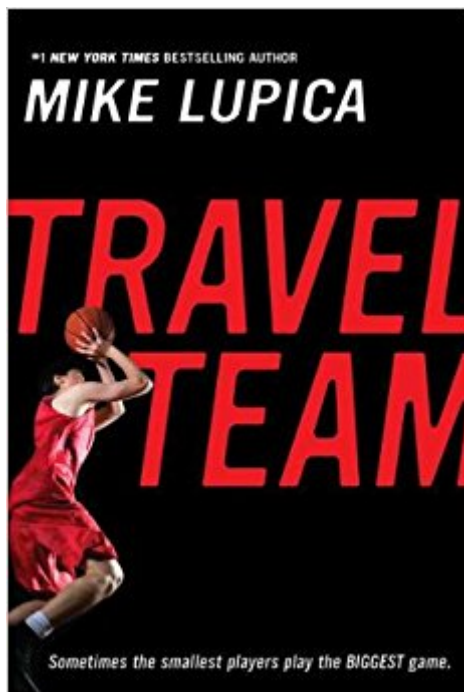


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# Travel Team



## Synopsis

The #1 Bestseller! Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court -- but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured. For fans of *The Bad News Bears*, *Hoosiers*, *the Mighty Ducks*, and Mike Lupica's other New York Times bestselling novels *Heat*, *The Underdogs*, and *Million-Dollar Throw*, here is a book that proves that when the game knocks you down, champions stand tall.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0930 (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (August 18, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142404624

ISBN-13: 978-0142404621

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 171 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,547 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball](#) #126 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#) #143 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8 — Danny is a basketball fanatic. He is smart, talented, fast, and dedicated, but short. When he fails to make the seventh-grade travel team, he also fails to follow in the footsteps of his legendary father, Richie Walker, who led his own 12-year-old team to win the nationals and whose career was tragically ended by a car accident. Danny, who lives with his warm and supportive mom, has a somewhat stilted relationship with his less-reliable father. Danny did not

make the squad because of the machinations of Richie's childhood nemesis, Mr. Ross, a controlling man who is determined to build a winning team. Although this text lacks only the stage directions and music cues to make the transition to the small screen as a Hallmark special, it really is a fun book for sports fans. Danny and the others cut from the travel team predictably form their own squad, coached by his father who battles alcoholism (and another car accident!) to lead them, with Danny's leadership, to the climactic game against their arch rivals. Although the kids compare themselves to the Bad News Bears, they are strictly old-school, harkening back to Stephen W. Meader's *Sparkplug of the Hornets* (Harcourt, 1968; o.p.). There's even a sweetly innocent romance with a wise-beyond-her-years girl who uses IM/chat to provide Danny with support just when he needs it most. A round-ball heart-warmer. —âœ Joel Shoemaker, Southeast Junior High School, Iowa City, IA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr. 6-8. Danny Walker is crushed when he doesn't make the Vikings, the seventh-grade basketball team. He is told that he is too short, but he suspects that the real reason has something to do with the bad blood between his divorced father (a former NBA star whose career was cut short by a car accident) and Mr. Ross, the father of the team's best player. Then Danny's father announces that he is starting his own youth team, but unexpected setbacks sideline his dad and the team until Danny steps in and coaches the team himself. Some readers may find that the story drags at times, and sports clichés fill the final pages. Still, Lupica creates a sports novel that is rich in details; this is one of the few novels about basketball, for example, that actually mentions zone defenses rather than the perennial one-on-one scenes in most basketball novels. Many fans of sports fiction will like this. Todd Morning Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Summer reading project By: Gianni Leonardo Travel team Book review This book is about a young basketball player named Danny Walker. He tries hard to get on the basketball team. Danny usually makes the team, until this year, When he didn't make the team, he felt confused. He later found out that he didn't make the team because he was too small. Danny's dad decides to make a team for him. Danny's dad used to play basketball until he got in a car crash. They then won a couple of games and eventually made playoffs. Danny's dad then gets in another car crash. After that, the best player, who breaks his wrist later on, joins the Middletown Vikings. I highly recommend this book to everyone, especially if you love basketball. The book is very suspenseful. Every chapter

has its own problem to be solved. The characters are very relate able, which makes the book even better. Once you pick the book up, you can't put it down. The theme of this book, is not to give up. Even though Danny was cut from his team, he still kept going. And believed in himself and kept his head up high and didn't doubt himself. Even through the darkest times, Danny still has hope for his team. I think if you play basketball or any sport in general and you are having trouble of making the team this book will show you to not have doubt, to be confident and keep trying. Hopefully this will show you a little bit about the book . You can learn from Danny's experiences from his problems. !

This book, much like his other stories, are incredibly dated and clearly meant for boys' consumption. The author belittles the few female characters in the story, and often with dismissive remarks about their bodies. Seriously, Lupica? Body-shaming children for the sake of empathizing with the main character isn't good storytelling. It's damaging to any kid reading it and internalizing these judgements. There's a plethora of better books out there for your kids to read. If you want good sports stories, I'd recommend the Fantasy Sports series by Sam Bosma.

I ordered Travel Team and Hero by the same author Mike Lupica mainly for the book Hero which I had seen in a store and Travel Team because while researching Hero on .com it had good reviews. When they arrived luckily I picked up Travel Team and read it first. I thought it was a great young adult fiction book. I loved the characters and the story and was disappointed when it ended it left me wanting more and there were unanswered questions. After finishing the book I went back to Amazon.com and discovered there was a second book Summer Ball which I am now reading. After finishing Travel Team I read Hero, a big disappointment. Thank goodness I didn't read it first. For suspense the main character keeps going back and forth asking "Uncle John" and Mr. Edmond questions about his father and his death and they keep giving him cryptic vague double-speak answers that I guess is suppose to be suspenseful. Do people really answer questions that way with vague nonsensical answers. Also for a book with the title Hero there is very little action. Read Travel Team and skip Hero

My son's favorite author! Great for a boy who loves sports!

I loved this book and everything about it! I rated a five of five because of the ups and downs in the book. It is a realistic fiction and I would recommend this for people who are basketball fans and like

mike lupicas books.

This book is so so tragic, but has a sweet ending. Just like getting stung by a bee to get some honey. Recommended for fantasy sports addicts

My son absolutely love this book. I highly recommend it.

I loved this book so much!!!It was about a bunch of underdogs that you will root for in every page of the book

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