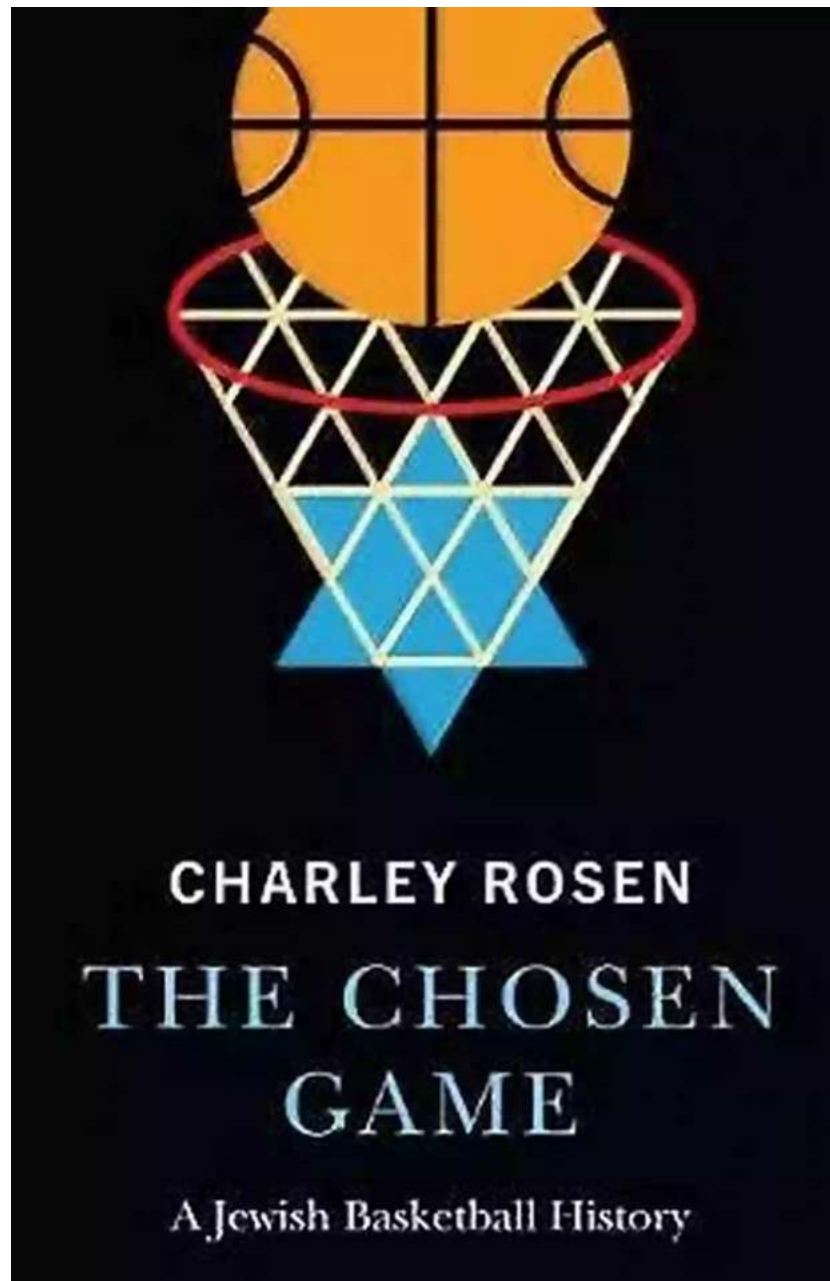


The Chosen Game: Exploring the Rich History of Jewish Basketball

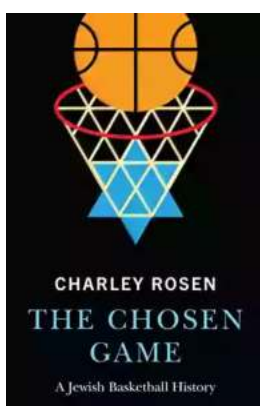


Jewish basketball history is a captivating and significant chapter within the broader narrative of this beloved sport. From early days in New York's Lower East Side to international competitions, Jewish basketball players have left an indelible mark on the game. In this article, we will delve deep into the rich and inspiring

history of Jewish basketball, tracing its origins, showcasing notable players, and celebrating its enduring legacy.

The Origins

The roots of Jewish basketball can be traced back to the early 20th century in the United States. As Jewish immigrants settled in large urban centers like New York City, they brought their love for sports with them. Basketball quickly emerged as an accessible and inclusive game that brought communities together.



The Chosen Game: A Jewish Basketball History

by Charley Rosen (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1201 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 224 pages

Lending : Enabled



By the 1920s, Jewish athletic clubs formed across the country, providing talented players with opportunities to compete and showcase their skills. Leo Ferris, one of the pioneers of professional basketball, revolutionized the sport by introducing the concept of a shot clock. His contribution proved instrumental in shaping the fast-paced nature of modern basketball.

