

LITTLE
PLAYER

GOT
GAME



*A bantam-weight epic
in miniature verse.*

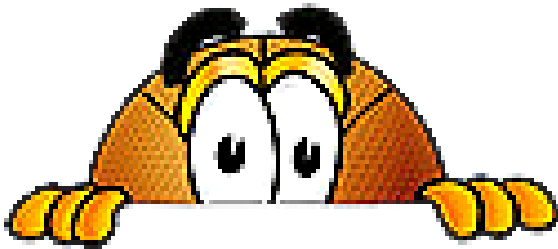
- VERSION 1.0 -



By Matthew K. Weiland

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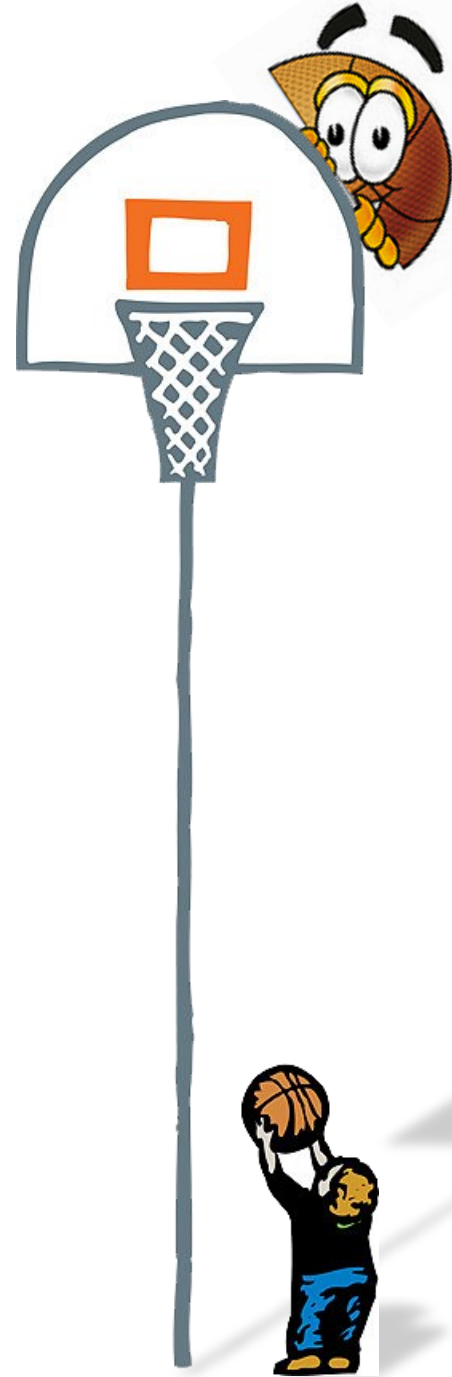
You may not recognize the face.
Perhaps you've never heard the name.
The little player down the bench
who's never in the game.



The last to be picked
and the first to sit.

