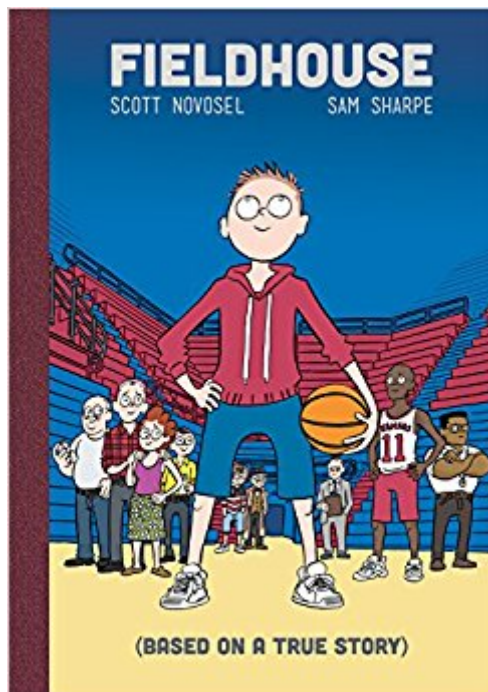


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# FIELDHOUSE



## Synopsis

"The perfect book to help you inspire your kids and grandkids... while re-inspiring yourself!" - Rick "Shaq" Goldstein, author of 669 reviews for "Novosel's autobiographical narrative of self-determination inspires and delights, in large part because it isn't a lofty tale of grandiose achievement but a humble one; he merely wants, and earns, a chance to show what he's got." - Publisher's Weekly

Based on actual events, **FIELDHOUSE** is a story of embracing adversity through challenges, teamwork, perseverance, grit, determination, and a positive attitude! Fieldhouse follows Scotty Novosel on his journey to play basketball for the Kansas Jayhawks. What he lacks in size he makes up for in heart, but countless obstacles and a devastating setback push his dream further and further out of reach... With incredible persistence, positive energy, and help from a cast of endearing characters, Scotty discovers just what it takes to transform vision into reality!

In March 1995, Scott Novosel started for the Kansas Jayhawks in the Big 8 Championship game. For the next 20 years, through endless determination and a mantra of never giving up, Scott completed the all ages graphic novel **FIELDHOUSE** with the help of the Eisner Award nominated artist Sam Sharpe. Together the duo produced an instant classic! The story of the making of the book was featured on Sports Illustrated. Find out why parents, teachers, librarians, parents, and grandparents are declaring **FIELDHOUSE** a "MUST READ!" (Scott Novosel)

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 18 years

Grade Level: 3 - 12

## Customer Reviews

Scott Novosel may not be the best player and may never be a star, but he works ceaselessly year after year to earn a spot on the basketball team that he has idolized since childhood: the Kansas University Jayhawks. Along the way, he battles injuries, others disbelief, and his own doubts and mistakes. Novosel's autobiographical narrative of self-determination inspires and delights, in large part because it isn't a lofty tale of grandiose achievement but a humble one; he merely wants, and earns, a chance to show what he's got. Sharpe's skillful cartooning subtly evokes mood changes and facial expressions, though with little exposition to ground readers, it can be difficult to keep some characters straight. Rendered in a bright palette featuring plenty of KU crimson and blue, the art is consistently attention-grabbing, especially in fast-moving action sequences during basketball games and training sessions. The depiction of Scott himself who looks like a 12-year-old boy throughout, even though he is in his early 20's by story's end is somewhat jarring, but readers nursing their own athletic dreams should find Novosel's hard-won victory more than satisfying. Ages 8 up. --Publisher's Weekly

