

Hoop Dreamer

written and illustrated by Isaac D.

(1st day of basketball practice) Hi my name is Eli. My dream is to be a basketball player. Every day I play basketball. I always play basketball with my friend Jake and my brother Michael.

Michael said that I am not good at basketball, but I ignored him.

Jake said, "Don't listen to him. You are good. See you tomorrow."



It was 9:38 p.m. I was still awake so I went to the kitchen to get a glass of water and I told myself, "maybe my brother is right. I never win a game." Then I went to bed.

(2nd day of basketball practice)

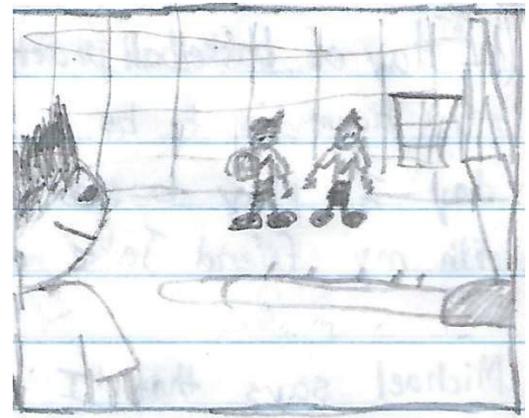
"Hey Eli," said Jake, "Do you have your ball?"

"Yeah," Eli said. Then we left to go to the basketball court.

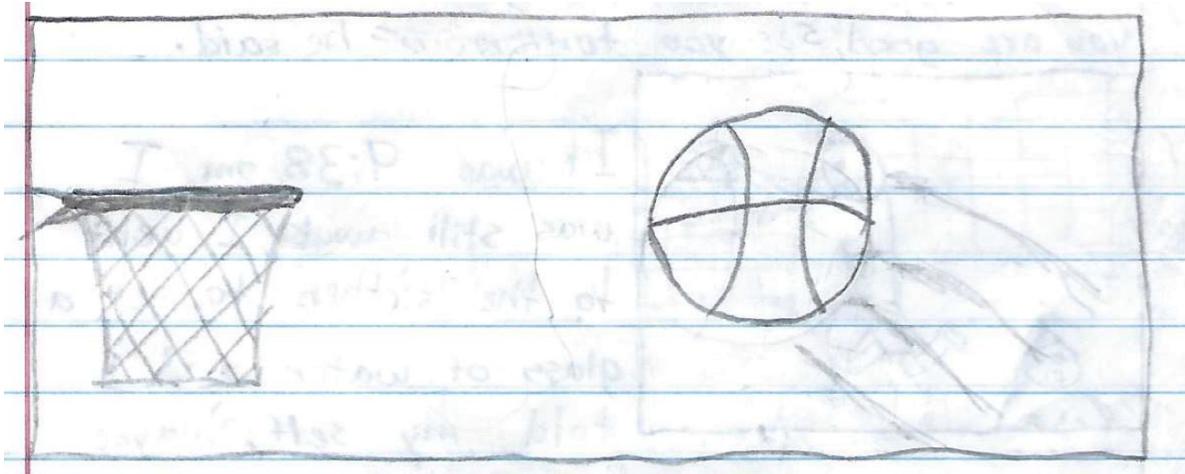
"Okay we are at the court," I said 5 minutes later.

"Hey your brother arrived," Jake said.

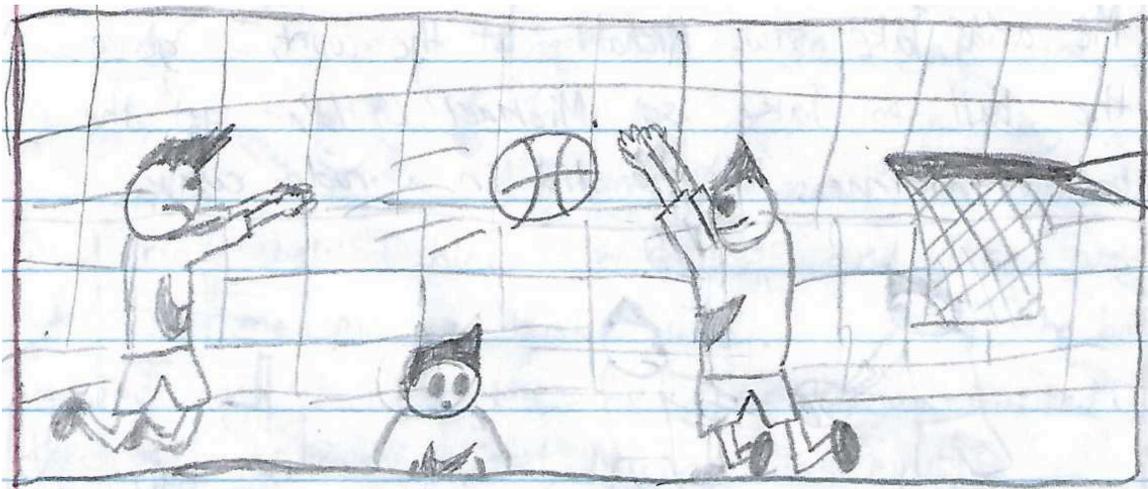
Then I told myself, "OH-NO!"



