

# Public Enemy, Air Hoodlum

[Flav] Yo Chuck where you at G??  
I think he went upstairs y'know  
[DJ] A very furious mixture of noise  
What Public Enemy producer Hank Shocklee calls  
music's worst nightmare

"Hey, he's a good kid"

[Chuck D] Air Hoodlum [x2]  
[Tony D] Check check, check the elevation [x4]

"A player, that can leap, with the best of them"

[Verse One:]

Risin up in the 'Velt, Strong Island, New York  
The hood in case you did not know my base  
There was a ballplayer who had all the skills  
wit the pill to pay the piper, plus all the bills  
Mick his first name, Mack the awesome game  
Practiced in the heat, in the rain or in pain  
Mick so quick, at six foot six  
Down to be picked by anyone but the Celtics  
Oh what a handle could score from the floor  
with people bangin on him, or even hangin on him  
But what he did best, above all the rest was...

"A player that can leap, with the best of them"  
"As a high school standout..."  
"The skywalker himself!"  
"I felt, he could do, to make this an effective basketball team"

[Verse Two:]

Grades nine and ten, Mickey Mack was all that  
but in class his ass sat way in the back  
How I know, cause I know, I used to flow wit the bro  
He didn't mind I used to read him his own headline  
Cause he could not read em his school wouldn't need em  
if the lines wouldn'ta went like this  
Mickey Mack jumped over the candlestick  
His stack was his stats but his D was still wack  
Grades eleven and twelve he found the wrong clientele and all  
During class, he would dribble in the hall  
But never got in trouble in school, but the trouble was  
it was cool if your brain was just another bubble  
As long as he could score fiddy-two  
get thirty-three rebounds, fuckin around  
Temas lost to him he went right through em  
Division, county, state, that's three count em  
championships for a small town bro  
That's bound to go pro

"He gets free, turn on the jumper, good!"  
"Streak of lightning when he breaks loose..."  
"We all felt in our hearts we could win this ballgame"  
"They just required me to have the game that I did  
I'm just... that's all I that's all I that's all I can say"  
"That's all I can say"  
"He hauled down fifteen rebounds, and kept the ball away from everybody"  
"Then he had a triple double!"  
"A-a-a sensational player..."

[Verse Three:]

SAT's didn't matter cause he was all that  
You know the pat on the back  
He was always in the news you gotta know what it means  
it means revenue, and I'm tellin you  
I saw cars and G's come to our school please  
approach Hell with the principal, where's the coach  
Went to college four years wit a scholarship...  
...and won the championship  
But when it came to his life he didn't care...  
...cause he took it to the air

&quot;Cross and a hook, he scores, he's fouled!&quot;  
&quot;From the far corner, breaks West and here's the jumper, good!!&quot;  
&quot;There's the jumper, it's not gonna go, rebound batted back...&quot;

[Chuck D] Air

[Verse Four:]

The fall began when Mickey Mack fell  
Hell ripped his kneee drafted last by personnel  
Oh how he loved the game, it was fantastic  
until he was cut, and couldn't stick  
Times got tighter and tighter  
he had an attitude was rude, so he turned into a fighter  
School wouldn't give him the job that he needed  
Assistant to the assistant coach, they didn't need it  
Then he resorted to a stick up kid  
Ski-mask and gat, but this game he wasn't good at  
And the drugs on the side  
police ambushed his ride \*gunfire\* another homicide  
He was over, ghost y'know  
Hometown hero, but now a zero  
To those hypocrites who ripped him blind  
for his skills without the will to develop his mind  
Forever in the news the community views him  
only as Air Hoodlum

&quot;I don't understand it, the kid coulda been another Jordan!&quot;