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THE BOOK BENCH

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Jim Carroll's Court

Jim Carroll, who died Friday at the age of sixty, was many things: a writer, a poet, and a punk rocker (responsible for one particularly poignant, great song). He was also an all-star basketball player throughout grade school and high school, playing at Manhattan's elite Trinity school. The diaries he kept during his years as an athlete turned him into a celebrated writer. Drugs, of course, and the means of obtaining them, were the unfortunate bridge between the basketball court and the "Basketball Diaries."

Carroll is being widely and wonderfully remembered today, for his writing and his character, for his perseverance, for his honesty, and for his art. I found this 1991 interview particularly moving. In it, a haggard Carroll, sipping coffee and swallowing aspirin, discusses—with reverence, insider knowledge, and a noticeable wistfulness—the sport he had once played so well and loved so much.

Jim Carroll interview 1/18/91 Cleveland Ohio

(via metafilter)

Keywords