college letter of recommendation from basketball coach

College Letter of Recommendation from Basketball Coach: A Key to Unlocking Opportunities

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach can play a significant role in a student-athlete's college application process. Whether you're aiming for a sports scholarship or looking to add a unique perspective to your academic credentials, a well-crafted recommendation from your basketball coach can showcase your dedication, teamwork, leadership, and character. This type of letter is more than just a testimony of your athletic skills; it reflects your growth, commitment, and potential contributions to the college community.

In this article, we'll explore the importance of a college letter of recommendation from a basketball coach, what coaches typically include, how students can request one thoughtfully, and tips for coaches writing such letters. Understanding these aspects will help both students and coaches make the most of this valuable opportunity.

Why a College Letter of Recommendation from Basketball Coach Matters

A letter from a basketball coach offers a unique insight into a student's personality and abilities that academic records alone can't provide. Admissions committees often look for well-rounded individuals who excel in multiple areas — academics, extracurriculars, and interpersonal skills. A coach's recommendation highlights qualities like perseverance, leadership, and teamwork, which are crucial both on and off the court.

Adding Depth Beyond Academic Records

While grades and test scores are essential, they don't tell the whole story. Coaches can share anecdotes about a player's work ethic, responsibility, and resilience in facing challenges. For example, a coach might describe how a student balanced rigorous training schedules with schoolwork or how they motivated teammates during tough games. These stories humanize the applicant, making them memorable in the competitive college admission landscape.

Highlighting Leadership and Teamwork Skills

Basketball is a team sport, requiring communication, cooperation, and leadership. Coaches witness these traits daily and can attest to a student's ability to lead by example, support teammates, and handle pressure. Such attributes are highly valued by colleges because they translate into positive contributions within campus organizations and group projects.

What Does a Basketball Coach Include in a College Recommendation Letter?

A compelling college letter of recommendation from a basketball coach typically covers several key areas that showcase the student-athlete's strengths and potential.

Personal Qualities and Work Ethic

Coaches often discuss the athlete's dedication to practice, punctuality, discipline, and willingness to improve. These elements demonstrate a strong work ethic, which is attractive to college admissions committees.

Achievements and Impact on the Team

Highlighting stats, awards, and contributions to team success can give concrete evidence of the student's athletic prowess. But it's equally important for coaches to mention the player's influence on team morale, sportsmanship, and ability to elevate others.

Academic and Character Balance

Many coaches acknowledge the student's academic performance and how they manage responsibilities both on the court and in the classroom. This balance is crucial for colleges wanting athletes who can handle the demands of college life.

How to Request a College Letter of Recommendation from a Basketball Coach

Approaching your coach for a letter of recommendation requires preparation and respect. Here are practical tips for requesting a strong and personalized letter.

Choose the Right Coach

If you've had multiple basketball coaches, consider who knows you best and can speak positively about your character and skills. The coach with whom you've spent the most time or who has observed your growth closely is often the best choice.

Ask Early and Politely

Give your coach plenty of time-ideally several weeks-to write the letter.

Respect their schedule and express your appreciation for their support. A face-to-face conversation or a thoughtful email works well.

Provide Helpful Information

Make the process easier by sharing your resume, academic achievements, college goals, and any specific points you'd like the coach to mention. This helps them tailor the letter to your strengths and the colleges you're applying to.

Tips for Coaches Writing a College Letter of Recommendation

Writing a letter that genuinely supports a student-athlete requires insight and sincerity. Here are some best practices for basketball coaches tasked with this responsibility.

Be Specific and Personal

Avoid generic statements. Use specific examples that illustrate the student's character and contributions. For instance, recount moments where the athlete demonstrated leadership or overcame adversity.

Balance Athletic and Academic Attributes

While focusing on sports achievements, also mention the student's academic commitment and personal integrity. Colleges appreciate well-rounded applicants.

Use a Positive and Encouraging Tone

Express confidence in the student's ability to succeed in college. Highlight their potential not just as an athlete but as a valued member of the campus community.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Sometimes, students or coaches face obstacles when it comes to recommendation letters. Understanding these challenges can lead to better outcomes.

Limited Interaction Between Coach and Student

If a coach hasn't worked closely with a student, the letter might lack depth.

Students should provide additional context or consider asking a different recommender who knows them better.

Balancing Honesty with Positivity

Coaches may hesitate to write overly glowing letters if the athlete has weaknesses. It's important to be honest but focus on growth and positive traits to present a balanced picture.

