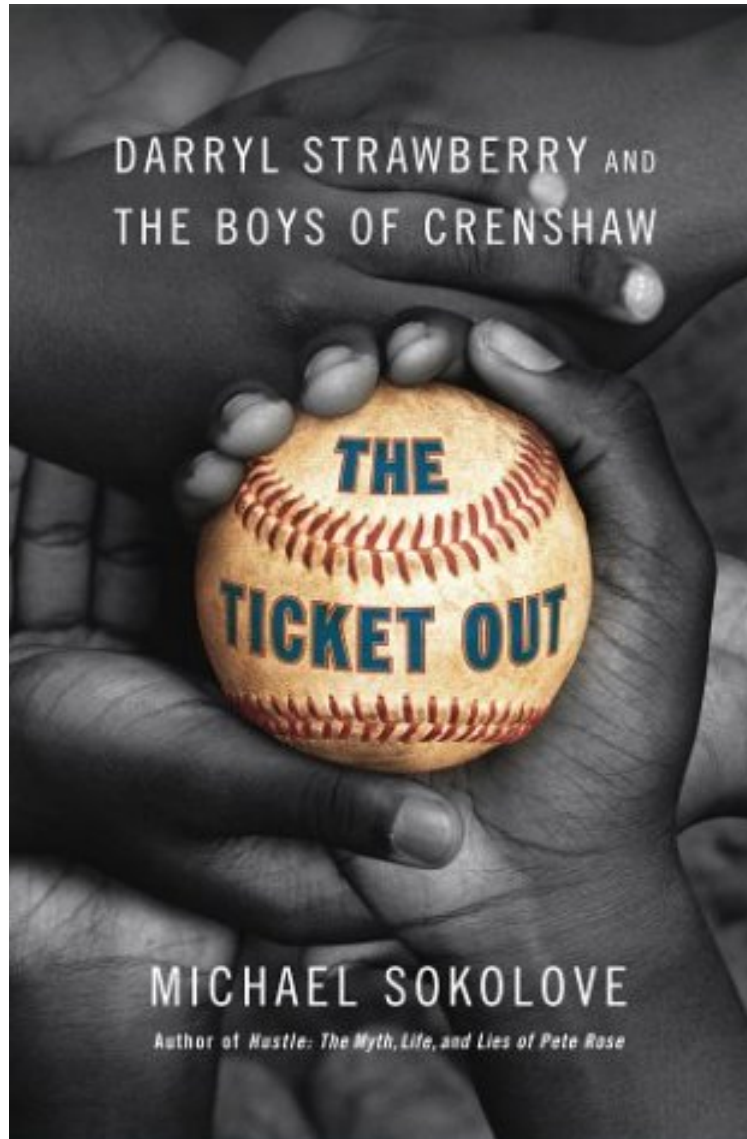


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## The Ticket Out: Darryl Strawberry and the Boys of Crenshaw

*Michael Sokolove*

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**Michael Sokolove : The Ticket Out: Darryl Strawberry and the Boys of Crenshaw** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ticket Out: Darryl Strawberry and the Boys of Crenshaw:

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item, great service! Thanks for a great item and the speedy turnaround. Really appreciate the great item and service!  
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I bought this book for my son, who has faced his own challenges in a world that pre-judges who he might be. It moved him, inspired him, gave him both hope and the courage to keep making forward progress.

A look at the 1979 Crenshaw High School varsity baseball team offers a glimpse of the beginning of Darryl Strawberry's baseball career among the finest collection of high-school baseball talent in history.

From Publishers Weekly  
Sokolove, a contributing writer for the New York Times Magazine, has written a passionate, heartbreaking yet sympathetic look at what happens when schoolyard dreams meet the "cold-blooded business" of professional baseball. After writing a 2001 magazine profile on Strawberry, who after high school quickly rose to superstar status with the New York Mets only to decline into an ongoing struggle with drugs, Sokolove decided to further explore "where he came from and what produced this tragic American icon." He found the answer by looking in depth at the 1979 Crenshaw High baseball team-"the greatest assemblage of talent in the whole history of high school baseball"-and the inner city Los Angeles community that produced him. Sokolove weaves a cautionary tale of the role baseball once played in the inner city, where sports is not a fantasy but a "reality based" way to try to avoid falling into gang life. Culling from in-depth interviews with players, coaches and family members from South Central L.A., Sokolove paints Strawberry as an extremely gifted athlete for whom baseball was a ticket out, but who "emerged from inner city L.A. as damaged goods." This is the most insightful account written so far about the roots of Strawberry's troubled life: "It's hard to say what is the greater marvel; that he laid waste to his career or that he managed to have one at all." But equally moving is the story of Carl Jones, another star player whose descent into drug abuse and robbery has earned him a sentence of 25 years to life under California's "three strikes" law.  
Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "An absorbing look at . . . the greatest collection of high-school talent ever assembled" -- The Portland Oregonian  
"Classic new journalism as defined by Tom Wolfe . . . Written in a novel-like format . . . It's simply journalism at its best." -- Rocky Mountain News  
"Sokolove crafts these stories with casual but insightful grace. . . one of the saddest books you'll never want to put down." -- Washingtonian Magazine (Online)  
"The Ticket Out explodes an American myth. Michael Sokolove's affectionate but clear-eyed story reaffirms that character (not talent) is destiny." -- Mark Bowden, author of Black Hawk Down  
". . . a story of promise wasted and dreams deferred. . . is the focus of a narrative defined by its compassionate, clear-eyed tone." -- Entertainment Weekly  
About the Author  
Michael Sokolove is a contributing writer for The New York Times Magazine and the author of Hustle: The Myth, Life, and Lies of Pete Rose. He lives in Bethesda, Maryland, with his wife and their three children.