Burlingame Public Library

Sports Fiction

for Middle Readers 9-12 years old

Bat 6 *by Virgina Euwer Wolff*
A group of sixth-grade girls play softball in the annual softball tournament, which is overshadowed by prejudice toward a Japanese-American girl on the team in this story set in small town Oregon just after WWII.

The Contract *by Derek Jeter*
Inspired by Jeter's career, eight-year-old Derek Jeter dreams of playing for the New York Yankees. In this book, the first of a series, he learns about hard work and determination.

Fantasy league *by Mike Lupica*
Seventh grader Charlie is especially knowledgeable about football stats and strategy. When he convinces the owner of an NFL team to take a chance on an aging player, he becomes a media sensation.

First team *by Tim Green*
A companion novel to New Kid. Brock moves with his father again and tries out for the football team in spite of being "from the wrong side of the tracks."

Game changers *by Mike Lupica*
Eleven-year-old Ben is not surprised when the coach's son Shawn is chosen to be quarterback, which is Ben's dream position. Even so, he is a good teammate and helps Shawn become a better player.

Getting in the game *by Dawn FitzGerald*
Joanna really wants to play ice hockey even if it means playing on the boys' team and putting up with bullying from a teammate.

Go for the Goal! *by Fred Bowen*
Josh joins a travelling soccer team of terrific soccer players, but they need to learn how to work as a team.

Heat *by Mike Lupica*
Michael has secretly lived with his 17-year-old brother since their father died. Now in the playoffs of the Little League World Series, he has no proof of age when an opposing coach questions it.

Honus and me: a baseball card adventure *by Dan Gutman*
With the help of a valuable baseball card, twelve-year-old Joey travels back in time to the 1909 World Series to solve a mystery involving Honus Wagner. *(Baseball Card Adventure series.)*

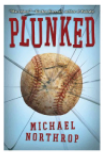
In the year of the boar and Jackie Robinson *by Bette Lord*
A ten-year-old girl moves from China to the United States in 1947 and soon finds herself caught up in American culture as she discovers stickball on the field near her house and becomes a fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Keeping score *by Linda Sue Park*
In early 1950s New York, Maggie enthusiastically follows the Brooklyn Dodgers while becoming friends with a new firefighter in town who teaches her how to keep score before being shipped off to fight in the Korean War.

MadCat *by Kathryn Mackel*
Madelyn enjoys playing catcher for her fast-pitch softball team, but she has to adjust to major changes when some of her team is cut to make room for different players who might help the team make it to the Softball World Series.

Mia *by Laurence Yep (find under American)*
Mia has been a skater all her life, playing ice hockey with her older brothers, before she decides to change sports and do figure skating instead.

New kid *by Tim Green*
Tommy is once again the new kid in town. When he makes a poor choice and gets in trouble, the baseball coach notices him and offers him a place on the team.



Plunked *by Michael Northrop*
Sixth grader Jack loves baseball, but when he is hit by a stray pitch and injured, he becomes scared to play. Will he be able to overcome his fears and get back in the game?

Six innings: a game in the life *by James Preller*
Filled with baseball action, this novel takes place in one day as two teams compete to win the Little League Championship game.

Soccer chick rules *by Dawn FitzGerald*
When she is not playing her favorite sport, Tess becomes involved in promoting a tax levy that will help sports stay in her school.

The sports pages *edited by Jon Scieszka*
(Find under Sports)
This collection of short stories aimed at boys represents many different types of sports, all written by popular authors such as Dan Gutman, Tim Green and Gordon Korman. *(Guys Read Series.)*

Surfer dog *by Elizabeth Spurr*
When eleven-year-old Pete moves from Los Angeles to central coast California, he adjusts to the change through surfing and the ocean-loving stray dog he adopts.

Winning team *by Dominique Moceanu*
Britt's family moves to Houston, so she can train as an elite gymnast. She learns about teamwork as she tries to fit in with the other girls. This is the first book in the Go-for-Gold Gymnasts series.

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