



**POSITIONS OF THE PLAYERS.**

The game can be played by a number of men at once. In a small gymnasium, however, five a side is the most convenient number. In large rooms nine men can play on a side. This is considered the regular number, and they are placed as shown in the accompanying illustration. The game itself is strictly one of passing the ball from man to man. It can neither be kicked nor batted with the fist. The object is to get the ball into the basket or goal. To get an uncovered position is of the utmost importance, as the player can thus easily get the ball and as easily pass it to one of his side near the goal. It requires a great deal of practice to put the ball in the goal, which is placed at some distance above the players' heads. Not alone must a player be skillful, he must also be very lively. A player must throw the ball from the spot where he stands, but he can turn around to throw it. No interference is allowed, and tackling and pushing are strictly prohibited. A player may only obstruct the passage of the ball after it is thrown.

When the game is played on a field the player may run with the ball if he continually throws it above his head and catches it again. The ball may also be dribbled along the ground with the hand.

Team play counts for everything in basket-ball. The two forwards and the home man should always work together to get the ball into the goal. The backs guard the goal, and the center men are supposed to get the ball and pass it forward toward the home man.

The game is usually played in two halves of fifteen minutes each, with a slight intermission. When a goal is made the game goes right on. It is perhaps the "fastest" game played to-day, and is played with a snap which football players in lining up may well envy.

The game is being slowly introduced into women's gymnasiums, and is played by the fair gymnasts without any injurious effects.

**THE GAME IN THIS CITY.**

The game of basket ball has become quite popular in this city. The Y. M. C. A. gymnasium is equipped with the apparatus and many an afternoon the young athletes of the organization may be seen strenuously endeavoring to score goals. Among some of the crack players may be mentioned Jack Gilmour, Tom Partridge, Bert Lind, R. N. Brebner, Charlie Hobbs, Fred Evans, W. H. Wilson, Assistant Y. C. A. Secretary Frank Briscoe and Secretary Sayer and many others.

**GOALS.**

The game was first introduced by the directors and pupils of the Y. M. C. A. Training School at Springfield, Mass. Its advantages were soon perceived, and the sport spread to the gymnasiums controlled by the Young Men's Christian Association, and was further introduced into scholastic institutions and club gymnasiums. At the training school the game was developed, and a strong team was drilled in the simple workings of it by James Naismith, one of the Springfield instructors, and an earnest worker in the field of all-around sport and recreation. In New York and Brooklyn are several good teams, and these play the game from time to time.

The game can readily be played in almost the smallest gymnasium. As the sizes of the exercising rooms vary, the game played by each team is slightly different. All the match games are played under regular rules, however, and the peculiar disadvantage which a "gym" may have for the visiting team is remedied so far as possible. The game can be played out of doors, on a large field quite as well as in a small gymnasium. The goals pictured in this column are used, the upright one for the field, on which it can be placed at any point, and the other for indoor play. The latter is attached to the gallery or the wall of the room. The string is used to turn the goal so that the ball may readily be regained. These goals are the improved first goals, from the Y. M. C. A. Training School, Springfield, Mass.

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 page 57