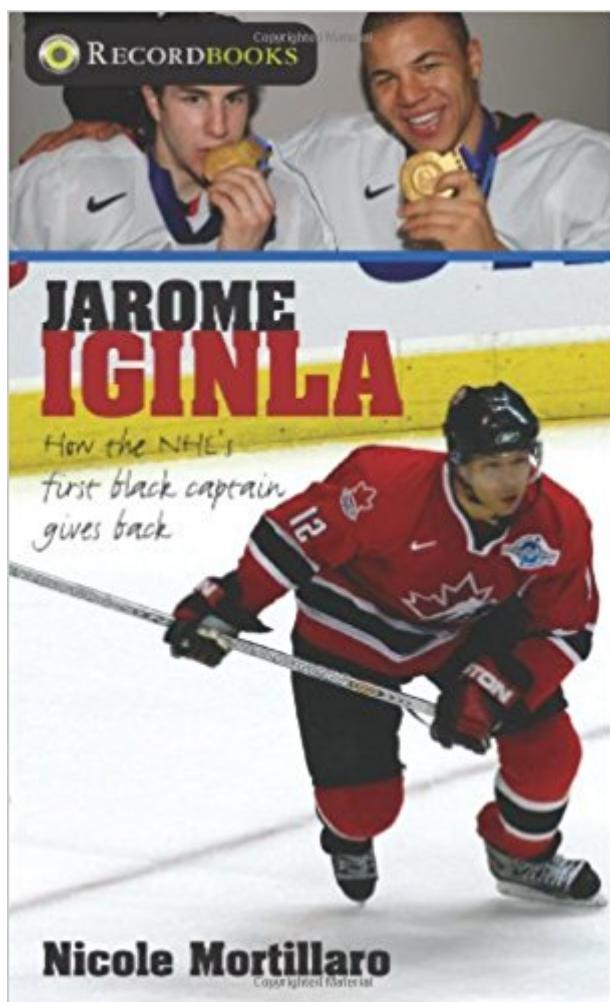


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# Jarome Iginla: How The NHL's First Black Captain Gives Back (Lorimer Recordbooks)



## Synopsis

He's the face of the Calgary Flames, but there's much more to Jarome Iginla's story than just being the first black captain of an NHL team. He's also renowned for his social commitment and generosity off the ice. Jarome (nicknamed Iggy) grew up in a single-parent household in St. Albert, Alberta. It was thanks to support of his grandparents that he started to play hockey. His hard work paid off and, in 1996, at the age of 18, Iggy was drafted into the NHL. He went on to become a multiple-award-winning hockey player and two-time Olympic champion. But he never forgot his struggles in his rise to hockey stardom. Today, Iginla plays an important role for many young hockey-loving Canadians by working to ensure that the sport is open to committed players of all backgrounds. [Fry Reading Level - 5.0]

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 840L (What's this?)

Series: Lorimer Recordbooks

Paperback: 112 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,745,169 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Teens > Sports & Outdoors > Hockey #127 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Sports #171 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hockey

Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

This book is very high interest, low vocab, so even struggling readers will find themselves comfortable with this work. (Alison Edwards Resource Links 2011-02-01)"Through his skilled and confident leadership on the ice and his generous devotion to philanthropic projects in his spare time, Jarome Iginla is presented as a truly great person who will inspire readers as they chase their own athletic dreams...a sound addition to the RecordBooks series about Canadian athletes.

Recommended." (Clancy Pryde Canadian Review of Materials 2011-03-30)

ICOLE MORTILLARO is a sports editor and writer from Toronto. Her first book in the Recordbooks series was *Something to Prove*, a biography of hockey player Bobby Clarke who had to defy stereotypes to earn a spot in the NHL.

I didn't realize that it was a children's book.

Like Obama, Iginla is the product of a white, Western mother and a continental African father with whom he had little contact. Like Obama, he's a 1st Black leader, not just a Black member in a bunch. Physically, he kinda reminds me of the actor Matthew Rush. The focus of the text is his successes on the ice. Hockey fans will love that. However, I found it disjarring at the beginning of the book when the author basically says, "He was born, his grandparents took him to sports practices, and then he was on a professional team." The book never suggests he faced racism, only that he knew his sport had few Black players. Both he and out NBA player John Amaechi are interested in non-profit work that benefits children. However, Amaechi's autobiography seemed to suggest that he sees himself as British first and Black a distant fourth or fifth. I was glad that Iginla seemed like he specifically wanted to work with Black children and introduce them to hockey. This book doesn't suggest that Iginla fought on the ring as much as hocky player of color Jordin Tootoo did. Black feminist bell hooks complained that in the documentary "Hoop Dreams" out of nowhere the ball player had a girlfriend and a child. Here, if you don't read carefully, you could miss that Iginla married his high school sweetheart and had a daughter. In American sports bios, they would usually show photos of the family. You never see what Iginla's wife and daughter look like. I wonder if they are white and this book didn't want to highlight a mixed family, when anti-miscegenation prejudices may still exist, even in Canada. Format-wise, this series is sooooo different from American counterparts. This book is tiny, no bigger than my hand. American books about sports stars for young readers are usually hardcover; this was soft cover. The US type has lots of color photos; this book had few photos, all in black and white. Perhaps Canadian book publishers don't have the funds that their American counterparts do.

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