

Sports Stories for Teens

Check out these fiction and true stories about athletes. These sports stories are full of adrenaline, team spirit, perseverance, and overcoming the odds. For more recommendations, talk to a librarian or visit alamedafree.org.



We Are the Wildcats

by Siobhan Vivian

A toxic coach finds himself outplayed by the high school girls on his team in this deeply suspenseful novel, which unspools over twenty-four hours through six diverse perspectives. YA FIC VIVIAN



The Passing Playbook

by Isaac Fitzsimons

15-year-old Spencer is a proud nerd, an awesome big brother, and a David Beckham in training. He's also transgender. When a discriminatory law forces Spencer's coach to bench him after he discovers the "F" on Spencer's birth certificate, Spencer has to

make a choice to fight or cheer from the bench.

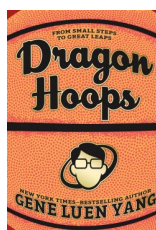
YA FIC FITZSIMONS



Swim Team

by Johnnie Christmas

When she has to take Swim 101, middle schooler Bree must face one of her greatest fears, but with a little help from an elderly neighbor and former swim team captain, she becomes her school's best hope to beat their rival. JGN SWIM



Dragon Hoops

by Gene Luen Yang

An introverted reader starts understanding local enthusiasm about sports in his school when he gets to know some of his talented athletic peers and discovers that their stories are just as thrilling as the comics he loves. YA GN DRAGON

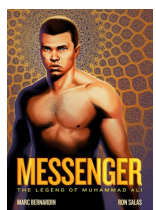


Rez Ball

by Byron Graves

When the varsity basketball team members take him under their wing, Tre Brun, representing his Ojibwe reservation, steps into his late brother's shoes as star player but soon learns he can't mess up—not on the court, not in school and not in love.

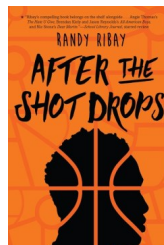
YA FIC GRAVES



Messenger

by Marc Bernardin

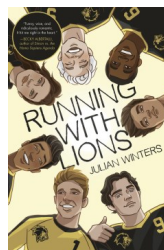
An illustrated biography of the legendary boxer Muhammad Ali covering his rise from Cassius Clay to heavyweight champion of the world. YA GN B ALI, M.



After the Shot Drops

by Randy Ribay

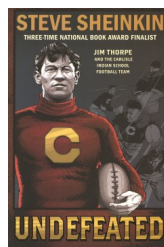
Told from alternating perspectives, Bunny takes a basketball scholarship to an elite private school to help his family, leaving behind Nasir, his best friend, in their tough Philadelphia neighborhood.



Running with Lions

by Julian Winters

Sebastian Hughes, star goalie on the high school's soccer team, is looking forward to his senior year until his estranged childhood best friend, Emir Shah, shows up to summer training camp. YA FIC WINTERS



Undefeated

by Steve Sheinkin

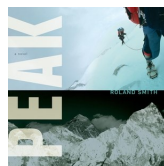
Presents the true story of how Jim Thorpe and Pop Warner created the legendary Carlisle Indians football team, one of the winningest teams in American football history. YA 796.3326 SHEINKIN



She Drives Me Crazy

by Kelly Quindlen

Getting into a fender-bender with a beautiful rival after an embarrassing loss to her ex, a talented basketball athlete reluctantly agrees to a carpool arrangement before an opportunity for revenge leads to an unlikely relationship. YA FIC QUINDLEN



Peak

by Roland Smith

After 14-year-old Peak 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. As owner of Peak Expeditions, he wants his son to be the youngest person to reach the Everest summit. J SMITH



A Season of Daring Greatly

by Ellen Emerson White

Making history as the first woman to be signed by a major league baseball team, 18-year-old Jill is confronted by coaches, players and fans who want to keep baseball an all-male sport, a situation that is complicated by her own doubts. YA WHITE

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You Don't Have a Shot

by Racquel Marie

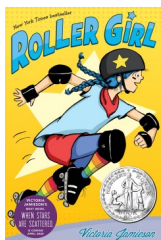
Escaping to her beloved childhood soccer camp after a fight with her long-time rival Leticia, Vale discovers she and Leticia will be co-captaining a team that could play in front of college scouts, compelling the two to form a shaky alliance that turns into something neither of them expected. YA FIC MARIE



Icebreaker

by A. L. Graziadei

Mickey is following in his father's skates by playing hockey at Hartland University, but he is not enjoying the situation: for one thing he is seriously depressed, unsure of anything, even whether he can make it as a hockey player. More troubling, his rival, Jaysen, is also on the team. YA FIC GRAZIADEI



Roller Girl

by Victoria Jamieson

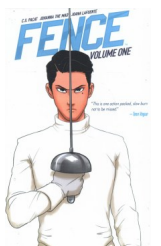
Astrid thinks she and her BFF Nicole can spend their summer together at junior Roller Derby camp, but Nicole opts instead for ballet camp with Astrid's archnemesis. And when it turns out that Astrid isn't quite the Roller Derby prodigy she had hoped to be, it seems both her summer and the impending start of junior high will be disasters. JGN ROLLER



Cheer Up!: Love and Pompoms

by Crystal Frasier

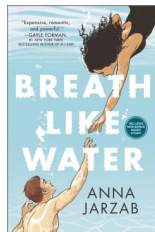
Annie is a smart, antisocial lesbian who's under pressure to join the cheer squad to make friends and round out her college applications. Her former friend BeBe is a trans girl who must keep her parents happy with her grades and social life to keep their support of her transition. Through the rigors of squad training and amped up social pressures the two girls rekindle a friendship they thought they'd lost. YA GN CHEER



Fence V.1

by C. S. Pacat

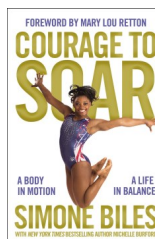
Nicholas, the illegitimate son of a fencing champion, gets his chance to prove himself in the sport when he is accepted to an elite private school, but he must compete against his annoying roommate and his half brother. YA GN FENCE



Breath Like Water

by Anna Jarzab

Becoming famous for her early swimming talents, Susannah finds her Olympics dreams challenged by an injury, a new coach, and an unexpected romance with Harry, a fellow swimmer, who is facing challenges of his own. YA FIC JARZAB



Courage to Soar

by Simone Biles

The gymnast relates how her faith and family saw her through several challenges, beginning from her childhood in foster care, and shares the professional journey that led to her earning a spot on the 2016 Olympic team.



Furia

by Yamile Saied Mendez

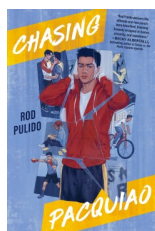
17-year-old Camila Hassan, a rising soccer star in Rosario, Argentina, dreams of playing professionally, in defiance of her fathers' wishes and at the risk of her budding romance with Diego. YA FIC MENDEZ



Spinning

by Tillie Walden

A graphic memoir recounts the years Walden spent competitively figure skating, before her developing love of art and first girlfriend causes her to question the insular world of figure skating. YA GN B WALDEN, T.



Chasing Pacquiao

by Rod Pulido

When Bobby is unwillingly outed, he turns to boxing, finding a hero in Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, but when Pacquiao publicly denounces homosexuality, Bobby must discover a hero within himself. YA FIC PULIDO



Booked

by Kwame Alexander

Twelve-year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home, stands up to a bully, and tries to impress the girl of his dreams. J ALEXANDER