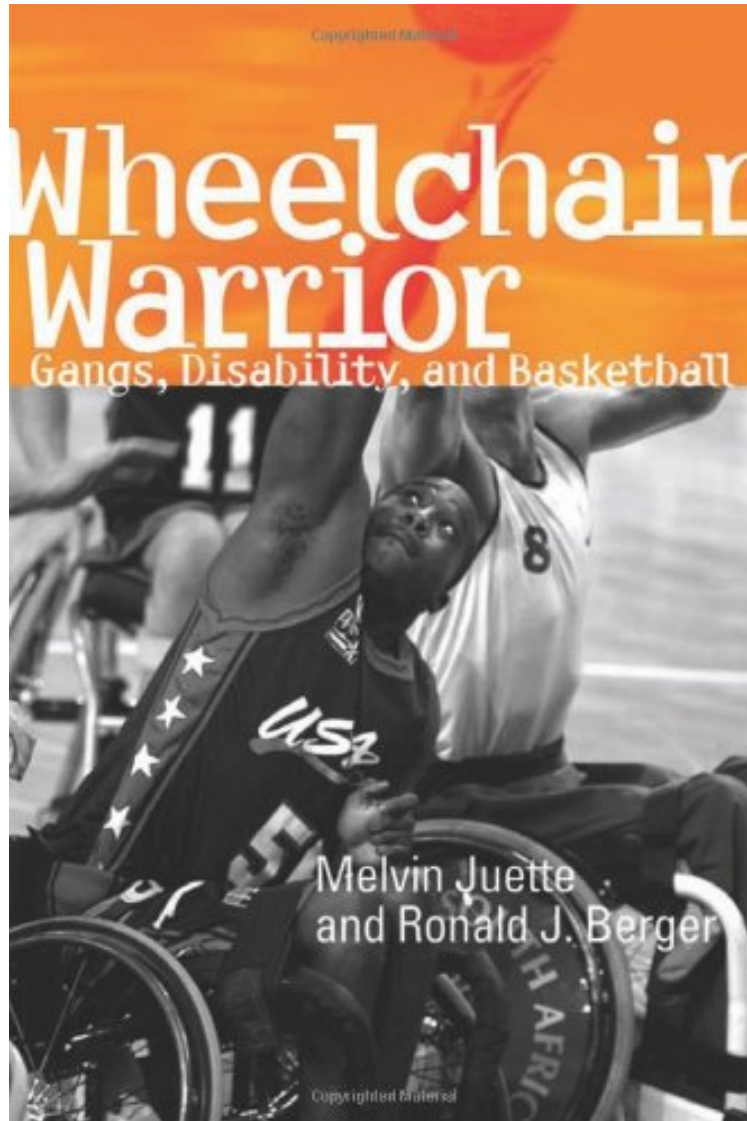


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## Wheelchair Warrior: Gangs, Disability, and Basketball

*Melvin Juette, Ronald J. Berger*  
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**Melvin Juette, Ronald J. Berger : Wheelchair Warrior: Gangs, Disability, and Basketball** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wheelchair Warrior: Gangs, Disability, and Basketball:

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following review helpful. Five StarsBy hchafeeas expected0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a true American hero storyBy Martha M.I met Melvin Juette and then read his story. An incredible story of youth, courage, and selfless giving back. An insider's view of gang violence and the strength to build a life using competitive basketball.

Melvin Juette has said that becoming paralyzed in a gang-related shooting was both the worst and best thing that happened to him. The incident, he believes, surely spared the then sixteen year-old African American from prison and/or an early death. It transformed him in other ways, too. He attended college and made wheelchair basketball his passion ultimately becoming a star athlete and playing on the U.S. National Wheelchair Basketball Team. In *Wheelchair Warrior*, Juette reconstructs the defining moments of his life with the assistance of sociologist Ronald Berger. His poignant memoir is bracketed by Berge's thoughtful introduction and conclusion, which places this narrative of race, class, masculinity and identity into proper sociological context, showing how larger social structural forces defined his experiences. While Juettes story never gives into despair, it does challenge the idea of the supercrip.

From BooklistSome readers who pick up this memoir may be put off by the introductory chapter, written by coauthor Berger, a sociology professor. Although it is an important part of the book (it puts the experiences of Juette, a young Chicago gang member paralyzed by a bullet, into a sociological context), it is written so awkwardly, so dully, that it is instantly off-putting. But stick around, because the bulk of the book, evidently written by Juette himself, is entirely different: clean, straightforward prose; virtually no clunky sociological jargon; and plenty of raw drama and emotion. Juettes story follows his evolution from boy to man, from gang member to wheelchair athlete, and its a story of determination and inspiration that will touch everyone who reads it. The book is aimed at both general readers and scholars, which perhaps explains the virtually impenetrable introduction; just ignore that, and focus on what Juette has to tell us. --David Pitt "Juettes story follows his evolution from boy to man, from gang member to wheelchair athlete, and its a story of determination and inspiration that will touch everyone who reads it."Booklist