

Tewksbury Public Library Teen Services Department

Sports Novels for Teens

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Football

***Gym Candy* - Deuker, Carl (T)**

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.

***Catching Jordan* - Kenneally, Miranda (T)**

Companions: *Stealing Parker* (softball); *Breathe, Annie, Breathe* (running); & more!

Jordan Woods isn't just surrounded by jocks day in and day out. She leads them as the captain and quarterback of her high school football team. They all see her as one of the guys, and that's just fine. As long as she gets her athletic scholarship to a powerhouse university. But now there's a new guy in town who threatens her starting position... suddenly she's hoping he'll see her as more than just a teammate.

***Pop* - Korman, Gordon (T)**

Lonely after a midsummer move to a new town, sixteen-year-old high-school quarterback Marcus Jordan becomes friends with a retired professional linebacker who is great at training him, but whose childish behavior keeps Marcus in hot water.

***Dairy Queen* - Murdock, Catherin Gilbert (T)**

Sequels: *The Off Season* & *Front and Center*

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.

Payback Time - Deuker, Carl (T)

Second Impact - Klass, Perri & David (T)

Crossing Lines - Volponi, Paul (T)

Score with a

Good Book

Baseball

***Heart of a Champion* - Deuker, Carl (T)**

Also try: *High Heat*

Seth faces a strain on his friendship with Jimmy, who is both a baseball champion and something of an irresponsible fool, when Jimmy is kicked off the team.

***Beanball* - Fehler, Gene (T)**

Relates, from diverse points of view, events surrounding the critical injury of popular and talented high school athlete Luke "Wizard" Wallace, when he is hit in the face by a fastball.

***Mexican Whiteboy* - Peña, Matt de la (T)**

Sixteen-year-old Danny searches for his identity amidst the confusion of being half-Mexican and half-white while spending a summer with his cousin and new friends on the baseball fields and back alleys of San Diego County, California.

***Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip* - Sonnenblick, Jordan (T)**

After an injury ends former star pitcher Peter Friedman's athletic dreams, he concentrates on photography which leads him to a girlfriend, new fame as a high school sports photographer, and a deeper relationship with the beloved grandfather who, when he realizes he is becoming senile, gives Pete all of his professional camera gear.

Key to Locations:

T = teen fiction

A = adult fiction

J = juvenile fiction

S = sound recording

E = e-book or e-audio

TG = teen graphic

AG = adult graphic

M = made into movie

Ordered by author's
last name unless
otherwise marked.

Basketball

***The Crossover* - Alexander, Kwame (T, J, E)**

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

***The Perfect Shot* - Alphin, Elaine Marie (T)**

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.

***Night Hoops* - Deuker, Carl (T)**

While trying to prove that he is good enough to be on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate.

***Foul Trouble* - Feinstein, John (T)**

Also try: *Last Shot*, *Vanishing Act* (tennis),
Change-Up (baseball), & 3 more!

College recruiters are clamoring to sign up Terrell Jamerson, the #1 high school basketball player in the country. But not all of these recruiters are straight shooters, and Terrell will have to think fast if he wants to stay in the game.

***Stepping Up* - Fink, Mark (T)**

Ernie Dolan is plagued by the curse of the average. Nothing about him stands out - except his stutter. Only best friend Mike Rivers sees him at his best. Then, at basketball camp, Mike excels while Ernie is average. When Ernie blunders in the first pickup game, Rick Craig, obnoxious camp hotshot, nicknames him "Choke." As Mike hangs with Craig and the jocks, he and Ernie are on the outs, yet Ernie finds new allies. Then things change dramatically when Ernie morphs from outcast to hero, risking his life to save three camp mates from near tragedy.

***Boy21* - Quick, Matthew (T)**

Finley, an unnaturally quiet boy who is the only white player on his high school's varsity basketball team, lives in a dismal Pennsylvania town that is ruled by the Irish mob, and when his coach asks him to mentor a troubled African American student who has transferred there from an elite private school in California, he finds that they have a lot in common in spite of their apparent differences.

Basketball (or Something Like It) - Baskin, Nora Raleigh (T)

Rebound - Krech, Bob (T)

Game & Hoops - Myers, Walter Dean (T)

Ball Don't Lie - Peña, Matt de la (T)

The Final Four - Volponi, Paul (T)

Falling - Wilhelm, Doug (T)

Boxing & Running

The Contender - Lipsyte, Robert (T)

Underdogs - Zusak, Markus (T)

Includes the novel *Fighting Ruben Wolfe*

Darius & Twig - Myers, Walter Dean (T)

The Running Dream - Van Draanen, Wendelin (T)

Cheerleading & Dance

Revenge of the Cheerleaders - Rallison, Janette (T)

Brunettes Strike Back - Scott, Kieran (T)

Sequel to: *I Was a Non-Blonde Cheerleader*

Raven - Van Diepen, Allison (T)

Rose Sees Red - Castellucci, Cecil (T)

Maybe One Day - Kantor, Melissa (T)

Hockey, Ice Skating, Lacrosse, Rugby, & Soccer

Open Ice - Hughes, Pat (T)

Bittersweet - Ockler, Sarah (T)

The Warriors - Bruchac, Joseph (T)

Winger - Smith, Andrew (T)

Now Is the Time for Running - Williams, Michael (T)

Try these authors in J Fiction!

Barber, Tiki

Gutman, Dan

Barwin, Steven

Lupica, Mike

Christopher, Matt

Maddox, Jake

Feinstein, John

Ritter, John

Green, Tim

Wallace, Rich

Suggest changes to this list
by emailing ccoveney@mvlc.org.

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Summaries taken from library catalog.

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