GAME and CULTURE
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Pick-up Basketball is a fact of life. It is the ultimate athletic competition and has provided a platform for aspiring youth basketball players to shine. So why pick-up basketball? It serves the same reason for which it started: short and easy and work and work on their game. Essentially, the reason I've made this essay serves as the same reason for which I play pick-up basketball. It leaves the game, serves as the same reason for which pick-up basketball is LIFE. It is LIFE.
Pickup a ball and you’ll find out why you should care. Walk over to your local courts and look at the raw joy, pure energy and spirited competition excitement on the faces of the players and you’ll find out why you should care. The cult of ball doesn’t affect those outside of the game in any way. You need to be involved to have the experience. HOWEVER, this jem, this secret hidden game, is too many to not be shared.

Social Implications

Social Implications

People consider basketball to be dominated by blocks. While many of the greatest players are block, in the center of pick-up ball, who you play with depends on who you play. But, who you play with doesn’t even matter. People expect you for stepping regardless of how people play on how good they perceive. The only difference exists on a difference of skill, which can easily be changed based on the amount of practice you have.

Why Should You Care

Why Should You Care

Advantages of Playing

Exercise - you can sweat

Fun - this game is just so so so so so fun. Really.

TALENT - the more you play, the better you’ll get, the more fun you’ll have.

Drawbacks

Learning curve - If you’ve never played basketball in your life, its gonna be hard to get good enough to compete. But you can be sure to play with those who are at the same skill level.
Local Rules* @ The University of Maryland + in general

- 10 players, 2 teams, 5 each. 1st come, 1st served. Who ever is at
- Winner stays on the court for 3 points, otherwise (for a total of 5) will play
- Play to 13/15
- A made basket = 1 pt
- The winner of the next game
- A shot taken from beyond the 3pt will = 2 pts
- Call your own fouls - ball returns to the offense
- No and Is... callly and I don't indicate a foul
- Respect your teammates and your opponents

*These rules vary based on the location of the court. It's usually best to watch before your play to get a feel for the rules. Keep in mind that pickup basketball rules vary regionally so a game in Florida may be played differently from a game in New York.

WHERE DID IT ALL START?

When the game of basketball was created by James Naismith in 1891, peach baskets and soccer balls were used to play.

Now we see courts in almost every town. The YMCA helped to spread the game around the US, Canada & the world and thus developing a pickup basketball culture.

This culture was fed by aging athletes in inner-city neighborhoods who stayed at the courts all day, and by groups of friends who are looking to hang around, have fun, and sweat a little.

VOCAB

Ball: the game of basketball, short for basketball. The object the game is played with.

Court: where a game is played.

Man: the person you guard on defense. Typically he defends you while you are an offense.

Three or 3: a shot taken from behind the 3 point arc. Typically good for 2 points.

Drive: dribble to the basket to shoot.

Dish: pass to another player.

D: the practice of playing defense.

Pick: an offensive move used to create space. An offensive player blocks another defensive player allowing for their man to move to open space.
My View of Ball

I've played basketball for most of my life and I love this game.

- 0th Grade: Drive my basketball with Dad
- 3rd Grade -> 7th Grade: Play in my school (PAL) Basketball League
- 8th Grade: I didn't make the PAL team. This sucked.

So, I tried out for the local YMCA team, I made it.

- 9th Grade: Freshman Basketball Team
- Then -> Present: I quit after my freshman year. I knew I could never play competitively on an organized level, so I started playing pickup with friends or wherever I could play.

Now, I play at Ebbey from time to time. It's easy to play when it's just for fun. There is nothing on the line, I don't have to be afraid of losing or letting my team down. For me, pickup basketball has been a way to exercise, let loose and have fun, while getting better at something.

I LOVE BASKETBALL!!
Ball is Life
by Michael Volok

Pickup a Basketball and Play
pickup basketball

If you can shoot you can BALL
If you can't shoot you can
call for it
clop for it
yell for it
ask for it

but you probably won't get passed to at all
you can be selfish
or selfless
drive to the hoop and dish,
or take it to the hole and miss
but
at the end of the game
all that matters
is
how many 3's of yours you
could get to fall.

Oh, by the way, it helps if you're tall.
Steven Adams on mission to bring basketball to streets

Kiwi NBA star Steven Adams is on a mission to bring pick-up basketball to the streets of Auckland.