Notable Players

Throughout the years, numerous Jewish basketball players have achieved great success both on and off the court. Their dedication, skill, and resilience have made them icons in the world of basketball. One such player is Dolph Schayes, a Hall of Famer known for his exceptional shooting and rebounding abilities. Schayes' impact on the game extended beyond his playing career, as he later became a successful coach.

Another prominent figure is Nancy Lieberman, a trailblazer for women's basketball. Lieberman, a two-time Olympian, broke barriers and shattered stereotypes, inspiring generations of female players to dream big. Her on-court achievements and advocacy for equality have made her a respected voice in the basketball community.

International Success



Jewish basketball players have also made their mark on the international stage. Israel's national basketball team has consistently performed well, securing European championships and participating in Olympic Games. Tal Brody, a legendary Israeli basketball player, played a pivotal role in leading the nation to its first European title in 1977. His impact on the game and his demonstration of Israel's basketball prowess captivated audiences worldwide.

Other Jewish players, such as Amar'e Stoudemire, have represented Israel in international competitions, bridging the gap between the NBA and Israeli basketball. Stoudemire's decision to play for Israel after a successful NBA career has further elevated the profile of Jewish basketball and highlighted the importance of cultural and athletic connections.

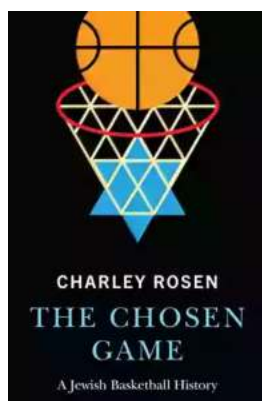
Legacy and Influence

The legacy of Jewish basketball extends far beyond the court. Jewish players and coaches have left an unforgettable impact on the game's development, introducing innovative strategies, and fostering a sense of community and inclusivity.

Today, Jewish basketball organizations continue to thrive, offering aspiring players opportunities to connect, learn, and compete. Jewish youth leagues and summer camps provide a nurturing environment where young talents can develop their skills and passion for the game.

The history of Jewish basketball is a testament to the resilience, talent, and passion of a community deeply intertwined with the sport. From humble origins to international competitions, Jewish basketball players have overcome barriers and left an indelible mark on the game's history. Their achievements inspire us to embrace diversity, inclusivity, and the power of sports to unite communities. As

we celebrate the legacy of Jewish basketball, let us acknowledge and cherish the contributions made by these remarkable individuals.



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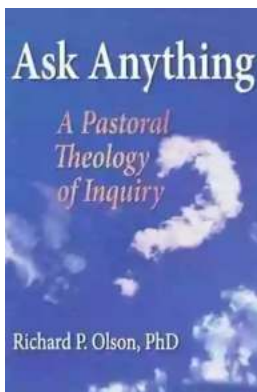


A few years after its invention by James Naismith, basketball became the primary sport in the crowded streets of the Jewish neighborhood on New York's Lower East Side. Participating in the new game was a quick and enjoyable way to become Americanized. Jews not only dominated the sport for the next fifty-plus years but were also instrumental in modernizing the game.

Barney Sedran was considered the best player in the country at the City College of New York from 1909 to 1911. In 1927 Abe Saperstein took over management of the Harlem Globetrotters, playing a key role in popularizing and integrating the game. Later he helped found the American Basketball Association and introduced the three-point shot. More recently, Nancy Lieberman played in a men's pro summer league and became the first woman to coach a men's pro team, and Larry Brown became the only coach to win both NCAA and the NBA championships.

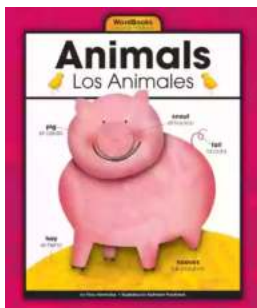
While the influence of Jewish players, referees, coaches, and administrators has gradually diminished since the mid-1950s, the current basketball scene features numerous Jews in important positions.

Through interviews and lively anecdotes from franchise owners, coaches, players, and referees, *The Chosen Game* explores the contribution of Jews to the evolution of present-day pro basketball.



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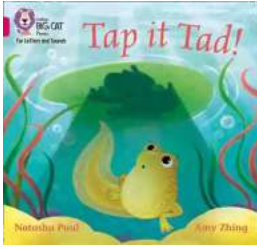
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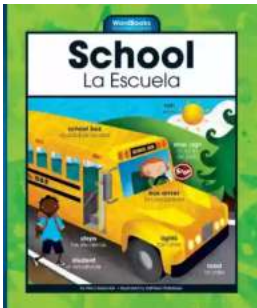
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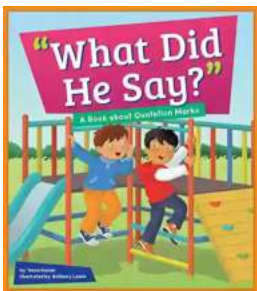
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