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# Sky Kings (African-American Experience)



## Synopsis

Describes the history of African Americans in professional basketball, from the traveling teams in the first half of the twentieth century to the stars of the 1960s.

## Book Information

Series: African-American Experience

Library Binding: 144 pages

Publisher: Franklin Watts (September 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0531113086

ISBN-13: 978-0531113080

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 7.9 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,963,816 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Teens > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball

## Customer Reviews

Grade 6-9. Although the last of the three big American professional sports to integrate, professional basketball was the first to hire African-American coaches?and today over 65% of its players (and most of the NBA's big stars) are black. This history traces the rise of the black professional basketball player from the early 20th century. It focuses on the development of segregated professional leagues (paralleling what was occurring in professional baseball) and describes the evolution of the Harlem Globetrotters from a serious segregated team to a show-off team that was instrumental in popularizing the sport nationally before the NBA became dominant. Bayne also discusses the advent of black women's basketball. Most importantly, he covers the difficulties of players such as Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, and Maurice Stokes, who integrated previously all-white teams after World War II?their trouble in finding hotels and restaurants willing to serve them when they traveled with their teams and the overwhelming hostility they encountered from fans and fellow players. Although black-and-white photos of key players help to enliven the narrative, there is much unnecessary textual detail regarding team records and individual games. And, with the exception of the famous and tragic friendship between white Jack Twyman and his black teammate Maurice Stokes, there is not enough detail about the professional and personal lives of the major players. An adequate introduction to a compelling slice of American sports history.?Jack

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"Sky Kings" was one of the new books at the 1999 convention of the North American Society on Sports History. The Kentucky Public Libraries named it to their Suggested Reading List.

Researchers at the Schomburg Research Center in Harlem, the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., and the Association for Professional Basketball Research in Phoenix have all found the material useful and entertaining.

LOVE THE FRESH INSIGHT ,RARE PHOTOS,GREAT GIFT IDEA FOR TRIVIA MATERIAL,  
YOUNG FANS, OR HISTORIANS

IF YOU LOVE NBA OR GLOBETROTTER FOLKLORE, READ IT

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