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BASKETBALL



ЛЬВІВСЬКИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ ФІЗИЧНОЇ КУЛЬТУРИ

Кафедра української та іноземних мов

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«БАСКЕТБОЛ»

методична розробка
з англійської мови

для самостійної та аудиторної роботи
з теми

«Спортивна спеціалізація»

для студентів III курсу
денної та заочної форми навчання
за напрямками підготовки «фізичне виховання» та «спорт»

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BASKETBALL

Text A

Pre-text exercises

1. Read and learn the active vocabulary.

| | |
|---|--|
| administer, <i>v</i> | - управляти, керувати |
| backboard, <i>n</i> | - щит |
| basket, <i>n</i> | - баскетбольна корзина |
| bounce, <i>v</i> | - відскакувати (<i>про м'яч</i>) |
| common techniques of shooting | - загальна техніка кидка |
| defense, <i>n</i> | - захист |
| dimension, <i>n</i> | - розмір, величина, протяжність |
| dribble, <i>v</i> | - вести м'яч |
| dribbling, <i>n</i> | - ведення м'яча |
| forward, <i>n</i> | - нападник |
| foul, <i>n</i> | - порушення правил гри |
| foul shot (penalty, free throw), <i>n</i> | - штрафний кидок |
| grip a ball, <i>v</i> | - схопити м'яч |
| guard, <i>n</i> | - захисник |
| guide, <i>v</i> | - спрямовувати, управляти |
| handle, <i>v</i> | - керувати, брати |
| hoop, <i>n</i> | - кидок з під кошика |
| identification, <i>n</i> | - розпізнання, визначення |
| infraction, <i>n</i> | - порушення правил гри |
| interfere, <i>v</i> | - втручатися, вторгатися |
| jump shot, <i>n</i> | - кидок у стрибку |
| lay-up shot | - кидок в корзину однією рукою в стрибку |
| objective of the game | - завдання гри |
| offense, <i>n</i> | - порушення |
| passing, <i>n</i> | - передача м'яча |
| pivot shot, <i>n</i> | - кидок на повороті |
| point, <i>n</i> | - очко |
| penalty point, <i>n</i> | - штрафне очко |
| rectangular court | - прямокутний майданчик |
| restriction, <i>n</i> | - обмеження |
| score, <i>n</i> | - рахунок, кількість набраних очок |
| score, <i>v</i> | - набирати очки |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| score a point, <i>v</i> | - одержати очко |
| set shot (chest shot), <i>n</i> | - кидок двома руками від грудей |
| keep the score, <i>v</i> | - вести рахунок |
| there was no score | - рахунок не був відкритий |
| shoot a ball, <i>v</i> | - бити по м'ячу |
| shooting, <i>n</i> | - кидок у корзину |
| sneakers, <i>n</i> | - кросівки |
| supervise, <i>v</i> | - контролювати, стежити |
| teammate, <i>n</i> | - гравець тієї ж команди |
| violation, <i>n</i> | - порушення правил |
| whistle, <i>n</i> | - свисток |

2. Translate without using a dictionary.

Opposition, uniform, identification, color, control, diameter, metal, soccer, contact, pass, court, foul, technique, position, popular, physical, opponent, referee, style, fitness, situation.

3. Read and translate the text.

BASKETBALL

Basketball is a team game played on a rectangular court, generally indoors, by two five-player teams. The primary objective of the game is to score more points than the opposition by putting a round ball through a high hoop under organized rules. Basketball is one of the most popular sports in the world, it is played by men and women of all ages and ability levels in more than 200 countries.

Points are scored by shooting the ball through the basket from above; the team with more points at the end of the game wins. The ball can be advanced on the court by bouncing it (dribbling) or passing it between teammates. Disruptive physical contact (fouls) is not permitted and there are restrictions on how the ball can be handled (violations).