Michael got the ball from me then he said, "Let's play." Jake threw the ball up. Eli got the ball then he ran to the basket, but behind me Eli saw Michael. Eli threw the ball . . .



"I MADE IT! Jake was so happy and Eli was happy, too. Michael was jealous. Michael got the ball then he ran. He threw the ball but Jake blocked it.



"Nice block" Eli said. Michael got mad. He got the ball and ran to the basket again and he made it. Eli said, "No." Now it's 1 to 1. "It's time to go," said Jake.

"Bye," I said.

"See you tomorrow losers," Michael said.

I turned around saying with my big words, "PLEASE STOP YOU JUST THINK YOU ARE THE BEST BUT YOU ARE NOT." I almost wanted to punch him.

When I got home my brother Michael was already sleeping in his bed, Eli went to my room and went to sleep too.

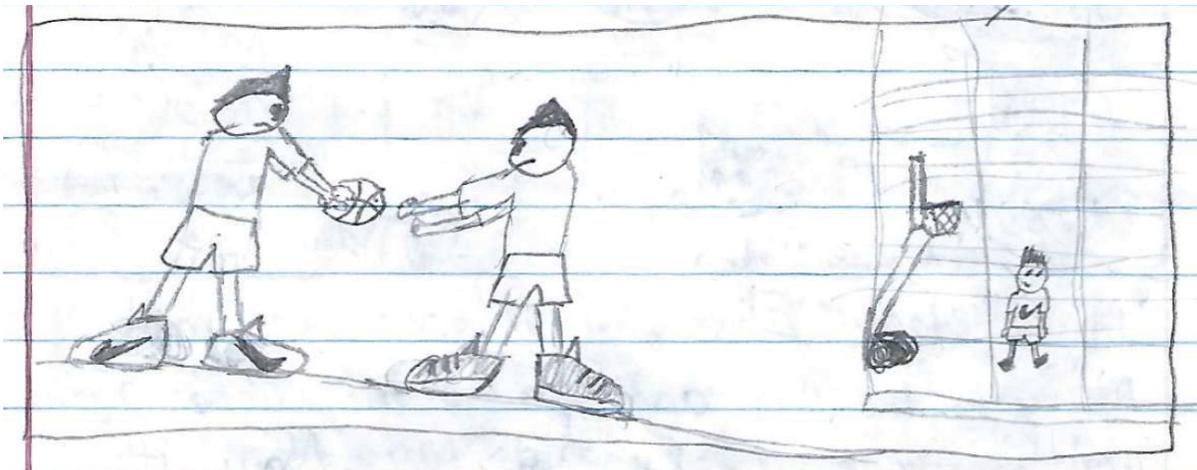
(3rd day of basketball practice)

"I am ready for basketball," I said.

"Hey Eli," Jake said.

"I got my ball," I said.

