

TAKE AIM FOR THE BASKET!

SPRINGFIELD TEACHER CREATES POPULAR NEW GAME

By our sports reporter

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TO KEEP Springfield students active in winter, physical education teacher James Naismith has invented a new game called basketball—and its popularity is already spreading.

The game is thrilling students at the International YMCA Training School, where they are required to throw a large ball into peach baskets suspended from a balcony in the gym.

Naismith was ordered by the school to create an indoor game that was not too rough, but would provide an “athletic distraction” during the harsh winter months. He studied other popular sports and decided that a big soft ball was safest indoors. He sought to reduce body contact by placing the goal high above the players’ heads.

Naismith described the origin of the first game in a handwritten report: “When Mr. Stubbins brought up the peach baskets to the gym, I secured them on the inside of the railing of the gallery ... I then put up the 13 rules on the bulletin board just behind the instructor’s platform, secured a soccer ball, and awaited the arrival of the class. The class did not show much enthusiasm, but followed my lead.”

The first game was not a success: the students began tackling, kicking, and punching, and it ended in a free-for-all.

Naismith is refining the game to make it cleaner by stopping tackling. He has named his new game “Basket Ball.”

The game has already taken off and expert commentators believe it is sure to become one of the world’s most popular sports.