Through time, basketball has developed to involve common techniques of shooting, passing and dribbling, as well as players' positions, and offensive and defensive structures. The team consists of five players - two guards, two forwards, and one centre - all of whom play offence and defence. The basketball players should master five basic shots: the lay-up, set shot, jump shot, pivot shot and foul shot. Games begin with a jump ball at a centre court; a referee throws the ball up while two opposing attempt to direct the ball to their team mate control. The basic offensive skills of basketball are passing, ball handling,

shooting and rebounding. Defensive skills include guarding opponents, blocking and positioning to defeat the basket, using quickness to intercept or steal the ball. A basketball team is organized, guided, and instructed by a coach.

The standard basketball uniform consists of sneakers, socks, a tank-top shirt, and shorts. Each player's uniform has a number, for identification, that is usually displayed on both sides of the shirt. Sometimes the player's name is displayed on the back of the shirt as well.

The referees maintain orderly and fair play on the court and administer the rules of the game to ensure that neither team has an unfair advantage. To make appropriate calls, referees must be observant and have exceptional knowledge of rules and playing styles. Referees must position themselves during play to afford a clear view of the action without interfering. A referee will cite rules infractions and stop play by blowing a whistle. After play has stopped, referees signal what violation has occurred by using hand signals and verbal call. Most referees' decisions must be made very quickly. During the game a referee can run several miles supervising the activity, so exceptional physical fitness is important. Between games and during the off-season, referees engage in a continuing study of all possible game situations.

The backboard, 6 feet (1.83 m) wide and 4 feet (1.22 m) high is located at the centre of each end of the court 4 feet (1.22 m) in from the end line and 9 feet (2.74 m) above the floor. It can be made of hardwood, metal or glass.

In the early days of its development, basketball was played with a soccer ball. Today, the standard basketball is generally orange or brown in color, with an outer cover of leather or nylon and a pebbled (indented) surface to help players grip and control the ball.

The basket is an open hammock net, suspended from the backboard on a metal ring 18 inches (45.7 cm) in diameter, which must be 6 inches (15.2 cm) from the rigid surface to which it is fastened and 10 feet (3.05 m) above the floor.

*(Originated from "Basketball" Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopaedia 2000.
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Post-text exercises

1. Give Ukrainian equivalents to the following phrases:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) primary objective | 6) exceptional knowledge |
| 2) rectangular surface | 7) standard basketball uniform |
| 3) maximum dimension | 8) exceptional physical fitness |
| 4) disruptive physical contact | 9) grip and control a ball |
| 5) offensive and defensive structure | 10) involve common techniques |

2. Match the definitions to the following notions.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1) dribble | a) the rectangular structure to which basket is attached; |
| 2) foul | b) any infraction not classified as a foul; |
| 3) forward | c) the action of hitting, kicking or throwing the ball in order to score a point or goal in a game; |
| 4) defense | d) physical contact by a player that breaks a rule; |
| 5) whistle | e) to bounce and control the ball continuously with one hand while walking or running; |
| 6) basket | f) the number of point, goals, etc. scored by each player or team in a game or competition; |
| 7) shot | g) the act of preventing the offense from scoring; the team without the ball; |
| 8) violation | h) one of the three standard player positions, they are responsible for scoring and rebounding; |
| 9) score | i) consists of the rim and the net, also known as the hoop; |
| 10) backboard | j) a small metal or plastic tube that you blow to make a loud high sound, used to attract attention or as a signal. |

3. Combine the following words and translate them.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1) teammates | a) ball |
| 2) ability | b) handling |
| 3) offensive | c) dimensions |
| 4) fair | d) skills |
| 5) verbal | e) level |
| 6) cite | f) control |
| 7) court | g) call |
| 8) metal | h) play |
| 9) ball | i) ring |
| 10) jump | j) rules |

4. Insert the prepositions where necessary:

of (3), by (2), on, through (2), at, in, with.

1. Basketball is a game where players try to throw a round ball ... a raised basket like goal.
2. It is played ... a court ... two teams ... five players.
3. Points are made ... shooting the ball ... a high metal hoop and net ... the opponent's end ... the court.
4. In the early days, basketball was played ... a soccer ball.
5. Basketball is one ... the most popular and widely viewed sports ... the world. .

