

**ULTIMATE SPORTS:
SHORT STORIES BY OUTSTANDING WRITERS FOR YOUNG
ADULTS**

Donald Gallo, editor

Sports set the background for stories of losing, winning, and growing up.

THE RUNNER

Cynthia Voigt

Bullet Tillerman is a track team star who answers to no one. He'd rather be cut from the team than work with the promising new runner, Tamer Shipp.

WRESTLING STURBRIDGE

Rich Wallace

Will Ben stay the second-best wrestler through his senior year?

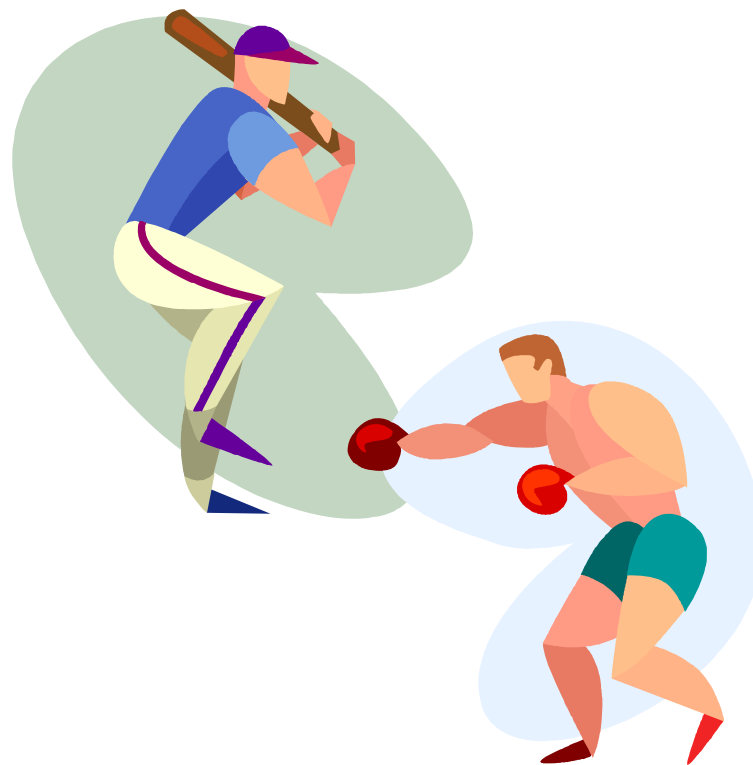
STRIKING OUT

Will Weaver

Since the death of his older brother, thirteen-year-old Billy Baggs has had a distant relationship with his father, but life on their farm in northern Minnesota begins to change when he starts to play baseball.



GAME ON



A Sports Bibliography by
Aviva Kane
Young Adult Librarian
Jericho Public Library

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THE PERFECT SHOT

Elaine Marie Alphin

Brian uses basketball to block out memories of his girlfriend and her family who were gunned down a year ago, but the upcoming murder trial and a high school history assignment force him to face the past and decide how far he should go to see justice served. Includes facts about miscarriages of justice in American history.

TANGERINE

Edward Bloor

Soccer, football, fitting in, family secrets, and murder.

HEAT

Michael Cadnum

A teenaged diving champion must deal with the aftermath of a diving accident and her attorney father's remarriage and subsequent arrest for fraud.

BULL CATCHER

Alden R. Carter

Pete and Jeff continue their friendship and love of baseball as they progress from ninth grade through high school in their small Wisconsin town.

CRACKBACK

John Coy

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.

IRONMAN

Chris Crutcher

Anger at his father fuels seventeen-year-old Bo's quest for victory in the triathlon.

DAIRY QUEEN

Catherine Gilbert 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.

HOOPS

Walter Dean Myers

Lonnie is at first disgusted with his basketball coach but soon learns more from him than how to improve his game.

SLAM!

Walter Dean Myers

A 17-year-old African American basketball player has to overcome lots of distractions that are interfering with his star status.

HOUSE OF SPORTS

Marisabina Russo

Through a series of triumphs and tragedies at home, at school, and on the basketball court, plus time reluctantly spent with his elderly grandmother, twelve-year-old Jim Malone learns that there is a lot more to life than basketball.

THERE'S A GIRL IN MY HAMMERLOCK

Jerry Spinelli

Thirteen-year-old Maisie joins her school's formerly all-male wrestling team and tries to last through the season, despite opposition from other students, her best friend, and her own teammates.

KNIGHTS OF THE HILL COUNTRY

Tim Tharp

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.

REBOUND

Bob Krech

Determined to make the varsity basketball team, seventeen-year-old Ray finds his efforts to play both hindered and helped by the atmosphere of racism in his town.

THE CONTENDER*Robert Lipsyte*

What does it take to be a contender in boxing? In life?

