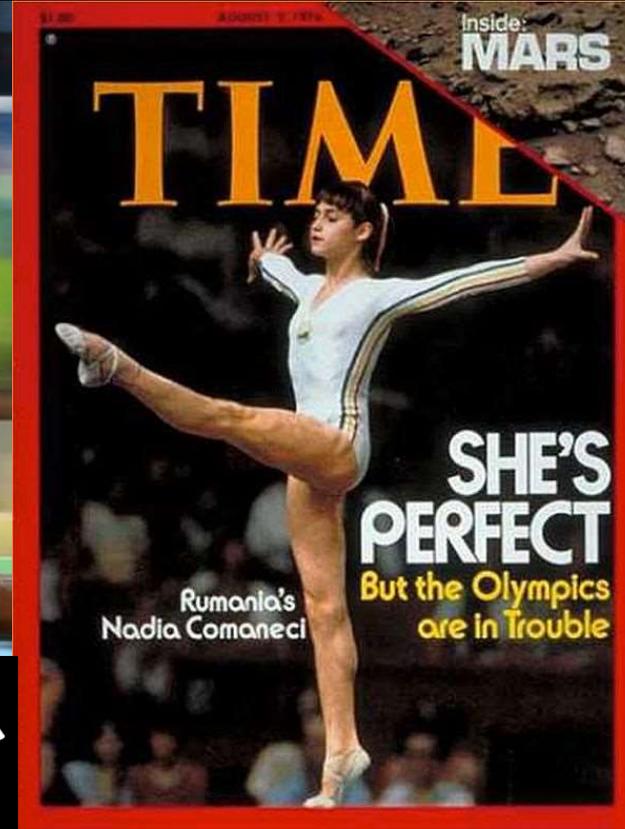
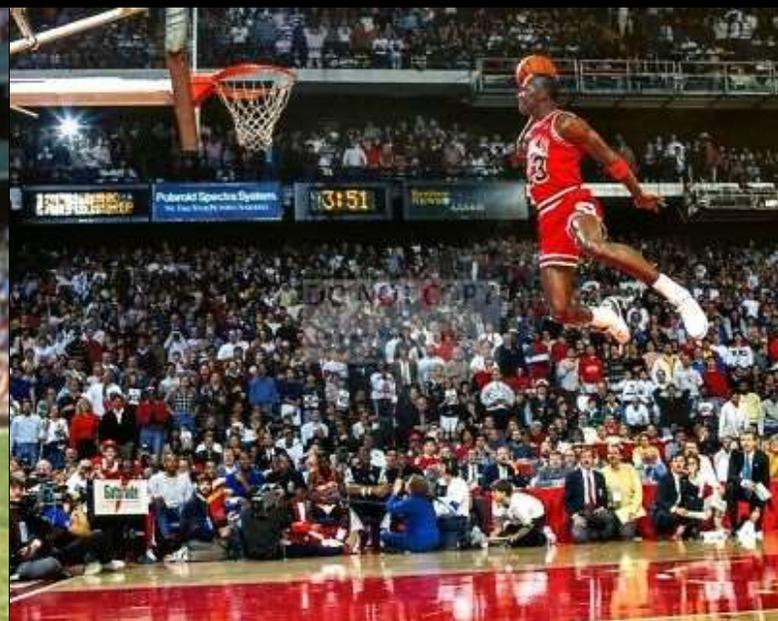


# 101 Sports Classics



## Magic & Tragic Moments



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Holds a Doctorate in Social Sciences from the University of Sydney.

This educational book is not for sale. It offers applied instruction in the sub-field Sociology of Sport. Images in this book acknowledge sources. Getty Images own the Bolt cover page © image. Royalty free use is claimed under the fair illustration purposes in education.

This practice run was penned without assistance. It was written and researched in just two weeks. The goal of this preliminary heat draft is to obtain feedback, so that I may revise a Gold Medal second edition and credit contributors. I am grateful to receive feedback about errors and ideas from any source. You may e-mail the author at [jay@journalistethics.com](mailto:jay@journalistethics.com)

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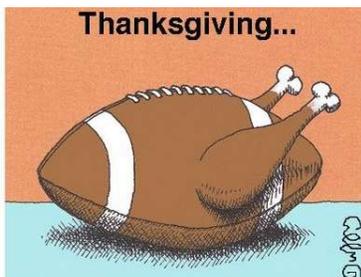
## Tee off



Garry

Numerous sports texts feature the triumphs and tragedies of famed moments in modern history. These near-indistinguishable, brilliant books feature the usual suspects – legends recognizable by one name: Maradona, Magic, Martina, Muhamad, Nadia, Babe *et al.*

This book aims to be a bit different. It examines sports milestones via a social lens. This may enable us to identify why some millisecond magical moments, and others, captivate our collective imaginations and inspire the masses decades after the event transpired.



In the true spirit of sport, this book also strives to be fun. It takes time out to present simple sports images that may convey meaning no deeper than the chance to choke on our chuckles.

This modest coffee table book strives to guide readers to *freely* assign their own interpretations to elite sports immortalities. May *you* be your own judge, jury and adjudicator. All ways, always.

# Talk



Clark (2014)

## Sportsmanship

I credit the idea to write this coffee table book to the comments section of Google's favorite free-speech filter: YouTube. Dolls and trolls in this space often offer stellar ideas and inspiration.

In early June 2019, I responded to a YouTube video that discusses, or should I say 'debates' Nick Kyrgios's habit of serving under arm on occasion in professional tennis matches. This rarely seen tennis shot is within the rules of the men's and women's professional tours. As shown below, my contribution attracted a net response of *circa* 1, 300 thumbs up in just four weeks.



journalistethics dotcom 1 month ago

Why not? When players like Rafa, who I like, stand 4 meters behind the baseline, they are asking for it. Breaks up to game. More under arms please.

👍 1.3K 🗨️ REPLY



View all 33 replies ▾

Sic: "the game"

The essence of this debate about tennis's beloved 'bad boy', a prodigy, recurs in most narratives in this book. Fair-play and foul-play are subjective concepts. Any sport may offer thinkers a lens to analyze and interpret the social organization of local settings and global society at-large.

## Style

This book contains six further sections. Part three explores magical moments in sports history.

The next part explores tragic events. Those averse to mad mishaps can dodge this section!

Part five is for trivia buffs. It discusses a handful of famous records and feats from sports history.

The following chapter moves beyond the numbers and discusses the narratives and legacies bestowed by sportsmen and sportswomen to their sport and modern history at-large.

Section 7, titled 'Titans' names nine legendary athletes whose narratives did fit into the earlier sections of this book. These athletes' legacies are too significant to omit from this volume.

This book is somewhat Euro-Western centric. As a Western English-speaking native, I am unable to appreciate the richness of all domains on this globe. Many people inform me that the Spanish Soccer League and the Japanese Baseball League are Tier 1 elite competitions. I believe them.

This book aims to celebrate sporting excellence over national pride. I sometimes do not mention the citizenship of featured stars and teams. May you root out these details if they are important to you. For many, the magic of sport is universal. Its gifts and meanings transcend time and space.

## Feature: Silver lining?

The Men's Basketball final at the 1972 Munich Olympics was probably the most controversial game and medal playoff in the Men's Basketball event in Olympic History. As shown in the image below, America's team refused to accept their Silver Medal and boycotted the medal ceremony.



TdotJordan (2016)

The technical details of this saga concern the American Team's belief that the referees had allowed the Russian team an illegal time-out in the dying second of the legally allowed time. This team-coach regroup ostensible allowed the Russian Team to 'steal' the game with a winning basket in the final second of the game. The full-time score was: Soviet Union 51, USA 50.

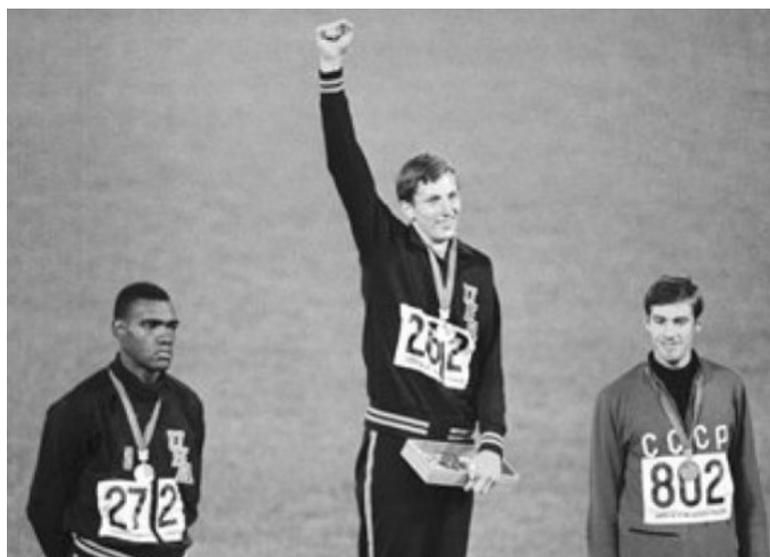
The passing of time may enable sports enthusiasts to analyze the crux of this drama in a different light. The issue at hand may be this – Do sports professionals have an ethical duty to accept the outcome of a game, even if they think that the referees' error influenced the result? This incident possibly epitomizes the Cold War vicious competitiveness between East and West bloc nations.

