

GAME ON



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Inspiring stories
that can change
lives.

Improve your basketball skills
by using the newest accessories
located inside.

News updates on
your favorite
basketball stars

Bring on the fire
this season using
the new energy bar
and coupon inside.



The Wonder Water bottle

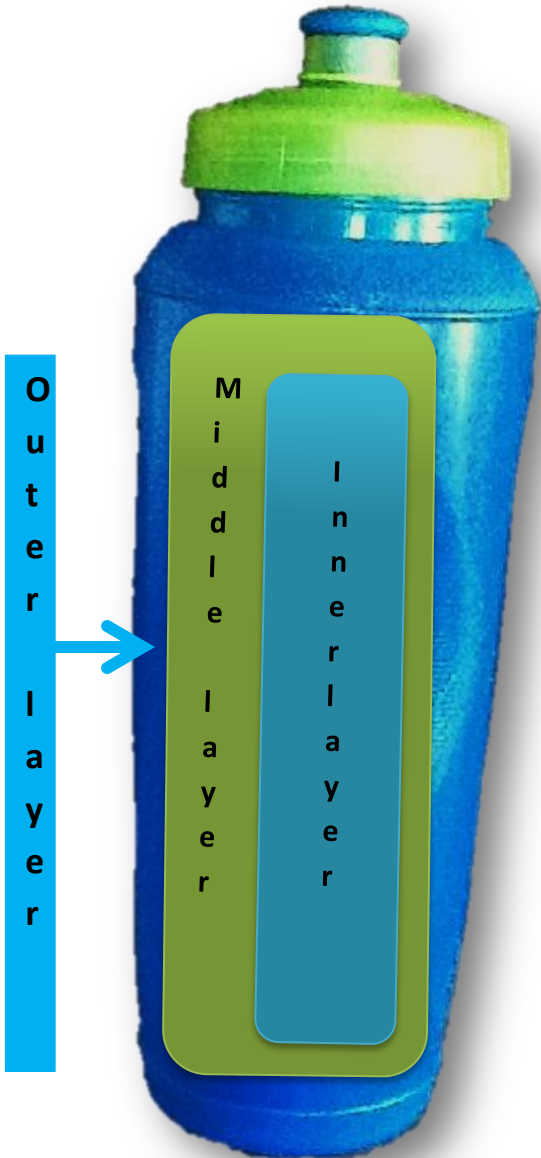
By: Whitney Baumann

Water always ice cold!

Inner layer- is where water is held.

Middle layer- where ice is stored so water is kept icy.

Outside layer- hard outside covering that won't crack or dent!



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Dear Readers,

The purpose of my magazine *Game On* was to encourage and give basketball players some important tips on playing their “A” game. Also, my magazine’s purpose was to get readers to buy the best quality sports materials, which they will need in order to perform and play harder.

My personal goals while writing *Game On* were to inspire other people to buy the products from my magazine. I also included many inspirational stories to encourage other basketball players to keep playing. Writing this magazine helped me become a more efficient and talented writer, which has always been one of my biggest goals.

Developing *Game On* was very fun and worth my time. At certain points it was very stressful and hard, but the experience helped me become more responsible and less of a procrastinator. Creating the title *Game On* was probably the easiest thing to do. The name just flew into my head and I thought it suited my magazine well.

Many phenomenal writers I hired to write and make creative and worthy advertisements, articles, stories and miscellaneous pieces of talent. I encountered several writers and artists while making this magazine. I tried hiring the best of the best people to work for my magazine, so that it would turn out just as I hoped; it did turn out great. Not only did writing this magazine help me, but it also helped the individuals who worked for me become more talented and creative writers and artists. I am very blessed *Game On* very successful.

Of course I encountered many struggles while writing my magazine. Some struggles I faced were stress, worries, doubt, and difficulty. I encountered stress whenever I didn’t think I would be able to get something done on time. Also, I worried very much whether people would get me

their written articles by the deadlines and due dates or not. This also caused stress in me because I wanted my magazine to be perfect and just how I wanted it to be. I sometimes doubted people’s articles, but then I read them and they were fantastic. I also experienced difficulty organizing my magazine and controlling the due dates for the articles, ads, and stories. Lastly, keeping track of all my money was difficult, especially nearing the end of the deadline project.

With challenges come successes. First of all, I succeeded first of all, by publishing my magazine, which made me the happiest person in the world. I also became a better writer and editor by publishing *Game On* magazine. It helped me become more responsible and sometimes strict because I needed to let people know when to give their pieces of work to me, or how to create their article, ads, or stories.

I would like to highlight some of my favorite entries inside of my magazine. First of all, my wonderful magazine readers wrote meaningful letters to me which are located inside of the magazine. It meant the world to me to know how much people enjoyed my sports magazines. Secondly, the excellent article about the newest brand of basketball gear called *New and Elite Sports Gear* was very well written. I love the persuasive techniques involved in it. Lastly, I absolutely loved the ad on *Bullet Train Shoes*. I tried on a pair of them and I can tell you, the ad is so right. The shoes improved my speed so much. They were also very comfortable and flexible shoes which make them great for sports.

Most of all, I would like to thank my readers very much for encouraging me to keep writing these magazines. All of my fans are brilliant people. I hope they keep reading and writing comments on what they liked or didn’t like, because I learn from them. They have helped me become a much

better writer. When I wrote my first magazine back in 2010, it was like a rough draft. I kept writing though, because in order to get better at something you have to make mistakes, which trust me, I have made many. Thank you again, my wonderful readers. Maybe I will inspire you to write your own magazine someday. I would not be here writing today if it weren't for you. I love you all.

