

Before Socky



Physical Education Professor James Naismith invented the game of basketball because he sought a vigorous indoor game to keep his students fit during the winter. That's the official story, anyway. But Naismith owned a hydroponics farm on the southern edge of the Okefenokee Swamp where he raised a variety of squash that he just *happened* to designate as the standard ball for the game. After point guard Rex Dinklaker burst a dozen squashes during a dribbling clinic, he complained loudly of the gourd's unreliability. Naismith, however, insisted that the abundance of peat in the swamp water made the squashes perfectly suited, bouncewise, to the rigors of the game. Shortly thereafter, Dinklaker's peat-stained corpse was fished out of the swamp. By the time Naismith was exonerated of the crime, Meptang Heavy Industries had invented a ball with an inflatable inner rubber bladder, a synthetic leather exterior, and, importantly, a uniform bounce. The device quickly superseded Naismith's squash as the de facto game ball. Undeterred, the professor invented socky, a cross between hockey and soccer that involved maneuvering his squashes across a field. Alas, the game failed to gain traction, and continues to not do so today.