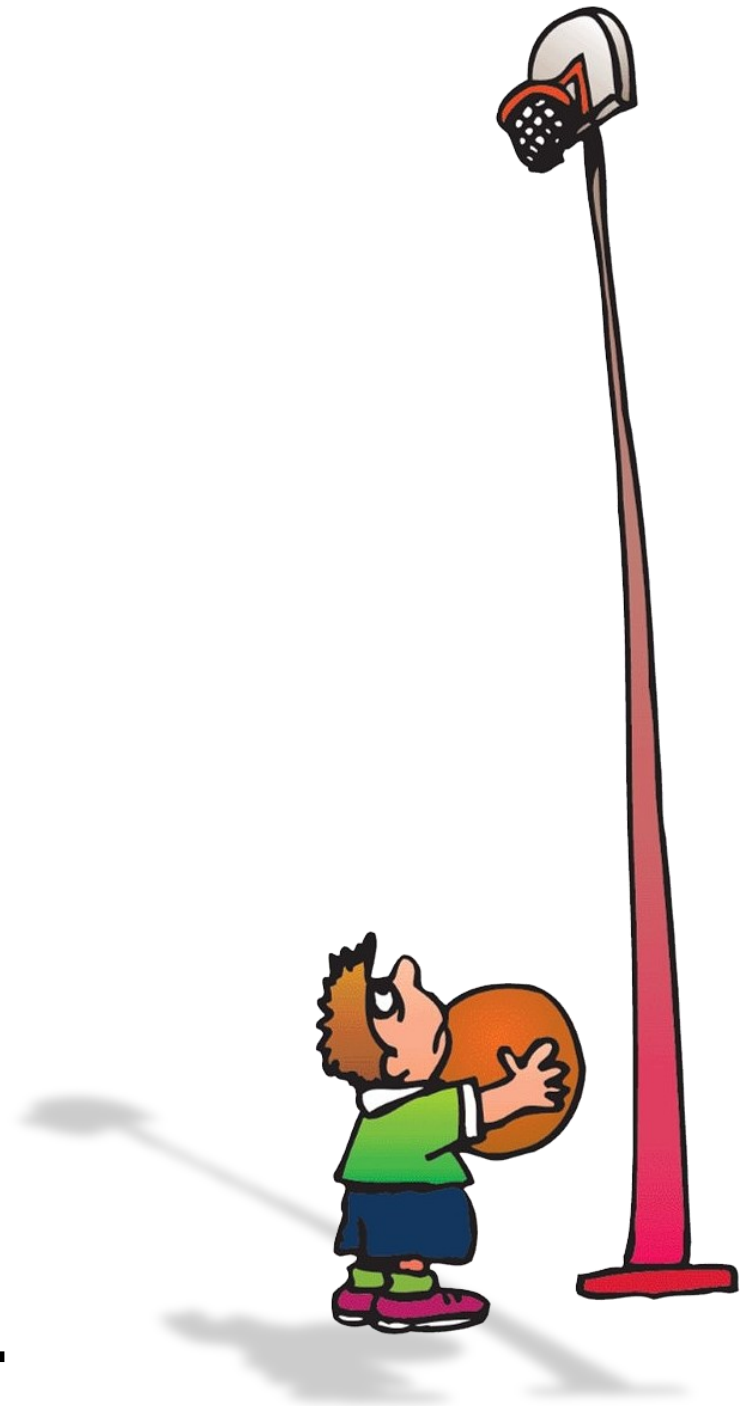
The last to go in –
it's an awkward fit.

A mouse among lions,
a shrub among trees,
a mountain of high-tops,
a forest of knees.





Shelved and forgotten,
dismissed from the start.
Smallish of stature – yet...





...Giant of heart!



So try and look past the miniature frame
for this Little Player has mighty big game.

Little Player's all about the hustle, you see...



...About making the stops with tenacious D...



...About hands-up, help out, be aware of the ball...



...About taking the charge and standing tall...