Sincerely,

Olivia Griesbach

Olivia Griesbach

Editor, Game On



Dear Editor ,

I thank you dearly for the article in your last magazine. It encouraged me to test out the newest basketball shoes from the brand, Speed. They helped my balance and coordination on the court tremendously. Since I started using my spectacular shoes, I have won seven awards for being the teams' MVP. I recommend these shoes for anybody who is looking for a durable and lightweight shoe. My basketball skills are so much better now with these shoes. Also, another positive thought about the shoes is that they are very jumpy so are amazing for track and field! I am going to need about twenty pairs of these shoes, because I wear them everywhere. Thank you so much for the suggestion!

Sincerely,

Megan Bonikowske



Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the latest magazine of Game On! I loved the upto date news articles and inspiring stories! My new basketball hoop works amazingly and it was so simple to set up! I can dunk and hang off the rim without it breaking! My last hoop couldn't do that. The rim is so quiet and very durable! It was so cost efficient. I bought two and it was worth the money I spent on it. All of the other ads were amazing and made me want to buy them all! Please keep the magazines coming!

Sincerely,

Nick Fassbender

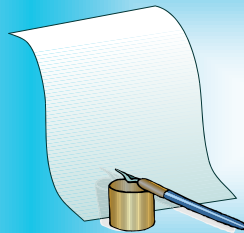


Dear Megan,

I am glad my magazine pleased you. It means a lot to know that I informed somebody to buy great products. My goal has been achieved now, because my magazine encouraged you and created a better basketball player on the court. Please keep an eye on my future magazines to continue helping you transform into an all-star athlete.

Sincerely,

Editor and Chief



The Energizing Energy Bar

By: Blake Heimmermann

The latest and greatest food is a big hit for all basketball players. The Energizing Energy Bar helps take basketball players to the next level. This bar makes the players pumped and ready for their games.

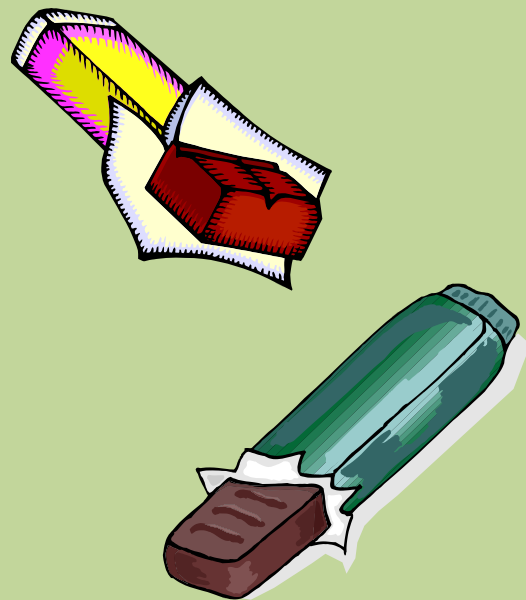
Since the bars' debut to the energy bar market, the bar has set energy bar records. It has only been two weeks that this bar has been known to many late and great basketball stars, and since then the results have been mind blowing. The Energizing Energy Bar is packed full of protein, calcium, fiber, electrolytes, and many more energy enhancing ingredients. The outside of the bar is dipped in what looks and tastes like milk chocolate. The company who made The Energizing Energy Bar, Energy Specialties, claims that this chocolate flavored coating not only gives the bar its fabulous tastes, but it also provides great balance when out on the basketball court.

What is under the chocolate flavored substance is where the real energy enhancing powers are. There are dried grapes, also known as raisins, bacon that is not only grease-less but healthy too, and a special kind of granola that holds all the power to be a success on the basketball court.

"Telling people what makes our Energizing Energy Bar so powerful, would be like the president of the United States sharing the country's secrets to the country's enemies. All I can say is this bar is pretty much a guarantee win for your team if you eat it. We've had our special testers test the bar out to see if it actually works. The results were spectacular. And since that day, I knew that this would be a success!" stated the Co-founder of the Energy Specialties at the Energy Bar Convention in Tallahassee, Florida.

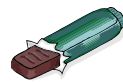
After only two weeks on the market, The Energizing Energy Bar knocked one competitor right off the Energy Stores shelves. Not only knocking away a low competitor and breaking records, but this energy bar made millions of dollars in sales already. The bar has gotten celebrity endorsements from many past and present basketball superstars.

Thanks to The Energizing Energy Bar, the "bar" has been raised for present and future energy bar makers looking for a success as great as Energy Specialties, The Energizing Energy Bar.