Time Constraints

With busy schedules, coaches might rush the letter. Students can alleviate this by providing clear deadlines and all necessary materials upfront.

Impact of a Strong Basketball Coach Recommendation on College Applications

A powerful letter from a basketball coach can tip the scales in favor of an applicant, especially when applying to schools with competitive athletic programs or scholarship opportunities. It adds credibility and a personal touch that standardized tests and transcripts can't match.

Furthermore, coaches often serve as mentors, and their endorsement signals to admissions officers that the student is responsible, motivated, and ready for the challenges of college life. This can lead to increased chances of acceptance, scholarship awards, or placement on college teams.

Whether you're a student-athlete seeking a college letter of recommendation from a basketball coach or a coach preparing to write one, understanding the role and best practices can make a significant difference. These letters are more than formalities—they are narratives that capture the essence of a student's journey, ambitions, and potential. When done thoughtfully, they open doors to exciting academic and athletic opportunities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I include in a college letter of recommendation from my basketball coach?

A strong college letter of recommendation from your basketball coach should include your skills, work ethic, leadership qualities, teamwork, dedication, and any notable achievements or improvements during your time on the team.

How can a basketball coach's recommendation help my

college application?

A basketball coach's recommendation can highlight your character, discipline, teamwork, and time management skills, which are valuable traits for colleges and can set you apart from other applicants.

When is the best time to ask my basketball coach for a college recommendation letter?

It's best to ask your basketball coach for a recommendation letter at least 4-6 weeks before the application deadline to give them enough time to write a thoughtful and detailed letter.

Can a basketball coach write a college recommendation letter if I'm not a varsity player?

Yes, a basketball coach can write a recommendation letter even if you're not a varsity player, as long as they can speak to your commitment, attitude, improvement, and contributions to the team.

How should I approach my basketball coach to request a letter of recommendation?

Approach your coach respectfully and in person if possible. Explain why you need the letter, provide information about the college and program, and offer to share your resume or accomplishments to help them write a strong recommendation.

Additional Resources

College Letter of Recommendation from Basketball Coach: A Key Element in Student-Athlete College Applications

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach serves as a pivotal piece of evidence in the admissions process for student-athletes aiming to secure a spot in collegiate programs. Unlike generic academic letters, recommendations from basketball coaches provide a multifaceted perspective, highlighting not only athletic prowess but also leadership, teamwork, discipline, and character development. As college admissions grow increasingly competitive, understanding the nuances and strategic advantages of this type of letter can be crucial for prospective students.

The Role and Importance of a Basketball Coach's Recommendation Letter

A college letter of recommendation from a basketball coach offers admissions committees a unique lens through which to assess an applicant. While traditional academic recommendations focus predominantly on intellectual capabilities and classroom performance, coach recommendations emphasize traits cultivated through sports participation. These include resilience, time management, ability to work under pressure, and interpersonal

skills-qualities that often translate well into the rigors of college life.

In many cases, coaches can attest to an applicant's commitment and growth over time, providing concrete examples of perseverance and leadership both on and off the court. This contextual insight often helps admissions officers evaluate candidates more holistically. Moreover, for student-athletes hoping to join college teams, a coach's letter can confirm their athletic abilities and potential contributions to the program.

Key Elements of an Effective Basketball Coach Recommendation

A well-crafted college letter of recommendation from a basketball coach typically includes several critical components:

- Personal rapport: The coach should convey how well they know the student-athlete, illustrating the depth of their relationship and firsthand observations.
- Athletic performance: Specific achievements, such as statistics, awards, or notable games, provide tangible evidence of the applicant's skill level.
- Character attributes: Descriptions of leadership, teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship help humanize the athlete beyond mere statistics.
- Academic balance: Coaches who comment on the student's ability to juggle sports and academics underscore their time-management skills and dedication.
- Potential contribution: Insight into how the athlete might fit and contribute to the college team or campus community adds forward-looking value.

Including these elements ensures that the recommendation letter is comprehensive and persuasive.

Comparing Basketball Coach Recommendations to Other Types of Letters

While college applications typically require academic references, the addition of a basketball coach's letter introduces a complementary perspective. Academic teachers or counselors focus on intellectual aptitude, while coaches provide a narrative rooted in practical experience and realworld challenges. This contrast can be especially valuable for student-athletes whose academic profiles may not fully capture their potential or who excel more visibly in extracurricular arenas.