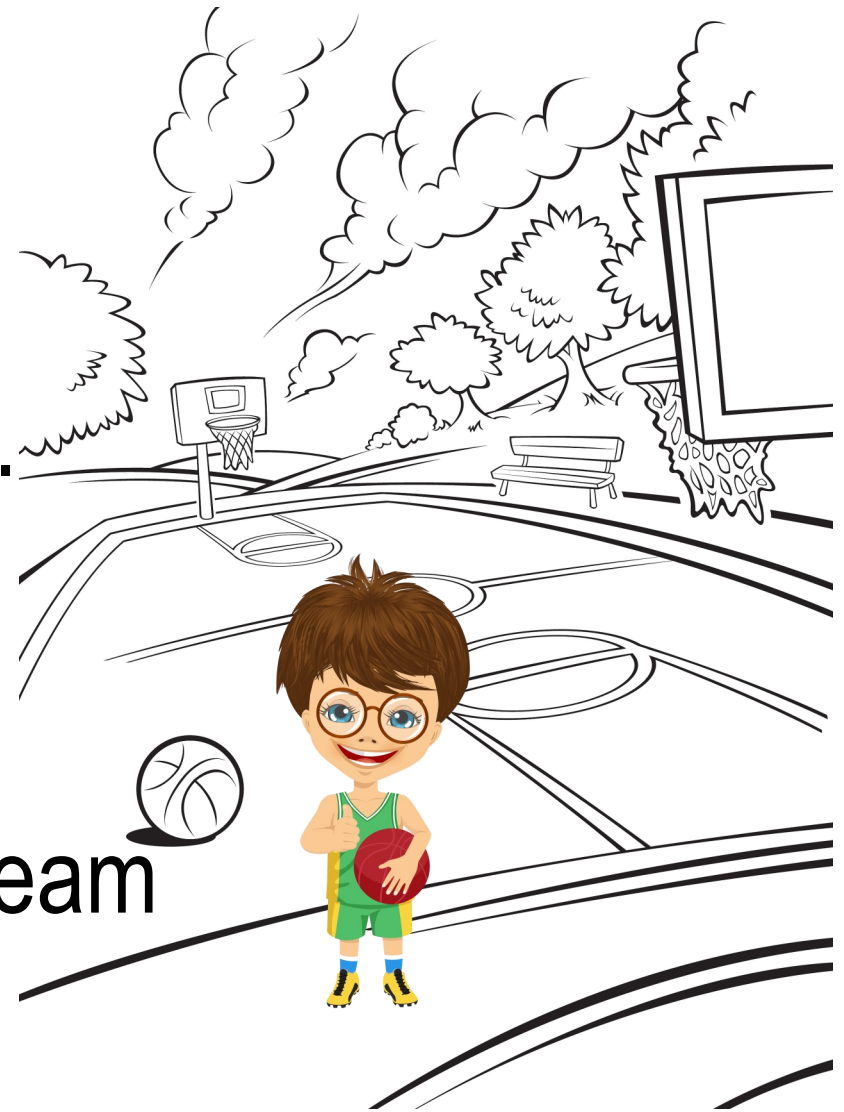
Still, Little Player

just sits

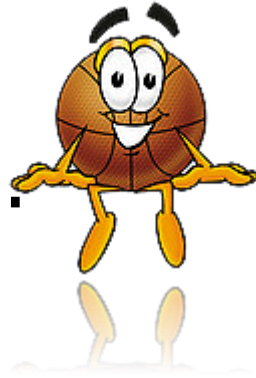
and waits for a chance
to get in the game
and be part of the dance.

And cheers on the team,
day after day.

And keeps faith in the dream
to make the big play.



But mostly,
Player sits...
And waits
patiently.
(Though
waiting's
not all it's
cracked-up
to be).



Until one night, it happens at last
the Little Player they all had looked past...

13



The one they'd all forgotten about
is called to go in when the team half fouls out.



Yet (gulp) Little Player feels small... 14



...And the crowd sounds so huge...

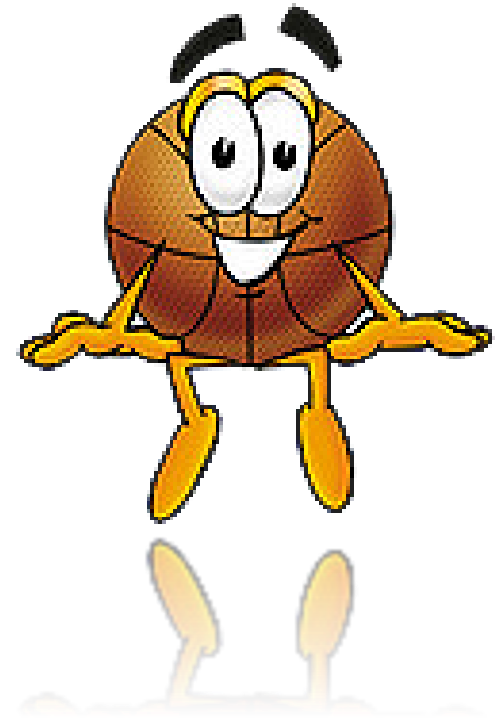
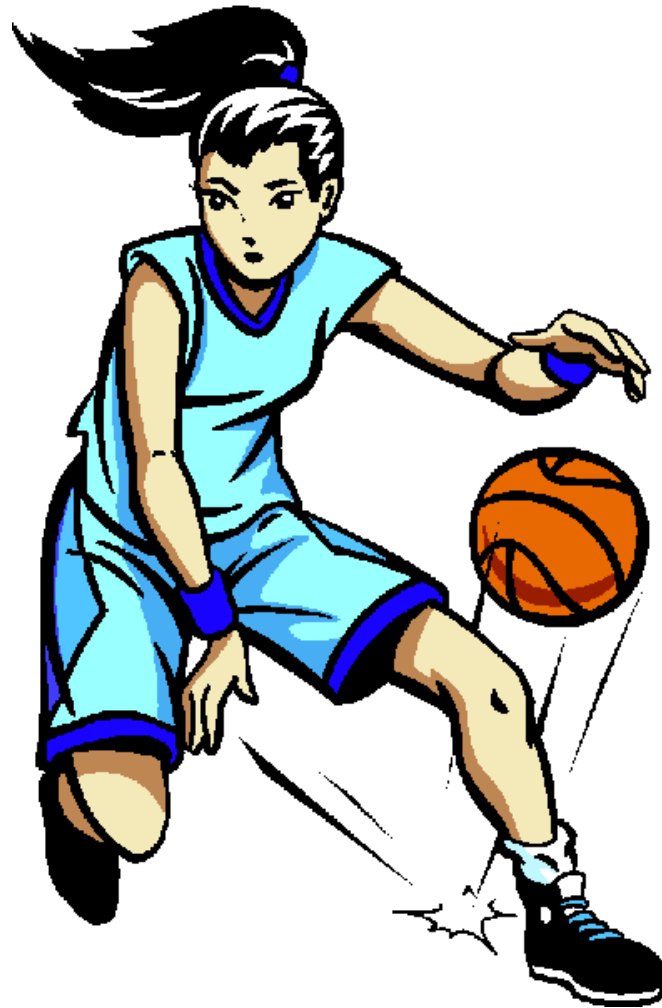