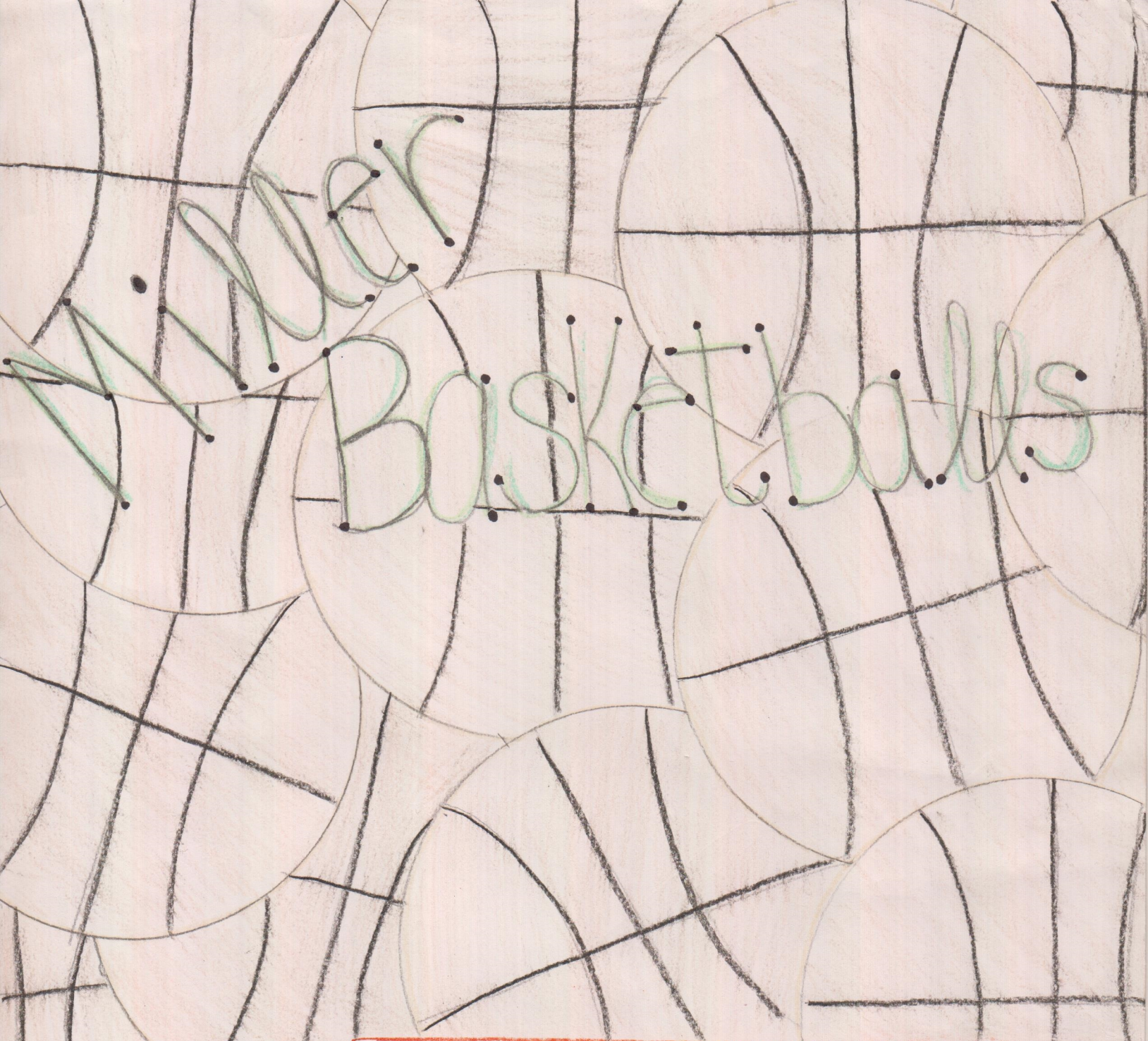


The Energizing Energy Bar

**\$1.00 OFF A PURCHASE
OF 2 OR MORE
BARS**



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Miller Basketballs

Miller Basketballs are made for all ages. They provide extra grip, and they are always bouncy. They do not deflate.

Buy 1 get the 2nd

FREE.

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By: Olivia Griesbach

Tortonville Red Tree Goes Undefeated By: Jaeley Nickasch

On the most watched television network in the United States, the eighth grade girls' basketball team from Tortonville defeated their rivals, Bluebill Blue Jays, and became the first team in the United States to win a massive 6,987 games in a row. We were there as the Red Tree's won 90-17 at their first home game. Some of the winners wanted to get interviewed, considering they just broke a national record.

Livo Greysbach, the team's post guard, told us, "It was the best feeling in the world knowing that my team and I just broke a record and accomplished such an amazing goal. I am blessed to get to play with all my teammates who have become my best friends." Greysbach scored 40 points in their game, almost half of the score! She is a beast at three pointers and definitely knows how to box out.

Another star player was Whitney Bamann, number thirty six. She is best defensive player there is and work tremendously as a point guard. She had four rebounds which all turned into points made by her and the Red Trees. Whitney was named the MVP (most valuable player) of the game.

One of the key players of the game was the coach's daughter, Jaeley. She was going to be the most valuable player of the game, but she was the MVP for all the other games so the coaches thought it would be nice to change it up for once. Jaeley scored 45 points, making it a world record for any eighth grader in the universe. She is perfect in any position and never misses a shot or opportunity. For only being fourteen years old, she has gotten calls from many different schools including Harvard, Duke, and Baylor. Many schools and companies have

offered her sponsorships but she gave all the money to charity. Basically, everyone should watch out for Jaeley Nickasch. She is the best of the best.

Tortonville was founded in 1920 by a woman of the name Lee Torton, a famous painter back in the day. The Tortonville Middle School was built in 2000 and quickly noticed that a group of girls had an amazing basketball talent. The school held an all-star tryout for the eighth grade girls and only the best ten girls made the team. They have practice every single day for three hours and for many people they think it is crazy, but for the ten girls they never want to leave.

