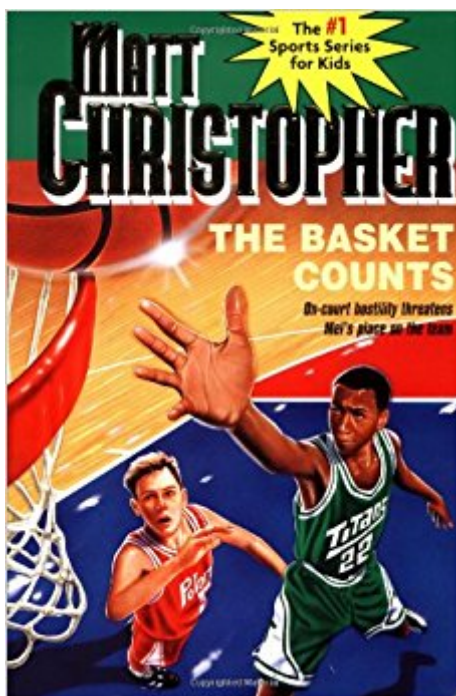


The book was found

The Basket Counts (Matt Christopher Sports Classics)



Synopsis

On-court hostility threatens Mel's place on the team Mel Jensen is new to the Titans basketball team, but he knows he could be a vital part of the starting lineup-if only two other players would give him a chance to show his stuff. But Caskie and Stoney seem bent on ignoring him, and Mel knows it's because he's black. Should Mel fight fire with fire, or should he try to get along, if only for the sake of the team?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Series: Matt Christopher Sports Classics (Book 41)

Paperback: 125 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (September 3, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316140767

ISBN-13: 978-0316140768

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #49,851 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball](#) #76 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#) #258 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#)

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Matt Christopher is the best selling name behind more than 100 sports-themed books for young readers.

Excellent book for middle school boys who love basketball. I purchased this book for my students who are reluctant readers and they loved the story and simply could not put the book down.

great book

My grandson, age 11 loves to read Matt Christopher Books. He started with football books, now it's on to basketball. He read it in one day.

My grandsons love this author!

Our grandson enjoyed the book, as he does all the books by Matt Christopher in the Sports series, it helps excite him in his own playing.

This book was awesome but we had pizza for lunch and ice cream chicken fried we I love chicken.

Bought it as a set as a gift. I can't wait to present it!!! Very excited!!! Love this book series!!!!

I read a lot of Matt Christopher books as a kid in the late 60s and early 70s. I'm reading (and re-reading) some now to check them out for my 8 year old son. I came into this recalling that the stories and writing are relatively simple, and that each book uses a sports setting to teach life lesson(s). In general, I'd say these books succeed reasonably well as vehicles for both engaging kids in reading (assuming they're interested in sports) and getting them to consider how to respond in difficult situations. However, some succeed more than others. I've just read *The Basket Counts*, *Soccer Hero* and *Nothin' But Net*, and I'd put *The Basket Counts* comfortably at the bottom of that group. Most unsatisfying is that the racial conflict is resolved (I guess) with little rhyme or reason. A black kid participates in pulling one of his white antagonists from a pond after the latter falls through the ice ... and then everybody's friends. Even for a book at this level more could've and should've been done with resolution of the conflict. (I think the other two books treat their conflicts more richly.) In fact, the whole story is a bit dated now (though the original 1968 publication was updated a bit in 1991 - if nothing else, to add references to Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson and, I suspect, to update "Negro" or "black" to "African American"). The writing seems more juvenile than that in the other two books, a consequence, I imagine, of the time in which it was written (the other two were published in 2003 and 2007). It's not a bad book, but I think there are better books within the Matt Christopher oeuvre.

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