...!!!!And the game flies so fast!!!!...



What's a Player to do?

Just remember the basics,
whispers a voice.



The hustle and groove you've practiced before,
from long practice nights running the floor...

From...baseline...to...baseline...



...And then running some more!

So know you're all set to make your debut...



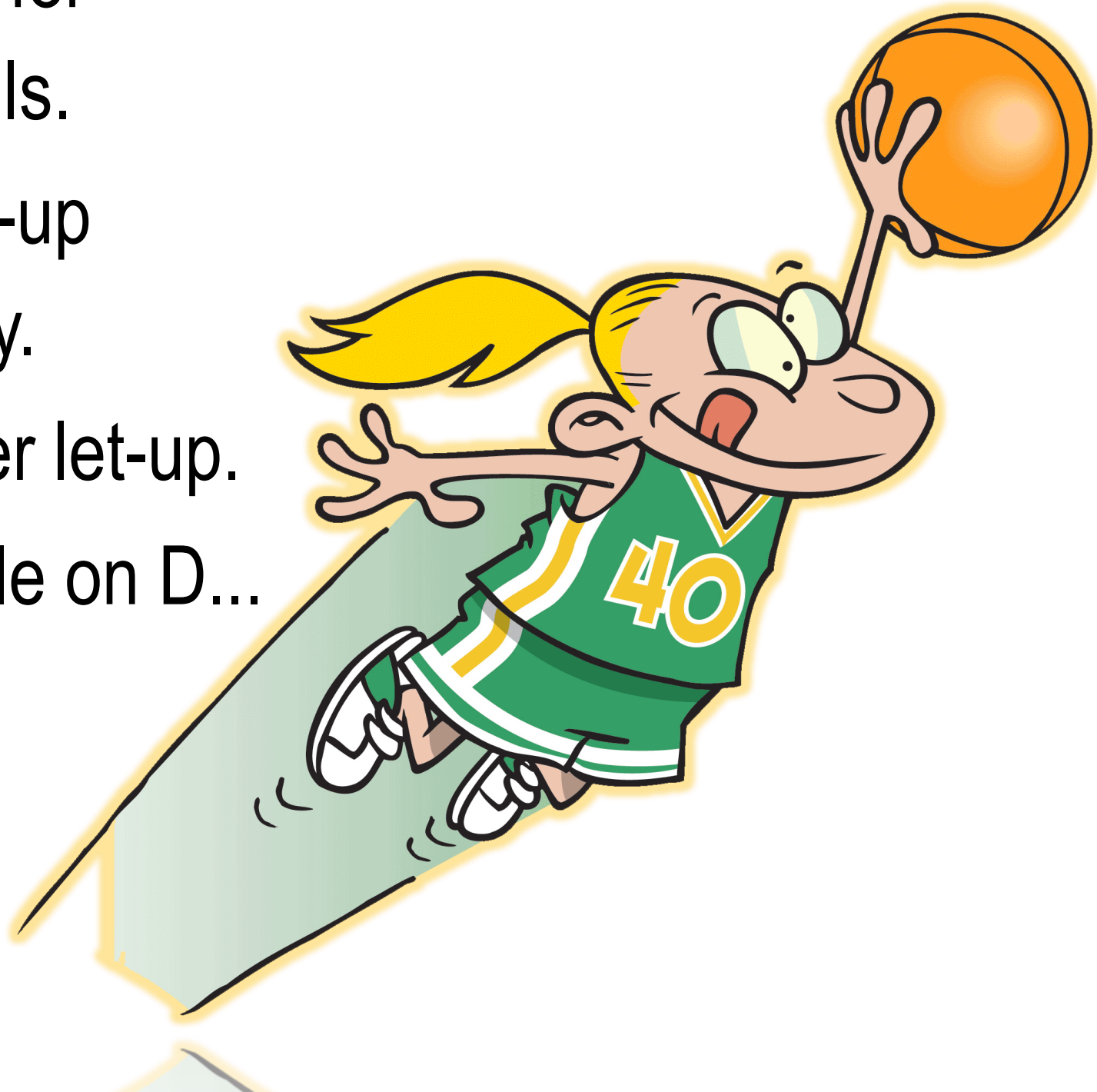
...for none on the court can out-hustle you.

