



## Fab Five: Basketball, Trash Talk, the American Dream

*Mitch Albom*

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Fans of the New York Times bestseller *A Season on the Brink* will savor this in-depth look at Michigan's Fab Five, the all-freshmen starting basketball team that wowed the country and stormed through the 1992 NCAA college basketball tournament. 16 pages of photos.

## **Fab Five: Basketball, Trash Talk, the American Dream Details**

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## **From Reader Review Fab Five: Basketball, Trash Talk, the American Dream for online ebook**

### **Kyle Knight says**

The book about the fabulous five basketball players, this book is my favorite book. The fab five changed basketball, black socks, long shorts and five freshmen. Unbelievable in this time period. Michigan never thought this would have happened to them. To get five freshman that were all 4 or more star recruits. Chris Webber, Jalen Rose, Juwan Howard, Jimmy King and Ray Jackson. All coached by Steve Fisher, Steve wanted all of these kids very bad. The fab five was 5 kids that were all from around the country and lived very different lifestyles. Jalen and Juwan were from the slums, growing up in the hood trying to make it out as basketball was their ticket. On the other hand you have Jimmy and Ray the stars from Texas already living a celebrity life. The fab five was a very special group of kids they bonded like brothers very quickly. When Steve got all 5 of these freshman he was the happiest man alive. The fab five had a motto and it was "we are going to shock the world" and they did. They went on to the finals their Freshman year and lost in the finals. They told the media they would be back and they were. The fab five went back to the finals their sophomore year and lost again. The fab five reminds me a lot of Adam, Owen, Ross, Riley and I. We play like they did and we all love Michigan. The fab five inspired me to run the court and talk trash. The fab five were known for talking trash. They would get into your head and ruin you throughout the game. The fab five is how I wanna play basketball, that's the way basketball should be played. Nobody liked the fab five. The fabulous five changed basketball.

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### **Nikola Zelenovic says**

Good book, it's about the Michigan Wolverines which had the Fab-Five with Jalen Rose, Chris Webber and others on a great team in College Basketball.

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### **Jimmy Alford says**

The fab five book by Mitch Albom was basically a book covering the entire college basketball career of the most famous college basketball team of all time. The book covered how even though they were looked up to, they made many dumb choices such as playing Madden in a crack house or allowing their agents to pay them which is one of the biggest rules to break and you can possibly never play in the league again. It also covered the big deal with our rivalry over the Duke Blue Devils. At the time our rivalry with Duke was a bigger deal than Michigan vs Ohio State. We faced them many times during this time span including the NCAA championship game which Michigan unfortunately lost. Overall the book did a really good job covering up every thing that happened that happened over their entire career at U of M. It also covered at the end what happened to everyone on the team after all of the problems that they caused for themselves and other people and college basketball teams. The only thing that really surprised me was that of all people, Jalen Rose was the most immature. While at Michigan he made horrible decisions which involved being at a crack house. Today he is probably the most known player on that team. He has his own radio show, he is on ESPN a lot and he also shows on many other television shows. He also is involved in a lot of different fundraisers and charity events. For the other fab five members, Chris Webber and Juwan Howard both had successful NBA careers. Ray Jackson and Jimmy King both played some international on Europe but never were really

great in the NBA. Their coach Steve Fisher has just retired from coaching after having coaching time at San Diego State University. The overall book was good but also painful to read considering the fact that I am a Michigan fan. I would highly recommend reading this book if you are either a basketball fan or a Michigan fan.

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### **April says**

I was a little disappointed. Hard to pinpoint why

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### **Jarell says**

Fab Five by Mitch Albom, About a college basketball team, Michigan University, that had got real freshman talent in basketball. The players they got were Chris Webber, Jimmy King, Jalen Rose, Juwan Howard and Ray Jackson. Being a freshmen on a college basketball likely meant that you wouldn't start no matter how good you are. Some players started that were freshmen but not a whole team. In a small number of two weeks all of the freshmen on the basketball team were starting and out shining all of the expectations. This book talks about the racial struggle the team had to go through and the book go's through all of the players life's.

I really enjoyed this book, i already new some things about the fab five but this book went deep into the experience and let me know things i didn't know. The book was great the greatest sports book i have ever read. I recommend the book to all basketball fans maybe even people who aren't.

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### **Nick O'Connor says**

Fab Five by Mitch Albom was probably my favorite book I have read all semester. I have previously watched the 30 for 30 on ESPN about the fab five, so I was very excited to read this book when I saw it in the library. In 1991, the University of Michigan basketball team recruited arguably the best class to date, and at the time, nobody had seen anything like it. Nowadays, it is not uncommon for a freshman to start in college basketball. In fact, on top teams most starters are freshman, but in 1991 if you had two or three freshman starting it was unheard of. This Michigan team started all 5 freshman, and they had extreme highs and extreme lows, but they proved to everyone that age doesn't matter and that they could accomplish anything and become one of the most feared college basketball teams ever. I loved this book because you never hear about what goes on inside a team, like the locker room talk or how players feel about one another, but this book went into depth. Any sports fan should read this book because of the competitiveness throughout the book, and it's a monumental moment in the sports world.

