

Marthas Vineyard Basketball

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year round on martha s vineyard island off cape cod massachusetts residents and vacationers have played basketball almost since the game was invented the oak bluffs summer league on the island was innovative ethnically diverse welcomed female players and fostered thousands of friendships president obama nba all star kyrie irving and family matters sitcom star jaleel white have all played basketball on martha s vineyard as did future college stars authors war heroes and entrepreneurs their stories touch current events from world war i through the civil rights movement and even include the filming of the blockbuster jaws martha s vineyard basketball how a resort league defied notions of race and class follows the rich history of basketball on the island and tells the stories of the players and coaches themselves during the heyday of martha s vineyard basketball in the 1970s and 80s the courts provided a place for friendships that looked past social class and race a unique situation given that nearby cities such as boston were sites of violent demonstrations against integration original interviews with those who were there not only reveal the racial dynamics on martha s vineyard but also relate amusing anecdotes of encounters with celebrities that include charles lindbergh james cagney frank sinatra and future star james taylor martha s vineyard basketball reveals little known aspects of the island shares the realities and triumphs of residents and vacationers alike and demonstrates the unifying power of basketball new englanders basketball fans and those interested in race and class relations will all find this book a noteworthy account of a singular place

in cages to jump shots robert peterson one of america s foremost writers on sports history paints a vibrant portrait of how this sport gained its place in american life he traces it from the day in 1891 when the father of the game james naismith drew up the first rules through the early barnstorming professional teams playing in gaslit social halls to the advent of nba games in madison square garden his richly detailed account brings to life every aspect of the changing game and the society that grew to love it the players the fans the owners the officials the rules techniques and equipment peterson draws on interviews with old playes to recreate the experience of this dramatically evolving sport as it went from a brutal slow moving game with a sewn leather ball underhand set shots center jumps after every score and a wire or rope cage around the court to the high scoring contests that emerged in the 1950s with the start of the team foul limit and the 24 second shot clock along the way he illuminates the impact of a changing society such as the ymca s early hopes that basketball would foster christian values

the indignities suffered by black teams in a segregated society and the influx of jewish players during the depression peterson brings the story up through the founding of the nba and its final success in overtaking the popularity of college basketball lending a lively and perceptive voice to the story of america s most popular sport peterson offers a unique and vivid look at a fascinating side of american life

this book written by five reporters who covered women s basketball for most of the 1990s follows the exploits of the teams heavily favored to contend for the national championship in 1999 2000 tennessee connecticut rutgers and notre dame the paperback updates the sport through the 2001 season introducing the reader to the new stars and characters who emerged in 2000 2001 25 photos

the story of ron brown former athlete and current assistant husker coach his search for success and meaning in life his struggles and victories even if you re not a football fan you ll enjoy reading about ron s experiences what he has learned in life could change yours

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