"Every single practice and game I learn something different and always get better. Basketball is my all-time favorite sport and I never want to stop playing it." That is what Eggen Bone told us. She is one of the top three point shooters in the league.

The team has competed all over Wisconsin and has even traveled to Colorado, Texas, and Florida! They are a well-known team all over America and are definitely a force to be reckoned with.

Jaeley Nickasch, Livo Greysbach, Whitney Bamann, Eggen Bone, Memily Kickel, Hare VanKeek, Tailor Halwitz, Hailey Halwitz, Brittany Tager, and Sasha Hogg are all on the Tortonville Red Tree team. Although at first they did not all get a long, they have become best friends after several games and bickering. "We go to each other's houses like every weekend for parties or just to hang out. Basically, they are my sisters and I will always love them, whether they still play basketball or not." Tailor Bone made that comment regarding her and her team.

The Red Trees are a perfect example of an amazing team with amazing talent, teamwork, and passion. Their coach, Haydan Hardoak, couldn't be any prouder of his players. He always compliments them

and takes countless hours to make his team better and stronger. With the combination of the coach, the all-star players, and the hours of practice and dedication, the Tortonville Red Trees are unstoppable.



Liniguahns Basketball

Hoops

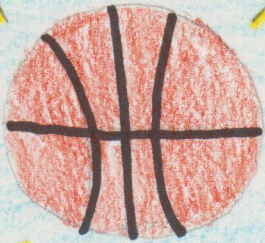
Our basketball hoops are 33% more accurate than our competitors! Come out and buy one at any sporting goods in the area!



The official Basketball Hoop sponsors of the NBW, visit www.wegotthehoops.com for more details, and coupons.

The Glow Ball

Coupon



- ◆ 30% off your next glow ball purchase!
- ◆ Usable at any stores with the glow ball as a product!
- ◆ Expires after July 27, 2016!
- ◆ Pick any glow ball of your choice!
- ◆ Limited time offer!
- ◆ Get your glow ball before it's too late!

ISBN 0-918894-28-X



New and Elite Sports Gear

By: Emily Woodzicka

Do you ever feel like your sports gear is holding you back? The right sports gear and apparel is important to be able to play at your best. This new selection of sports gear empowers your skills and even improves your endurance. I have selected the best new and elite sportswear and gear to help you play your best all of the time.

After many years of experimenting, new and advanced basketball jerseys have finally become available to the general public. These jerseys are infused with a product that reacts with sweat, and dissolves it completely. This product also emits a hydrating solution that energizes you and boosts your endurance. The design of these jerseys is unlike any other. It is still practical, but it is much more fashionable and comfortable than the typical sleeveless jerseys. The lightweight material and loose fit provides for easy movement. This is very advanced technology that the professional players are already using. More affordable brands and versions are available too, so that everyone can take advantage of these jerseys and gain more speed and energy than possible before this invention.

Everyone knows that the most important piece of equipment in basketball, is the basketball itself. That is why a new type of basketball has been invented. Normal basketballs can be hard to control and may feel awkward if you are not used to one. With this new product, you no longer have to worry about that because the basketballs never have to be filled with air; they have settings for you to choose what you are most comfortable with. There is a flap in the basketballs outer material, and inside there are two columns of knobs to choose how bouncy you want the basketball to be and what size you would like it to be. This type of basketball currently has ten

settings with over fifty combinations. Surprisingly, the settings and adaptive abilities do not change how the basketball looks or generally feels. Since you probably would not be able to change a basketball's settings during a game, there is also a more complicated version that involves changing to concentrate or sacrifice speed or ability in a game; just think for less than a second and it will immediately change. Unfortunately, this version is very expensive since it is extremely costly to make. Hopefully this suggestion eliminates the need to inflate a basketball and makes it perfect for you, so that you can perform your best for your team.

After repeated and sustained running and exercise, you will feel healthy, but may experience side effects such as knee injuries and pain. If you are prone to knee injuries, these knee bands have been proven to reduce knee pain and prevent long term damage. These customizable bands can be used during exercise, or afterwards to relax muscles and tendons and repair broken tissue. This new product is life changing!

When you were younger, you probably imagined wearing shoes with springs on the bottom so that you could jump really high. With new and elite basketball and running shoes, that is somewhat possible. The actual shoes are extremely comfortable and light, coming in twenty color options. What is unique about these shoes is that the soles contain a substance that is a solid, but with sudden pressure becomes a gel. When you are running or jumping and your foot smacks down on the ground the substance will immediately pop back to a solid giving you a bounce. This is especially good for rebounds and running. These shoes still have plenty of friction and strength; it just does some of your work for you.

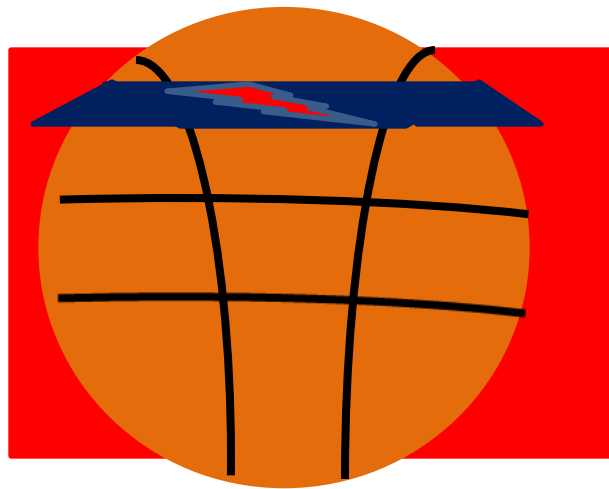
If you are an athlete, I would highly recommend purchasing some of these

products. They will prevent long term damage on your body from exercise and improve your performance in any sport you may play. Take advantage of the new technology the world has to offer and invest in your sport.