# Tricks



Olympic legend Dick Fosbury – Invented the popular Fosbury Flop high-jump technique.

Olympic Gold glory: High Jump: Mexico, 1968.



© owner unknown

## Superstars

This section celebrates 34 moments of sports glory. It explores 22 amateur and professional sports. These games are broad. They range from globally popular sports such as professional tennis and World Cup Soccer, to the wacky and wonderful world of professional wrestling.



ESPN (2017)

Tour de Suisse cyclists check their iPhone weather app forecasts: Summer rain?

Men and women of diverse ages feature in this chapter. Seniors aged 45+ such as Martina Navrátilová and Jack Nicklaus show us that age is no barrier to sporting excellence.

Compiling a top 34 list of magical moments is no easy task for any sports journalist. I invite you to challenge this listing. Who is missing? Which moments do you think are overhyped as a classic?

The order of discussion is mostly based on the first name of the featured athlete or team.

## 77-year drought



Wimbledon, played at the All England Lawn Tennis Club, may be the most prestigious sports event in the world. British players have not dominated the Men's Open Singles event during the past century. Andy is the first British man to win this title since Fred Perry was crowned Gent's Champion in 1936. Andy repeated this feat in 2016. Andy retired from full-time singles play in 2019 due to recurrent chronic hip injuries. His talent is sorely missed by his colleagues and fans.



Andy made a surprise mini come back in June 2019 and won the Men's Doubles at Queen's Club with Feliciano López. Watch his space. Pic: Metro (2019)

## Fake it till you make it

Antonín Panenka can enjoy his retirement from professional football (soccer) with deep satisfaction. He achieved what a mere handful of football players achieve. He left his mark on the game. The Panenka Penalty, named in his honor, is his supreme contribution to his mighty sport.



European Cup, 1976

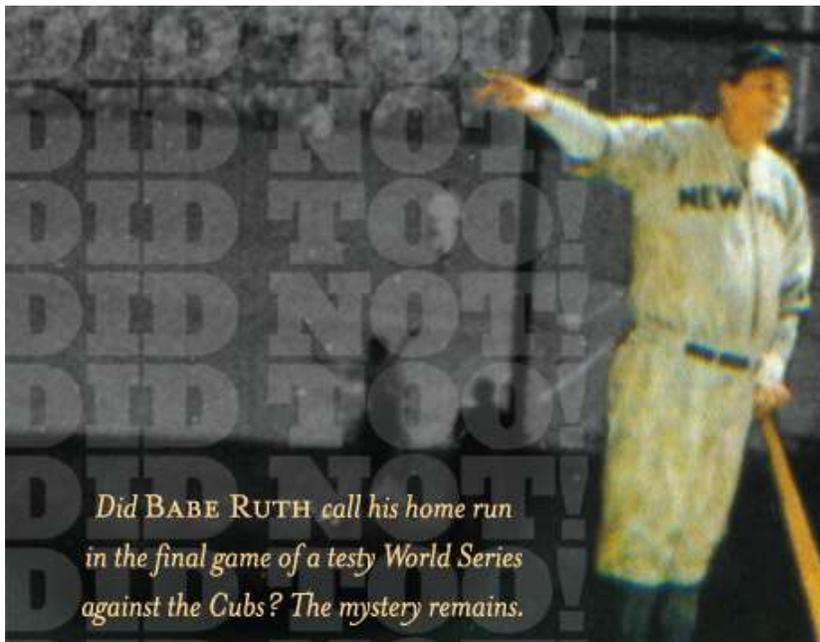
Georges Journal (2016)

The Panenka Penalty, and what it represents, probably says a bit about the persona of one of the Czech Republic's most famous sporting sons. Bold, brash, cunning nerves of steel are required for those who dare to fare this trickle of trickery. The stakes are high. Hero or zero.

A delight to watch. Unless you're the goalkeeper. Antonín Panenka: immortal hero.

## Calling the shots

According to baseball folk lore, the legendary Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees called his home run in the World Series final game against the Chicago Cubs in 1932. According to eyewitnesses, Babe pointed to the spot where he planned to hit a home run prior to taking the pitch.



This Great Game (2019)



New York Post (2014)

The cheeky meme above (left) explicitly makes the point that this feat is not captured by a source that can be verified, such as a quality moving cinema image. Grainy still images are available, such as this YouTube tribute by Yankees32RETRO (2013).

Whether or not Babe called his final shot is merely a side-issue when one reflects on Ruth's stellar career. Babe is arguably the greatest baseballer and baseball team-player of all-time.

## 89 feet shot, 2001

Baron Davis is widely considered to have achieved the longest successful basket in NBA history. Playing for the Charlotte Hornets, he threw a basket from 89 feet with 0.7 seconds to play, satisfying the Trent Tucker Rule. This is almost equal to the length of the NBA court, which measures 94 feet long. Many independent reporters claim that his throw was 92 feet long.



Baron Davis 92 foot shot



EverythingBall (2006)

This feat is worth watching online. Reading about this basket doesn't do Baron much justice.

## Billie and Bobbie: Battle of the Sexes

Houston Astrodome: September 20, 1973

Billie Jean King, aged 29, defeated retired tennis professional Bobby Riggs aged 55: 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.



Bort (2017)

This version of the three battles of the sexes tennis matches is the only won where the lady of the moment won her match. This match was good fun at the time and probably remains this way for most tennis historians and sports fans. If Bobby Riggs were just 10 years young ... perhaps.

Kudos to Billie Jean ranked #2 at the time of this event. This savvy businesswoman established the Women's Tennis Association in 1973. The WTA is a formidable sports and business entity.

## Birmingham's Bird-boy

Prior to the Atlanta Summer Olympics, Carl Lewis had firmly established himself as the best sprinter and Long Jumper of all-time. Atlanta was the icing on his icing.

At an age when most track and field superstars have long retired, Carl managed to do the impossible – win at least one track-and-field Gold Medal at four consecutive Summer Olympics.



Aged 35, Carl won his fourth consecutive Gold Medal in the Long Jump event on July 29, 1996. Between June 1981 and June 1983 Lewis set three consecutive low altitude Long Jump World Records. He is the only athlete to have held this record multiple times since its creation in 1965.

## Indigenous inspiration

Cathy Freeman's Gold Medal win at the Sydney Olympics in the 400-meter race was a much-hyped event. Freeman was the hometown favorite going into the final. Australia's Golden Girl of the track didn't disappoint her fans and other spectators.



SBS (2015)

In the months prior to the final race, the media was abuzz with the big question: Which flag would Cathy parade around the track after she wins a medal? Pundits couldn't agree whether she might sport the British Union Jack version of Australia's Flag or the color rich Aussie Indigenous Flag.

In true diplomatic sportswoman fashion, Cathy made the perfect choice. Nice one, Cathy.

Donald Trump slams Vince McMahon and a **CNN**™ 'fake news' reporter: 2016



B/Star (2018)



Complex (2017)

Young (2016)

Is Wrestle Mania a real sport?

Who said politics and business are boring?

Only in America.

## Under the radar: Flying Dutchwoman

Esther Vergeer is arguably the most successful athlete in the history of tennis, and possibly world sports. You know all about Esther's numerous stratospheric accomplishments, right?

Esther won four consecutive Gold Medals in the Ladies Singles Wheelchair Tennis event at the Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London Olympics. Between 2002 and 2012, she won 21 Grand Slam singles titles in the wheelchair event, of 21 events contested of 23 events held. Her list of other accomplishments is long: 27 Doubles Slam titles, 11 World Team Championship titles and so on.



Paralympics (2019)

Elite Paralympian superstars such as Esther receive little mainstream media press coverage and attract smaller crowds and endorsements. This is a fact. The reason/s for this are debatable.

Fine China: 2008



BBC (2008)

Best Olympic Stadium of the Modern Games.



Best Opening Ceremony of the Modern Olympics – Summer and Winter.