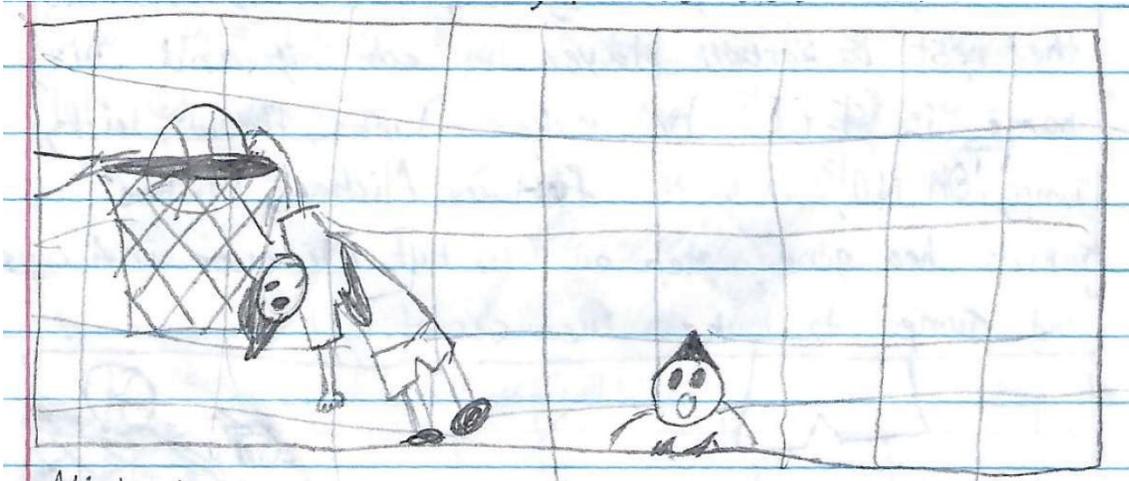
Me and Jake saw Michael at the court. I gave the ball to Jake so Michael couldn't get the ball from me like he did in a rude way.



We started to play. I threw the ball up. Michael got the ball, he ran to the basket but then I got the ball



from him. I passed it to Jake. Jake got the ball, started running towards the basket but Michael was right behind him. I said, "pass" and Jake passed it to me. Me and Jake were passing the ball around, then I got the ball and slam-dunked the ball into the basket. Michael was mad.



Michael got the ball and threw it as high as he could but . . .

I stretched my arm, then I blocked the ball, but that's not all . . .

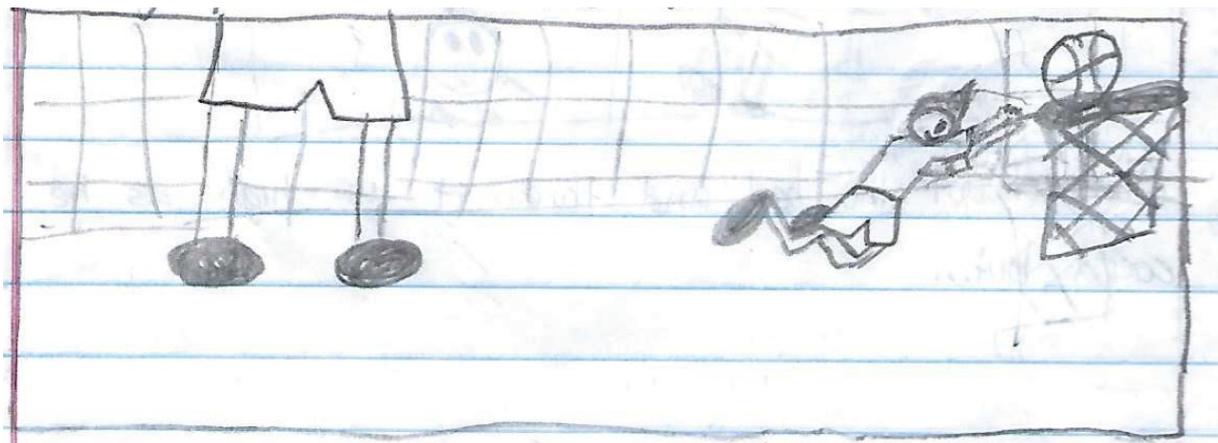
it accidentally went in the basket. I blocked it but it went back and made it. Michael was crying with laughter. I was sad. I almost wanted to cry but I didn't because I didn't want to look like a crybaby.



It's nighttime, I'm going to sleep. . . And the best basketball player is

coming and his name is "ELI!" he makes dunks, throws, tricks, jumps, "Oh NO!" it's the furious Michael.

Michael jumps. He's gonna step on Eli but Eli runs and runs and jumps to make the score . . .



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And he scores. Everybody cheers, YAAAAAAAAY! Then Eli wakes up and says, "It was just a dream."

(4th day of basketball practice)

Jake was knocking on the door.