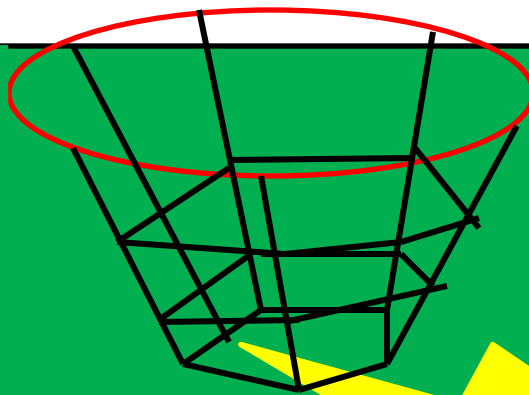


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Great For Basketball



- Keeps sweat and hair out of your face.
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- Can order at www.sweat.com



By: Tyler Swichtenberg

An Inspirational Story

By: Taylor Kalwitz

Mike Meyer is an eighteen year old prodigy. He has been playing basketball since he was seven years old and is already receiving college scholarships to the schools of his dreams.

Mike Meyer started his basketball career when he was only seven years old. He played for a YMCA basketball club. Even from the start, his parents knew he was a natural. Unlike most kids his age, Mike averaged ten points a game. He also showed many advanced skills that most kids learn much later.

Mike played basketball from age seven to ten always being ahead of everyone else. He was still way more advanced than his teammates and it showed. But, when he was ten he was involved in a terrible car accident with his parents. His parents and he were rushed to the hospital immediately. Both of his parents walked out with a few cuts and bruises, but Mike was told that he would be lucky if he could ever walk again. "It was the most tragic day of my life; I was told I may never be able to play basketball again," Mike chokes out.

Within a year, Mike started to walk again, but he had much difficulty with it. Even though it hurt, Mike was determined to make it back to play basketball. Despite what all the doctors had told him and many years of therapy, he eventually came back to the court to play with his team. "I missed playing so much, it hurt more not being able to play than actually playing," explains Mike. His team was just as excited to have him back as he was to be on the court. "We missed him so much! It just was not the same without him," recalls Tim Reynolds, Mike's teammate.

Once he got back into the swing of things, Mike found out that he still excelled at basketball. He was still amazing at

playing and although his teammates caught up to him a bit, he was still very advanced for his age. As soon as he turned fifteen, college scouts began to come to his practices to watch him and his team. "It was extremely nerve-wracking to see them there, but I guess it had to happen in order for me to play college basketball," mentions Mike.

Mike finished his high school basketball career within ten losses and fifty-five wins with the three years of basketball he played. Next year he will be attending his dream school on a basketball scholarship.



1-800-JAZ-BAND



HEADBANDS

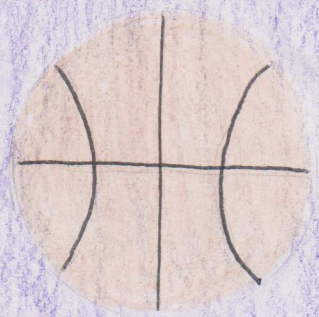
Plays music while you play basketball!

Comfy

Stretchy



Custom colors
and designs!!



www.ja-zheadbands.com

By: Lizzie Lehrer

Mayhem on the Court

By: Faith Behnke

Many people think that basketball is a very simple sport, but in reality, it's quite difficult. People think all it is, is dribbling the ball and trying to make a basket. Those people are wrong. Basketball is one of the toughest sports out there, right next to football. It includes many aggressive games, and many people get seriously hurt. Many coaches don't like dragging their best player off the court. They usually don't like seeing their team going down in the drain. They need that player to lead the team to victory!

A couple years ago a terrible accident happened on the basketball court. Many paramedics had to come to the scene. It was a traumatic time in life.

It was just a regular day for Maggie Swifty. She was getting ready to play her heart out for the team. She had just finished doing her hair when her mom called her to get in the car. Maggie was so excited. It was the last game of the year, and she didn't want to lose. She was going to prove her team worthy. They had only lost one game this season. Everybody relied on her.

Just as Maggie got to the gymnasium, her team was warming up for and waiting for her. She was running late because she was working late on homework the night before. Her team was waiting on her. They could tell she wasn't her normal self. She wasn't as affiant or fast. When the game family started she was pushing herself. Her coach wanted her to step off the court to just relax for a little bit, but she wouldn't budge. She didn't come all this way to let her team down. They counted on her. She needed to stay in.

Another quarter went by. Maggie was practically forcing herself to run. All of a sudden she collapsed. Everybody rushed forward. She was as white as a ghost and sweating heavily. Nobody knew what to do.

She was out cold. The ambulance was quickly coming. When they finally arrived they rushed her onto a stretcher and drove her away to the hospital.

Her mom followed behind the hospital. She couldn't even think what her world would be like without her daughter around, because Maggie was an only child. Her mom was worried sick.