5. Match two parts of the sentences.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Basketball is a team sport in which two teams ... | a) ... both the attack and the defense. |
| 2. The basic offensive skills are ... | b) ... is a rectangular with regulation rims located 10 feet above the ground. |
| 3. The large round ball used in this game ... | c) ... played by men or women of all ages and ability. |
| 4. There are five basic shots in basketball ... | d) ... try to score points against one another. |
| 5. Basketball develops many good qualities such as ... | e) ... to put the ball through the hoop more often than your opponent. |
| 6. All the players may take part in ... | f) ... must be made very quickly. |
| 7. The object of the game is to ... | g) ... the lay-up shot, the set shot, the jump shot, the pivot shot, and the foul shot. |
| 8. The basketball court on the playground or in a gymnasium ... | h) ... is called a basketball. |
| 9. Basketball is one of the most popular sports around the world ... | i) ... quick reaction, accuracy, dexterity, agility, endurance and the like. |
| 10. All referees' decisions ... | j) ... passing, ball handling, shooting and rebounding. |

6. Answer the following questions.

1. What is the object of the game?
2. How many players constitute a team?
3. What makes basketball so popular?
4. Describe the goals used in basketball?
5. How many basic shots are there in basketball? What are they?
6. What does basketball uniform consist of?
7. Who administer the rules of the game?
8. What is the basket?
9. What does referee's task consist in?
10. What should referee know about the game?

7. Finish the following sentences.

1. Basketball is a ...
2. The primary objective of the game is ...
3. Points are scored by ...
4. The ball can be advanced on the court by ...
5. The team consists of five players ...
6. The basketball players should master five basic shots: ...
7. Games begin with ...
8. The basic offensive skills of basketball are ...
9. Defensive skills include ...
10. Each player's uniform has a ...

Text B

1. Read the text to find the information about:

- 1) *a Canadian physical education student and instructor;*
- 2) *the peach baskets;*
- 3) *Naismith's granddaughter;*
- 4) *the Women's basketball;*
- 5) *the National Basketball League.*

In early December 1891, Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian physical education student and instructor at YMCA Training School (today, Springfield College) in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA, sought a vigorous indoor game to keep his students occupied and at proper levels of fitness during the long New England winters to keep the students in shape. After rejecting other ideas as either too rough or poorly suited to walled-in gymnasiums, he wrote the basic rules and nailed a peach basket onto a 10-foot (3.05 m) elevated track. In contrast with modern basketball nets, this peach basket retained its bottom, and balls had to be retrieved manually after each "basket" or point scored, this proved inefficient, however, so a hole was drilled into the bottom of the basket, allowing the balls to be poked out with a long dowel each time. The peach baskets were used until 1906 when they were finally replaced by metal hoops with backboards. A further change was soon made, so the ball merely passed through, paving the way for the game we know today. A soccer ball was used to shoot goals. Whenever a person got the ball in the basket, they would give their team a point. Whichever team got the most points won the game. Naismith's handwritten diaries, discovered by his granddaughter in early 2006, indicate that he was nervous about the new game he