In contrast to generic extracurricular recommendations, basketball coach letters often convey a level of personal investment not easily matched. Coaches frequently spend extensive time mentoring athletes, observing their

progression through seasons and tournaments. This sustained interaction allows them to comment authentically on growth trajectories. However, it is important to note that some colleges weigh academic recommendations more heavily; thus, the coach's letter serves best as a complementary rather than a substitute reference.

Pros and Cons of Including a Basketball Coach's Recommendation

1. Pros:

- o Provides insight into leadership and teamwork skills.
- o Highlights commitment, discipline, and time management.
- o Offers a credible endorsement of athletic abilities and potential.
- \circ Supports holistic evaluation by admissions officers.

2. Cons:

- May be perceived as less academically rigorous compared to teacher recommendations.
- Effectiveness depends on the coach's writing skills and ability to articulate meaningful observations.
- Some programs may undervalue athletic recommendations if the applicant is not recruited as an athlete.

Understanding these factors helps applicants decide when and how to incorporate a basketball coach's recommendation effectively.

Best Practices for Securing a Strong Recommendation from a Basketball Coach

Obtaining a compelling college letter of recommendation from a basketball coach requires strategic preparation and communication. Student-athletes should proactively build strong relationships with their coaches well before application deadlines. Demonstrating consistent effort, positive attitude, and leadership on the team increases the likelihood that a coach will write a supportive and detailed letter.

When requesting the recommendation, students should provide coaches with relevant information including:

- Academic achievements and goals
- Resume of extracurricular activities
- Specific colleges and programs applied to
- Deadlines and submission guidelines
- Personal statements or essays to align messaging

This preparation enables coaches to tailor their letters to the applicant's desired narrative, enhancing the letter's impact.

Examples of Impactful Statements in Basketball Coach Recommendations

Effective coach letters often feature descriptive, authentic language with concrete examples. Sample statements might include:

- "Throughout the season, [Student Name] consistently exhibited leadership by organizing team drills and motivating peers during challenging games."
- "Balancing a rigorous academic schedule while maintaining a 3.8 GPA, [Student Name] demonstrated exceptional time management and dedication."
- "Her ability to remain composed under pressure was instrumental in securing our regional championship."
- "Beyond athletic talent, [Student Name] embodies sportsmanship, always encouraging teammates and respecting opponents."

Such narratives provide admissions committees with a vivid portrait of the candidate's strengths and potential contributions.

Integrating the Coach's Letter into the Overall Application Strategy

A college letter of recommendation from a basketball coach should align seamlessly with other components of the application. Admissions officers seek coherence and authenticity across essays, transcripts, and recommendations. Therefore, the coach's letter should reinforce themes presented elsewhere, such as leadership, perseverance, or community involvement.

For recruited athletes, the recommendation can be a critical endorsement emphasizing readiness for collegiate-level competition. For non-recruited applicants, it can supplement academic recommendations by underscoring personal qualities that might otherwise go unnoticed. Applicants should also be mindful of each college's specific policies regarding athletic

recommendations and tailor their approach accordingly.

In the evolving landscape of college admissions, where holistic evaluation is increasingly prevalent, the inclusion of a basketball coach's recommendation can offer a nuanced and compelling advantage. It showcases dimensions of the applicant that transcend grades and test scores, painting a fuller picture of their abilities and character.

College Letter Of Recommendation From Basketball Coach

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college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: School Administrator's Complete Letter Book , 2003-04-30 The School Administrator's Complete Letter Book with CD-ROM, Second Edition, offers a comprehensive selection of model letters and memos for a wide variety of educational purposes and situations. This book and its accompanying CD contain a gold mine of tested, usable letters and other communiques, some of which can be used practically word-for-word from the book, while others can be adapted to your specific needs. The book's letters and memos represent the contributions of more than 60 outstanding school administrators throughout the United States - including superintendents, principals, supervisors, guidance counselors, and others - all of them with well-earned reputations for solid, professional communication. Many types of letters are included - letters addressed to parents, teachers, students, teacher applicants, other school administrators, businesspeople, and the community at large. In addition, this handy resource is clearly organized, designed for easy use, and filled with the best letters of the best communicators in modern American education. The CD-ROM makes the letters easy to modify to fit your own situations.

