

## “TEAM COLORS”

Based on a True Story

During the early 1950's, Chicago was ranked the most segregated city in the country, but racial, cultural, and political changes were rapidly emerging. Reflecting those changes, and the growing civil rights movement, was a unique rivalry between two minority high school basketball teams: the primarily-Jewish Roosevelt Roughriders and the all-Black DuSable Panthers. From 1952 to 1954, a period of intense anti-Semitism and racism in Chicago, these two teams battled for the city championship: Roosevelt was the last all-white team to win the title; DuSable was the first all-Black team to win it. Local sportswriters still consider their last game the best high school basketball game ever played in the city, decided in triple overtime – sudden death. Black teams have dominated Chicago basketball ever since DuSable paved the way. In 1954, the Panthers were the first Chicago team to play for the state championship in the most controversial game ever played for that title.

Thirty-three years after their last game, members of the Roosevelt and DuSable teams explored their intense rivalry, which led to reunion game to prove which team was really the better. That game, and the dinner preceding it, resulted in lifelong friendships between the rival players and formation of the first Masters Basketball Team to represent Chicago in national and international tournaments.

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**Team Colors** is more than just another basketball story. It captures the essence of the relationship that develops between these former premier athletes, and explores how the oppression they experienced in high school affected their lives.