had invented, which incorporated rules from a children's game called "Duck on a Rock", as many had failed before it. Naismith called the new game 'Basket Ball'. The first official game was played in the YMCA gymnasium on January 20, 1892 with nine players and the game ended at 1-0 and the shot was made from 25 feet, on a court just half the size of a present-day Streetball or National Basketball Association (NBA) court. "Basket hall", the name suggested by one of Naismith's students, was popular from the beginning. By 1897-1898 teams of five became standard. Women's basketball began in 1892 at Smith College when Senda Berenson, a physical education teacher, modified Naismith's rules for women. Shortly after she was hired at Smith, she went to Naismith to learn more about the game. Fascinated by the new sport and the values it could teach, she organized the first women's collegiate basketball game on March 21, 1893, when her Smith freshmen and sophomores played against one another. Her rules were first published in 1899 and two years later Berenson became the editor of A.G. Spalding's first Women's Basketball Guide, which further spread her version of basketball for women. Basketball's early adherents were dispatched to YMCAs throughout the United States, and it quickly spread through the USA and Canada. By 1895, it was well established at several women's high schools. While the YMCA was responsible for initially developing and spreading the game, within a decade it discouraged the new sport, as rough play and rowdy crowds began to detract from the YMCA's primary mission. However, other amateur sports clubs, colleges, and professional clubs quickly filled the void. In the years before World War I, the Amateur Athletic Union and the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States vied for control over the rules for the game. The first pro league, the National Basketball League, was formed in 1898 to protect players from exploitation and to promote a less rough game. This league only lasted 5 years. By 1950's basketball had become a major college sport, thus having the way for a growth of interest in professional basketball. In 1959 a basketball Hall of Fame was founded in Springfield, Massachusetts. Its rosters include the names of great players, coaches, referees and people who have contributed significantly to the development of the game. Basketball was originally played with an association football ball. The first balls made specifically for basketball were brown, and it was only in the late 1950s that Tony Hinkle, searching for a ball that would be more visible to players and spectators alike, introduced the orange ball that is now in common use. Dribbling was not part of the original game except for the "bounce pass" to teammates. Passing the ball was the primary means of ball movement. Dribbling was eventually introduced but limited by the asymmetric shape of early balls. Dribbling only became a major part of the game around the 1950s as manufacturing improved the ball shape. Basketball, netball, dodgeball, volleyball, and lacrosse are the only ball games which have been identified as

being invented by North Americans. Other ball games, such as baseball and Canadian football, have Commonwealth of Nations, European, Asian or African connections. Although there is no direct evidence as yet that the idea of basketball came from the ancient Mesoamerican ballgame, knowledge of that game had been available for at least 50 years prior to Naismith's creation in the writings of John Lloyd Stephens and Alexander von Humboldt. Stephen's works especially, which included drawings by Frederick Catherwood, were available at most educational institutions in the 19th century and also had wide popular circulation.

2. Are the sentences true or false? Correct any false sentences.

1. Dr. James Naismith, an American physical education student and instructor sought a vigorous indoor game.
2. The peach baskets were used until they were finally replaced by metal hoops with backboards.
3. A rugby ball was used to shoot goals.
4. The first official game was played in the YMCA gymnasium on January 20, 1892 with five players.
5. Senda Berenson organized the first women's collegiate basketball game on March 21, 1893.
6. The National Basketball League was formed to protect players from exploitation and to promote a less rough game.
7. Tony Hinkle introduced the orange ball that is now in common use.
8. Naismith's handwritten diaries indicate that he was very happy about the new game he had invented.
9. In 1959 a basketball Hall of Fame was founded in Springfield, Massachusetts.
10. "Basket ball", the name suggested by one of Naismith's students, wasn't popular from the beginning.

3. Divide the text into paragraphs. Give headings to them.

4. Work in pairs. Ask and answer your own questions on the text.

5. Title the text and write an abstract of it.

1. Read the text. Translate it in a written form.**GENERAL RULES**

Rules governing the game are revised each year by the joint Basketball Rules Committee.

The home team provides the game ball, and traditionally the visiting team is given the choice of end of court for the first half. If a neutral court is used, a coin toss determines home team and choice of ends. The teams change sides of the court at halftime. Half of the court is the frontcourt of one team and the backcourt of the other team.

The ball is passed, thrown, bounced, handed, or otherwise moved among players of one team, with the intent of scoring a basket and preventing the other team from scoring.

Teams consist of five players: two forwards, two guards, and one center. Generally the forwards play closest to the basket, the guards play farthest from their team's basket, and the centre plays between the forwards and the guards. At higher levels of competition, the players are referred to by numbers as well as by positions: point guard, shooting guard, small or wing forward, power forward, and centre.

The game is started with a jump ball between two opponents (usually the centres) at centre court. After each field goal the ball is put into play by the team not scoring, from the out-of-bounds area behind the basket at which the score was made.

