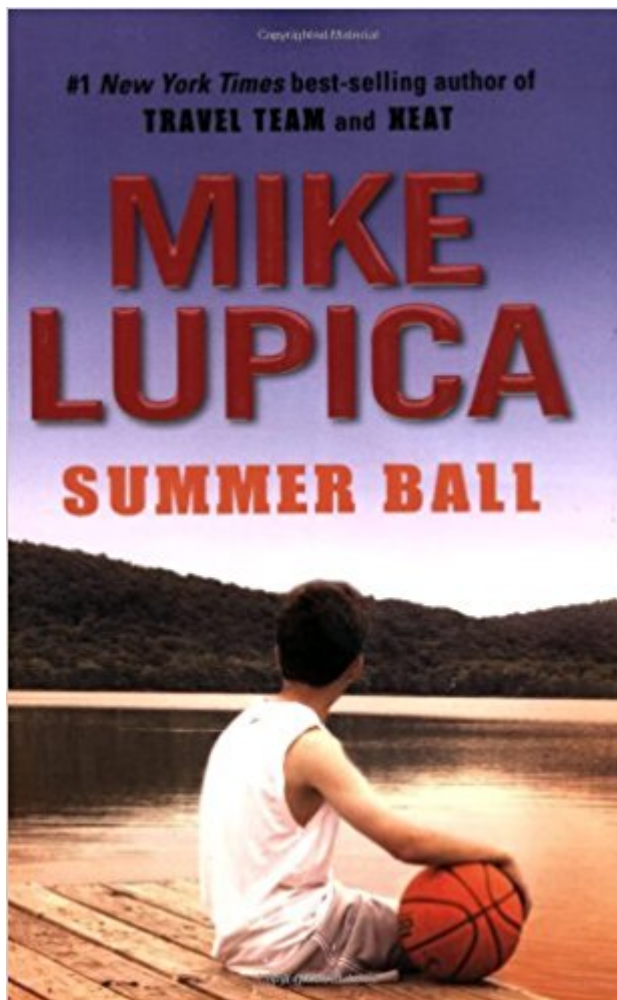




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# Summer Ball



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0910 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (May 15, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142411531

ISBN-13: 978-0142411537

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 76 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #48,495 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball](#) #121 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies](#) #139 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5—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 Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

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.

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It was summer reading for my students. They loved it. 5th grade level.

I guess it's a good book for young readers(Danny is a teenager), especially for those who like sports, or love basketball.

Great book about comebacks and never quitting. Amazing book to keep motivation and an amazing turn of events. Summer reading was actually good for once.

This is the second book that I've bought for my son from Mike Lupica. It's hard to get him to read anything. He's an overactive seventh grader. He really liked the basketball books. I'd recommend these for any child who likes sports. Great stories!

Mike Lupica writes great books! My sons are not big readers but really enjoy reading the Mike Lupica book series. I will continue to purchase these books as long as they continue with the desire to read on their own. I would recommend these books to anyone who has a child interested in sports but not so interested in reading. You won't believe how these books will make them pick up the book and read without being asked.

I loved it. It was a killer sequel to Travel Team and I felt like I could read it all day.

The start of the book was boring. But as soon as he reaches Right Way camp I couldn't put the book down. From the ups and down I felt like I was right there next to Danny even when the hardest problems came time to face like Lamar and his Coach, Coach Powers. A great amazing story written by Mike Lupica.

it was a gift

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