

THE "REEL" DEAL

"Lights, camera, action!" are the most important words in the movie industry. However, when it comes to real action, sports movies are a win. Delivering drama, comedy, life values and action, here are some iconic sports films.

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Staff Writer

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

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In the midst of World War II, the popular sport of baseball pitched in for the war effort as players were drafted overseas, changing the face of the game forever. When women are needed to save the world of baseball, this story based on true events impacted the lives of two sisters who were scouted to be a part of the first All-American Girls Professional Baseball League in the 1992 film "A League of Their Own."

If you are looking for a feel-good movie that makes you laugh or feel inspired, this movie is a great choice. This cultural masterpiece tells the story of catcher Dotie Hinson, who was one of the first few women chosen to be part of the Rockford Peaches team, who took the challenging road to make it to the World Series in 1942.

As these women learn to work together as a team to overcome the obstacles faced in a time of gender bias, their rude drunken manager Jimmy Douglin learns to appreciate the game of baseball once again. As Douglin discovers, "it's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard everybody would do it. The hard is what makes it great."

The main characters are brilliantly portrayed by actor Tom Hanks and actress Geena Davis as they work in unison to inspire their athletes to defy the odds set by societal expectations.

In 2012, "A League of Their Own" was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress, and to this day, is seen by many as one of most inspiring movies of all time.

COACH CARTER

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In Richmond, California, where poverty plays a major part in people's lives, a group of young student athletes found out what their biggest fears were and pushed their way through adversity with the help of an inspirational coach who changed their lives. In 2004, their tale was shared to the world through the film "Coach Carter."

This film tells a story of teenagers who live in a run down part of their city, where they find their escape from reality by playing their one true passion: basketball. Coach Ken Carter, played stunningly by Samuel L. Jackson, helps the teenagers turn their lives around by shifting their primary focus from gangs to academics. Astoundingly, Carter teaches the team that basketball is not the only important thing in life; rather, there needs to be a balance with academics. This movie also teaches the correct path in life in a motivational and life-changing. This cinematic masterpiece was pivotal in sports because it displayed the hardships endured in life by underprivileged youth and how athletes overcome them by achieving a balance between sports and academics, giving an overall motivational feel to the viewer. Timo Cruz, one of the film's protagonists, learns from Carter that "our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us."

This movie was nominated for best sports movie in 2005 at the Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Awards.

REMEMBER THE TITANS

KEVIN KONG
Sports Editor

In a time of prejudice and division, one team faced adversity. One team overcame the daunting task of having to change the attitude toward racial integration. This team was the T. C. Williams High School's Titans and their timeless story of unity and partnership is told in the 2000 blockbuster film, "Remember the Titans."

The cinematic tale tells the true story of a newly mixed-race school's football team and their odyssey to win the 1971 Virginia State Championship. The football team builds bonds and in turn, becomes the spirit of Washington D.C. Head Coach Herman Boone, played brilliantly by Denzel Washington Boone preaches that, "if we don't come together right now [...], we [...] will be destroyed [...] I don't care if you like each other or not, but you will respect each other. And maybe, I don't know, maybe we'll learn to play this game like men."

Boone and Assistant Coach Bill Yoast, portrayed by Will Patton, struggle in their quest not only to pull the team into one cohesive unit, but to find balance in one of the most dynamic partnerships in sports history. As the team chemistry between the players and coaches blossom into a brotherhood, the audience sees a positive change in the community's attitude toward African-Americans, making the film a central piece in the plethora of sports dramas. Though set nearly 20 years prior to its release, "Remember the Titans" submerges the audience into a time of racial intolerance in an awe-inspiring way.

MIRACLE

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Sports Editor

"If we played [the Soviets] 10 times they might win nine. But not this game. Not tonight." The monologue delivered by U.S. Olympic Hockey Coach Herb Brooks before the semifinal game of the 1980 Winter Olympics was one that would impact several following generations, and eventually become the plot for the 2004 film "Miracle."

The film follows Brooks, a former hockey player, as he coaches a young team of college hockey players through the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York. The movie is the ultimate tale of David and Goliath, in which the United States team, an underdog in the hockey world at the time, unites under the leadership of Brooks to defeat the seemingly invincible Soviet Union team. Throughout the movie, there are several scenes filled with joyful celebrations of scored goals, dramatic losses and intense training, giving the film an overall bone-chilling feeling. The movie depicts that even the cliché phrase "practice makes perfect" holds a meaning for an underdog team that can pick themselves up, dust off and keep moving forward. This phenomenal event has earned itself the name "Miracle on Ice."

The movie is definitely a must-watch for any athlete. "Miracle" currently holds the second place spot in the "Best Movies of All Time," based on an ongoing poll on the website Sports in Movies. It depicts the struggle of a seemingly inferior team to rise to win the gold in the highest competition worldwide. As Brooks said before the semifinal match, "Tonight, we are the greatest hockey team in the world." And they were.

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