After a free throw awarded because of a personal foul the ball is put into play by the opponent from behind the opponent's basket. If the free throw is the result of a technical foul, the ball is put into a play from out of bounds at midcourt by the free thrower's team.

A player is out of bounds if he or she touches the floor on or outside the boundary line. If a player causes the ball to pass over the boundary line, the ball is put into play by an opposing player from that spot. Any player can make the throw-in. The player throwing the ball in must stand out-of-bounds where the referee designates, may take one lateral step to the left or right, jump up or take two or more steps backward, and may use either one or two hands to make the throw-in, which must be completed within 5 seconds.

Violations Common to Men's and Women's Basketball

1. Taking more than one step with the ball without passing, shooting, or dribbling.
2. Kicking the ball with the foot or lower leg.
3. Stepping out of bounds with the ball.
4. The centre's leaving the circle before the ball is tipped in beginning play.
5. Staying in one's own free-throw lane for more than 3 seconds.

6. Failure to observe free-throw regulations.
7. Failure to inbound the ball within 5 seconds.
8. Double dribbling.
9. Moving the ball into the backcourt once it has been advanced to the frontcourt.
10. Technical fouls include:
 - a. taking time out too often
 - b. failure of substitutes to report to proper officials
 - c. unsportsmanlike conduct
 - d. use of illegal numbers or uniforms
 - e. touching the backboard or rim illegally
11. Personal fouls include:
 - a. charging
 - b. blocking
 - c. pushing
 - d. holding
 - e. tripping
 - f. hacking or kneeing

When a violation is committed, the ball is given to the opponents out-of-bounds. When a foul is committed, the opponents may be given a free throw, an opportunity to make two free throws if the first one is made, or the ball out-of-bounds. The decision as to which of these options is awarded depends on the particular foul committed, the level of play and the number of fouls that the offending team has previously committed. A player fouled in the act of shooting gets two free throws. If the basket is made, one free throw is awarded and the basket is counted. Only personal fouls disqualify a player. A player is allowed only four personal fouls; a fifth sidelines the player for the remainder of the game.

2. Compile a vocabulary of basketball terms.

3. Make up a presentation of basketball.

Social forms of basketball

Basketball has been adopted by various social groups, which have established their own environments and sometimes their own rules. Such socialized forms of basketball include the following.

Recreational basketball, where fun, entertainment and camaraderie rule rather than winning a game;

Basketball Schools and Academies, where students are trained in developing basketball fundamentals, undergo fitness and endurance exercises and learn various basketball skills. Basketball students learn proper ways of passing, ball handling, dribbling, shooting from various distances, rebounding, offensive moves, defense, layups, screens, basketball rules and basketball ethics. Also popular are the basketball camps organized for various occasions, often to get prepared for basketball events, and basketball clinics for improving skills.

College and University basketball played in educational institutions of higher learning.

This includes National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) intercollegiate basketball.

Disabled basketball played by various disabled groups, such as: bankshot basketball, deaf basketball.

Wheelchair basketball, a sport based on basketball but designed for disabled people in wheelchairs and considered one of the major disabled sports practiced.

Ethnic and Religion-based basketball: Examples of ethnic basketball include Indo-Pak or Russian or Armenian leagues in the United States or Canada, for example, or Filipino expatriate basketball leagues in the Gulf or the United States. Religion-based basketball includes, most notably, church-related Christian basketball leagues, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu basketball leagues, and so on. or denominational leagues like Coptic, Syriac/Assyrian basketball leagues in the United States or Canada.

Midnight basketball, a basketball initiative to curb inner-city crime in the United States and elsewhere by keeping urban youth off the streets and engaging them with sports alternatives to drugs and crime.

Mini basketball played by underage children.

Maxi Basketball played by more elderly individuals.

Prison basketball, practiced in prisons and penitentiary institutions. Active religious basketball missionary groups also play basketball with prisoners. Some prisons have developed their own prison basketball leagues. At times, non-prisoners may play in such leagues, provided all home and away games are played within prison courts. Film director Jason Moriarty has released a documentary relating to the sport, entitled *Prison Ball*.

