

# Any Given Sunday hits hard

by Douglas Smith  
features co-editor

Football movies have come and gone in the past years. *Varsity Blues* may be the last such movie many of you have watched, but the last release from Oliver Stone outlasts many sports movies released prior to it. *Any Given Sunday* packs a powerful punch with an amazing cast, but lacks some action on the field. However, the storyline is magnificent.

Al Pacino leads the all-star cast as the head coach of the Sharks, a perennial powerhouse in the imaginary league created by Stone. The team is taken over by the daughter of the previous owner after his untimely death. Cameron Diaz plays Christina Pagniaci, an owner that likes to appeal to her fans and the media. The turmoil begins between Tony D'Amato (Pacino) and Pagniaci as

their primary concerns differ between an emphasis on winning and loyalty and that of marketing and publicity.

Dennis Quaid plays Jack "Cap" Rooney, the 39 year-old experienced quarterback that suffers an injury early in the movie to start even more controversy around which the story expands. Jamie Foxx plays Willie Beamen, who is actually the third string quarterback that gets a shot with the Sharks and relishes the limelight for all it is worth. When Rooney heals and Beamen becomes arrogant from his newfound popularity, many new problems arise between Pacino and Beamen, the rest of the team and Beamen, and Beamen and himself.

There are a few moments in the movie that require special attention. Pay close attention to the one-on-one confrontation between Foxx and Pacino. Also many times throughout the movie Diaz confronts Pacino

with her issues that highly upset Pacino. The storyline develops

individual characters are the best parts of the movie. Oliver Stone does get

that take everything into account, even the meaningless elements of a story. The football scenes are partially played out like a soap opera as Stone employs flashbacks and cut-aways to enlarge the importance to more than just a game on the field. The slogan of *Any Given Sunday* explains this dramatic feel wonderfully. It reminds us "Life is a contact sport."

A piece of advice for watching this movie is to expect a rapid change in scenery and topic. Also, do not leave the theater when the credits start to roll because the story is not over. Let's just say that Oliver Stone left a lot of room for a sequel, but that is not his way of course.

One problem viewers may face while watching the movie is accepting Jamie Foxx in a serious role. He pulls it off rather well surprisingly. The character does not really carry a "serious" tone until three-quarters

of the way through the movie. Foxx's supporting cast helps him in a role that many may feel isn't for him. In addition to Pacino and Diaz, James Woods provides movie experience around Foxx, playing Dr. Harvey Mandrake. Another actor who has been proving his worth is LL Cool J as high paid running back Julian Washington. To make the football scenes real Stone recruited former NFL linebacker Lawrence Taylor as Luther "Shark" Lavay. Another important role in the movie is offensive coordinator Nick Crozier played by Aaron Eckhart.

Analyzing this movie after watching it will make you appreciate it just that much more. Pacino carries the movie on his back at times, but any fan of Pacino would say that is nothing new. If you like to see the problems that arise from competition on the field, then *Any Given Sunday* will fuel your fire.



around a few large problem and a few subtle ones that come to a head at only one time in the movie.

The interactions between indi-

a little out of control as he tries to make the football scenes a very dramatic element of his movie. Stone is known for very dramatic stories

## ESPN SportsCentury captured the drama and heroism of sports in the 1900s

by Jason Snyder  
editor-in-chief

It's not a difficult task or an incredible feat to rummage through the history of sports and pick out athletes or events that are unforgettable. It's not even a challenge to sit with your friends and have an hour-long discussion on the history of sports and argue as to who the greatest athlete is and what event is considered the most memorable. Chances are, you'll have five different people that can rightly justify that five different athletes are the greatest to ever walk this earth. So it would seem relatively difficult for one group of people to rightly justify to the world that any one athlete is greater than any other.

As I sat at home on Christmas Break awaiting ESPN to name their top four greatest athletes, I knew that their decision would be highly respected by the millions of people that have followed their countdown of the 50 Greatest North American athletes this century. After all, there were nearly 50 ESPN employees of different ages, races, genders and varying sports expertise that all had their say in the countdown. So, whether or not we agreed, we had to find some validity to the choice of their order.

When I got home from my Christmas Eve activities, I anxiously awaited the ESPN coverage of the number 4 and 3 greatest athletes of our century. I had my opinion of who should be the two named that night and who should be left over. My ultimate hope was that I wouldn't hear Michael Jordan's name mentioned that night; hoping he would last to the final show to be held

the day after Christmas.

So when ESPN's Dan Patrick began the show with Jim Brown's biography as the fourth greatest athlete of the century, I breathed a sigh of relief. When I heard Jim Thorpe and Jesse Owens named previously, I wondered who else was deserving of the top five. I asked myself, "why is Jim Brown so high on this list?" After a 30-minute biography of Brown and his life, I was quickly convinced. The man might not be considered the greatest football player of all time, or even the greatest running back. But many people consider him the greatest lacrosse player they have ever seen.

When the countdown got to the top 3, I felt they could get away with naming anyone of the three athletes left as their top pick, and make it a respectable choice. So when I heard them say Muhammed Ali, again a shot of relief ran through me. They talked about what Ali meant to blacks in America and captured his worldwide fame and respect.

That left two athletes. Bob Costas once said, if you look at this century, you can say that Babe Ruth dominated athletics in the first 50 years, and Jordan exemplified the past 50. ESPN's countdown ended with a 30-minute biography on both athletes, followed by the results of the internet poll and then the official naming of this century's greatest athlete.

Ruth's biography showed, for the first time, actual footage of the Babe "calling his shot." They talked about how he was the first to accomplish feats never before touched. But what amazes me about Babe Ruth is the fact that his legend still lives strongly today. When people think of baseball as America's Pastime, they can rightly justify that statement with the simple

name of "Ruth."

