



The Game of Basketball *and* The Denver Nuggets

Dr. James Naismith

... *the inventor of Basketball*



In 1891, a Physical Education Teacher named James Naismith nailed a peach basket up inside the gym and wrote down the rules to a new game that he had just invented.

He called it “**basket ball.**”

I wonder why he named it that?!

Dr. Naismith's game of **basketball** became a sport played in schools and colleges and is now an *international* sport – it's played all over the world! It's even part of the **Olympics!**

←← *Here's a statue of Dr. Naismith. It's in his hometown in Canada.*





- The National Basketball Association (NBA) in the United States, is the most popular league. It's divided into two conferences, the Western and the Eastern.
- The Denver Nuggets compete in the Western Conference of the NBA. They play their home games in the *Pepsi Center* in Denver.
- In 1982, the Denver Nuggets set the league scoring record! That season they averaged 126 points per game!



The Denver Nuggets



• • • *professional basketball in Denver!*

- The original team was formed in **1935!**
- Early versions of the team had some interesting names, such as the *Denver Safeway Piggly Wigglys!*
- The Denver Nuggets were the first NBA team formed West of the Mississippi River.
- Their current team symbol – or *logo* – includes pictures of a gold-miners' tool called a *pickaxe*.
- Why do you think they are called the **Nuggets?**

The Basketball Hall of Fame

*is in Springfield, Massachusetts,
the birthplace of the game of basketball!*



- What does the *Basketball Hall of Fame* building look like to you?
- There are at least 10 former Denver Nuggets players and coaches who are in the Basketball Hall of Fame!

The Basketball Hall of Fame



Senda Berenson (1868-1954)

Went from being a frail child with poor health to become the Mother of Women's Basketball. As a physical education teacher at Smith College, she introduced the new sport of basketball to women in 1892. She wrote the official rule books for women's basketball that was the standard for over 70 years.



SENDA BERENDSON ABBOTT

- She's a pioneer of Women's Basketball.
- She's in *The Basketball Hall of Fame*.
- *In fact, she's in three different Halls of Fame!*
- In 1901, she wrote the first –
"Basket Ball Guide for Women".