Women's basketball

In 1891, the University of California and Miss Head's School played the first women's interinstitutional game. Women's basketball began in 1892 at Smith College when Senda Berenson, a physical education teacher, modified Naismith's rules for women. Shortly after she was hired at Smith, she went to Naismith to learn more about the game. Fascinated by the new sport and the values it could teach, she organized the first women's collegiate basketball game on March 21, 1893, when her Smith freshmen and sophomores played against one another. Her rules were first published in 1899 and two years later Berenson became the editor of A.G. Spalding's first Women's Basketball Guide. Berenson's freshmen played the sophomore class in the first women's intercollegiate basketball game at Smith College, March 21, 1893. The same year, Mount Holyoke and Sophie Newcomb College (coached by Clara Gregory Baer) women began playing basketball. By 1895, the game had spread to colleges across the country, including Wellesley, Vassar, and Bryn Mawr. The first intercollegiate women's game was on April 4, 1896.

Women's basketball development was more structured than that for men in the early years. In 1905, the Executive Committee on Basket Ball Rules (National Women's Basketball Committee) was created by the American Physical Education Association. These rules called for six to nine players per team and 11 officials. The International Women's Sports Federation (1924) included a women's basketball competition. 37 women's high school varsity basketball or state tournaments were held by 1925. And in 1926, the Amateur Athletic Union backed the first national women's basketball championship, complete with men's rules. The Edmonton Grads, a touring Canadian women's team based in Edmonton, Alberta, operated between 1915 and 1940. The Grads toured all over North America, and were exceptionally successful. They posted a record of 522 wins and only 20 losses over that span, as they met any team which wanted to challenge them, funding their tours from gate receipts. The Grads also shone on several exhibition trips to Europe, and won four consecutive exhibition Olympics tournaments, in 1924, 1928, 1932, and 1936; however, women's basketball was not an official Olympic sport until 1976. The Grads' players were unpaid, and had to remain single. The Grads' style focused on team play, without overly emphasizing skills of individual players. The first women's AAU All-America team was chosen in 1929. Women's industrial leagues sprang up throughout the United States, producing famous athletes, including Babe Didrikson of the Golden Cyclones, and the All American Red Heads Team, which competed against men's teams, using men's rules. By 1938, the women's national championship changed from a three-court game to two-court game with six players per team.

The NBA-backed Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) began in 1997. Though it had shaky attendance figures, several marquee players (Lisa Leslie, Diana Taurasi, and Candace Parker among others) have helped the league's popularity and level of competition.

International basketball

The International Basketball Federation was formed in 1932 by eight founding nations: Argentina, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland. At this time, the organization only oversaw amateur players. Its acronym, derived from the French Federation Internationale de Basketball Amateur, was thus “FIBA”. Men’s Basketball was first included at the Berlin 1936 Summer Olympics, although a demonstration tournament was held in 1904. The United States defeated Canada in the first final, played outdoors. This competition has usually been dominated by the United States, whose team has won all but three titles, the first loss in a controversial final game in Munich in 1972 against the Soviet Union. In 1950 the first FIBA World Championship for men was held in Argentina. Three years later, the first FIBA World Championship for Women was held in Chile. Women’s basketball was added to the Olympics in 1976, which were held in Montreal, Canada with teams such as the Soviet Union, Brazil and Australia rivaling the American squads.

