



### Some Things You Really Must Know

#### \* Who Started It?

"The invention of basketball was not an accident. It was developed to meet a need. Those boys simply would not play, Drop-The-Handkerchief." - James Naismith

Dr. James Naismith, a physical education teacher at a YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts, is credited with inventing basketball in 1891. The original game used peach baskets as targets, and had only 13 rules. Many of these do not exist today, for example, balls out of bounds went to the first player to touch it and 3 fouls in a row meant you had to sit out. But rule #13 still stands today. The team that scores the most points is the winner!

#### \* What Took Them so Long?

It was 10 years after basketball was first invented before someone got the bright idea to create and

install open-ended nets on the basket. Perhaps the genius was they guy who got tired of climbing up and down the ladder to manually retrieve the ball from the peach basket.

## \* Where There is a "Wheel" There's a Way!

Many men returned from the Second World War confined to wheelchairs, but that didn't stop them from playing basketball. By 1946 wheelchair teams had formed in Veterans' Hospitals in Boston, Chicago, Memphis, Richmond and New York. Today, wheelchair basketball has spread to more than 80 countries, has its own international governing agency and is the most popular sport at the Paralympics Games.

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- Q Why can't you play basketball with pigs?
- A Because they hog the ball!
- Q What is a basketball player's favorite flower?
- A Guard-enias.
- Q Why did the chicken cross the basketball court?
- A Because the referee called a fowl!

- Q Why did the basketball player go to the doctor?
- A Because she needed some shots!
- Q—Why couldn't the fans hear the players?
- A The players were all wearing sneakers!

Here are some interesting websites to check out when you need a break. REMEMBER, halftime in basketball is only 15 minutes long, so don't sit around all day playing on the computer. You are needed on the court to be active and playing. Who else could we count on to hit the game-winning

shot? Go get 'em,

Champ!

http://www.ncaa.org/bbp/basket ball marketing/kids\_club NCAA Kids Club – Interactive

NCÁA Kids Club – Interactive NCÁA Kids Club – Interactive games, video clips (demonstrating how to practice skills) and animated clips of referee signals.

http://www.hoophall.com The Official Website of the Basketball Hall of Fame. http://www.wbhof.com
The Women's Basketball Hall of
Fame.

http://www.usabasketball.com/ The Men's and Women's Olympis and National Teams.

http://www.nwba.org/index.php The National Wheelchair Basketball Association.