



SPORTS...

By Eddie Ash

ALONG with the 50th anniversary of basketball and the drive for a memorial hall to Dr. James Naismith, originator of the hardwood sport, Butler University will celebrate its 47th year of participation in the net game.

Butler was the first college in Indiana to play basketball. . . . In conjunction with the Naismith Memorial Committee, which has its headquarters at the birthplace of the sport at Springfield, Mass., Butler will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of basketball by having an old-time version of the sport played between halves of the Butler-Marquette game at the Butler Field House tomorrow night.

Butler men were playing competitive basketball as early as 1894, just three years after Dr. Naismith began the sport. . . . According to Dr. John M. Cunningham, a member of the first Butler team, the game in Indiana originated at Butler. . . . The game started between school classes. . . . By 1896 the team had acquired a coach, Dr. James Lilly Zink, now dead.

Along with the sport generally designed for boys, girls also began playing basketball at Butler in the late Nineties. . . . The players of the "bloomer girls" era played along the same rules as the boys' regulations.

By 1897 Wabash, Indiana and Purdue, had added the sport to their athletic calendar and intercollegiate basketball was off to a good start in the Hoosier State.

Played on Butler Team Seven Years

DR. CUNNINGHAM, who lives at 4290 N. Meridian St., graduated from Butler in 1901. . . . He played seven years for the Hoosier school, since Butler at that time had a preparatory school, and there were no eligibility rules, other than ability, for the varsity squad.

He also participated in football, baseball and track. . . . Later he was graduated from Indiana Medical College here.

At first Butler played Shortridge High School and also the Y. M. C. A. team, which built up a national reputation by a strong traveling squad. . . . Before the adoption of regulation long trousers and sleeveless jerseys, Butler players wore whatever they chose, supplying their own uniforms and rubber-soled shoes.

THE RULES, which varied with the size of the playing floor, were largely the same as those used today, according to Dr. Cunningham. . . . A center jump was used, as well as the present scoring system.

The dribble was not allowed until the 1897 season, and the ball had to be passed from man to man, with not more than one step in between.

One official, a referee, arbitrated in the early games. . . . Four personal fouls were allowed, but referees allowed a rough style of play.

Following a personal foul assessment, any player on the team was allowed to shoot the free throw. . . . Usually the most accurate free-thrower was the one elected for the gift shot, Dr. Cunningham, starring for the Butler five.

Bounced the Ball Off the Walls

THE WALLS of the early gyms served as the out-of-bounds line, and playing the ball off the wall was permitted. . . . At the end of the regulation 20-minute playing period, if the score was tied, play was continued until one team scored.

Dr. Cunningham played his last collegiate basketball game against Wabash College in 1899. . . . Commenting on the contrast between today's basketball and that of 48 years ago, Dr. Cunningham said:

"The team play has been developed very much, and play is a great deal better. Shifting in order to facilitate the passing necessary was more prominent, and the game was very rough because of the laxity of referees and the limits of the playing floor. Also, the game at its beginning was played hard, and took a lot of endurance."

PART OF THE proceeds of the Butler-Marquette game here tomorrow will be donated to the Naismith Memorial Fund, which will be used to erect a Hall of Fame at Springfield, Mass., honoring Dr. Naismith and basketball greats. . . . The game will be broadcast by station WISH.

The 'Bambino' Gets \$25,000 Check for Gehrig Movie Chore

WRIGLEY FIELD, LOS ANGELES, Feb. 12 (U. P.)—With a big black cigar in his face and a \$25,000 check in his pocket, the mighty Dr. Ruth ran onto the diamond today to fight it out for home runs with Gary (Lou Gehrig) Cooper.

They and some 40 other baseball players, mostly genuine, were swatting the ball around for Sam Goldwyn, who has in production a movie called "The Pride of the Yankees," who has been trying to teach movie hero Cooper how to play baseball and left-handed at that.

"And if that Cooper doesn't get in there and play ball like Gehrig, I'm going to be in the doghouse for sure," reported Lefty O'Doul, manager of the San Francisco Seals.

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