You dive for
loose balls.

You step-up
in the key.

You never let-up.

You hustle on D...



You lead
the fast break
with razzle
and flash,
then dazzle
the crowd
with a sweet
no-look pass.



It's your night,
Little Player.
You're on
the marquee...



...As you square-up and take aim, draining the three.



And with time
ticking down –
from the 5
to the 4 –
you step-up,
swat a shot.
It flies down
the court floor...



You speed
toward the ball –
as the 4
becomes 3 –
and catch up
with the rock
at the top
of the key...



Setting
and squaring –
the 3 becomes 2 –
you shoot
with good form
and full
follow-through...



your

...and shot....

it... it...

one -

becomes

two

the

and then -

arcing

high,

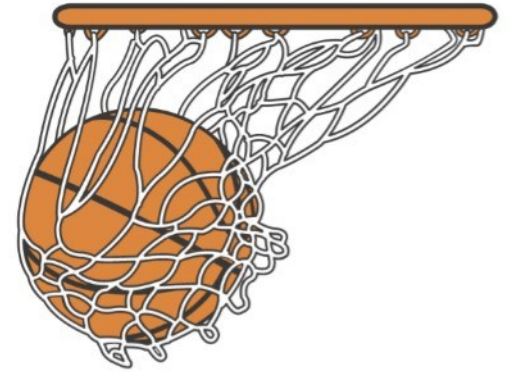
travels

The ball





...IT GOES IN!!!!



The crowd goes berserk! They're chanting your name.
Little Player steps-up and wins the big game!

