

Recommended **SPORTS** Titles

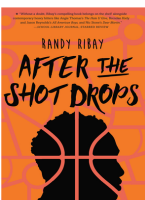


The Crossover

by Kwame Alexander

YT FIC ALEXANDER OR YA GRAPHIC NOVEL ALEXANDER

Twelve-year old Josh Bell and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.



After the Shot Drops

by Randy Ribay

YA FIC RIBAY

Bunny and Nasir have been best friends forever, but when Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed. While Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers, Nasir spends more time with his cousin, Wallace, who is being evicted. Nasir can't help but wonder why the neighborhood is falling over itself to help Bunny when Wallace is in trouble. When Wallace makes a bet against Bunny, Nasir is faced with an impossible decision—maybe a dangerous one.

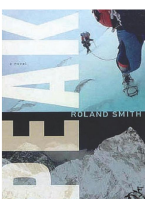


Cheer Up: Love and Pompoms

by Crystal Frasier

YA GRAPHIC NOVEL FRASIER

Annie is a smart, antisocial lesbian starting her senior year of high school who's under pressure to join the cheerleader squad to make friends and round out her college applications. Her former friend BeBe is a people-pleaser—a trans girl who must keep her parents happy with her grades and social life to keep their support of her transition. Through the rigors of squad training and amped up social pressures (not to mention micro aggressions and other queer youth problems), the two girls rekindle a friendship they thought they'd lost and discover there may be other, sweeter feelings springing up between them.



Peak

by Roland Smith

YA FIC SMITH

After fourteen-year-old Peak Marcello is arrested for scaling a New York City skyscraper, he's left with two choices: wither away in Juvenile Detention or go live with his long-lost father who runs a climbing company in Thailand. But Peak quickly learns that his father's renewed interest in him has strings attached. Big strings. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit—and his motives are selfish at best. Even so, for a climbing addict like Peak, tackling Everest is the challenge of a lifetime. But it's also one that could cost him his life.

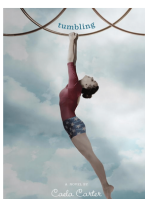


Running Full Tilt

by Michael Currinder

YA FIC CURRINDER

Like most siblings, Leo and Caleb have a complicated relationship. When the family is forced to relocate due to Caleb's uncontrollable behavior, Leo tries to settle into a new school, joining the cross-country team and discovering his talent for racing and endurance for distance. Leo befriends Curtis, a potential state champion who teaches Leo strategy and introduces him to would-be girlfriend, Mary. But Leo's stability is short-lived as Caleb escalates his attacks, resentful of his sport successes and new friendships. With a little help from Curtis and Mary, he can appreciate his worth as a brother and his own capacity for growth, both on and off the field.



Tumbling

by Caela Carter

YT FIC CARTER

Grace lives and breathes gymnastics—but no matter how hard she pushes herself, she can never be perfect enough. Leigh, Grace's best friend, has it all: a gymnastics career, a normal high-school life...and a secret that could ruin everything. Camille wants to please her mom, wants to please her boyfriend, and most of all, wants to walk away. Wilhelmina was denied her Olympic dream four years ago, and she won't let anything stop her again. No matter what. Monica is terrified. Nobody believes in her—and why should they? By the end of the two days of the U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Trials, some of these girls will be stars. Some will be going home with nothing. And all will have their lives changed forever.

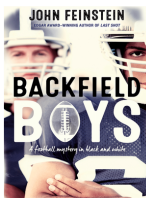


Game Seven

by Paul Volponi

YT FIC VOLPONI

Since he was ten, Julio has lived in the shadow of his famous father. Now sixteen, Julio dreams of playing for Cuba's national team. When he's given the opportunity to flee Cuba, he has to make the toughest choice of his life. Can he abandon his family, just like his Papi did? Will freedom be worth the perilous journey and risking prison if he's caught? Will his Papi be waiting for him on the other shore—or has Julio Senior forgotten about his son?



Backfield Boys *by John Feinstein* **YT FIC FEINSTEIN**

After summer football camp at an elite sports school, Jason and Tom are thrilled to enroll on scholarship for their freshman year. They're stunned when the coaches make Tom a receiver and Jason a quarterback, a complete contradiction to their skill sets and training. They soon suspect this is a racial issue. The boys speak out, risking their scholarships and chance to play. But when Jason gets a concussion in the first game of the season, he and Tom must decide how much they're willing to lose in their quest to expose the ugly remnants of a racist past in sports.



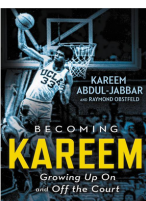
A Map to the Sun *by Sloane Leong* **YA GRAPHIC NOVEL LEONG**

One summer day, Ren meets Luna at a beachside basketball court and a friendship is born. But when Luna moves to back to Oahu, Ren's messages to her friend go unanswered. Years go by. Then Luna returns, hoping to rekindle their friendship. Ren is hesitant. She's dealing with a lot, including family troubles, dropping grades, and the newly formed women's basketball team at their high school. With Ren's new friends and Luna all on the basketball team, the lines between their lives on and off the court begin to blur. During their first season, this diverse and endearing group of teens are challenged in ways that make them reevaluate just who and how they trust.