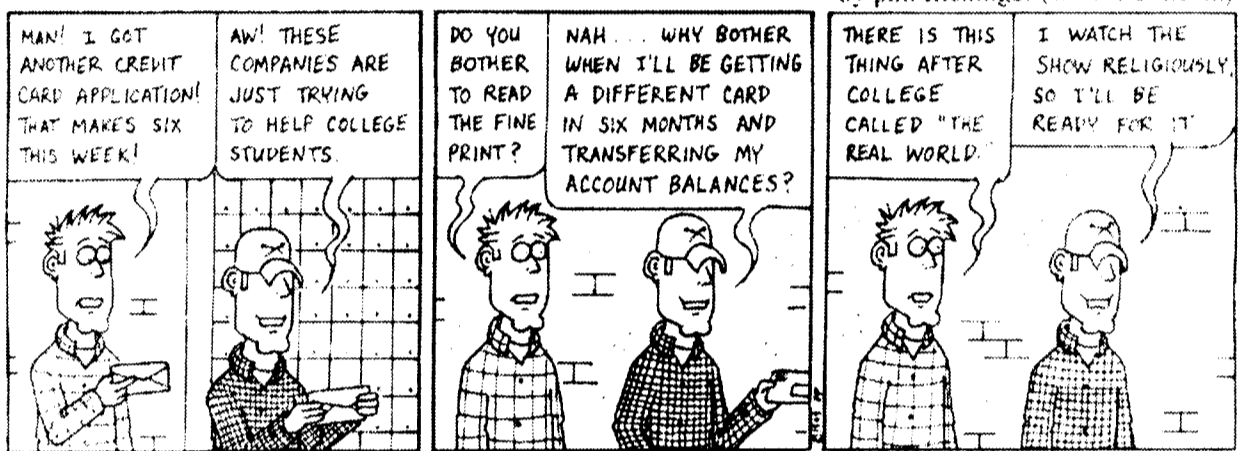
Today's legend, and our best description of sports in America today is Michael Jordan. So when ESPN counted down and showed Ruth as the second best athlete and Jordan number one, the most competitive athlete that most of us can remember is the man we can tell our grandchildren is the greatest athlete this century, as chosen by ESPN. The biography captured Jordan's goal to be a role model and his fear of making a mistake that people could use to take him off his pedestal. The show talked about his sometimes dangerous competitiveness, and how an "unsuccessful" (depending on your definition of success) baseball career changed his attitude towards the game of basketball.

The countdown alone was enough to make any sports fan proud to have witnessed the incredible history of sports through the accomplishments of its athletes. But ESPN took their century celebration one step further, publishing a book that dissected the lives and accomplishments of athletes that exemplified their decade. On [www.espn.com](http://www.espn.com), they listed the top ten teams, dynasties, rivalries and games of the century.

Overall, the suspense of the countdown and the way ESPN presented the tradition and memorable events of athletics in the 21st century captured the attention of sports fans all over the country. ESPN ended their 20th anniversary with coverage of events that took place even before their time, to give a sense of what sports meant before our time, giving us more of a respect of the roots of sports and who made today's successes possible.

### LEX

by phil flickinger (www.l-e-x.com)



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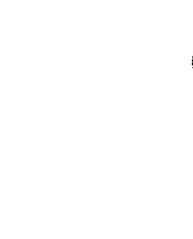
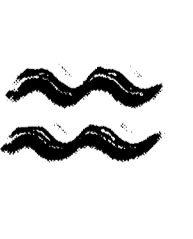
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**Aries** (March 21-April 19). Keep on track with your studies so you don't fall behind this semester.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20). Watch out for falling rocks.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 21). Do the world a favor. Drown a politician.

**Cancer** (June 22-July 22). Get 'ahead' in life, be an intern.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22). Be a role model. Join Jenny Craig.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Attend an SGA meeting.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Do the world a favor. Hit a Mac with a hammer.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Plantains. They're not just for breakfast anymore (nudge, nudge, wink, wink).

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Hug a Police and Safety Officer today.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Get a life. Quit reading horoscopes.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Beware three-legged monkeys bearing strange gifts.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20). Expand your mind. The Rock Says read a book by a professional wrestler.

by Bongo the three legged monkey



## DICK and JANE



Dear Jane,

I am 19 years old, and I have known forever that I am a lesbian. I have kissed girls before, but that's it. Recently I met this girl who I really like and we have been seeing quite a lot of each other. I am considering getting more sexually involved with her, but here's the thing: she has been with quite a lot of people (I don't have exact numbers) and I'm wondering how safe that is. I asked her to get tested, but she says that the only people she has ever been with were lesbian women and so she could not have any STD's. Should I insist that she get tested anyway?  
Wondering

Dear Wondering,

YES. No sex is safe sex if your partner has had prior partners!. Even if her partners were all lesbians, somewhere along the line one of her partners' partners may have been bisexual or straight (it happens). The whole sexual community is related, and the chances of contracting a wonderful little STD bug are greater than ever. Even if she IS tested, it does not guarantee that she is safe. The HIV virus might not show up for 6 months after contracting it, syphilis is not

tested for unless symptoms are present and there is no sure-fire test for HPV (the virus that causes genital warts). If those are risks you don't mind taking, here are a few things to consider. She's been with "a lot" of people? How many? Talk to her about her sexual history, and get her tested. If she won't talk to you about her past or won't get tested, she does not respect you or care about your safety. In that case, I would say take your virginity elsewhere.

Jane

Write letters to Jane at [dickandjane@wildmail.com](mailto:dickandjane@wildmail.com) or leave letters in the Beacon mailbox (downstairs in Reed).