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A Weekly Reader Magazine

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Spelling Bee
in Indy on April 27!
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Taking Care of Destiny

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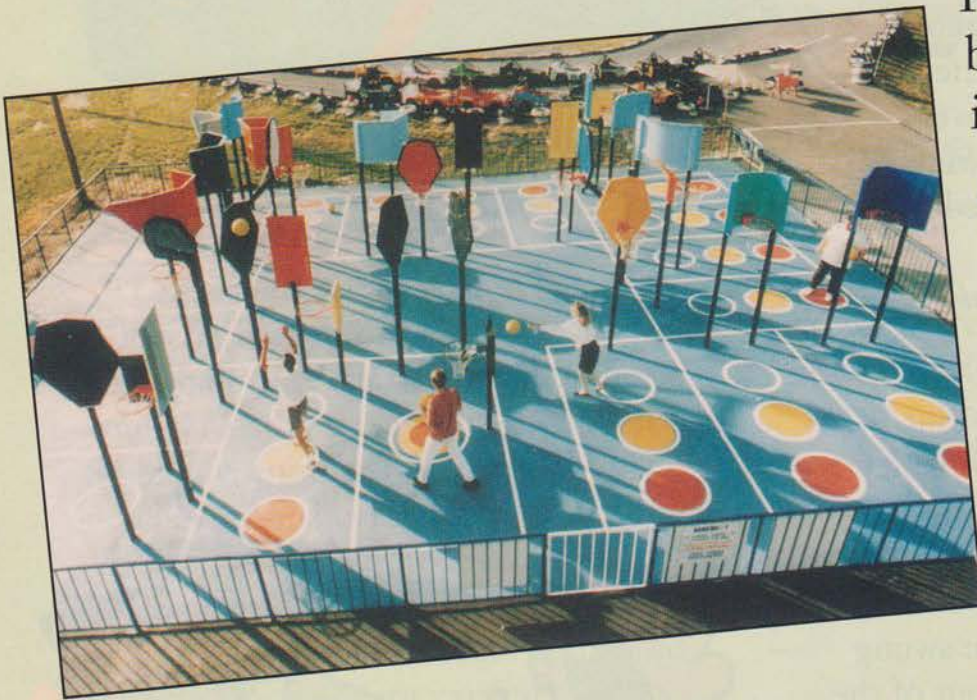


It's in the Bank

by Gail Skroback Hennessey • Photos courtesy of Bankshot

A new game of hoops is putting a unique spin on basketball. Bankshot, a cross between basketball, billiards, and miniature golf, is a wacky game that involves banking a basketball off colorful, geometric-shaped backboards and into baskets to score points.

Forget about “nothing but net.” Banking it in is the name of this game!



The wild and wacky Bankshot court features nineteen colorful, challenging stations.

A Game for Everyone

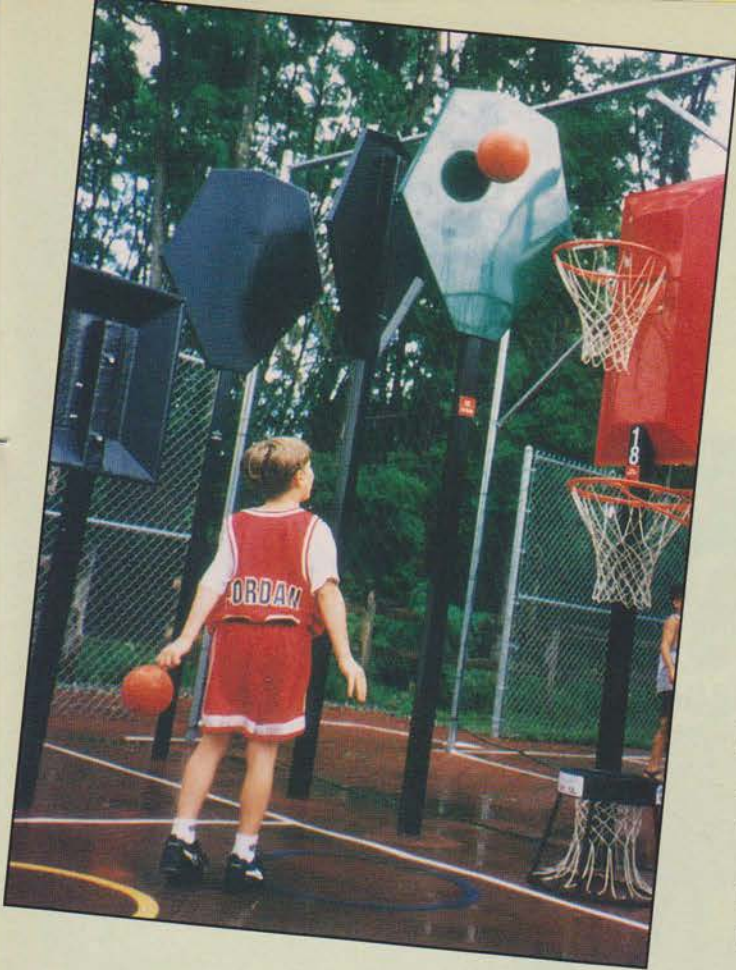
Bankshot was invented by Rabbi Reeve Brenner in 1979 after his cousin became physically challenged after a car accident. He wanted to create a sport that entire families, including those with disabled members, could play. Rabbi Brenner took the idea of basketball, but changed the backboard, lowered the rim, and ruled out running and jumping. Bankshot is now played on

three continents and on 140 courts in this country.

