

# Staff Picks



## Teen Sports Books

Are you interested in reading some fiction centered around sports? The following books all have teenage main characters playing sports and learning about life.



### Black and White

Paul Volponi    Y Vo

Two star high school basketball players, one black and one white, experience the justice system differently after committing a crime together and getting caught.



### Crackback

John Coy    Y Co

Miles barely recalls when football was fun after being sidelined by a new coach, constantly criticized by his father, and pressured by his best friend to take performance-enhancing drugs.



### Dairy Queen

Catherine Gilbert Murdock    Y Murdock

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.



### Derby Girl

Shauna Cross    Y Cross

When sixteen-year-old rebel Bliss Cavendar, who is miserable living in a small Texas town with her beauty pageant-obsessed mother, secretly joins a roller derby team under the name "Babe Ruthless," her life gets better, although infinitely more confusing.



### Gym Candy

Carl Deuker    Y Deuker

Groomed by his father to be a star player, football is the only thing that has ever really mattered to Mick Johnson, who works hard for a spot on the varsity team his freshman year, then tries to hold onto his edge by using steroids, despite the consequences to his health and social life.



### Jersey Tomatoes are the Best

Maria Padian    Y Padian

When fifteen-year-old best friends Henry and Eve leave New Jersey, one for tennis camp in Florida and one for ballet camp in New York, each faces challenges that put her long-cherished dreams of the future to the test



### Keeper

Mal Peet    Y Pe

In an interview with a young journalist, World Cup hero, El Gato, describes his youth in the Brazilian rain forest and the events, experiences, and people that helped make him a great goalkeeper and renowned soccer star.



### Knights of the Hill Country

Tim Tharp     Y Th

In his senior year, high school star linebacker Hampton Greene finally begins to think for himself and discovers that he might be interested in more than just football.



### Out of Order

A.M. Jenkins     Y Je

Sophomore Colt Trammel loves baseball and his girlfriend Grace, but he hates the rest of high school and maintains a tough facade to hide his feelings of inferiority.



### Samurai Shortstop

Alan Gratz     Y Gratz

While obtaining a Western education at a prestigious Japanese boarding school in 1890, sixteen-year-old Toyo also receives traditional samurai training which has profound effects on both his baseball game and his relationship with his father.



### Slam!

Walter Dean Myers     Y My

Seventeen-year-old "Slam" Harris is counting on his basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.



### The Running Dream

Wendelin Van Draanen     Y Vandraa

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.



### Whale Talk

Chris Crutcher     Y Cr

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.

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