



Play Their Hearts Out: A Coach, His Star Recruit, and the Youth Basketball Machine

George Dohrmann

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Winner of the PEN/ESPN Award for Literary Sportswriting

Winner of the Award for Excellence in the Coverage of Youth Sports

Eight years of unfettered access and a keen sense of a story's deepest truths allow Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist George Dohrmann to take readers inside the machine that produces America's basketball stars. *Play Their Hearts Out* reveals a cutthroat world where boys as young as eight or nine are subjected to a dizzying torrent of scrutiny and exploitation. At the book's heart are the personal stories of two compelling figures: Joe Keller, an ambitious coach with a master plan to find and promote "the next LeBron," and Demetrius Walker, a fatherless latchkey kid who falls under Keller's sway and struggles to live up to unrealistic expectations. Complete with a new "where-are-they-now" Epilogue by the author, this thoroughly compelling narrative exposes the gritty reality that lies beneath so many dreams of fame and glory.

NAMED ONE OF THE BEST SPORTS BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE *LOS ANGELES TIMES* • *THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR* • *KIRKUS REVIEWS*

Look for the exclusive conversation between George Dohrmann and bestselling author Seth Davis in the back of the book.

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