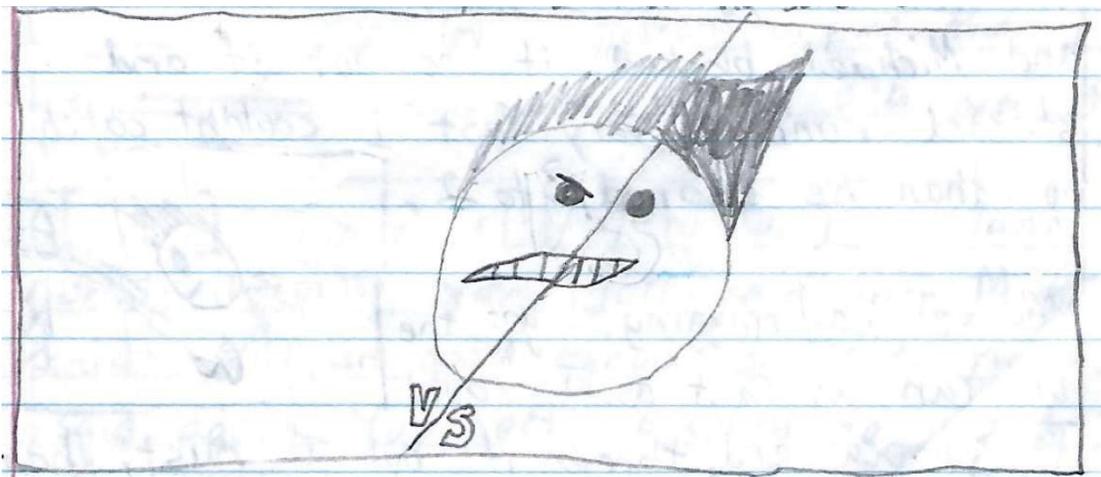
“Hey Eli,” Jake said. I opened the door and Jake said, “Let’s go to basketball practice.” But this time Michael went with us.

When we got to the court me and Jake drank water then we started to play. I threw the ball up, then Michael got the ball and ran and threw the ball and made it.



“Oh-no,” I said. I got the ball and ran and made it. “Yeah,” I said. Now it’s 1 to 1 then I told my brother Michael, “Let’s see who can score 5 points.”

Then he said, “Okay.”



Jake brought his whistle so he’s gonna be the coach. “START,” said Jake.

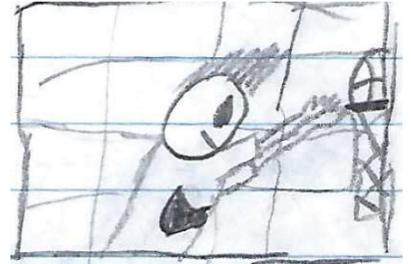
Jake threw the ball up. I got the ball. I ran and threw it, but I missed the shot. Michael got it and he ran, and ran and made it 2 to 1. I got the ball then I ran. Michael was behind me.



I tricked him by going to the left, but I went to the right. Then I threw the ball and scored. It's 2 to 2.

Michael got the ball and he ran. But I got it from him, then I ran. I threw it and Michael blocked it. He got it and started running very fast. I couldn't catch up. Then he scored. 3 to 2.

Michael was bragging. I got the ball and ran as fast as I could. I jumped and threw it, but I missed. Then I saw Michael behind me. I didn't let him get the ball so I threw it again. Then I made it 3 to 3.

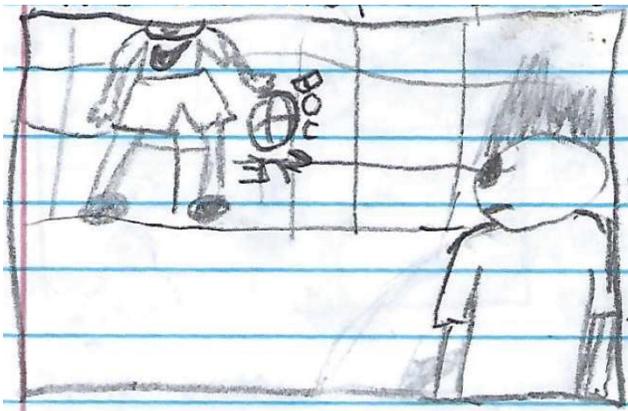


I got the ball again, but Michael got it from me. And he runs then he jumps and makes it.

"Oh-No," Eli said. "4 to 3."

I went to get the ball when I got it Michael started running then I ran, ran, ran, jumped up and . . . I scored. 4 to 4.

"Ok if me or Michael score one more point someone will win," Eli said.



I got the ball and ran. I was near the basket.

Michael was in front of me, then I jumped and threw it. . .

I . . . I made it!!! 4 to 5. I couldn't believe it.

"Great game," Jake said.

Then Michael said, "You are good. Good game." Michael added, "You left me with no words."

Then he was nice to me forever and ever.

The End