They arrived to the hospital in good timing. Maggie was starting to go into cardio heart arrest. The doctors had to put a breathing mask over her face because she wasn't able to breathe on her own. They were afraid she wasn't going to make it. Maggie was getting worse and worse by the minute.

After many tries to get Maggie to come back to her normal self, she finally livened up. The doctors tried everything they had. They finally had a breakthrough. It was going to take a while before Maggie was going to totally back to normal. She had severely broken both of her legs when she fell onto the basketball. So not only did she have heart problems, she would have to learn how to walk all over again. The process was going to be difficult.

Her friends were with her though the whole tragedy; they never left her side. Maggie's friends were her life. They didn't care if they lost another basketball, as long as they didn't lose their best friend.

•

A year after Maggie's accident, she has made much progress. She wouldn't be able to play basketball ever again, but that didn't matter to her anymore. She had her friends support and that's all that mattered. She loved them with all her life. Whenever something happened in her life, she knew she could always go to her friends for help.

Every weekend, Maggie went to her friend's basketball to cheer them on. She didn't want to miss a moment.



ORDER FORM

Please fill out the form below completely for a safe order. Your order will be ready within 5-10 business days. Questions or comments, please contact Olivia Griesbach at 920-123-9876 or usethisemail@email.com

Contact Information

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Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

- | | | | |
|--|----------|-------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team Sweatshirt | #: _____ | Size: _____ | \$40 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team Sweatpants | #: _____ | Size: _____ | \$30 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team Shorts | #: _____ | Size: _____ | \$25 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team T-Shirt | #: _____ | Size: _____ | \$20 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adidas Basketball Shoes | #: _____ | Size: _____ | \$120 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Headbands | #: _____ | | \$8 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatbands | #: _____ | | \$15 each |

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Total \$: _____

Team Name: _____ Player #: _____



SCHEEL'S



FREE basketball with the purchase of \$75!!

Hurry! This offer only lasts until 6/1/2013!

INJURY and Team Impact

By: Mitchell Mocadlo

MVP Jenna Beirns

Two time national champs in the last four years with the MVP of the Samson City Killer Whales girls' basketball team. Her name is Jenna Beirns, all-conference player of the year last year and looked to be as if she was going to do it again her senior year due to her outstanding performance!

But not so fast, Last week in a battle with the Barley Tigers, Jenna was having another phenomenal game in the Samson City High School Fieldhouse. Twenty points heading into the fourth quarter and six assists! The Killer Whales were down four and were counting on Jenna to lead her team to victory again, but this would not be the case.

Heartbreak

Jenna and a player by the name of Jannette Lanzy were fighting for position down on the block the whole game. Jenna was then in the midst of a fast break layup when furious Jannette came behind her and fouled her intentionally and then landed on her hard, knocking her to the ground. Jenna broke her whole rib cage and suffered a severe concussion to go along with it! Being the MVP of the team, the team felt absolutely helpless in what they were going to do without her!

Jenna was rushed to the emergency room immediately and after the disappointing lose she was then visited by her mourning team.

Tough Team Comeback

Jenna was the star athlete not just of her team, but in the conference! Her team played a game totally devoted to Jenna two days ago in the Fieldhouse against the Lomaha Lions and won surprisingly for Jenna!

"We have really learned how to be an even better and united team now because

of Jenna's injury," pronounces Rachel Flannel the backup point guard for and best friends with Jenna. She goes on to proclaim, "We are playing every game here on out for our loved teammate Jenna, because she is the reason why our school is well-known in girls basketball. We love her!"

Beginning Recovery

Jenna is not going to be able to return at all this year due to her broken rib cage and bruised lungs. She was lucky to have this happen to her in her last year of high school near the end of the season, because colleges now know how great of a player she is! She has two division one offers and plans to accept one as soon as she has fully recovered to visit the campus! She is expected to be up and playing in another month and a half!

Jennette Lanzy was interviewed after the game in Samson City. Jennette went into the Killer Whales locker room and apologized for the tragic thing she had done to the star athlete in the conference. She confessed to purposely fouling her but did not mean to make her fall to the ground thus rupturing her ribs. Many of the teammates on Jenna's team forgave Jennette immediately and gave her a hug and said, "It's alright Jennette, it is a game of basketball and basketball is an aggressive sport that's what we signed up for! Don't sweat it!"

