MAPEH or Music, Arts, Physical Education, And Health is a subject offered in the High School curriculum in the Philippines. The subjects touch many different aspects, one of which is sports.

When it comes to sport, there are few that Filipinos are obsessed with to the point of fanaticism. We all know the relationship of Filipinos and boxing, it is completely unexplainable. Every time the Pambansang Kamao Manny Pacquiao step in the tarps of a boxing ring it seemed like the country halts whatever he is doing to watch. But even that is incomparable to the amount of passion and dedication of Pinoys to their favorite sport of all time; basketball.

Basketball is undoubtedly the most played sports in the Philippines. In the Philippine, basketball is synonymous to sports. As a demonstration, you will not find a Barangay or a town without a basketball court. In some places basketball courts are in every vacant lot and even in non-busy streets. Basketball is the perfect mix of team play and competition, which Filipinos love. For us nothing beats a good game. Basketball culture is so influential that it is even part of the school curriculum. The sports’ rule and mechanics are taught in schools as part of P.E.

Filipinos are so basketball obsessed that it is such a surprise to learn that it did not originate in the country. The modern basketball is from a town called Springfield in the United States of America. It was an innovation from a PE instructor named James Naismith from a YMCA Training school. James came up with the game in December 1981 for his students. The very first basketball game has two sets of five-man team that aimed
shots to a peach basket. In no time the simple basket game gained notoriety across the continent. A month after the first basketball game, the official rules of the game was published in the YMCA school paper.

At the beginning basketball is considered as a winter sport due to the fact that it was mainly played indoors, in gymnasiums and sport centres. But eventually the sport evolved to an all-year-round sport that can be played at any location. From the USA basketball came to Canada, then Europe, then Asia in 1900, and ever since then basketball has become a global phenomenon. It reached every corner and block all over the world.

In the US basketball has its own association known as NBA a league of basketball teams from every state. They battle for the title of champion and the glory of being the best team. In fact, NBA is a huge industry. There are many basketball prodigies that immersed in the NBA including the legendary “Black Mamba”, the late Kobe Bryant. Sadly Kobe died in a fatal helicopter crash in California last year.

In the Philippines we have an NBA counterpart known as the PBA (Philippine Basketball Association). The difference however is that instead of interstate battle, large companies own their own team and they compete for the championship and prestige that comes with the title. The same as in the US, basketball is an enormous industry in the Philippines. Some of the most known teams in Philippine basketball history are the Barangay Ginebra which is a brand of liquor and Alaska Aces a brand of canned milk products. Basketball games are televised in primetime. After every match you can expect that the game outcome will be the topic of conversation on streets corners, sari-sari stores and terminals.

It is absolutely unbelievable how basketball dominated the world. From a simple school activity a teacher invented for his students to a global phenomenon.
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