Synchro Boy *by Shannon McFerran* **YA FIC MCFERRAN**

Sixteen-year-old Bart Lively desperately wants to feel comfortable in his own skin. Sure, he's a competitive swimmer, but being a jock doesn't mean he isn't the target of gay jokes. At the same time, he becomes drawn to the art and athleticism of synchronized swimming. So he jumps at the opportunity to become the first boy on the synchro swimming team. Ultimately, Bart will have to give in to his intuition that leads him to realize there are many ways to be a boy. If he doesn't, he'll lose friendships and his new Olympic dream.



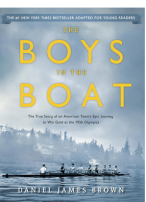
Becoming Kareem: Growing Up and Off the Court *by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar* **YA B ABDUL-JABBAR**

From a childhood made difficult by racism and prejudice to a record-smashing career on the basketball court as an adult, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's life was packed with "coaches" who taught him right from wrong and led him on the path to greatness. His parents, coaches Jack Donahue and John Wooden, Muhammad Ali, Bruce Lee, and many others played important roles in Abdul-Jabbar's life and sparked him to become an activist for social change and advancement. The inspiration from those around him, and his drive to find his own path in life, are highlighted in this personal and awe-inspiring journey.



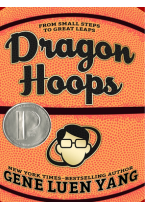
The Running Dream *by Wendelin Van Draanen* **YA FIC VANDRAANEN**

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run? People don't know what to say, and act like she's not there. Which she realizes that she'd done the same thing herself to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her.



The Boys in the Boat *by Daniel James Brown* **YA 797.12 BRO**

This is the tale of nine working-class boys from the American West who at the 1936 Olympics showed the world what true grit really meant. With rowers who were the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite East Coast teams, yet they did, going on to shock the world by challenging the German boat rowing for Adolf Hitler.



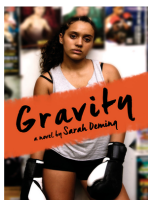
Dragon Hoops *by Gene Luen Yang* **YA GRAPHIC NOVEL YANG**

As a kid, Gene's friends called him "Stick" and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships. Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons' lives, but his own life as well.



Golden Arm *by Carl Deuker*
YA FIC DEUKER

When Lazarus's school baseball team is disbanded, he is given the opportunity to pitch for the ritzy Laurelhurt, across town and a world away from the soon-to-be-demolished trailer park where his family lives. Rising star Laz aspires to the major league draft, but his brother's drug-dealing threatens Laz's chances of success.



Gravity *by Sarah Deming*
YA FIC DEMING

When Gravity Delgado walks into a no-frills Brooklyn boxing gym, and starts working with the legendary Coach Thomas, she joins a true melting pot of fighters. There's the flirtatious Lefty (a southpaw), hard-to-beat D-Minus ("They call me D-Minus 'cause I'm all you need"), artistic Kimani "Monster" Browne, and a host of others. At the gym, Gravity finds the unexpected: the father she's never had in her coach, not one but two romantic prospects, and, most importantly, a love and skill for boxing. If she can stay focused, despite her troubled home life, she might just have a shot at the Olympics.



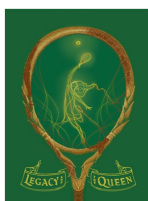
Top Prospect *by Paul Volponi*
YT FIC VOLPONI

Travis, a pre-teen quarterback with big potential, gets the opportunity of a lifetime when the coach of Gainesville University football program offers him a scholarship before Travis even gets to high school.



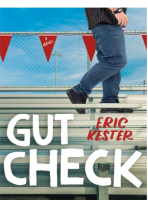
Open Ice *by Pat Hughes*
YA FIC HUGHES

All his life, crowds have been cheering for Nick Taglio—he rules the ice, which means you have to take some hits; concussions come with the territory. When he gets another head injury, his doctor, parents, and his coach tell him he can never play again. Too dangerous—he can't risk his future. But they don't understand that without hockey, Nick has no future. It's not a game, it's his life. And nobody can stop him from playing.



Legacy and the Queen *by Annie Matthew & Kobe Bryant*
YA FIC MATTHEW

In a world where tennis can unlock ancient magic, Legacy enters a tennis tournament organized by Queen Silla in order to raise enough money to save her father's orphanage.



Gut Check *by Eric Kester*
YA FIC KESTER

When star quarterback Brett suffers a terrible concussion, his brother Wyatt must decide if keeping his brother's secret is worth the risk to their relationship and their town's economic future.



Geese are Never Swans *by Eva Clark & Kobe Bryant*
YA FIC CLARK

Gus's life is about one thing—swimming. And he knows that the only coach in town who can get him to the Olympics is Coach Marks. So it seems like a simple plan: convince Coach Marks to train him, and everything from there on in is just hard work. Gus has never been afraid of hard work. But there are a few complications. For one thing, Coach Marks was Danny's coach. Danny, Gus's brother, killed himself after failing to make the national swimming team—a big step on the way to the Olympics. And for another, Gus and Danny didn't exactly get along; Gus never liked living in Danny's shadow. A shadow that has grown even bigger since his death.