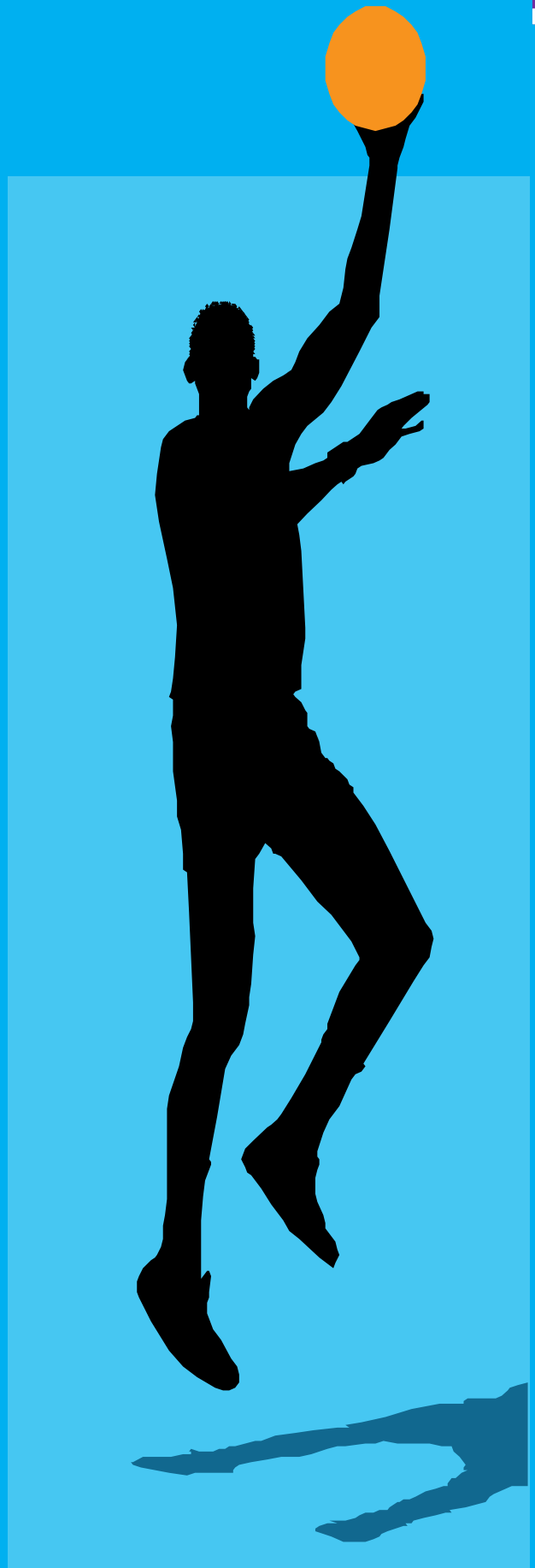
Jenna's parents have also learned to cope with this injury that happened to their active teenage MVP daughter. Her parents are both disappointed with the outcome of not being able to be back until next season with a college team, but they sure are with their daughter every step of the way.

Forever Changed

Of course Jenna will be impacted by the result of her not being able to do her passion, but she will definitely be stronger because of it and come back even better! Jenna exclaims to me that, "While I may be

limited to the stuff I do for a while, I'm going to come back and put my whole heart and soul onto that court, I love and thank everyone that has been behind me every step of the way!

Samson City High School and the city of Samson City are forever changed by Jenna Beirns; her legend will live on there for a very long time. Teams really can unite from a tragedy, the Killer Whales sure did.





SPORTS WORD SEARCH



B A S K E T B A L L I F M
H I B N S C I P M Y L O Y
O K L I L A Q I B K C O U
C G H R E W Z L A F C T N
K W S O C C E R R B D B L
E Y U T R E A Z C G B A S
Y R E L K T M N O E R L W
R E W M E C Z L D S R L I
T B A C N M F I F L O E M
F E S A R U N N I N G M M
T E N N I S I F D S A L I
I D S A D N S N M K I P N
N O I T I T E P M O C K G
J U I P T R E M N L L A B
B A S E B A L L I M N K Q

Find the following 14 words. The words appear straight across, backwards, up and down, and diagonally.

By: McKenzie Rasmussen

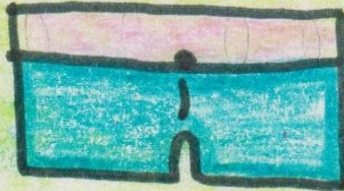
Words to find:

Basketball	Golf	Football
Olympics	Soccer	Running
Baseball	Ball	Tennis
Team	Karate	Hockey
Swimming	Competition	

Bay Ports Shorty Shorts

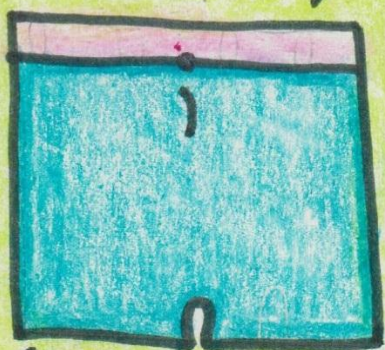
Comes in:

\$2.99



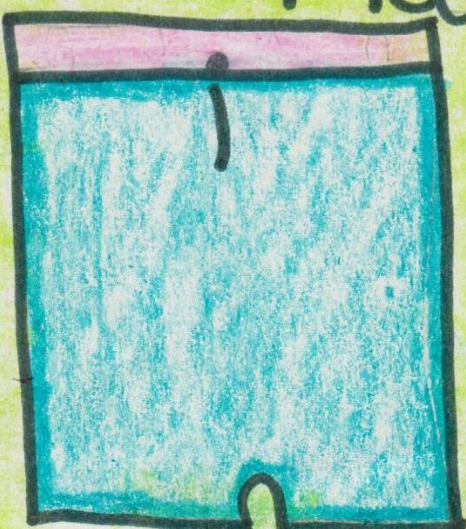
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My Buzzer Beater Shot

By: Jacob Ubl

My name is Jacob and I play basketball for my middle school team. I am not the best for my age and not very good at sports but I can hold my own. Being five foot nine at 14, pretty much makes me a basketball player, even though I am not good. At my teams practice our coach told us “make two goals: one for the team and one for yourselves.” I told my team “for my goal I want to improve my basketball skills and have a good season.” Most of the other kids on the team had the same goal as I did, but the one thing we could not agree on is what our team goal should be. Jimmy, one of our team’s forwards, shouted above the noise “we should try to win the championship, it’s our last year in middle school, and we should go out on top.” After talking it over for a few minutes the team decided that was going to be our goal. “Alright,” said our coach, “but it will take a lot of hard work.”

