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PM

Basketball is a game that is played all over the world, by players of all ages. Some people play basketball professionally. The best professional players can be heroes to young basketball players, and motivate them to keep practising so they can become better players themselves. Learn about six of these inspiring basketball stars in this book.



Biography/Information Report

Nelson



Level 26

PM  
Basketball Stars  
Susan Taylor

# Basketball Stars

Susan Taylor



PM

# Basketball Stars

Susan Taylor

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# Basketball

## A Game for Everyone

Basketball is a game that is played by people of all ages. Millions of people play basketball in many countries around the world.

Basketball is played as both a non-professional and a professional sport. Basketball players begin playing as non-professionals for their school or local club. They develop their skills through training and playing games against other schools and clubs.



Players for South Africa and Japan compete in the Men's World Wheelchair Basketball Championship in 2017.



Players compete in a high school basketball game in the USA.

Some basketballers play just for fun, but others may try out for a professional league. A league is a group of sports clubs that play against each other for a championship. There are 212 countries around the world that have professional leagues and national teams. One popular league is the NBA (National Basketball Association). This is a league of professional basketball players in the USA.



## Basketball Basics

Basketball is played between two teams. There are five players on each team. The game is played on a basketball court with a raised goal, called a basket or hoop, at each end. The aim of each team is to work together to move the ball down the court to the other team's goal, by bouncing or passing the ball. One player then shoots the basketball through the basket to score points. Each of the five players on a team has a different job to do to help their side to score.



## Basketball Positions

### Centre

The centre position is often played by the tallest and strongest team member. Their job is to stay near the basket. They jump up and try to catch the ball after a rebound. This is when the ball bounces off the hoop at the top of the basket. The centre can then try to shoot a basket themselves and score, or pass the ball to a teammate.

### Power Forward

The power forward is often the second-tallest player on the team. They need to move quickly and try to stop the players on the other team from scoring. This is called “defending”. Power forwards also need to be able to shoot hoops from close to the goal as well as from further away.

### Small Forward

The position of the small forward is often played by a basketball player who is not as tall as the power forward. The small forward shoots hoops and also runs quickly down the court to defend against the players on the other team.

### Shooting Guard

The shooting guard needs to be able to run quickly while bouncing the basketball. This is called “dribbling”. The shooting guard dribbles the ball down the court and looks for their teammates to quickly pass the ball to. They also need to be able to shoot hoops from far away.

### Point Guard

The player who plays the position of point guard needs to think carefully about their whole team. They remember where their coach has said every player should be on the court. They decide when it is good to run slowly or quickly. They also need to know when to pass the ball or shoot it into the basket.



Each position in a team plays an important role.