

## **Sayings About Sports (Part 1)**

**(Story words: language, watch, ball, football, shoot, hoop)**

Many people like to play or watch sports, and so it is not surprising that our language has many sayings that involve sports. In sports, players are competing against one another to win, so when people are competing or attempting to realize a goal, the things they say often use terms from sports.

Many sports, such as basketball, baseball, football, and tennis, are played with balls; and, in all these sports, dropping a ball is a bad thing. In football, a player fumbles the ball, allowing the other team to take it. Sometimes the fumble is the result of opposing players tackling him.

In everyday speech, you may hear people say something like, “She really fumbled that proposal,” or, “We better tackle this problem now if we don’t want to be accused of dropping the ball.”

In basketball, when a player shoots for the hoop from faraway, it is called a long shot. People will describe lots of things as “long shots.” For example, “It’s a long shot, but I do plan to run for class president.” Or, “It may be a long shot, but Ms. Franklin may let us perform the talent show on her porch if we ask her.”

In baseball, when a batter hits the ball “out of the park” it results in a “home run.” People will express that something is a triumph with phrases such as these: “I just read your essay, and you hit it out of the park!” Or, “Gram was so thrilled by her birthday bash. It was a home run.”