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### **Ben F says**

This book was amazing,it is about 5 basketball players at the university of Michigan. The players names are Chris Webber, Jalen Rose, Juawn Howard, Jimmy King, and Mitch Albom. There were many scandals when they were playing there like they got caught with drugs, their grades were bad but they were still aloud to

play, and they were being payed to play. I loved this book because it was so attention grabbing and detailed. It made me feel confused because why would you risk your career to do those things, I like the sports players who play because they love the game. I think basketball fans and fans of Michigan, and people interested in the topic of the Michigan scandal will love the book. I could compare this book to the price of silence it is a book about the duke lacrosse scandal and it is similar to the Fab five because it is also about a scandal. I hope you love this book as much as I do.

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### **Nick Innis says**

its a great book for basketball fans and especially if your a Michigan fan. This was an actual historic event in the basketball world in the 1990'a. I really enjoed it and i would read it again and again.

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### **Lucas says**

I really loved this book. It brings you into the life of star college basketball players. It expresses the controversy and adversity these five freshman went through. Non-Fiction.

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### **Matt Moran says**

Entertaining book on an iconic team. Albom struck while the iron was hot and published this book in 1993, only shortly after Chris Webber was declared for the draft. More distance would be needed to really understand the Fab Five as the cultural sensation that they were. There are a number of questions that Albom touches on but doesn't really do anything with:

- Was Fischer the write coach for the team?
- Were they really that GOOD or just original?
- Why were they so polarizing and what element did race play in this?

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### **Tommy Calautti says**

The Fab 5 is truly a terrific book. It tells the story of five Wolverine freshman who revolutionized the sport of college basketball. Albom is a very consistant author and continues to uphold his reputation with this book. Albom does a magnificent job of going in-depth on why these 5 black freshman were different from the rest. He also impresses with his attention to every player and how each is unique. The book comes across from multiple points of view and narrates how hard it was for these kids to succeed.

The five freshman were Jalen Rose, Juwan Howard, Chris Webber, Jimmy King, and Ray Jackson. Throughout the story, they talk about the ups and downs of their careers. One of my favorite parts is when Coach K of Duke is talked about as someone who would only recruit, "Uncle Toms." The point Albom makes is that they felt like their kind of people had no shot at being recruited to a big time school like Duke. Together, they made it to back to back NCAA tournament finals losing in them both much like Butler the

past 2 years. During that span, leader Jalen Rose was called out many times for trash talk. Although the whole team did it, Rose was pointed out and exploited most. Besides that, they were called out for their play and what they wore. They were famous for wearing baggy shorts, black shoes and black socks. Although their accomplishments were tarnished by the Chris Webber scandal, in my opinion, the Fab 5 is one of the greatest stories ever.

Albom is at his best in this novel when he chronicles the turmoil the players faced. The profanity they received, the negative feedback, all of it is just a testament to how tightly knit they were. Albom also does a great job depicting some of their moments. The classic is the Chris Webber timeout game. Albom makes you feel as if you were in the stands watching the game as it happened. Although much praise is given to Albom for writing this novel, I think praise should go out to the players who lived it out and wrote history for us. I give the book 5 stars and 2 thumbs up and recommend it to any sports fan

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### **Holly Cline says**

This is my favorite book. I've reread it so many times that the glue in the binding is beginning to wear out. I love basketball. I love college basketball. My brother and I were devoted fans of the Fab Five back in the early 90s, and sometimes when I read the NCAA tournament stories from this, I find myself thinking that maybe THIS time things will end differently. It's like I'm right back in front of that tv again.

But every time I read Fab Five, the stories off the court are what I love most. Jalen & his Jack and the Box. Muhammad Ali. The Utah Utes. There's no part of this book I don't love, and I have been ridiculed by many a book lover over this fact.

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### **Taylor Moseson says**

Fab Five: Basketball, Trash Talk The American Dream

By Mitch Albom

The Fab Five renovated college basketball to this day. They were all young black men who listened to rap and started over seniors at Michigan. No one ever heard or had seen this and they received loads of hate mail from people. These guys were huge trash talkers night in and night out getting in peoples heads but backing it up, Jalen Rose would do research every night about players family and personal life and trash talk to people about it. These five guys were Jalen Rose, Jimmy King, Ray Jackson, Juwan Howard, and Chris Weber. This team went to back to back final fours but they couldn't beat Duke in the national Championship or North Carolina in the final four. There was a incident their second year together where Jalen Rose got arrested for being in a "crack house" (but it's wasn't a crack house in most people opinions) then he had to go on the road and play at Illinois and he bailed out Coach Steve Fisher said "I had never seen a performance like that the fans were hounding him all night." All these guys grew up in very rough places but they were all brothers and even though they didn't win a national title they were a great team.

I personally love the Fab Five I watched the documentary on ESPN all the time these guys renovated basketball. Because of them we don't have to wear those short shorts and wear baggy shorts. They are a true inspiration to me.

I recommend this to sports loving fans or people who want to know about the Fab Five more. It doesn't teach you really a moral thing through the story but teaches you how racism has always been a problem. They received so much racism for being black, having shaved hair, earrings, listen to rap, start over seniors, and

listen to rap.

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**Harry Costea says**

because i watched the movie on these guys i knew basically everything that was happening and so i got very bored with it.

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**Robert DuPrau says**

Great read when I was a teenager in the 90's and loved the Fab Five.

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