

GERHARD FISCHER &
KOKILA RAJAI AH
TOURNAMENT



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More than any other game, basketball is truly American in its origin. In addition, it is probably the only major sport ever "invented" for a specific need.

Basketball, which today is America's most spectacular spectator sport, began back in 1891 when Dr. James Naismith hung a peach basket at either end of a gymnasium at Springfield (Mass.) College.

But how he came to hang those baskets is a story of typical American ingenuity. It is said that "Necessity is the mother of invention" and at that time there was a necessity for a good winter sport that would keep high school students interested in physical training. The invention spawned by this need was basketball. Basketball has come a long way from Springfield. It is a game both pleasing and spectacular to watch, a game with which almost anyone can associate himself.

Basketball of the yesteryears was played with many a crazy rule. The game became so popular that the courts were overcrowded, and they even tried playing with two balls simultaneously. Originally a team consisted of 9 members each, and a medicine ball was used.

If a player committed a foul, he was sent out until his side scored the next



basket (a la kabaddi). Typical scores in those days were 8-5, 5-4, etc.

There was no restriction on court area. The basket was sealed and someone had to pull the ball out after a basket was scored. Later, a ballboy sat behind the basket to fish out the ball. A later innovation was a chain attached to the basket to tip it down and drop the ball.

Later, the basket was hung just in front of the spectators' balcony. Whenever the ball went into the balcony, the players would frantically scramble over the staircase to get to the ball.

The governing body in those days decided to ban the dribble as they deemed it unscientific, and voted 9-8 for the move. However, the governing body changed its mind after watching some fantastic dribbling. Basketball has really come a long way, hasn't it!

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The Gerhard Fischer Tournament was religiously held at the Institute basketball court for a number of years. In 1980, the venue shifted to the open air amphitheatre - one of the biggest of its kind in the continent. Simultaneously, the Kokila Rajaiah Trophy for women was instituted. The tournament underwent a major metamorphosis when it became an all-India affair last year.

Loyola and the GF have gone hand in hand for the last several years. Let's see if Loyola can handle it this time too.

Our girls lost 4-65 to the KV-IIT girls in a pre-tourney warm-up match. Our girls followed the coach's advice to the core. When asked to fall back during the game, our girls fell over each other to fall on their backs. Such dedication - tsk, tsk!

TODAY'S FARE

5.30 p.m.	Stella	vs	KV IIT girls.
7.00 p.m.	MMC	vs	St. Joseph's.
9.30 p.m.	New	vs	PAUT.