## Trendy and bendy

David Beckham will probably be remembered by sports fans and sports historians for three stellar accomplishments: mastering the professional celebrity sports lifestyle, his bendy penalty goal kicks and earning the highest combined income from soccer and other ventures of all footballers.

Of course, David was an ace footballer as well. He scored 638 goals in first-class events.



Major League Soccer (2012)

King David's legendary curly free kick goals and penalty goals seem to defy the laws of physics.

This video above is worth watching. Even for those who have no interest in soccer. Amazing!

## Swiss bliss

Gabriela Andersen-Schiess finished 37<sup>th</sup> of 44 runners in the inaugural Women's Olympic Marathon event at the Los Angeles Summer Games in 1984. Gabriela refused to quit her race despite ill-effects from the warm sticky weather that hovered around 86F (30C) during the race.

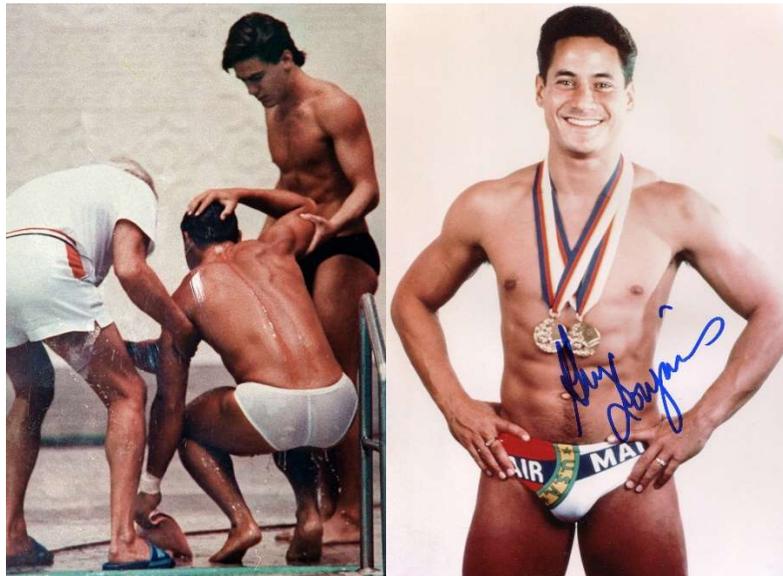
In the dying minutes of her race, the Swiss runner clearly suffered from exhaustion and dehydration. She was unable to maintain stability and run in a steady fashion in a straight line. When attempting her final lap in the main stadium, she took 5 minutes and 44 seconds to complete the last 400 meters of the race. She sometimes stopped to restore her composure.



Gabriela's stoic image of determination is among the most classic icons of the Modern Olympics. She symbolizes the essence of these games – competing to the best of your ability.

## Smashing success

Greg Louganis cracked his head on a diving board during a Springboard heat while completing a reverse somersaulting Springboard Dive. Divers are a tough breed. Greg returned to competition and won the Gold Medal in the 3M Springboard and the 10M Platform events at the Seoul Games.



Buchanan (2016)

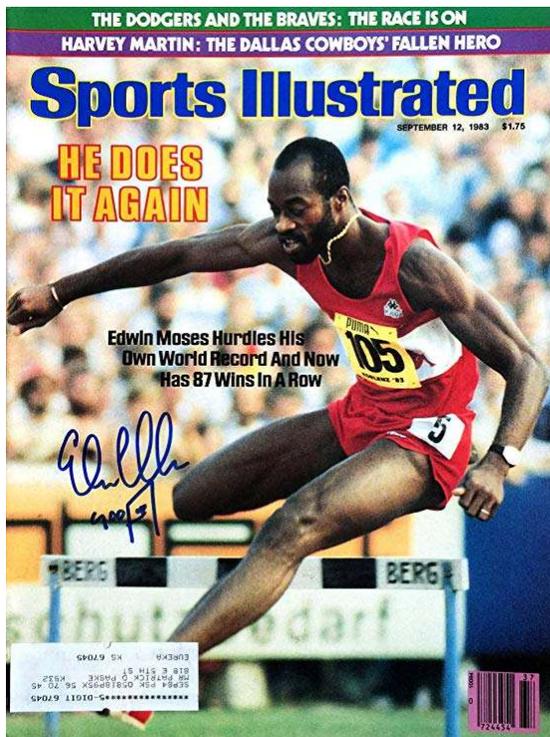
Greg Louganis (2019)

Greg is the most decorated diver in Olympic history. He collected four Gold Medals and a silver medal over three consecutive Olympic games: Montreal, Los Angeles and Seoul. That's consistency. And inspiration for others to soldier on.

Greg's tally almost certainly would have been higher had America attended the Moscow Games.

## Holy Moses!

Edwin Moses's unparalleled track records fly under the radar for many casual sports observers, largely because of the relatively low profile of his exciting event: Hurdles. Between 1977 and 1987, Moses won 107 consecutive finals and 122 consecutive Hurdles races. This feat has not been replicated in any track and field event in elite sports' history.



EMI (2019)

Moses won Gold in the 400 Meter Hurdles at Montreal in 1976 and Los Angeles in 1984. He probably would have won the Gold at the Moscow Olympics. The American Team boycotted the 1980 Olympics.

## Fabulous Flo Jo

To label Florence Griffith-Joyner a ‘sports legend’ probably diminishes her glitzy, glam, glorious legacy. For many, this crowd magnet magnate is a track-and-field Goddess. Capital G.

Flo Jo is an event-organizers’ fantasy. She is among the handful of sports stars who attracts tidal waves of spectators who otherwise have no general interest in her events or women’s sports.

Millions of people world-wide tuned in to watch her breathtaking 100-meter dash final race on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1988 at the Seoul Olympics. And Wonder Woman didn’t let us down. Her wind-assisted golden rocket-ride time of 10.54 seconds was just 0.05 seconds outside her immortal world record. An astonishing feat that has not been cracked by any ‘peer’ since July 16, 1988.



Gone to soon, aged 38. RIP gorgeous.

## 18<sup>th</sup> holy

On August 13, 1986 Jack Nicklaus won his 18<sup>th</sup> and last Major Golf Title, aged 46 – an upper age record. The title he added to his collection was the Masters Tournament held at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia. The size of his victory was razor thin – a single stroke.

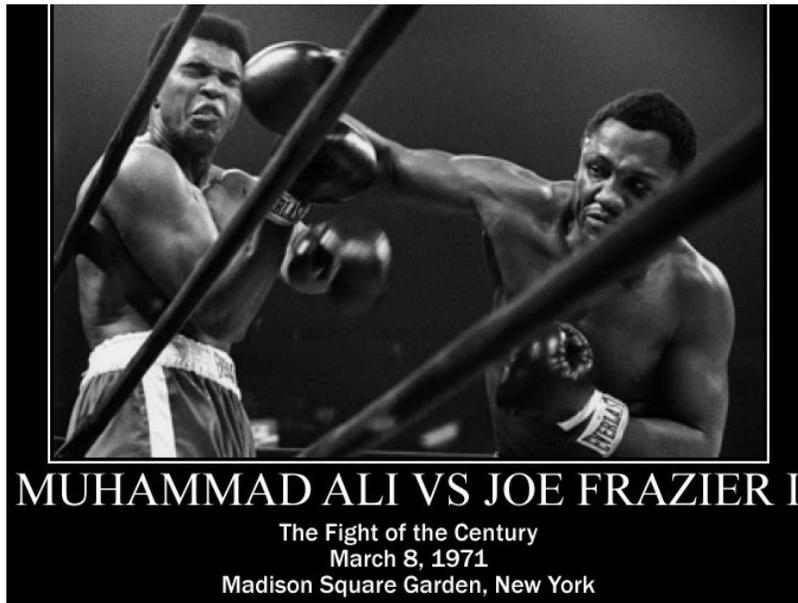


LA Times (1986)

The Jack Nicklaus brand is code word for excellence, consistency and longevity in the world of golf and beyond. The Floridan resident won his first Major tournament at the US Open in 1962.

Nicklaus was admitted into the Golf Hall of Fame in 1974.

## Fight of the Century



WWUA (2018)

The hype surrounding this fight between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali is partially explained by the high stakes. The Heavyweight Boxing Title was on the line. It was also difficult to predict a winner. Pre-fight, Frazier's record was 26-0, including 23 knockout victories. Ali's record was 31-0, including 25 knockouts. The scorecard from this fight shows a wide discrepancy between the scoring of Judge Bill Recht and his colleagues. This observation highlights the subjectivity of Boxing's scoring system compared to other sports such as sprinting that use objective regimes.



