

James Naismith
1861-1939

10:10:30:00 – 10:12:56:00

Dur: 2:26

- 10:33 This is James Naismith. He was a superb athlete – but became famous for inventing basketball.
- 10:42 James Naismith lived in Canada about 140 years ago. He grew up on his uncle's farm.
- 10:52 James worked hard on the farm – and became the strongest boy in his class.
- 11:02 He did well in many sports and won awards as best rugby player.
- 11:15 Later he studied to become a priest – and worked as a physical education teacher on the side.
- 11:22 He enjoyed teaching so much that he decided to become a gym teacher fulltime.
- 11:29 During winter the students were bored – because there was so little to do. So James was asked to invent a new indoor sport.
- 11:43 He thought long and hard.
Then he got a football – and a great idea.
He brought two baskets to the gym.
- 11:56 Nailed the baskets to the wall –
and a new game had been created.
- 12:04 The students loved the new game,
but they found it boring to use ladder to get the ball out after scoring.
- 12:14 It took two years before someone thought to make a hole in the basket...
It made it a lot easier.
- 12:22 Some years later basket-ball became an Olympic sport. And James was the guest of honour!
- 12:34 But James was more interested in inventing things than watching basket-ball.
So he invented helmets for American football players - to stop them from injury.

12.48 James got his own museum in the United States after he died. And basketball is still one of the most popular games in the world.