To play his game, Rabbi Brenner says you need “a good touch, brains, and a feel for physics.”

Game Time

Bankshot is played on a surface about half the size of a tennis court. The game consists of nineteen stations featuring crazy backboards that require different



points early in the round, since the end stations are quite tricky.”

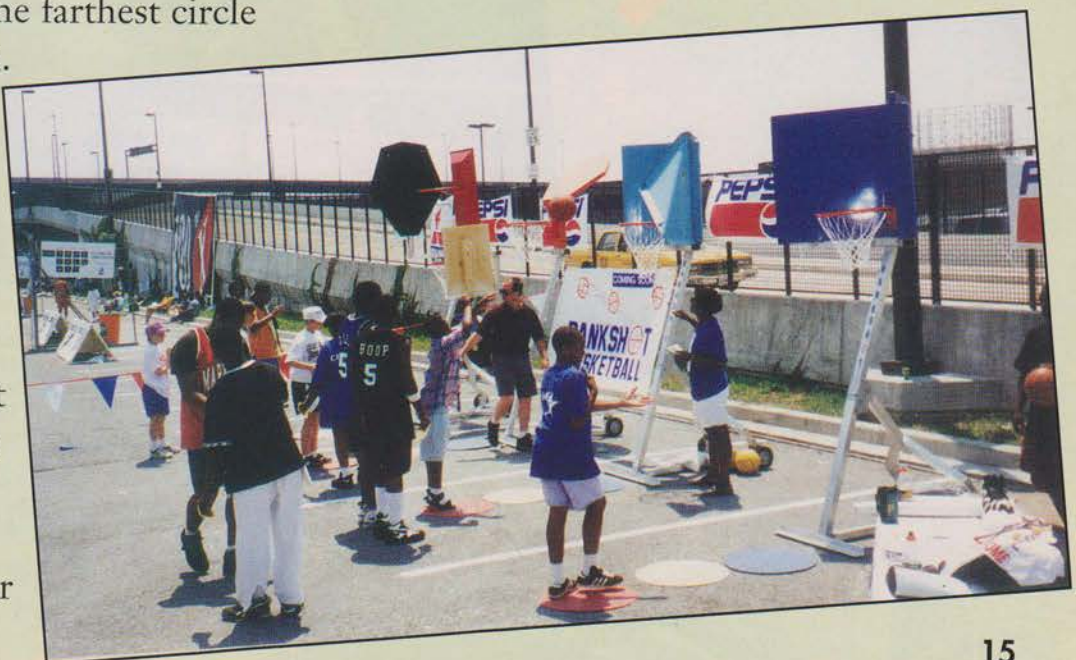
At the last two *diabolical* stations, the points are doubled. The nineteenth station, known as the *black hole*, is the tiebreaker. At this station, you must bank the ball off two rimless boards and into a basket a few feet away. The highest possible score is 240, which is pretty difficult to reach.

“I think the fourth station is the hardest because the backboard is bent backward and you have to throw the ball real hard to get it into the basket,” says twelve-year-old Angelo Raga of Sevierville, Tennessee. He should know. He’s a former Bankshot National Junior

shots, angles, and strategies. The strangely designed stations have names like *chute shot*, *double glance*, *ricochet*, and *rollback*.

At each station, you get two shots from each of the three colorful circles in front of the boards (see photo below). Making baskets from the farthest circle earns three points each. The middle circle will add two points for each basket. The closest circle is worth one point per basket. This equals a possible total of twelve points at each of the first sixteen stations.

Rabbi Brenner recommends, “Get your



Division champ. He continues, "You shouldn't get mad on the first or second try. Just keep trying the game and keep practicing. You must figure out your play."

Thirteen-year-old Katie Herzog of Milford, Ohio, who placed second in a

previous junior competition, offers this important tip. "There are signs that tell you where to aim the ball onto the backboard. It's challenging, it's hard, but it's fun at the same time. Do what the signs say and hope the ball goes in!" ★



The world-famous Harlem Globetrotters put a new spin on the Bankshot game as they prepare for a charity event.



They shoot, they score!

Most Bankshot courts are located in city parks, campsites, and recreation centers.

To find a Bankshot location near you, write to:

Bankshot Local Courts
90 W. Montgomery Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850