The Milwaukee Journal (1971)

## Never too young

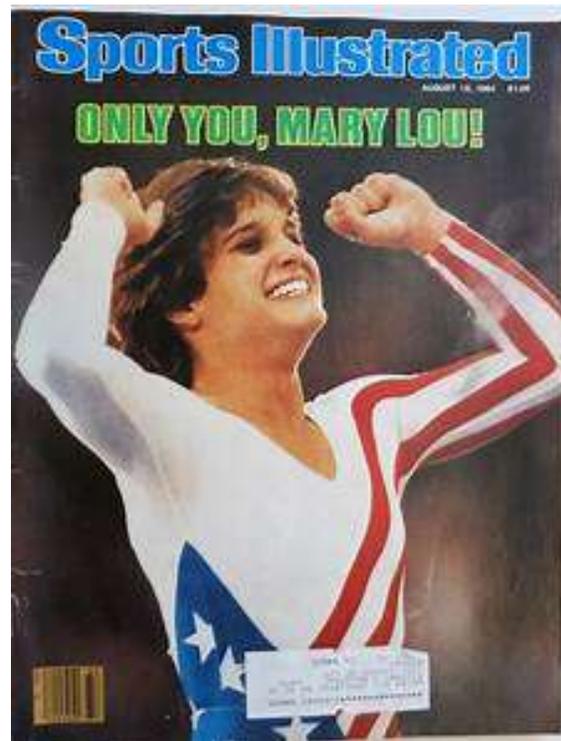
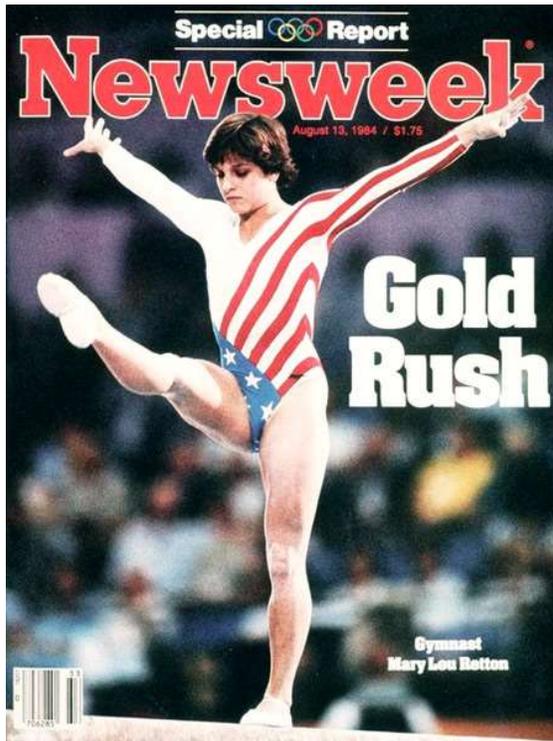
The Grand Young Dame of Women's Tennis reminds us that age is often a mental barrier. Most male and female professional tennis players dream about winning a Slam title in any event. For the majority, their pursuits for a single slam conquest remains exactly that – an exotic fantasy.



On September 8, Martina won her 59<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam title. Her age: a few weeks shy of her 50<sup>th</sup>. Of course, equal due credits to her champion partner – Bob Bryan. Legends in their own times.

## LA limelight

Mary Lou Retton was anointed 'Media Darling' for the LA Summer Olympics in 1984. Mary Lou achieved a milestone in Olympic gymnastics history. She was the first female gymnast in Olympic history to win the all-round individual event representing the United States of America.



Mary Lou's glorious narrative reminds sports fans that the mainstream media gets to decide who it will anoint King and Queen of the games. Mary won a super five medals at the LA Games, including one Gold Medal. American swimmer Nancy Hogshead-Makar won three Gold Medals and a Silver Medal at the LA Olympics. Nancy received much less media coverage. Gymnastics and Track-and-Field events seem to have more prestige among fans and media commentators.

## It ain't over till the Matt baby sings

The myth of Matthew Mitcham's miraculous diving Gold Medal at the Beijing Olympics reinforces the truth of one of the catchiest cliques in sport – it ain't over baby, till it's over.



CNN (2019)

10 Meter Diving Event.

During the last round of dives, Matthew was perched in second place – a whopping 34 points behind Chinese diver Zhou Lüxin. To win Gold, Mitcham needed to achieve near-perfect scores from most judges on his final dive. And he did. Four perfect 10's to score 112 – the second highest tally in Olympic history. Spectacular. And the rest baby is history. As the tired old clique goes.

## Slam dunk from the 3-point line

1987 NBA Slam Dunk Contest, Seattle.

Yup. Michael Jordan made the shot.



### Michael Jordan Iconic Free Throw Line Dunk 1987

12,551,914 views 33K 919 SHARE SAVE ...



**Throwback Highlights**  
Published on Jul 25, 2011



And he also won the contest. Check out this video on the channel shown above.

## Maryland Merman Machine

Michael Phelps arguably holds the four most prestigious Olympic records on offer: the most medals and Gold Medals won at the same games – Winter and Summer. He has also won the most medals (28) and Gold Medals (23). His famed records may stand for eternity.

Phelps won eight Gold Medals in swimming events at the Beijing Summer Olympics in 2008. Five Golds were achieved in individual events and three were won in team events.



Many seasoned Olympics commentators question the fairness of ranking Michael as the best Olympian of the modern games. In contrast to most other sports (*e.g.* Discus) Olympic swimmers can earn medals in around 18 events. This is a valid argument *per se*. Of course, such debates do not diminish Michael's monumental achievements, professionalism and Trojan work ethic.

## Over before it began

June 27, 1988

The much-hyped grudge Heavyweight class boxing match between Mike Tyson and Michael Spinks was an anti-climax. Spink's pre-match record was 31-0. Tyson's record was 34-0.

Tyson won the fight in 91 seconds by knockout. There is little more of note to report.



TR (2018)

It wasn't an all-out disaster for Spinks. He earned \$13.5 million for his 'effort'. In the wise words of my late grandpa, aged 68 on the day of the fight: "I wish they'd invited me to fight Tyson. I could have lasted longer than that and offered better entertainment for half the price."

## Miracle on Ice

### Lake Placid 1980

The Soviet Union Men's Ice Hockey team were hot favorites to win Winter Olympic Gold in 1980.

They had won the past four consecutive Winter Olympic Gold Medals. They had also won five of the last six Olympic Gold Medals. This team of mostly professional players faced off against the American team, which contained exclusively amateur league players.



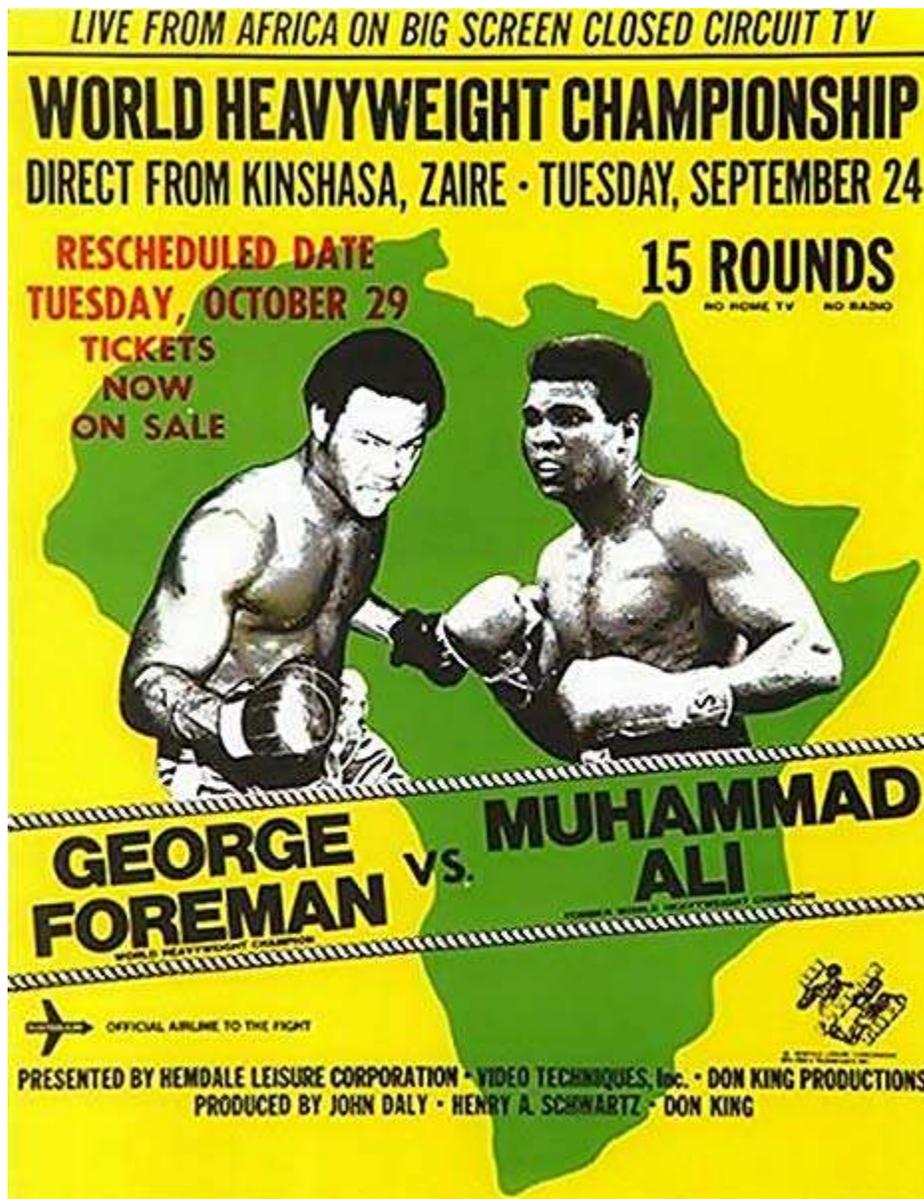
Oops. A little Cold War accident.