Suddenly winning the championship seemed to be the most important in the world; we would do whatever it would take. During our practices my team worked really hard, nothing would stand in our way of the championship. We spent hours at practice getting ready. Every day after school we would meet in our gym to practice. Drill after drill we worked making ourselves the best we could be. By the time of our first game, we were working together as a well-oiled machine.

As the day of our first game came we began to worry. “What if we lost”, we asked ourselves. We had tried and worked so hard to be ready, but there was always a chance we would not make it. The day crawled by, class by class, until finally, it was time for us to board the bus for our first game. The bus ride was silent with small whispers of “can we do it” as we ran through plays in our heads.

As the buzzer rang to start the game we jumped to life scoring twenty points in the first quarter and taking the lead. At half time the score was forty to twenty, we were winning. The locker room was buzzing with “we’re winning” and “let’s go guys we got this,” as we prepared to go back out and win the game. By the time the third quarter came to an end, we were losing fifty to forty. We had gotten cocky. We thought we had this game in the bag, and got to comfortable.

I could not believe it. We had lost the first game of the season. Suddenly, winning the championship seemed impossible to reach. There could not have been a bigger blow to our pride. We had practiced so hard to lose our first game. We felt defeated.

At practice the next night there was a new feeling in the air. After one night of feeling the pain of our mistakes, we pounded it in our heads that we wouldn’t let it happen again. Working harder and harder each day, we felt unbeatable. Never again would we be beaten like that. “You will win because you deserve it, for how hard you worked” screamed our coach.

At our next game we came back with a strong feeling, like a million bucks. The team we were playing was tough, but we were even tougher. In the middle of the game, the score was twenty-three to zero in our favor. The drive to win and be the best was pushing us on, harder and harder, to beat this team and not give up. We had voices in our heads screaming “you can do it, you can do it.” Working as a team we pushed on to win the game and get a huge boost to our self-esteem.

Game after game we got better and the wins got bigger. We had not lost a game since the first game of the season and we would not let it happen again. Four games from the finals our best player, tom, got hurt. He had jumped up to block a shot and got hit in the leg by another player, breaking

his leg. "will he be ok?" questioned the team, "yes," announced our coach " he will be ok but he will not be able to play basketball again this year." Worrying about Tom our team began to start missing easy shots and making lots of fouls. We still won the game, but it was a far closer game than we would have expected.

Two games to go in the finals. We were still having trouble recovering from the injury of our best player. The games got closer and closer every time. With the competition getting harder, it was no time to be getting worse. Each game we managed to come out on top, but we could not hold on much longer. Our coach tried to give us pep talks "You can do, do it for Tom, you guys can do this I promise."

We just barely won the last game, which we needed to win in order to make it to the finals. It seemed that now since we were so close to our goal, we had to pull it together. Making it to the finals was a big deal because none of our other teams had every done it. At school on the announcements the speakers announced "and finally let's wish the boys on the school basketball team luck as they prepare to win the championship, even after their long, hard season." The teams' goal seemed to change from that, instead of wanting to win we just wanted to make our school proud. That was not what I wanted. I wanted to win, and I would do whatever I could to make it happen.

Class's drug to an end and so did the school day, but now it was time for the final game. The bus ride to the game felt like a life-time as we got ready to go win the game. The stadium grew on the horizon as we got close. Seating 300 people this was the biggest stadium we had ever been in being a small town team. Rows and rows of fan filled seats rose up and up far above our heads, setting in a feeling of anxiety and pride. We were a small town team that had

made it to the big city for the big game and we would not let our town down.

As soon as the game came to a start, it was clear that it would be a close game. Our team seemed to begin to see the same thing; we wanted to win and would not settle for anything less. Quarter after quarter came to an end, and the game came down to the last quarter. With seconds left in the game it was fifty to fifty; a tie game. Second after second ticked away and we had to take a shot. One of my team mates stole the ball and passed it to me with three seconds left on the clock. I put all I had into the shot and hoped for the best. As my shot flew through the net, the crowd and the buzzer erupted in noise. The world around me seemed to jump to life, everyone and everything was screaming and shouting. The eerie silence that had formed as time ticked by seemed to melt away as the ball fell through the net. Fans from both teams were standing clapping and shouting for the seemingly impossible shot I had just made. That was the best feeling I had ever felt. Not only did I make a buzzer beater shot, but we also won!



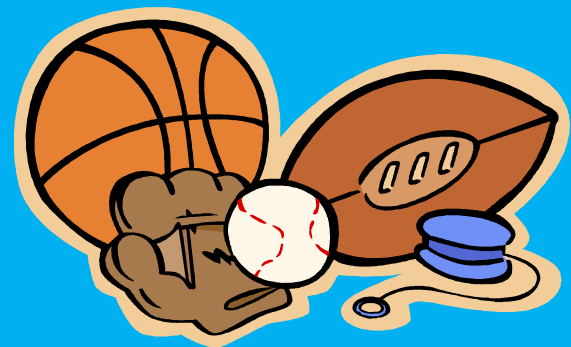
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