HEAT

Mike Lupica

Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from playing Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only twelve years old and he has no parents to offer them proof.

ICEMAN*Chris Lynch*

Fourteen-year-old Eric is a study in contrasts: emotionally insecure but an absolute animal in the hockey rink where he slams out his anger and suffering.

SLOT MACHINE*Chris Lynch*

When overweight thirteen-year-old Elvin Bishop is sent to camp at St. Paul's Seminary Retreat Center, he and his two best friends are forced to try out various sports in order to find out where they belong.

PINNED

Alfred C. Martino

Dealing with family problems, girls, and their own competitive natures, high school seniors Ivan Korske and Bobby Zane face each other in the final match of the New Jersey State Wrestling Championship.

STAYING FAT FOR SARAH BYRNES*Chris Crutcher*

Because of their "terminal uglies," Eric, who is overweight, and Sarah, who was badly burned as a young child, become fast friends. Then Sarah learns the truth of her accident, and Eric has to help her find a way through the pain.

STOTAN!*Chris Crutcher*

A high school coach invites members of his swimming team to a memorable week of rigorous training that tests their moral fiber as well as their physical stamina.

WHALE TALK*Chris Crutcher*

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.

BALL DON'T LIE*Matt de la Pena*

Seventeen-year-old Sticky lives to play basketball at school and at Lincoln Rec Center in Los Angeles and is headed for the pros, but he is unaware of the many dangers—including his own past—that threaten his dream.

HIGH HEAT*Carl Deuker*

When sophomore Shane Hunter's father is arrested for money laundering at his Lexus dealership, the star pitcher's life of affluence and private school begins to fall apart.

HALFBACK TOUGH*Thomas Dygard*

Can Joe Atkin live down his bad-boy reputation when he moves to a new city, and becomes the star of his new high school football team?

OFFSIDES*Erik E. Esckilsen*

Tom Gray, a Mohawk Indian and star soccer player, moves to a new high school and refuses to play for the Warriors with their insulting mascot.

VANISHING ACT: MYSTERY AT THE U.S. OPEN*John Feinstein*

Eighth-grade sports reporters Susan Carol and Stevie reunite at the U.S. Open tennis championships where they investigate the mysterious disappearance of a top Russian player.

SAMURAI SHORTSTOP*Alan 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.

SATCH & ME*Dan Gutman*

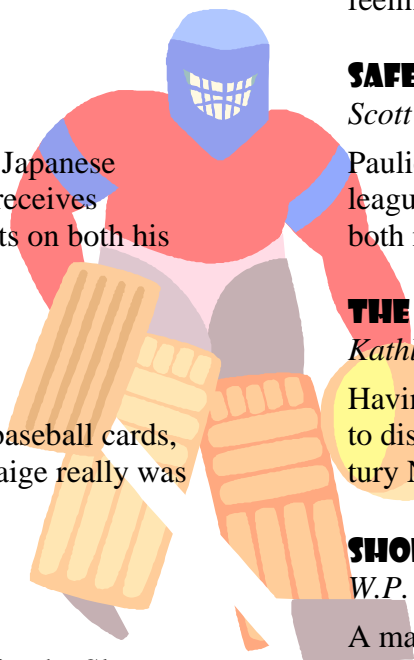
With his ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe takes Flip with him to find out whether Satchel Paige really was the fastest pitcher ever.

TWO HOT DOGS WITH EVERYTHING*Paul Haven*

Although everyone credits him and his superstitions for the Slugger's first winning streak in 108 baseball seasons, eleven-year-old Danny Gurkin believes that his discovery of a secret from the team's past may be the real reason behind the ball club's success.

OPEN ICE*Pat Hughes*

Hockey has been Nick Taglio's life since he was five years old, so when a massive concussion benches him—possibly for good—everything seems to fall apart, including his schoolwork, his family relationships, his friendships, and his love life.

**OUT STANDING IN MY FIELD***Patrick Jennings*

Although Ty Cutter is named after baseball great Ty Cobb, he is the worst player on the Brewer's team—which happens to be coached by his overly-competitive father.

OUT OF ORDER*A.M. Jenkins*

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.

SAFE AT SECOND*Scott Johnson*

Paulie Lockwood's best friend Todd Bannister is destined for the major leagues until a line drive to the head causes him to lose an eye and they both must find a new future for themselves.

THE BOXER*Kathleen Karr*

Having learned how to box while in prison, 15-year-old Johnny sets out to discover if he can make a decent living as a fighter in late 19th century New York City.

SHOELESS JOE*W.P. Kinsella*

A magical tale of baseball heroes and a field of dreams.

DANGER ZONE*David Klass*

A small-town basketball star travels to Los Angeles to join the American Teen Dream Team to prepare for international competition in Rome.