



## Don't give up... just keep on ballin'



think most of you reading this will agree that the world is on edge. People are frightened; they're overwhelmed; they've lost faith in humanity. That's why the underlying theme of this year's *Ballers*' magazine is "hope." Many of the athletes present in this magazine were dreamers. They saw basketball as their way to a better life and a successful future.

You and I have those dreams too. We are all born with a nagging urge to break free of our surroundings and shatter the mold. We want the best for our friends, our family and ourselves.

If there is such a thing as "the meaning of life," I'm positive it's related to the search for acceptance. We all want to feel special, loved, appreciated and respected. That's why ballers like Kyle Lowry and Kyrie Irving ignored the blood-suckers and practiced so vigorously. That's why the writers and artists who contributed to this magazine spent hours tweaking things until they were perfect. That's why we flood social media with baby photos, trophies and exaggerated minor accomplishments.

It's also why my partner in music, Che Baroche, and I abandoned sleep for nearly six months to record a blues/rap fusion album. That's right, it's a shameless Plug One, Plug Two, but we earned it. So check out *Wolves & Sheep – More Than Blue* on iTunes, Google Play and Spotify, and don't forget to visit us at [sheepwolves.com](http://sheepwolves.com).

I digress. No matter how difficult the goal or how limited your resources, never give up. There will be days when you want to throw in the jersey and empty out your locker. But before you do, take a moment to reflect on the athletes in this magazine who had to wrestle with those same thoughts. Look at how far they've come and remind yourself that "You can do it. They can't make you stop... just keep improvin'."

With my remaining space, I'd like to thank all the writers and artists—including our special guest, the legendary DJ Maseo from De La Soul—for producing one of the best magazines I've been a part of. "You all complete me."

The Art Team: Eric Knagg and Malik Calimbas. Eric, the cover is as fresh as ever. Malik, once again your interior design is eye-popping. Thank you both for all your efforts, particularly under the circumstances.

Writers & Artists: Ben Brazil, Harold Shelton III, Jason Stahl, Jeff Klein, Kyle Eustice, Matthew Plett, Neil J. Adamus (baby bro is all grown up), Robert Johnson, Seth Johnston, Stephen Eric Bryden, Tal Pinchevsky and Willie Cornblatt. 🍀

PHOTO BY ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

# BALLERS

Volume 2

## EDITORIAL

**Nathan Lee Adamus** Editor  
**Malik Calimbas** Art Director  
**Eric Knagg** Design Director

## CONTRIBUTORS

Ben Brazil, Harold Shelton III, Jason Stahl, Jeff Klein, Kyle Eustice, Neil J. Adamus, Robert Johnson, Seth Johnston, Stephen Eric Bryden, Tal Pinchevsky, Willie Cornblatt

## ADVERTISING

**Gabe Frimmel** Ad Sales Director  
 (714) 200-1930  
[Gfrimmel@EngagedMediaInc.com](mailto:Gfrimmel@EngagedMediaInc.com)

**Casey Clifford** Senior Account Executive  
 (717) 896-8956

**Mark Pack** Senior Account Executive  
 (714) 200-1939

**Charles Dorr** Account Executive  
 (714) 200-1931

**Gennifer Merriday** Advertising Traffic Coordinator  
**Kristan Beckman** Advertising Traffic Coordinator

## DIRECT MARKETING GROUP

**John Bartulin** (866) 866-5146 ext. 2746  
**Neil Medalla** (866) 866-5146 ext. 2780

## OPERATIONS

**Subroto Mallick** Business Analytic Manager  
**Robert Short** IT Manager  
**Harsh Srivastava** Newsstand and Circulation Analyst  
**Shailesh Khandelwal** Subscriptions Manager  
**Alex Mendoza** Administrative Assistant  
**Jeno Torres** Administrative Assistant  
**Victoria Van Vlear** Intern Program Manager  
**Arvind Sidhu** Prepress Manager

## EDITORIAL, PRODUCTION & SALES OFFICE

22840 Savi Ranch Parkway, #200, Yorba Linda, CA 92887  
 (714) 939-9991 • Fax: (800) 249-7761  
[www.engagedmediamags.com](http://www.engagedmediamags.com)  
[www.facebook.com/eembybeckett](https://www.facebook.com/eembybeckett)

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