

Local and State Basketball Resources at Your Local Library

It's March Madness time and that means lots and lots of exciting basketball to watch. The girls and boys high school tournaments concluded this month, and now the focus is on college ball. This was a pretty good year for college basketball in the Hoosier state, as four teams made the field of the "Big Dance." (My sincere apologies to fans of teams already eliminated.) The Bartholomew County Public Library features plenty of great resources on the subject of basketball, but I'd like to take the opportunity to especially focus on our Indiana basketball resources.

Ever wondered why you couldn't find that biography on Coach Knight or the IHSAA tournament in our library? These types of books are shelved in our Indiana Room. For those that may not know, the Indiana Room is located on the main floor near the public internet computers. Library materials that have a significant focus on Indiana are housed in this room. This certainly includes our books on basketball in Indiana. Here are some interesting basketball titles from our Indiana room. Check these out and feel free to browse the Indiana Room for other interesting local resources.

A Season on the Brink by John Feinstein.

If you haven't read this one, it's a classic and one of the highest selling sports books of all time. Feinstein followed Bob Knight's Hoosiers for the entire 1985-1986 season, the season sandwiched between the "Chair Toss" season and the most recent championship season. If you're wondering, we have at least twenty other books focusing on Knight and many more on Indiana University athletics.

Most Memorable Moments in Purdue Basketball History by the Lafayette Journal and Courier.

This book compiles the newspaper articles of many of the greatest moments in Purdue men's and women's basketball history in the 20th century, with stories about such legends as Rick Mount, Joe Barry Carroll, Glenn Robinson, and John Wooden.

Transition Game: How Hoosiers Went Hip-Hop by L. Jon Wertheim.

This book details how the changes in society have been reflected in basketball in the Hoosier state. Commercialization and "street ballin'" have taken over the game, and "flair, improvisation, and pure athleticism seemed to be more appreciated than fundamentals."

But They Can't Beat Us by Randy Roberts.

Roberts tells the story of the Indianapolis Crispus Attucks High School Tigers, led by future college and professional star Oscar Robertson. The Tigers were back-to-back state champions in 1955 and 1956, becoming the first all-black team to win the title as well as becoming the first undefeated state champions.

Uncaged by Dave Krider, J.R. Shelt, and Scott Freeman.

Though Greg Oden has been injured and perfecting his Mohawk haircut this year, he has been a dominant force in basketball recently, winning titles in high school in Indianapolis and taking Ohio State to the championship game last year. This book focuses on Oden and teammate Mike Conley's run through high school and also details the legendary Lawrence North coach Jack Keefer and the many college stars he has developed.

Chuck Taylor, All Star by Abraham Aamidor.

Before Chuck Taylor helped patent the signature Converse "All-Star" shoes, still popular today, he was a basketball player right here in Columbus. This book details his life as a player, promoter, and ambassador for the game.

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