



## Summer Ball

By Mike Lupica

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**Summer Ball** By Mike Lupica

**The sequel to the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Travel Team*!**

When you're the smallest kid playing a big man's game, the challenges never stop—especially when your name is Danny Walker. Leading your travel team to the national championship may seem like a dream come true, but for Danny, being at the top just means the competition tries that much harder to knock him off. Now Danny's heading to Right Way basketball camp for the summer, and he knows that with the country's best players in attendance, he's going to need to take his game up a notch if he wants to match up. But it won't be easy. Old rivals and new battles leave Danny wondering if he really does have what it takes to stand tall.

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 5–8—This novel continues the story of Danny Walker, the basketball-obsessed hero of *Travel Team* (Philomel, 2004). In the interval between the two books, the 13-year-old and his friends went on to win the travel-team championship. Now that they are heading off to summer basketball camp, Danny is feeling the pressure of being number one. He plays as well as ever, but he's still the smallest boy on the court and anxiously hoping for a growth spurt. As the story begins, things quickly go wrong for him. He fights with his girlfriend before he leaves; at camp, he's separated from his friends and assigned a berth in the younger boys' cabin. There are many familiar elements and few surprises here, yet Lupica breathes life into both characters and story. Danny is a classic sports-story underdog, but he's also sympathetic and engaging. He is surrounded by a cast of supporting characters who add humor and whose interactions ring true. When Danny befriends Zach, who is a younger version of himself, readers see the protagonist grow in empathy and self-awareness. Sports fans will relish the on-court action, expertly rendered in Lupica's taut prose. This worthy sequel to *Travel Team* should earn a wide audience.—*Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA*

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#### From *Booklist*

Danny Walker is back in this sequel to *Travel Team* (2004). This installment takes Danny to a summer basketball camp, where the scrappy hero faces some of the country's best players in his age group. Early on, Danny finds himself spending a lot of time on the bench because his coach (a retired college coach) determines that he is too short for the game. Danny suspects, however, that the coach's antagonism may have more to do with an old grudge the coach holds against Danny's dad, a former basketball star. Eventually, though, Danny's tough-minded determination wins the day as he helps lead his team to victory. Lupica is at his best when he puts the reader right in the center of the action on the court. His game descriptions are fast, accurate, and exciting. Young sports-fiction fans will eat this up. *Todd Morning*

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#### Review

#### Praise for *Summer Ball*:

“Lupica is at his best when he puts the reader right in the center of the action on the court. His game descriptions are fast, accurate, and exciting. Young sports-fiction fans will eat this up.” —*Booklist*

“Sports fans will relish the on-court action, expertly rendered in Lupica's taut prose. This worthy sequel to *Travel Team* should earn a wide audience.” —*School Library Journal*

“Lupica knows his basketball and knows how to spin a page-turner of a story. Those who enjoyed the first installment of Danny's story will be thrilled to read a sequel, and even those middle school readers who are not huge sports fans will want to cheer for Danny Walker, who proves that determination can be a whole lot bigger than height.” —*VOYA*

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

**Jamie Lundquist:**

Here thing why this particular Summer Ball are different and trusted to be yours. First of all reading a book is good but it depends in the content of it which is the content is as tasty as food or not. Summer Ball giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no book that similar with Summer Ball. It gives you thrill studying journey, its open up your eyes about the thing this happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your approach home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of Summer Ball in e-book can be your substitute.

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