

Illustration Credits

The *Illustration Credits* section in *The Boys of Riverside* acknowledges the incredible work of the individuals who contributed illustrations and photographs to the book. We are deeply grateful to Erika Thompson from the California School for the Deaf, Riverside (CSDR), for her wonderful illustration featured in the first image of the book. Thompson's artwork captures a meaningful moment within the story, offering readers a glimpse into the experiences of the deaf community, adding emotional depth to the narrative. The second illustration in the book, provided by Thomas Fuller, further elevates the themes of the story, capturing an important turning point in the journey of the Riverside Cubs. Additionally, we would like to express our thanks to Eric Melzer for providing the remaining illustrations, whose photographs throughout the book beautifully document the team's journey, offering readers a visual connection to the struggles and triumphs of the Riverside community.

The illustrations play a crucial role in enhancing the reader's engagement with the text. They provide an invaluable visual representation of the story, helping readers connect with the experiences described in the book on a deeper level. The inclusion of powerful images alongside the narrative not only reinforces the themes but also brings the characters and their world to life. As each illustration complements the written content, it provides readers with a more vivid understanding of the Riverside Cubs' journey. The emotional weight of the struggles, as well as the victories, becomes tangible through the lens of these photographs and illustrations, allowing readers to feel more connected to the individuals and events described. By visually representing moments that might otherwise remain abstract, these images serve as a tool to strengthen the book's impact.

These visuals are not merely decorative; they are an essential part of conveying the story's message. Through Erika Thompson's illustration, Thomas Fuller's image, and

Eric Melzer's photographs, the reader is invited into the world of the Riverside Cubs, where they witness the athletes' resilience, dedication, and community spirit. Each image gives depth to the words on the page, offering a new perspective on the players' experiences, making the struggles and victories more relatable and personal. As readers view these images, they gain insight into the team's commitment to excellence, the camaraderie they share, and the challenges they face. These visuals are essential in communicating the heart of the Riverside Cubs' story—of young athletes overcoming adversity through unity and perseverance.



The inclusion of photographs further highlights the significance of the journey for the Riverside Cubs, showing their determination and growth in a way that words alone cannot fully convey. The photographs taken by Eric Melzer chronicle not just the athletes in action but the moments of pride, joy, and tension that marked the team's journey. As readers explore these images, they are transported to the field, feeling the intensity of each play and the unwavering support the players receive from their coaches and the community. The contributions of these photographers and illustrators allow for a deeper understanding of the players' lives, painting a more comprehensive picture of the challenges and rewards that shaped their season. These visual elements enrich the book, providing a more immersive reading experience that resonates with readers on both an emotional and intellectual level.

In addition to the visual content, these illustrations also serve to educate readers about the significance of the Riverside Cubs' journey, offering a rare and important look into the lives of athletes from the deaf community. The photographs and illustrations help to convey the shared goals and triumphs of the team, ensuring that their achievements are not only remembered but celebrated. The importance of these visual elements in the storytelling process cannot be overstated, as they allow the reader to fully appreciate the depth of the Riverside Cubs' story. Their impact on the book is profound, providing a visual representation of the perseverance, passion, and strength that the team demonstrated throughout their remarkable season. Through these visuals, the book becomes not just a story of sports, but a tribute to the resilience and spirit of the Riverside Cubs and their community.