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: The Road to the NBA Curtis Carter, 2005 THE ROAD TO THE NBA is a book about heart, drive and internal motivation, when going the standard route is unavailable. It captures and conveys the experiences of one man's unwavering ability to pursue his dream of playing in the NBA, despite being faced with adversity and disappointment, both on and off the court. THE ROAD TO THE NBA is captivating, informative and heart wrenching. It encourages the reader to never give up on their own dreams, whatever they may be. The example of how to get back up and brush yourself off, each and every time you're knocked down, disappointed, disenfranchised and/or disqualified, is demonstrated on the pages of this must read. THE ROAD TO THE NBA is intended to create, in the lives of each and every person who reads it, the same spirit of hope, strength and motivation found in its pages. It is the Author's desire that you the reader catch hold of that spirit. Quite frankly this book is absolutely Fabulous! There is no

book like it in all of professional basketball. Once you start reading it you will never want to stop. This is as intellectual, emotional, motivational, and triumphant as it get's in the game of life. The book is amazing! And very thought provoking. The reality kept me glued to the pages. I highly recommend this book. -Charmane Townsell, Sheriff's Depart. Employee. Educational, Refreshing, and Bones Reality! -Paul Higgins, Award Winning T.V. Producer. I can see what a tough life is, to search a dream or just to survive. I am very glad for you. You are an example of Determination. -Eneko Herreros, Pro Basketball Coach, Spain

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mechanics of moral reasoning, ethical and unethical behavior in sport, and the development of moral education through sport. This well-organized, case-based approach to sport-related dilemmas teaches readers how to successfully apply moral reasoning skills in good decision making to ensure confidence in sports management. Extensively updated with real-world examples drawn from the latest sports headlines, this Second Edition is designed to help readers grapple with the many complicated ethical challenges they'll encounter in today's sports professions, including performance enhancement, violence in sports, and racial and gender discrimination. An expanded emphasis on applying knowledge and concepts in sport management further equips readers to confront specific scenarios, ultimately improving the overall moral integrity of sport without diminishing its competitive element.

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: The Judo Twins Stan Friedland, 2007-12-26 The Judo Twins is a compelling book that will capture both the heart and mind of the reader. It is the story of twin brothers who were given up by their dysfunctional parents as infants and sent to orphanages where they would spend their entire childhood. Yet, they grew up to become world class athletes in the noble sport of Judo and became known the world over as the Judo Twins! The difficult journey of the twins to this proverbial mountain top makes for a moving human interest story as they overcome considerable adversity to reach their goals. But, it was their great passion for the unique sport of Judo that provided the pathway in their unending quest for improvement and self-expression. Some of the biggest names on the national and international judo scene in the last 50 years voice their innermost thoughts in this book to explain why this sport has had such an overwhelming impact on their own lives. There is, however, another important dimension to this story and that is the strong and indestructible life-long commitment that the twins have had to each other. When all of these themes come together, the result is a multi-faceted tale that every reader can enjoy. The Judo Twins pulled and pushed themselves up to the top of their particular mountain and readers will be delighted to go along on this interesting and unusual ride.

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: A Simple Guide to Getting an Athletic Scholarship Gary Hiles, 2011-02 If you need to find an athletic scholarship, this book will provide the help you need. The author teaches parents and athletes the basics of how to get athletes noticed by college coaches and how to find thousands of dollars in athletic scholarships. He also teaches them how to avoid unnecessary expenses during the process. The book tells how to avoid common mistakes, such as parents waiting too late to start the scholarship search process, and encourages parents to hedge their bets and not limit their options before receiving an offer. Parents looking for detailed ways to help their athletically talented child will find them, whether it's how to create mailing lists, keep accurate records, contact coaches or work with a coaching staff. The author includes some of his more than 100 success stories. His methods are proven and have worked for him many times, and they will work for you too. I highly recommend this book to any parent who wants his or her child to better themselves with an athletic scholarship. Read the book and use it for it works. - Ralph Davis, Mr. Kentucky Basketball and starting guard with the University of Cincinnati Bearcats 1957-1960 and Guard for the Chicago Packers NBA 1960-1962. Author Gary Hiles, a parent, has spent his entire adult life helping young people. He served as a career counselor when he was a professional in the computer industry and spent time advising college students and young adults who were interested in pursuing careers in that industry. Gary and his wife were the music and youth orchestra directors in their church. He and his wife founded a highly successful Junior Olympic Volleyball Club for girls in the county where they live. He has volunteered the last 30 years helping scores of overlooked high school athletes get noticed by college coaches and find athletic scholarships. At the request of many athletes, parents and coaches, he has written A Simple Guide to Getting an Athletic Scholarship, focusing on basic things parents and athletes must do to be successful and inspiring them to put forth the effort.