FIBA dropped the distinction between amateur and professional players in 1989, and in 1992, professional players played for the first time in the Olympic Games. The United States’ dominance continued with the introduction of their Dream Team. However, with developing programs elsewhere, other national teams started to beat the United States. A team made entirely of NBA players finished sixth in the 2002 World Championships in Indianapolis, behind Yugoslavia, Argentina, Germany, New Zealand and Spain. In the 2004 Athens Olympics, the United States suffered its first Olympic loss while using professional players, falling to Puerto Rico (in a 19-point loss) and Lithuania in group games, and being eliminated in the semifinals by Argentina. It eventually won the bronze medal defeating Lithuania, finishing behind Argentina and Italy. In 2006, in the World Championship of Japan, the United States advanced to the semifinals but were defeated by Greece by 101–95. In the bronze medal game it beat team Argentina and finished 3rd behind Greece and Spain. After the disappointments of 2002 through 2006, the U.S. regrouped, reestablishing themselves as the dominant international team behind the “Redeem Team”, which won gold at the 2008 Olympics, and the so-called “B-Team”, which won gold at the 2010 FIBA World Championship in Turkey despite featuring no players from the 2008 squad.

The all-tournament teams at the 2002 and 2006 FIBA World Championships, respectively held in Indianapolis and Japan, demonstrate the globalization of the game equally dramatically. Only one member of either team was American, namely Carmelo Anthony in 2006. The 2002 team featured Nowitzki, Ginobili, Yao, Peja Stojakovic of Yugoslavia (now of Serbia), and Pero Cameron of New Zealand. Ginobili also made the 2006 team; the other members were Anthony, Gasol, his Spanish teammate Jorge Garbajosa and Theodoros Papaloukas of Greece. The only players on either team to never have joined the NBA are Cameron and Papaloukas.

Professional basketball

Teams abounded throughout the 1920s. There were hundreds of men's professional basketball teams in towns and cities all over the United States, and little organization of the professional game. Players jumped from team to team and teams played in armories and smoky dance halls. Leagues came and went. Barnstorming squads such as the Original Celtics and two all-African American teams, the New York Renaissance Five ("Rens") and the (still existing) Harlem Globetrotters played up to two hundred games a year on their national tours.

In 1946, the Basketball Association of America (BAA) was formed. The first game was played in Toronto, Ontario, Canada between the Toronto Huskies and New York Knickerbockers on November 1, 1946. Three seasons later, in 1949, the BAA merged with the National Basketball League to form the National Basketball Association (NBA). By the 1950s, basketball had become a major college sport, thus paving the way for a growth of interest in professional basketball. In 1959, a basketball hall of fame was founded in Springfield, Massachusetts, site of the first game. Its rosters include the names of great players, coaches, referees and people who have contributed significantly to the development of the game. The hall of fame has people who have accomplished many goals in their career in basketball. An upstart organization, the American Basketball Association, emerged in 1967 and briefly threatened the NBA's dominance until the ABA-NBA merger in 1976. Today the NBA is the top professional basketball league in the world in terms of popularity, salaries, talent, and level of competition.

The NBA has featured many famous players, including George Mikan, the first dominating "big man"; ball-handling wizard Bob Cousy and defensive genius Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics; Wilt Chamberlain, who originally played for the barnstorming Harlem Globetrotters; all-around stars Oscar Robertson and Jerry West; more recent big men Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaquille O'Neal and Karl Malone; playmaker John Stockton; crowd-pleasing forward Julius Erving; European stars Dirk Nowitzki and Dražen Petrović and the three players who many credit with ushering the professional game to its highest level of popularity: Larry Bird, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and Michael Jordan. In 2001, the NBA formed a developmental league, the NBDL. As of 2012, the league has 16 teams.

(Originated from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Basketball Glossary

Alternate-possession rule - the rule where any jump ball situations after the opening jump ball result in each team gaining possession of the ball. The team losing the opening jump ball will be awarded the first possession, which teams alternating possession for the rest of the game.

Assist - a pass or handoff resulting in a basket by a team mate.

Backboard - the surface of wood, metal, or glass to which the basket is affixed, used to carom shots into the basket.

Backcourt - the half of the court away from the basket under attack; the guards are often called backcourt players.

Basket - (a) The iron hoop through which goals are scored; (b) a field goal.

Bench - the reserve strength of a team, apart from the starting five players.

Blocking - a foul by a defensive player who blocks the legal path of an offensive player.

Centre jump - the method of putting the ball into play at the beginning of a game by having the referee toss up the ball between the rival centres.

