

## The Playgrounds

We went to the playgrounds to find our missing fathers.

What we found was the game.

It was the only game that seemed to matter in Harlem. In the playground we found our guardian sanctuaries of notoriety and respect. The playground was serenity in a cold, unfor-giving world. School, family, relationships all were sacrificed for the playground, and for the game. Nothing could replace the alluring pull of high wired fences and asphalt parks. We drowned in the intoxication of a competitive game under the glistening summer sun amid frantic voices, iron rims and steel backboards.

Everywhere else it was a game.

In Harlem it was a lifestyle.

## The Parks

- 159th Street - Colonel (Rangel) Houses (RYA Tournament)
- 155th Street - Polo Grounds (Pro Rucker Park)
- 150th Street - Amsterdam Avenue (The Battlegrounds)
- 145th Street - Colonel Young Park (Rucker Site)
- 143rd Street - Drew Hamilton Houses (The Block)
- 139th Street - Whitney Young Park (Whitney Tournament)
- 135th Street - Harlem Hospital Park (Concerned Athletes League)
- 122nd Street - Morningside Park (Morningside Tournament)
- 120th Street - Mount Morris Park (Original Entertainers Classic)
- 116th Street - King Towers Houses (King Towers Tournament)



5.50 x 8.50  
216 mm x 140 mm

# The Iceman Experience

## Memoir of a Harlem Playground Star

James A. Washington

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