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: Events in the Life of an Ordinary Man Richard R. Pariseau, 2014-12-09 Dick Pariseau reveals the excitement, adventures, and predicaments one can get into if one is afraid to miss anything, welcomes every opportunity,

seeks excitement, and listens to one's poker buddies when they suggest new or unfamiliar areas to explore. He earned a PhD at night school because he thought decision makers would more readily accept his analysis if it was authored by a doctor. Denied the opportunity to play basketball--his most accomplished sport--in college, he chose to play lacrosse and became a First Team All-American. Seeking an advantage over the competition at singles dances, he took dance lessons and ended up as a dance host and instructor aboard a cruise ship. Uncomfortable with the casual disrobing of the co-ed models at the university painting class, his poker buddies recommended that he get over it by spending time at a nudist camp. As an adventuresome traveler, he has sailed the Nile River and flown in a hot air balloon over the Valley of the Kings, gone hut-to-hut hiking in the Swiss Alps, and learned to throw a boomerang with the aboriginals in Cairns, Australia. Be entertained by the adventures and humorous predicaments of this ordinary man, and use it as a catalyst to document the adventures in your life.

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: State Melissa Isaacson, 2021-08-18 With the passing of Title IX, a Chicago high school girls' basketball team becomes pioneers as they play for the championship in this sports memoir. Set against a backdrop of social change during the 1970s, State is a compelling first-person account of what it was like to live through both traditional gender discrimination in sports and the joy of the very first days of equality—or at least the closest that one high school girls' basketball team ever came to it. In 1975, freshman Melissa Isaacson—along with a group of other girls who'd spent summers with their noses pressed against the fences of Little League ball fields, unable to play—entered Niles West High School in suburban Chicago with one goal: make a team, any team. For Missy, that turned out to be the basketball team. Title IX had passed just three years earlier, prohibiting gender discrimination in education programs or activities, including athletics. As a result, states like Illinois began implementing varsity competition—and state tournaments—for girls' high school sports. At the time, Missy and her teammates didn't really understand the legislation. All they knew was they finally had opportunities—to play, to learn, to sweat, to lose, to win—and an identity: they were athletes. They were a team. And in 1979, they became state champions. With the intimate insights of the girl who lived it, the pacing of a born storyteller, and the painstaking reporting of a veteran sports journalist, Isaacson chronicles one high school team's journey to the state championship. In doing so, Isaacson shows us how a group of tomboys found themselves and each other, and how basketball rescued them from their collective frustrations and troubled homes, and forever altered the course of their lives. Praise for State A beautiful story of basketball and life. —Steve Kerr, head coach, Golden State Warriors Isaacson perfectly captures the birth of Title IX and a time when high school girls were starting to gain equality in sports and in the classroom, showing us how opportunities on the court can light a path for girls to become their authentic selves in all aspects of their lives. —Billie Jean King, founder of the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative The book is special because Isaacson captures the special bond that formed among the female athletes. Not only were they teammates, they were pioneers of a sort A wonderful book that is both eye-opening history and a moving and deeply personal memoir. — Booklist, starred review An intimate, at times inspiring account. — Kirkus Reviews

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: Heart of Gold Bud Campbell, Glen Onley, 2005 Dale Rory arrives in Paddock in the heart of West Texas cattle country, in pursuit of his dream of coaching basketball and owning a cattle ranch, something his recently deceased and highly principled parents had encouraged. Believing his faithfulness to their teachings has led to past accomplishments, he is equally convinced that they are his compass to future success. Hired by the school, he buys a four-hundred-acre spread, but aware of his need for help, he seeks out his neighbors, Sybil and Marilyn Stone. Sybil, a widowed rancher seasoned by hardship, brusquely doles out advice, but Dale quickly recognizes the value of her guidance, as well as the beauty of her eighteen-year-old daughter. When it becomes clear that Dale has jumped in over his financial head, he gets the break of a lifetime. Having bought five lottery tickets on a whim, he wins the jackpot and banks twenty-five million. With no more money woes, he considers what he will do with his fortune.

Having been taught that To whom much is given, much is required, he must now decide if all those parental tenets are just words or his guide for life? BUD CAMPBELL, a Texan and graduate of Mount Vernon High School, was an all-state member of their1948 state-championship basketball team, and subsequently played for Texas Christian University. After ten years of leading basketball programs at various Texas schools and inspiring youngsters to develop a winning attitude, Bud spent twenty-seven years as a school principal, the majority at North Mesquite High in the Dallas area. With humor, wit, and an upbeat personality, Bud has inspired thousands with his motivational speeches at banquets, civic organizations, and staff development programs where he stresses that life's richest blessings are realized through giving freely. GLEN ONLEY is the author of Coach Catfish Smith And His Boys, Beyond Contentment, Discovery Tree, and Sunset, all available from Sunstone Press.