At first glance, *Fieldhouse*, by Scott Novosel appears to be a basketball story. And it is a story about basketball. After three tryouts as a walk-on player with the Kansas Jayhawks, Novosel finally succeeds in his senior year. He plays fifteen games for Coach Roy Williams and alongside future NBA players. It's also more than a basketball story. It's an underdog story. In the three years prior to Novosel making the team, no walk-on had been selected. His perseverance and dogged pursuit of his dream actually pays off. But even more than a basketball story, and an underdog story, it's really about all the people who helped make Novosel's dream come true. The book is filled with fun and interesting characters, and they are my favorite part of it; cheering Novosel on even when his dream seems crazy and unobtainable. His parents, for example, worry that young Novosel is setting his sights too high, but agree they prefer that to him setting them too low. Fellow players help him train so they can benefit from his positive attitude, Phog Allen's son makes several appearances, and his brothers both do their best to help. Great for all ages, and not just for sports fans. --JoCo Library

*Fieldhouse* is the story of overcoming adversity, making friends, and following your dreams! Scott tells a compelling story of his journey to the floor of the Allen Fieldhouse, and Sam Sharpe puts the story into beautiful comic form. --Radiator Comics

"As entertaining as it is inspiring, *Fieldhouse* is full of positive energy!"--Bill Self,  $\hat{A}$  NCAA Champion Head Coach

"Scott Novosel brings to life the magic of Allen Fieldhouse and Kansas Basketball. Dreams do come true!"--Danny Manning,  $\hat{A}$  NCAA Champion/Legend

"*Fieldhouse* is a magical little story about a young person refusing to give up on his dreams. You never know how things will work out in the end, the important thing is to just keep trying and believing."--New York

Times bestselling author – Joe Posnanski

We read this on a smartboard as a 5th grade class and thoroughly enjoyed it. The themes of hard work, determination, courage, and teamwork were explored in a very straightforward but touching manner. The students related to Scott's struggles and wanted him to succeed. Students wanted to know more about KU. For that reason, I suggest accompanying this story with the article from the Rock Chalk blog about Scott Novosel to give students some added context about the Big 8 game.

I had barely unwrapped the package after it was delivered to my house when my 12 yr old nephew picked the book up and read it as he walked around the house. He never put it down until he was done reading. Yes, he is an avid reader but this one kept him totally interested the entire time. He has now read it a couple of times as has his mother and father. I read it this week, really loved it. Great job Scott!! A great gift for any age group.

I purchased this book for several reasons. A few of the reasons were my love of The University of Kansas, KU Men's basketball and Allen Fieldhouse. Also, I am a Jayhawk at heart, class of '91. I recently turned 50 and am excitedly expecting two grandchildren in the next few months. I had heard of the book and decided I needed it for the book collection for the future grandchildren. I received it in the mail yesterday. The front cover was enticing. I love anything based on a true story! I turned the book over and took the time to read the reviews. How could Bill Self and Danny Mann possibly be wrong about a review. I realized at this point, the book was for ME and then for the future grandchildren.... I suspect I will need to buy a few more copies. First, I went through the book, taking in the graphics. Scott Novosel and Sam Sharpe put blood, sweat and tears into every page. I could feel the roar of the crowd on a game night. Literally felt the atmosphere of Allen Fieldhouse jump off the pages. Next, I went through and read the book. Perseverance poured out of each page. A child and a dream, we all have them. But when you have inspiration along the way, those dreams come to life. Nothing in life is easy. Practice, practice, practice, then repeat. "Do you think you can do it?" and "Keep reaching for the stars and someday, you just might grab one..." This book takes you through the world of life all in a basketball dream. Rock Chalk Jayhawk!

Awesome Book! Sharing it with all our Elementary Kids. They love it!!!!

Scott Novosel wrote a true story, for kids of all ages, about working hard and persevering to reach

your dreams and goals. The graphic novel illustrations are very age appropriate and entertaining. You don't have to be a Jayhawk fan to appreciate this book.

Magic abounds, or maybe rebounds here. This is a lovely tale of the magic, of the hope, of Kansas basketball. I was blessed to teach Scott Novosel, and I'm so inspired his message.

Awesome, inspirational and a lot of fun to read! I LOVE IT!!

My 9 year old daughter loved this book. My husband is a KU alum so he wanted to get it for her.

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