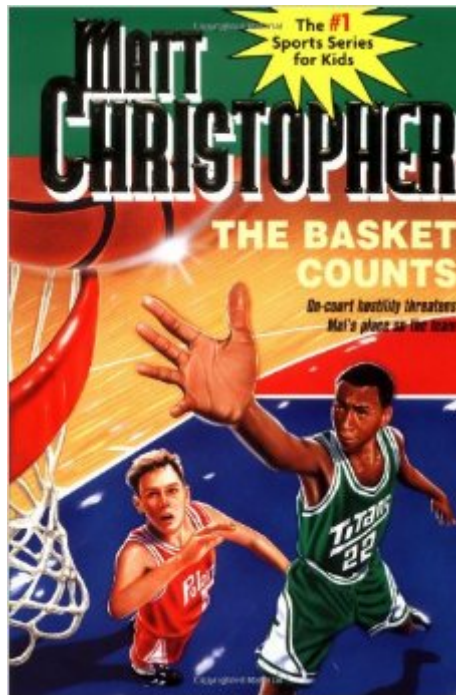


The book was found

# The Basket Counts (Matt Christopher Sports Classics)



## Synopsis

On-court hostility threatens Mel's place on the team Mel Jensen is new to the Titans basketball team, but he knows he could be a vital part of the starting lineup-if only two other players would give him a chance to show his stuff. But Caskie and Stoney seem bent on ignoring him, and Mel knows it's because he's black. Should Mel fight fire with fire, or should he try to get along, if only for the sake of the team?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690L (What's this?)

Series: Matt Christopher Sports Classics (Book 41)

Paperback: 125 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (September 3, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316140767

ISBN-13: 978-0316140768

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.4 x 7.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #39,248 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Basketball](#) #56 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#) #198 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Experiences](#)

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Just imagine if you were a new kid in school and the new kid on the basketball team. You were also the kid who had a different skin color than anyone else on the team and almost everyone on the team hated you. This is how an African American teen named Mel Jensen felt. You will learn more about Mel Jensen and how he overcame this situation in this story *The Basket Counts*, by Matt Christopher. In this story, Mel Jensen goes to high school at Hillcrest High School where he is on the basketball team and he is really good. He knows that he could be a very good player on the team. Their point guard on his team never passes him the ball. His name is Caskie and he doesn't like black people. When they had a game, they are going against their rival school team. It is Spring

Lake High School. All of his teammates are pumped except for him. He doesn't feel that excited because he knows that his teammates won't pass him the ball even if he was open. When the game starts, he is playing in the forward position and he is lined up at the right wing. Everyone sees Mel open all the time but it's just that Caskie doesn't like passing the ball to him. After the first quarter, the score is 9-7 in favor of Spring Lake. Mel wants to sit the whole second quarter and he does. When it is half time, the score is 25-18 in favor of Spring Lake High School. Mel is ready and he wanted to go back in. When the third quarter starts, he starts playing his hardest. He only scored 5 points and that's all he had. They ended up losing 30-25. The next week, it is the game before their winter break and he couldn't play because he is sick.

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