Newsday (2019)

This medal playoff game would place the victor in the Gold Medal final. Trailing 2-3 at the end of the second period, the Soviets remained hot favorite to win. The Americans would sneak a shock 4-3 victory and go on to defeat the fancied team of Finland to secure the Gold Medal.

## Rumble in the Jungle

On October 29, 1974 Muhammad Ali established himself as the World Heavyweight boxing champion. Pre-fight, Foreman was undefeated in 40 fights. 37 of these victories were knockouts.



HA (2019)

The fight attracted as estimated 1 billion television viewers. A record for any broadcast at the time. Ali won by knockout towards the close of the 8th round. Both men pocketed USD\$5 million.

## Fiery

Muhammad Ali was awarded the high privilege of lighting the Olympic Flame at the Atlanta 1996 Summer Olympics. It was a knockout performance. ABC (2016)



Muhammad's brave appearance inspired many. These include fellow athletes, sports fans, medical professionals, those with disabilities and those suffering from chronic ailments. Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1984. He was visibly shaking at the opening ceremony.

Ali is a former Gold Medalist at the 1960 Rome Olympics in the Light Heavyweight boxing event.

## Progeny perfection personified

Nadia Comăneci is the first female gymnast to be awarded a perfect score of 10.00. She did so at the Montreal Olympics in 1976, aged just 14, for her routine on the Uneven Bars. She recorded seven perfect scores for her performances on the Beam and Uneven Bars at the same Olympics.



Nadia Comăneci set the benchmark in excellence in women's gymnastics. Her perfection forced the International Gymnastics Federation to increase minimum difficulty levels beyond 1976.

Nadia's engagement at the 1976 Olympics would be illegal under revised minimum age participation rules. Since 1997, the minimum age requirement for competing requires the athlete to have their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday during the calendar year of the event or in a prior year.

## Smashing tennis tradition

Patrick Cash Junior stunned the world when he defeated world number one Ivan Lendl in straight sets in the Gent's Singles Final at Wimbledon in 1987. Pat's stunning victory was no fluke. He defeated two former world number one ranked players in the previous two rounds. These triumphs included a win over former two-time Wimbledon Champion Jimmy Connors.



Pat's cheeky, spirited feat is notable for two reasons. It had never been done on Center Court at the conservative All England Club. Moreover, it has since been emulated by numerous singles champs in the Ladies and Gents events. *Onya Mate*. That's Aussie for "awesome stuff, buddy".

## Four-minute magic

By today's standards, breaking the four-minute mile is the norm for elite middle-distance runners who seek national Olympic selection. Roger Bannister achieved this famed milestone in 1954.



DE (2014)

Since the Athens Olympics of 1896, thousands of track and field records have been set and broken repeatedly. For some reason, the 4-minute mile record is among the most famous of all feats. The “four-minute mile” metaphor may convey different meanings for alternative minds.

What does the phrase “breaking the four-minute mile mean to you”? Perhaps the phrase has a catchy ring and is easy to remember. Its fame as a record and phrase may be a stroke of luck.

## Fluke or Arch Duke?

Sports pundits frequently label Steven Bradbury's Gold Medal in the 1000 Meter Event a 'stroke-of-good luck' and the like. Trailing in fourth place in the dying moments of the race, Steven snuck over the finish line first after the race leaders collided and toppled over each other.



IOC (2019)

Steven earned his way into the Olympic Team and the final race on merit. He didn't get there by luck. Perhaps the other skaters were a little too ambitious and careless with their placing. As the famed idiom goes: slow(er) and steady wins the race. What are your thoughts on this outcome?

Steven was the first Australian and person from the Southern

Hemisphere to win a Winter Olympics Gold Medal.



Lightning Bolt



The front page of this book epitomizes Usain Bolt's immortal place in elite sports history. It would be a cardinal sin to omit the Bolt from the cover page of any serious elite sports memoir.

Many casual and professional sports commentators talk about the otherworldliness of Bolt's persona, as captured by the beyond iconic image on this book's cover page. For the few unaware, this surreal snap captures Bolt crossing the finish line in the 100-meter dash semi-final at the Rio Olympics, in first place – as usual. Was there ever any doubt?



BBC (2018)

Usain is the current holder of the 100-meter and 200-meter sprint world records.

Naturally.

## Dream Team

The American Men's Olympic Basketball Team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics is probably the best basketball team of all-time in all events. This team comprised the following legends:

Charles Barkley, Larry Bird, Clyde Drexler, Patrick Ewing, Magic Johnson,  
Michael Jordan, Christian Laettner, Karl Malone, Chris Mullin, Scottie  
Pippen, David Robinson, John Stockton

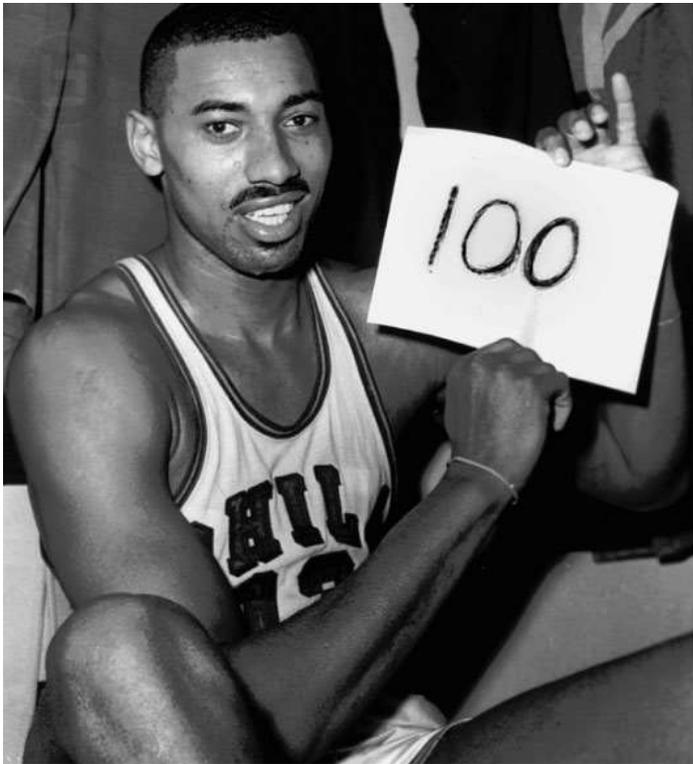


This Dream Team Machine won all matches by more than 31 points.

They won their eight Olympic matches by an average of 44 points.

## When you're hot, you're hot

Wilt Chamberlain set the single-game highest scoring record for the National Basketball Association League on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1962. He scored 100 points for the Philadelphia Warriors in a 169–147 win over the New York Knicks at Hershey Sports Arena, Pennsylvania.



