



2019

Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City

Maryn Wheeler

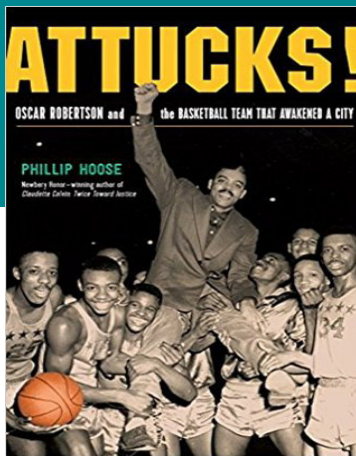
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Wheeler, Maryn (2019) "Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 40 : Iss. 4 , Article 73.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol40/iss4/73>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Book Review

Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team that Awakened a City

Author

Philip Hoose

Illustrator

Reviewer

Maryn Wheeler

Rating

Excellent

Level

Young Adult

Pages

212

Year

2018

Publisher

Farrar Straus Giroux

ISBN

9780374306120

Crispus Attucks High School began in 1927 as an all-black segregated high school in the Hoosier State. In the early 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan used its large influence in the government and on school boards in Indianapolis to separate blacks and whites in schools and sports. After not being allowed to play in the high school basketball championship for many years, Attucks was given the right to compete. Some of the best basketball players in history were eager for a chance to win the championship, including Oscar Robertson. Disproving stereotypes, their fast-pace, energy, and impressive talent were soon selling out large venues and winning tournament games. After years of disappointment in falling short of the championship title, in 1955 Attucks became the first all-black team in U.S. history to win a racially open championship tournament. Soon, all high schools in Indianapolis wanted black players on their team, easing school integration and furthering acceptance.

Attucks! is the incredible true story of the Attucks High School basketball team lead by Oscar Robertson and coached by Ray Crowe. It shares the history of basketball in Indianapolis, the racial context of the school and city, and the lives of the basketball players involved in the growing basketball program at Attucks in the early 1950s. Hoose eloquently depicts the racial implications and impact this basketball program had on individual lives as well as the city as a whole. All throughout the seasons, tournaments, and even after the team had won the championship, the players celebrated the successes but still dealt with inequalities. Hoose uses photographs, maps, newspaper clippings, and personal interviews with many who witnessed these years. In captions, Hoose explains implications of Supreme Court cases and the history of areas, buildings, and players. He includes a follow-up of the basketball players he highlights, as well as useful sources, notes, and index in the back matter. This well-researched and fascinating story shows the power of individuals and groups to change history.