Charging - a foul by an offensive player who runs into a defensive player who has established legal court position.

Dribble - to bounce and control the ball continuously with one and while walking or running. To double dribble is to stop and then resume dribbling, which is a violation.

Dunk - to leap to or above the basket and stuff the ball through the hoop. Such a movement with great vigour is called a "slam dunk".

Fast break - a style of offence in which a team attempts to race to the offensive basket before the defence can get set.

Field goal - a basket scored from the floor.

Free throw - an unobstructed shot from the foul line, worth one point, awarded as a penalty for a foul by the opposing team.

Free-throw lane - the area on the floor bounded by the free-throw line, the end line under the basket, and two connecting lines.

Frontcourt - the half of the court in which a basket is under attack.

Give and go - a play in which one player passes to a team mate and drives toward the basket to receive a pass for a lay-up.

Handoff - handing the ball to a team mate (instead of passing it).

Held ball - simultaneous possession of a ball by opposing players, leading to use of the alternate-possession rule.

Hook shot - a sweeping one-handed field goal attempt, with the shooter's back at least partially to the basket.

Hoop - (a) the rim of the basket; (b) a basket or score.

Jump ball - a means of putting the ball into a play by having an official toss it upward between two players. This only occurs at the start of the game.

Jump shot - a field goal attempt in which the ball is released at the top of a vertical jump; also called a "jumper".

Lay-up - a shot from alongside the basket, using the backboard as a guide.

Offensive foul - a personal foul committed by a member of the offensive team, usually not involving a free throw as part of the penalty.

Palming - an illegal means of carrying the ball along while dribbling.

Personal foul - any of a variety of body-contact fouls; five, or in professional ball, six personals disqualify the player who commits them.

Pick - a legal method of providing shooting room for a team mate by taking a position that “picks off” blocks, a defensive player.

Pick-and-roll - a maneuver in which a player moves suddenly (rolls) toward the basket for a pass from the team mate for whom a pick has been set.

Pivot - a position taken by a player with his/her back to the basket, at the head or alongside the free-throw lane, from which he/she can spin and shoot or hand off to team mate moving past him/her toward the basket; also the floor area where pivot play is feasible.

Player-to-player defence - style of team defence in which each is assigned to a specific opponent to guard anywhere on the court.

Post - a position on the offensive end of the court where the player places him or herself just outside of the free throw lane. Low post means the player is closer to the free throw line.

Press - a style of defence in which offensive players are closely guarded and harried. A “full-court press” is applied all over the floor; a “half-court press” only after the ball is brought across the midcourt line.

Rebound - a shot that caroms off the basket or backboard and remains in play, to be recovered by either team.

Set shot - a field goal attempted from a stationary position with both feet on the floor when the player releases the ball. This shot is usually taken relatively far from the basket.

Steal - capture of the ball from the hands of a player by the defender; an intercepted pass.

Switch - a defensive technique in which players who have player-to-player assignments switch responsibilities with each other as their offensive players cross paths.

Technical foul - a foul imposed for misbehaviour or some technical rule infraction. The penalty is a free throw plus possession of the ball for the offended team.

Ten-second rule - the requirement that a team bring the ball across the midcourt line within 10 seconds after gaining possession.

Three-pointer - a field goal made by a player who is fouled in the act of shooting, plus the free throw that is made; also a basket scored from outside the three-point line on the court.

Three-second rule - the restriction against offensive players taking-up set positions within the free-throw lane for more than 3 seconds.

Tip-in - a field goal made by tipping the ball into the basket while airborne for a rebound.

Trailer - a player who follows behind his/her team mates on a fast break as a passing option if they are unable to get off a shot.

Trap - convergence of two or more defenders on a ball handler to force a turnover or steal.

Travelling - illegally moving the ball by violating the dribbling rules.

Turnover - loss of possession of the ball without attempting a field goal.

Violation - any infraction not classified as a foul. The penalty is loss of possession of the ball.

Zone - a style of team defence in which each player is assigned to guard a designated floor area, rather than a specific opponent.

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