	POINTS	FG	FT
<b>1ST</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7-14</b>	<b>9-9</b>
<b>2ND</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7-12</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>3RD</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10-16</b>	<b>8-8</b>
<b>4TH</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12-21</b>	<b>7-10</b>
	<b>100</b>	<b>36-63</b>	<b>28-32</b>

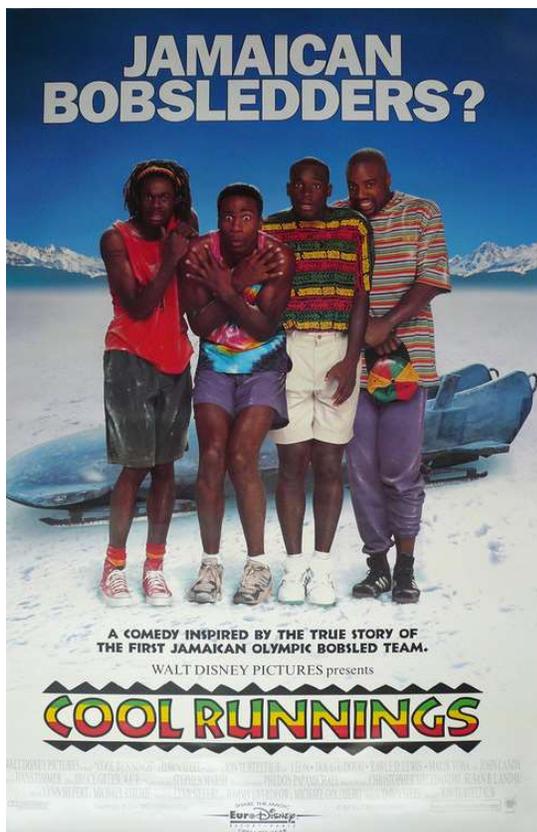
2/22/62	St. Louis	at	Philadelphia	61
2/24/62	Boston	at	Philadelphia	26
2/25/62	New York	at	Philadelphia	67
2/27/62	Philadelphia	at	St. Louis	65
2/28/62	Philadelphia	at	Chicago	61
3/2/62	New York	at	Philadelphia	<b>100</b>
3/4/62	Philadelphia	at	New York	58
3/7/62	Philadelphia	at	Boston	30
3/11/62	Philadelphia	at	Syracuse	44

Kissoyan (2019)

Wilt set five other NBA records in the same game, including most free throws that scored.

## Feature: Cool Caribbean

Sports stories are fun when there are twists to the narrative such as irony, bizarre upset victories and unlikely heroes. The Hollywood movie 'Cool Runnings' (1993) is based loosely on the Jamaican Men's National Bobsleigh Team which debuted at the Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada in 1988.



Abe (2018)

The image above (right) features four team members. The team comprised Devon Harris, Dudley Stokes, Michael White, Freddy Powell and Chris Stokes. This team was the first sent by Jamaica to a Winter Olympics Game in any event. Despite a good start, the team lost control of the sled in a heat event and finished in last place. Is this legend the ultimate narrative of the underdog?

# Tragic

Ice Hockey brawls.

Which one of the many is worthy of a grand low-show case?

Take your pick.



Good Friday, 1984.

Zarum (2019)

## Bodyline

The bodyline cricket series was a set of grudge matches played between England and Australia in the Ashes Test Cricket Series in 1932-1933 in Australia. As the title of this page suggests, the goal of the fastest bowlers was to strike the batsmen with the cricket ball. Those unfamiliar with cricket may not realize that a cricket ball is a similar size to a baseball. It is harder, heavier and has fiercer projectile properties. England won the series four tests to one.



History has judged the Bodyline series as unfortunate. As shown in the photo above, a goal of the bodyline tactic aims to secure an easy close-up catch from a vicious deflection. Some balls aimed for the head, neck and chest.

## Choke

Sports history is littered with choking examples. It's too hard to choose a quintessential classic.

Tennis sweetheart Li Na squandered four consecutive match points in the semi-final of the Australian Open Tennis in the Ladies Singles event in 2012. Leading 6-4, 6-6, 6 points to 2 in the second-set tiebreaker, Li needed to win just one of the next four points to win the match. She lost the next 6 consecutive points and went down to Kim Clijsters 6-4, 6-7, 4-6.



LBS (2012)



Comeback Queen: 2014

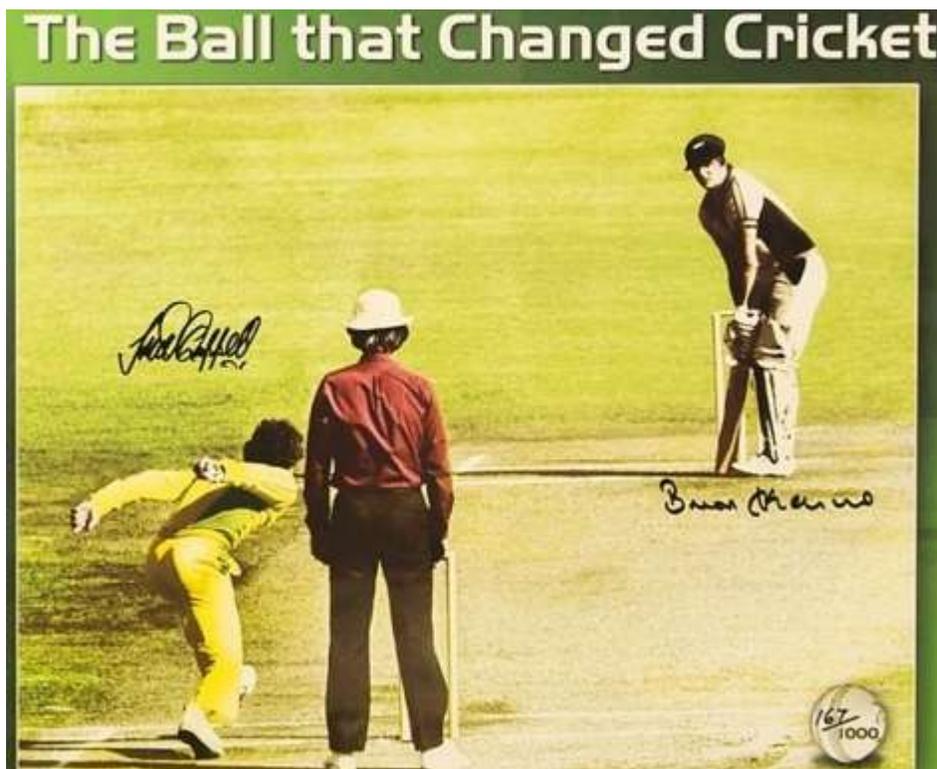
There is a silver lining to this tear-jerker tale.

Lovable Li returned to the Open and won the Australian Singles Slam crown in 2014.

祝贺

## Cricket's darkest day

On February 1, 1981 Trevor Chappell bowled the final ball underarm instead of using the universal overarm delivery format. This underarm delivery made the final ball near-unplayable. This tactic guaranteed that Australia would beat New Zealand on the last delivery played. This strategic choice was strange. It was statistically unlikely that New Zealand would draw or win the match. To draw the match, they needed to score a perfect 6 from the last delivery. To win, they would need to score a penalty point extra delivery from a bowling error such as a wide or no-ball.



Total Sportek (2016)

The passing of time has not judged this incident kindly. This act has become a codeword for using unsportsmanlike behavior to win at any cost. Furthermore, this metaphor informs players and audiences that not all acts that are within the rules of the game are fair.

## Bigger barriers

The stabbing of tennis professional Monica Seles in 1993, during a live match by a deranged spectator triggered the end of innocence in professional sports. Players at the German Open took their changeover break within a meter or so of the front row of spectators. This close contact between athletes and fans was common in 1993 in professional tennis and other sports.



BBC (2018)

Nowadays event organizers construct larger gaps between athletes and spectators. It is common to see officials guarding the backs of tennis professionals during changeover breaks.

Many Seles fans ponder over the painful ‘what if’ question. Prior to the stabbing, Monica had been ranked number one in singles for the past 2 years. She won her first eight Grand Slam singles finals, including three consecutive French Open crowns. Post-comeback, she won one Grand Slam. This comeback win was the second Slam she contested – the 1996 Australian Open.

## Exhibitionists

These gents are clearly *not* amused by these cheeky antics.



NRC (2016)

This flying Dutchman ended Denzel Washington's Wimbledon winning streak.

## Batter(y) up



### Baseball Player Attacks Pitcher with Bat

The Young Turks 988K views • 11 years ago



Offerman, who is charged with two counts of second-degree assault, charged the mound after he was hit with a pitch while batting ...



### Jose Offerman Banned After Punching Umpire

Associated Press 1.1M views • 9 years ago

Jose Offerman was banned for life by the Dominican winter baseball league for throwing a punch at an umpire during an ...



Do you know the way to ban José?

## Football's darkest day

96 people were killed and around 800 were injured at a FA Cup match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest on April 15, 1989. This tragedy occurred at Hillsborough Stadium, Sheffield.

Too many people were allowed into the stadium and crowd controls were inadequate.



Daily Record (2012)

Many advancements in crowd management at football events and other sports were pioneered in the aftermath of this sad event. A tragedy of this scale has not occurred after 1989.

## Hand of God

Did he, or didn't he? According to the referees and record book, Soccer's modern-day God didn't.

