but for the salvation, development and training of the whole man complete as God made him."
- Naismith would be able to say of Gulick: "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."
- 1891(Meiji:24) 9. -Jim was appointed to the enlarged teaching faculty. Assigned to teach psychology, Bible study, boxing, and one of the classes in physical education.
- 12.21-The first basketball game in history was played.
- 1894(Meiji:27)6.20-Maude Evelyn Sherman and Jim were married.
- 1895(Meiji:28)7. 1-The Naismiths' first child, a daughter, was born. Jim named her Margaret Mason.
- In the YMCA Training School at Springfield he had worked for the spiritual and physical development of the young men who came under his guidance. But here a new field began to interest him. Caring for the cuts, bumps, bruises, and other injuries of his charges, he became attracted to the study of medicine.
- During the summer he was offered the position of director of physical education in the YMCA in Denver, Colorado, the city in which the Gross Medical School was located.
- At 34 years of age a freshman in college once more, Jim started with the full load of courses that fall.
- 1897(Meiji:30)12.21-Helen Carolyn, the Naismiths' second child was born.
- 1898(Meiji:31) -Before Jim had yet become a doctor, illness struck his wife. His pregnant wife fell very ill with typhoid fever, complicated by pneumonia. She had suffered an almost complete loss of hearing. When the doctor completed his final examination, he diagnosed her case as one of permanent deafness. Maude began to learn lip reading.
- 4. 8-Jim granted the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Gross Medical College.

9. 1-Maude and Jim Naismith, with their two young daughters, moved to the land of the Jay-hawks (Kansas, Lawrence).
 -He was appointed to the position of Director of Physical Education and Chapel Director at the University of Kansas.
 -He taught Kinesiology, Physiology of Exercise, Gymnastics, Fencing and in the earlier years, Basketball (he preferred "teach" to "coach").
- 1899 (Meiji:32) 1.4-Jim became a member of First Presbyterian Church of Lawrence, Kansas.
- 1899 (Meiji:32) 2.3-The first basketball game (the team coached by Jim) was on February 3, 1899, played against the Kansas City YMCA, who won 16 to 5.
 -At first the game did not appeal to spectators. Many felt that the real man's game was football; basketball was "sissy" and should be played only by women.
- 6.4-He was elected Superintendent of the Sabbath School.
- 12220-He became an Elder and elected to the Session.
 -One who knew him well said he had never seen Jim with a basketball in his hand, but had often seen him holding a Bible.
- 1917 (Meiji:44) -He wrote "The Modern High School" (section on athletics).
- 1917 (Taisyō:6) -He granted a leave from the University to serve in the YMCA in France, during World War I. He was in charge of the Social Hygiene Unit, headquartered in Paris. He lost so much weight his family scarcely recognized him.
- 1918 (Taisyō:7) -"The Basis of Clean Living" was published.
- 1919 (Taisyō:8) -Jim returned home in the spring. He immediately returned to his duties at the University of Kansas.
- 1936 (Syōwa:11) -He went to the Olympic Games in Berlin. (Basketball was included)
 His trip lasted about seven weeks because he had been asked to speak in several countries.
- 1937 (Syōwa:12) 3. 4-Mrs. Naismith, Maude died (67) from a heart at.
6. -Jim retired from the University.
- 1939 (Syōwa:14) 6.10-He remarried. His bride was Florence (56) who was a housemother in the University.
 -She could never bring herself to call him anything but "Doctor".
 -Occasionally he slipped and called her "Maude".

- 11.19-A cerebral hemorrhage had struck Jim. Through the night he lay unconscious, near death. But at last Jim opened his eyes.
- 11.22-After a remarkable recovery, he was dismissed from the Lawrence Memorial Hospital.
- 11.24-"You'll make a regular sissy of me".
 "You could never be a sissy if you tried."
 He became a victim of a second stroke.
- 11.25-Jim lapsed into a coma from which he did not emerge.
- 11.28-At 1:50 in the morning, at the beginning of the University basketball season, he, the father of basketball died at his home in Lawrence.
12. 1-The casket was carried into the First Presbyterian Church. And final funeral services were conducted at the grave in Memorial Park Cemetery.