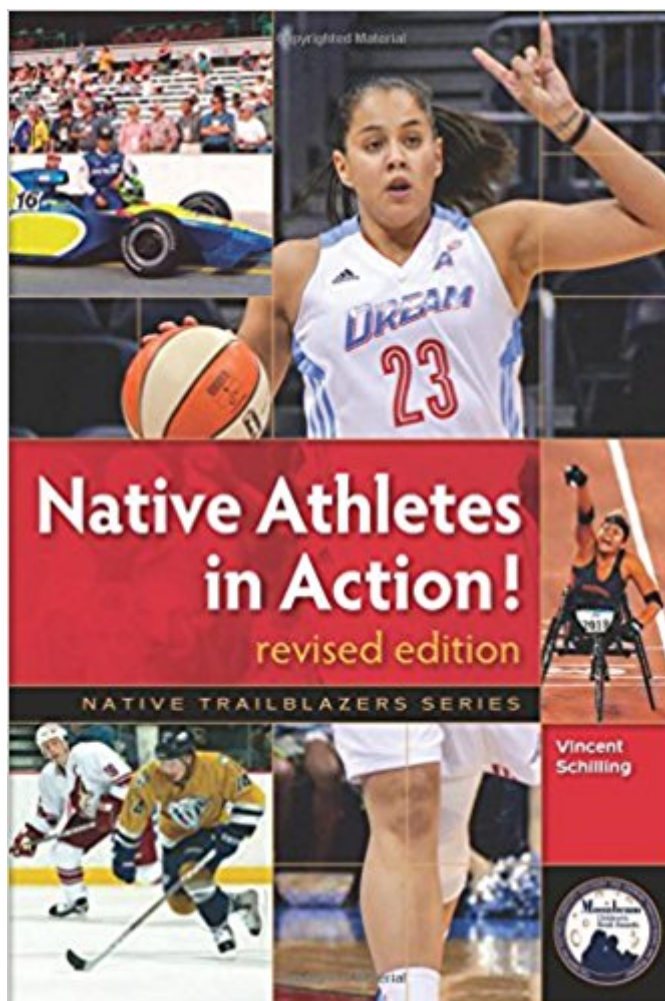


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# Native Athletes In Action! (Native Trailblazers)



## Synopsis

The revised edition of *Native Athletes in Action* adds two new and exciting young basketball players to the roster of outstanding Native athletes already included in the book. Shoni Schimmel, a tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in eastern Oregon, has earned the nicknames "The Umatilla Thrill" and "Showtime" in the world of women's basketball. To people in Indian Country, Shoni is an absolute hero. Kenny Dobbs, aka "The Dunk Inventor," is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and has toured the globe with the National Basketball Association as a celebrity dunker for sold-out shows. The biographies of all thirteen athletes describe the hard work, determination and education it took to accomplish their dreams and become the champions they are.

## Book Information

Series: Native Trailblazers

Paperback: 128 pages

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 4 • This casually written collective biography summarizes the lives of 13 athletes from the United States and Canada. With the exception of Jim Thorpe, the people included are mostly young, modern, and unknown outside the arena of their sport. The mix of sports is eclectic, ranging from traditional baseball and basketball to wheelchair racing, kayaking, and ringette, a popular Canadian sport for women, virtually unheard of in most of the United States. Schilling briefly describes the lives of the athletes and the personal hardships or discrimination they had to overcome. He stresses in an almost redundant way that all of them have strived to stay away from the evils of alcoholism and drug use. Black-and-white photographs are included. Personal

quotations from author interviews and major accomplishments appear in bold text throughout, often reading like clichéd inspirational advice. "Believe in your dreams," "Don't be a quitter," "Listen to your coaches." Despite this overly folksy element, Schilling's message is clear. This is a hopeful book that fills a much-needed void in books about modern Native Americans. However, its audience is limited. Recommended for libraries with Native heritage in their area and larger libraries with extensive sports biography collections.

—Madeline J. Bryant, Los Angeles Public Library  
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Along with well-known figures such as Jim Thorpe and National Hockey League hit man Jordin Tootoo, Schilling introduces Olympic wheelchair racer Cheri Becerra-Madsen, speed skier Ross Anderson, ice dancer Naomi Lang, and eight other less-familiar Native American athletes of the present and recent past. Most of the portraits are based on personal interviews; all include tribal affiliations, career notes (sometimes in boldface), brief sidebars, and small, black-and-white action photos. Schilling writes with the open intent of inspiring young readers to pursue their dreams, frequently incorporating athletes' remarks about the values that helped them succeed, from staying connected with family to avoiding drugs and alcohol. Focusing primarily on contemporary Native Americans rather than the historical figures more commonly profiled, this upbeat, smoothly written collective biography in the Native Trailblazers series will fill a gap in many collections. Although the absence of an index may frustrate some readers, the brief list of Web resources will aid further research.

Peters, John --This text refers to the Perfect Paperback edition.

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