Maybe the ball ricocheted from somewhere legal like his foot, leg, head or hip. Perhaps the referees witnessed a handball but deemed it accidental and therefore not illegal.



BBC (2014)

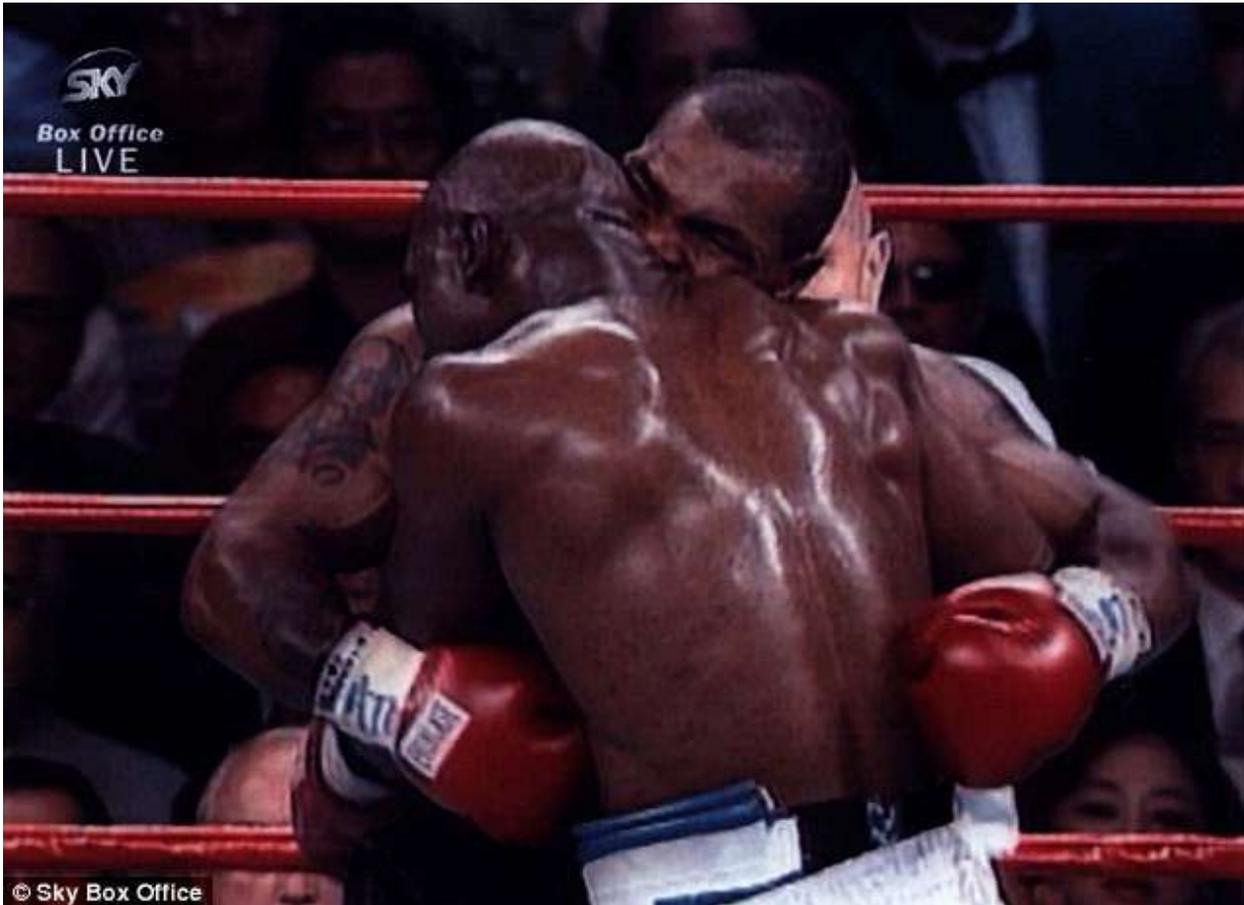
Argentina defeated England in this quarter-final game 2-1. Argentina won the World Cup final against West Germany 3-2. This nation has never won a World Cup title since.

This image technically does not show a handball contact. Moving cinema images are grainy, distant and inconclusive. Was this a handball? Maybe only God knows. He retired in 1997.

## Hunger for success

Getting your 'ear chewed off' by a foe is a famed idiom.

A metaphor.



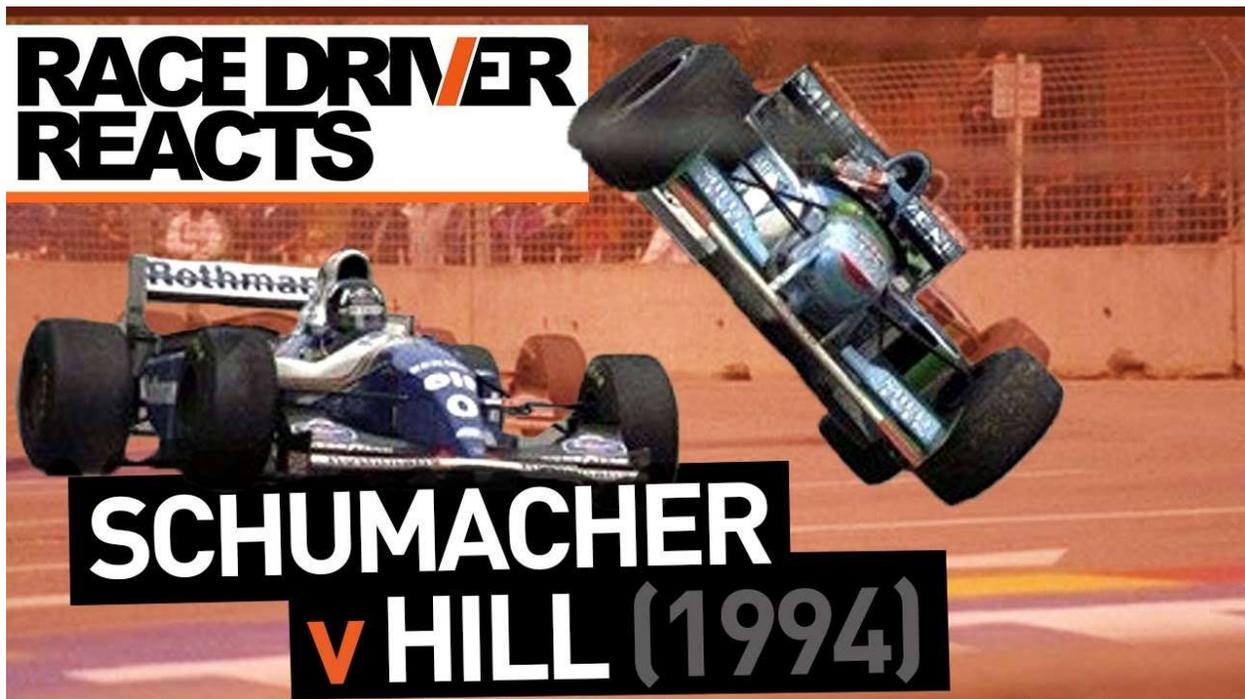
It's not meant to be a literal act.

Evander Holyfield won this WBA Heavyweight Championship by default in 1997.

Hear, **hear**.

## Lose a battle, win a war?

Some sports professionals make a strategic decision to lose a match to secure a better outcome. Some sports commentators speculate that a Formula One racing legend sacrificed his chances of winning the Australian Formula One title in 1994 and sabotaged his arch-rival Damon Hill in the process. The Australian Formula One was the last race of the 1994 season. Schumacher lead Hill by just one point in the race to win the year end Drivers' Championship Title based on total points.



Driver 61 (2018)

The collision between Schumacher and Hill on a track corner caused both racers to retire from the track. Schumacher collected his first Drivers' Championship Title. For the record, this collision between Hill and Schumacher was officially accidental. No driver was penalized.

## Strategic slipups

In a similar vein to the alleged Schumacher incident, some sports professionals make a calculated decision to break a rule or 'bend' a rule to receive a better outcome. Take the case of a football (soccer) player, who is not the goalkeeper, who witnesses the ball about to fly past their face towards the goal posts and don't have time to block the ball with a legal part of their body such as their foot or head. The ball is almost certain to go into the net and score. If a player deliberately uses their hand to block the ball, an illegal move, the ball in motion does not score. The opponent should receive a free penalty kick. There is no guarantee that this penalty kick will score.



### The most memorable match of 2010

FIFATV  6.7M views • 6 years ago

Uruguay - Ghana, 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa™:

The world will never forget Luis Suarez's handball  
and Asamoah Gyan's ...



