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Nota di contenuto	The Game; Pregame; Basketball, Poetry, and All Things Beautiful - Todd Davis and J. D. Scrimgeour; First Quarter; Hidden Talents Fail to Materialize - Jim Daniels; Basketball and Poetry: The Two Richies - Stephen Dunn; Two Things You Need Balls to Do: A Miscellany from a Former Professional Basketball Player Turned Poet - Natalie Diaz; The Simple Rhymes of Defense - Gary Fincke; Basketball and Poetry: Strange Bedfellows - Margaret Gibson and David McKain; Basketball and the Immigrant Faith - Patrick Rosal; Secound Quarter; Spinning in My Hands - Mary Linton Against All Odds - Linda Nemec Foster The Ball Goes in Clean - Todd Davis; Hard - Peter Sears; In Praise of Bad Boys and the Evolutionary Leap - Therese Becker; Why I Wrote the "Magic" Johnson Poem - Quincy Troupe; Halftime; The Art of the Cheer - Debra Marquart; Third Quarter; Fast Break - William Heyen; Tipping Off - Lauren (Jentz) Jensen; Off the Rim - Adrian Matejka; Courting Risk: Thoughts on Basketball and Poetry - Patricia Clark; Basketball, Failure, and Amateur Pleasure - Jeff Gundy; My Two Obsessions: Basketball and Poetry - Marian Haddad; Fourth Quarter "More Beautiful Than Words Can Tell": A Poet's Education in SouthernBasketball - Bobby C. Rogers Blessed - Ross Gay; It Was Easier to Say, "I'm a Basketball Player" Than It Is to Say, "I'm a Poet" - Jack Ridl; Reading Sebastian Matthews - James McKean; Going Exactly Where We

Want to Go - Marjorie Maddox; Squeak from Shoes - Richard Newman; Overtime; Announcing My Retirement - J. D. Scrimgeour; Team Roster; Acknowledgments

**Sommario/riassunto**

If baseball is the sport of nostalgic prose, basketball's movement, myths, and culture are truly at home in verse. In this extraordinary collection of essays, poets meditate on what basketball means to them: how it has changed their perspective on the craft of poetry; how it informs their sense of language, the body, and human connectedness; how their love of the sport made a difference in the creation of their poems and in the lives they live beyond the margins. Walt Whitman saw the origins of poetry as communal, oral myth making. The same could be said of basketball, which is the beating he