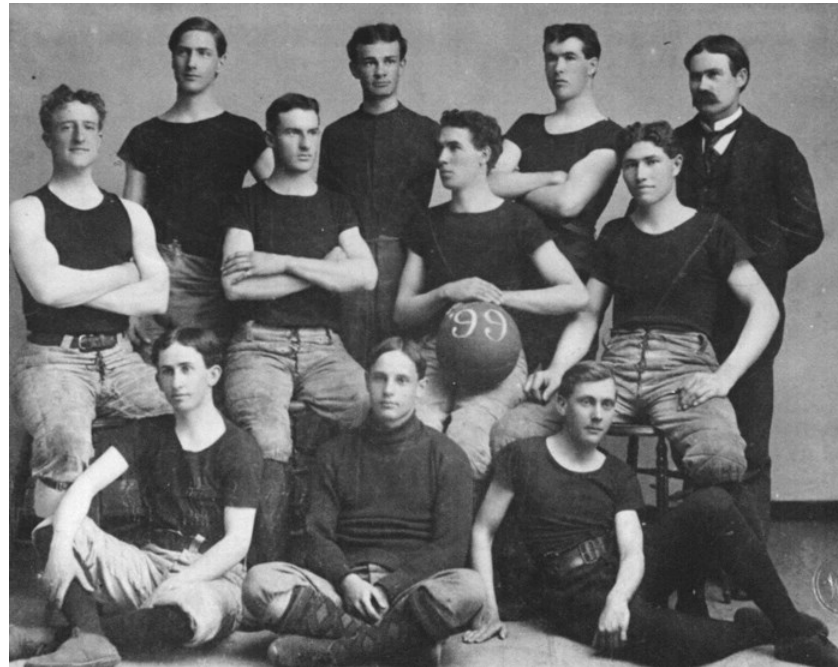




New Game Destined to Captivate Kentuckians



James Naismith was not from Kentucky, but he did something in December 1891 that had a profound impact on the state and nation. Naismith needed an indoor winter activity for a Massachusetts YMCA and made up a game he called “basket ball.” Today, people might consider the game to be the unofficial sport of Kentucky, but modern fans might not recognize Naismith’s original game. For instance, players could not run with the ball, and a player only made a goal when he threw or batted the ball into the basket—and *it stayed there*. The open net evolved later from a need to easily retrieve the ball and for players to shoot at a horizontal (not tilted) goal.



James Naismith, back row far right, invented basketball in 1891. Here, he is with the Kansas University team a few years later.

Presented by



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The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) educates and engages the public through Kentucky’s history in order to confront the challenges of the future.

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