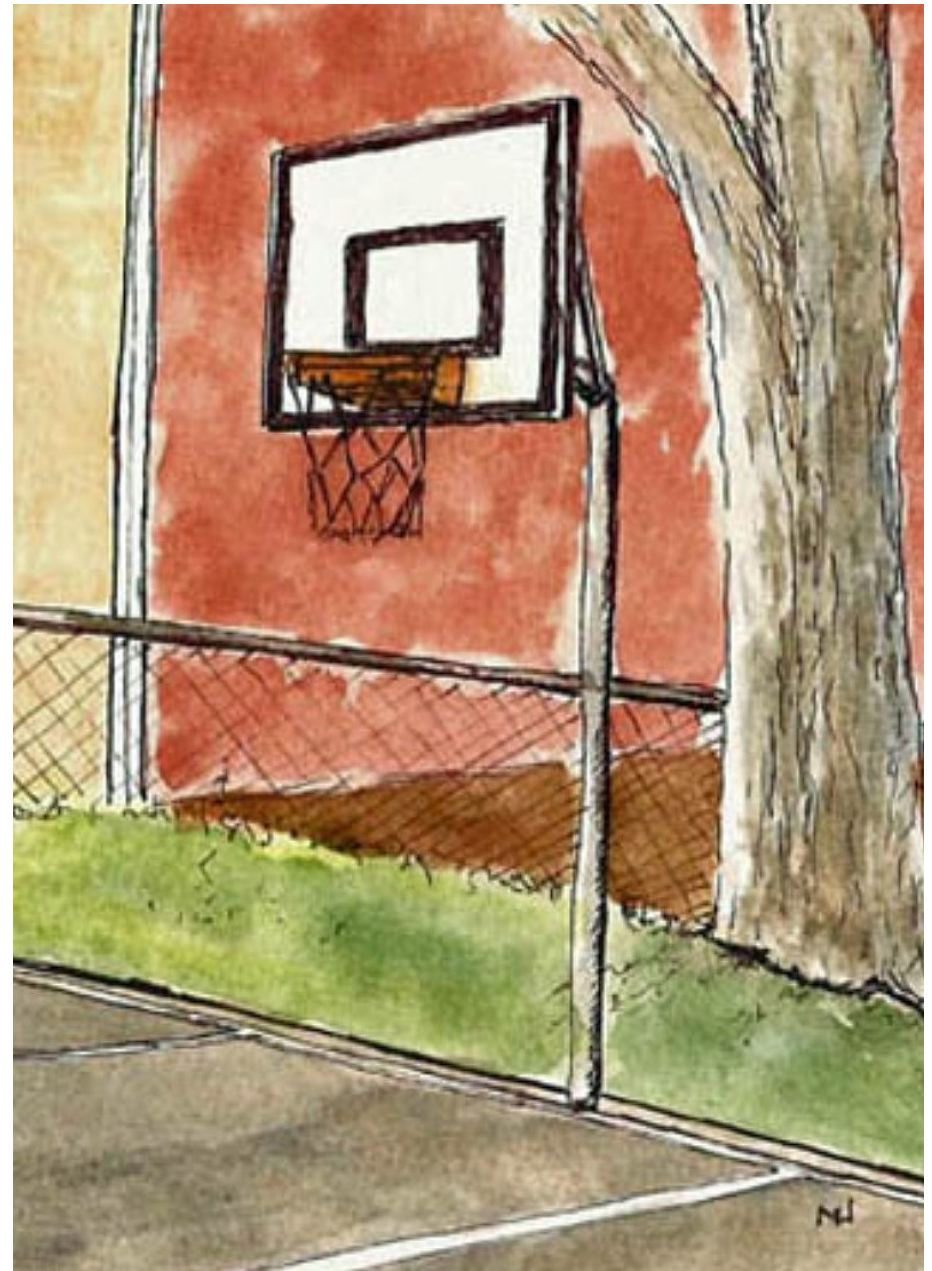


Little Player's a star.



Little Player got game.

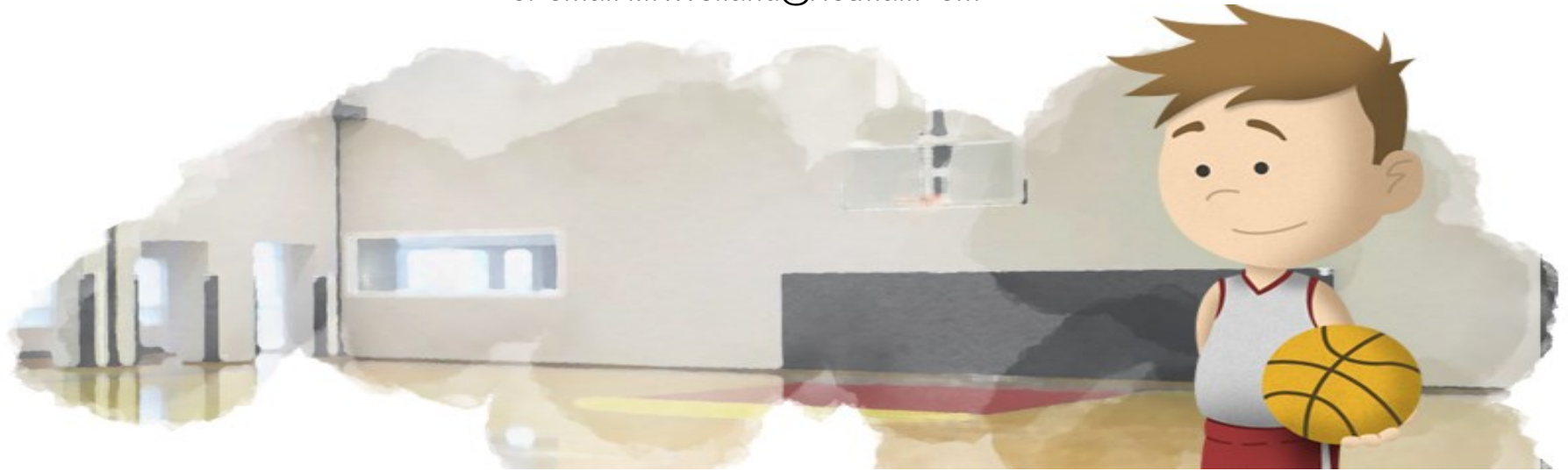
So on whatever court
in wherever you play...
...a playground...
...a backyard...
...the YMCA...



Remember that
some nights
you're destined
to win.
Because each
Little Player
has a
big game within!



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PREMIER PEDIATRICS

26040 Detroit Road — Suite #7
Westlake, Ohio 44145
(440) 871-1717



John Bennet, MD | Visit askdrbennet.com