Adams has teamed up with Spark to launch a pick-up basketball project for Aucklanders.

The project aims to bring the culture of pick-up basketball from world-famous courts in the US to the suburbs of Auckland, with five Auckland 'boroughs' kitted out with free hi-tech outdoor courts and paired with famous sister courts in the US.

Adams and his long-time manager and mentor Kenny McFadden launched the project via live stream from the US.

This short film features NBA legend, Julius "Dr. J" Erving.

Kenny McFadden is a legend in New Zealand's basketball community, known for inspiring young kids to follow their dreams and for identifying and coaching basketball talent, including Steven Adams.

McFadden says the project will give a lot of people the opportunity to go out there and express themselves, and more importantly take pride in their community and courts.

"Which is what streetball has done in the US. One of the biggest benefits for the younger age group is that they can learn from the older kids, and develop their talent at a young age. It's a great concept."

Spark's CE for Home, Mobile and Business, Chris Quin says basketball's profile and popularity is on the rise in New Zealand and the project will help more Kiwis follow their dreams on the court.

"The Boroughs project has been in development for over 18-months and involves great basketball names and brands, local community representatives, building the tricked out full-size outdoor courts and exciting technological developments. It's seen us form the only NZ partnership with the NBA and bring together NBA legends like Dr. J with our very own Steven Adams to talk about how street basketball shapes the play and makes the stars of basketball."

Each Boroughs site will have a basketball court, which will be built and maintained by Spark in partnership with the respective Auckland Council Local Board.

Steven Adams, who grew up with his brothers' stories of Dr J at Rucker Park, is backing the project to give Kiwi kids and people in the community a chance to play basketball to help grow the game.

"Auckland needs decent, upgraded outdoor courts so people can get out on them and play for free. Not everyone can afford to get to the gym so like streetball in the States, these courts are for everyone."

Each new court will be a Spark WiFi hotspot and, as part of the Boroughs project, Spark is developing new interactive technology for the courts, which will be unveiled early next year.

Kenny McFadden is excited by the use of technology on the courts and can see it benefitting player development.

"Putting the tech on the courts, that's cool. No doubt about it, it's the first in the world that I've seen. For players to be able to go down and use all that technology for their own self-development is extremely powerful."

"No doubt The Boroughs will uplift young players and shine the light on new talent. There's been big excitement over what the Breakers have done, and with Steven getting drafted to the NBA. Now with The Boroughs, basketball gets another shot in the arm so to speak, in terms of popularity. This project will give a lot of people the opportunity to go out there and express themselves and more importantly take pride in their community and courts.

"As a basketball talent scout and coach, I can see the younger age group really benefiting from The Boroughs. They can play with their own age group and the big boys, and learn from them and develop their talent at a young age. It's a great concept," said McFadden.

Auckland Council's General Manager of Parks, Sport and Recreation, Ian Maxwell, says that local boards for each court location gave strong support to The Boroughs right from the start and could see the project ticked all the right boxes.

"The Boroughs meets the local board goal to provide open spaces that provide recreational opportunities for young people, thorough partnership it improves community recreational facilities and contributes to our goal of Auckland becoming the world's most liveable city by encouraging local exercise and community activity."

Kenny McFadden is in agreement.

"Streetball tends to bring the community together. Sport as a whole is a vehicle for socialising and making new friends. But you know, when you're putting a basketball court up and you have to play and learn the rules and get along, it brings the community that much more together."

- The Aucklander
Standard Baller

- Standard shirt
  - no jerseys or extra flashy uniforms

- Any athletic shorts

- Shoes
  - Gotta be basketball shoes
  - Can be flashy

*The more attention your clothes draw, the more likely it is that your game is lacking*
QUOTES about BALL

"Who need actual teams when you can just play wherever you want?"

"I can't go a week without playing."

"I just love this game."

"Ball is indeed life."

"You know your good when people recognize you from the week before."

"Every one knows that the best player is dressed in most subtly."

"It's like you just go to a court and step on and do it. Like that's so easy."

"Yeah, I think I'm pretty good."

"How many people can just walk to a basketball court and not expect to get beat up?"

"Ball is life."

"How many people can just walk to a baseball field and not expect to get beat up?"

"Just me and not a long without."

"I think I'm pretty good."