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: Curvy Girls Can't Date Point Guards Kelsie Stelting, 2024-02-02 Brand new in the Curvy Girl Club! There are two kinds of people in the world: Those who live in the limelight, and those allergic to attention. And somehow, they always find each other. TERRELL Terrell had his last basketball season at Emerson Academy all planned out. Step one, win the state championship. Step two, get recruited by the best colleges in the nation. Step three, play in college and then go pro. But life had other plans. When all the other starters on the team are kicked off for being caught at a party, he's left playing with freshmen who've never seen varsity playing time. If he wants a to get attention from recruiters now, he has to buckle down. That means focusing on the team and the team alone. SADIE Sadie would be the picture next to "introvert" in the dictionary. And Sadie was fine with that... until the college counselor says her being a loner is keeping her from the sterling recommendation letter she needs to get into her dream marine biology program. So when the basketball team comes to her family's art studio for lessons designed to help them bond, Sadie volunteers to lead them, in exchange for a letter from the basketball coach. But when she gets to know Terrell more, she finds she prefers his company to being alone. Can she handle being the popular guy's girlfriend? Will he be okay with a relationship in the shadows? Find out in Curvy Girls Can't Date Point Guards.

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: Sports and the Racial Divide, Volume II Michael E. Lomax, Billy Hawkins, 2024-01-18 Contributions by Amy Bass, Ashley Farmer, Sarah K. Fields, Billy Hawkins, Kurt Edward Kemper, Michael E. Lomax, and David K. Wiggins In Sports and the Racial Divide, Volume II: A Legacy of African American Athletic Activism, Michael E. Lomax and Billy Hawkins draw together essays that examine evolving attitudes about race, sports, and athletic activism in the US. A follow-up to Lomax's Sports and the Racial Divide: African American and Latino Experience in an Era of Change, this second anthology links post-World War II African American protest movements to a range of contemporary social justice interventions. Athlete activists have joined the ongoing pursuit for Black liberation and self-determination in a number of ways. Contributors examine some of these efforts, including the fight for HBCUs to enter the NCAA basketball tournament; Harry Edwards and the boycott of the 1968 Olympic Games; and US sporting culture in the post-9/11 era. Essays also detail topics like the protest efforts of San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick; the link between the Black Power movement and the current Black Lives Matter movement; and the activism of athletes like Lebron James and Naomi Osaka. Collectively, these essays reveal a historical narrative in which African Americans have transformed the currency of athletic achievement into impactful political capital.

college letter of recommendation from basketball coach: Tanking to the Top Yaron Weitzman, 2020-03-17 Enter the City of Brotherly Love and see how the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers trusted The Process-using a bold plan to get to first by becoming the worst. When a group of private equity bigwigs purchased the Philadelphia 76ers in 2011, the team was both bad and boring. Attendance was down. So were ratings. The Sixers had an aging coach, an antiquated front office, and a group of players that could best be described as mediocre. Enter Sam Hinkie—a man with a plan straight out of the PE playbook, one that violated professional sports' Golden Rule: You play to win the game. In Hinkie's view, the best way to reach first was to embrace becoming the worst—to

sacrifice wins in the present in order to capture championships in the future. And to those dubious, Hinkie had a response: Trust The Process, and the results will follow. The plan, dubbed The Process, seems to have worked. More than six years after handing Hinkie the keys, the Sixers have transformed into one of the most exciting teams in the NBA. They've emerged as a championship contender with a roster full of stars, none bigger than Joel Embiid, a captivating seven-footer known for both brutalizing opponents on the court and taunting them off of it. Beneath the surface, though, lies a different story, one of infighting, dueling egos, and competing agendas. Hinkie, pushed out less than three years into his reign by a demoralized owner, a jealous CEO, and an embarrassed NBA, was the first casualty of The Process. He'd be far from the last. Drawing from interviews with nearly 175 people, Tanking to the Top brings to life the palace intrigue incited by Hinkie's proposal, taking readers into the boardroom where the Sixers laid out their plans, and onto the courts where those plans met reality. Full of uplifting, rags-to-riches stories, backroom dealings, mysterious injuries, and burner Twitter accounts, Tanking to the Top is the definitive, inside story of the Sixers' Process and a fun and lively behind-the-scenes look at one of America's most transgressive teams. Including exclusive interviews with Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons, and Coach Brett Brown, Sam Hinkie, and more.

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