Many fans believe that footballer Luis Suarez made such a calculated decision in the dying moments of a World Cup match against Chile. He was red carded for his handball. This severe penalty meant little for a match in its the finals seconds. Asamoah Gyan missed the penalty kick.

Ghana would have won 2-1 if Gyan's field kick or penalty scored. Uruguay won 4-2 in the penalty shootout. This may be an example of an individual unilaterally tarnishing their team's victory.

## Lousy London losers



Eight athletes were disqualified from the London Summer Olympics for deliberately losing their qualifying round matches. These players appeared to deliberately place serves and strokes into the net. They also purposefully allowed their opponents' serves to drop before their feet as 'aces' and they allowed playable shuttles to fly past their bodies. One needs to watch these pathetic performances to appreciate how these pitiful displays violates the Olympic spirit.



All eight players had qualified for their finals. Some of them may have aimed to allow other teams from their nation to score wins and qualify for the finals. All four pairs were charged with not playing their best to win a match and bringing the reputation of their sport into disrepute.

Most of these players were medal favorites. Such plays were therefore self-defeating.

## Match fixing: Take your pick

Those with a sports encyclopedia mind know that there are dozens of high-profile, proven match fixing incidents. Others may confirm this via online searches. It is difficult to choose a case study. Match fixing takes various guises. In most cases, an athlete or team arrange to deliberately lose a match or part of a match, such as a set. Some match fixing forms are subtle. For example, a top 20 ranked tennis player, who is scheduled to play a player ranked #200, may inform bookmakers that they will let their opponent win at least 8 games in total, but will not sacrifice the match.

[news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/cricket/6457689.stm](https://news.bbc.co.uk/sport2/hi/cricket/6457689.stm)

### Ireland shock sends Pakistan home

World Cup Group D, Jamaica  
Ireland 133-7 beat Pakistan 132 by three wickets

Ireland produced one of the greatest victories in cricket's rich history by beating Pakistan on St Patrick's Day amid unbelievable tension in Jamaica.

Led by their brilliant wicket-keeper batsman Niall O'Brien, they reached a rain-adjusted target of 128 with three wickets remaining in near darkness.



Boyd Rankin celebrates the wicket of Younis Khan for a duck

**The luck of the Irish.**

Some batsmen secretly surrender their wicket and don't inform teammates. Match fixing is endemic in certain sports. Sadly, many fans and commentators have become automatically skeptical of major upsets nowadays. Cricket is arguably an example. The showcase media story above is merely an illustration of a shock upset in World Cricket. It has not been officially linked to match fixing. Let's give the spirited Irish Team the benefit. Ireland was too good on the day.

## Skulduggery

If Skulduggery were a set of Olympic sports events, some people might sneak the Gold, Silver and Bronze in their pet event. Who do you think was the craftiest fox cheat in sporting history?



The video above by YouTube channel 'Olympic' is explicit about who he thinks is the slickest trickster in Olympic history. He fingers a modern pentathlete who won Gold at Munich in 1972.

This pentathlete inserted an illegal electronic device into his épée that allowed him to falsely register electronic hits on his opponents. This fraudster was expelled from the Montreal Games.

British Pentathlete and Fencer Jim Fox was the first opponent to protest electronic foul play.

Some sly foxes sleuth on the sinless side of the fence.

## Split happens

London 2012. In this instance, Cuba's Lázaro Borges was a victim of the vault.



Watson (2012)

This is not the first time that this has happened.



Daley Thomson, Seoul 1988.

## Olympic boycotts

Mostly a pre-1988 thing.



BT

Let's hope it stays that way.

**милый медведь.**



T-C (2019)

## Olympic terror

The 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich were tarnished by a terrorist event.

Terrorists murdered six Israeli athletes and five coaches in the Olympians' Residential Village.



Sanchez (2015)

In fine Olympic spirit, the Munich games were not cancelled.

The show must always go on. Terror must never triumph.

RIP.

## Brash dash

Ben Johnson crossed the finish line first at the Seoul Summer Games in 1988 in the prestigious 100 Meter Dash. This massively hyped race pitted off two superstars of sprint: Ben and Carl Lewis.



Ben's race time and its place in history is not worth mentioning. His race was annulled. He was expelled from the Olympics for testing positive to the banned anabolic steroid stanozolol.

A silver lining to this scandal is that Ben publicly admitted to cheating. Numerous athletes who test positive to banned drugs claim to be victims of circumstances such as drink spiking. Perhaps some of these cases of foul play intervention are legitimate. That is a tragedy.

## Sports and thoughts

Taking a stand (or kneel) is a personal thing.

Freedom of choice is a wonderful thing.



Carrejo (2017)

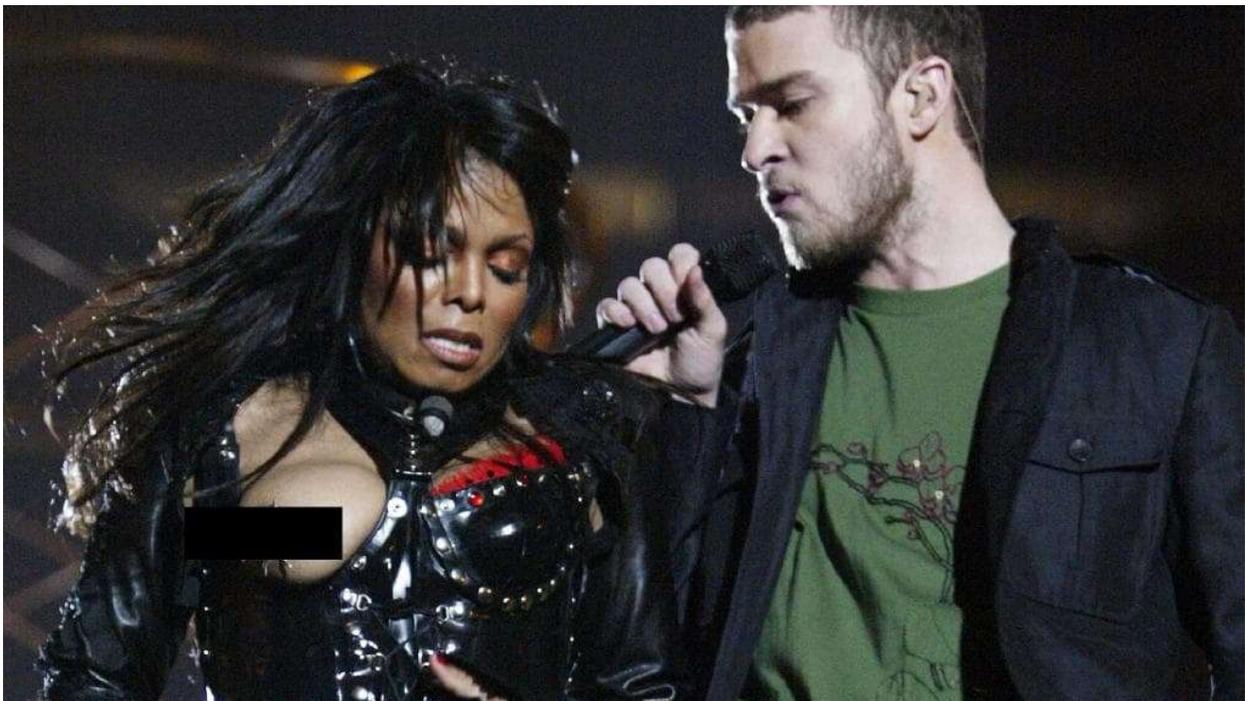
Long live the First Amendment.

Yay or Nay?

## Super Bowl trolls

The American Super Bowl has pioneered many stellar innovations since its inception. The insertion of a compound word adjective into the English language lexicon is an unsavory example.

To those who aren't abreast of such things, I refer to Janet's infamous 'wardrobe malfunction'.



**Accidentally on purpose?**

Herald Sun (2014)

To the organizers of Super Bowl's half time event – kindly allow me to offer a suggestion. This is a national family event. No more horned gods, Babylonian pyramids, hexes and sleaze. Please.

Of course, Super Bowl Finals are not rigged. We believe you NFL. No seriously, we believe you.

## Vale Ayrton Senna and Phillip Hughes

Numerous athletes, officials and spectators have lost their lives whilst engaging elite sports events. Such mishaps are a hazard when dedicated athletes aim to raise their sport to apex levels.



Hindustan Times (2016)

## YELLOW

Won 7 consecutive Tour de France cycling titles from 1999 to 2005.



Levin (2012)

## Yellow Jacket

Was stripped of all titles earned in the Tour and other premier events between 1998 and 2010.

Allegedly passed all drugs tests back in the day. Yeh, right.

## Windy whoops

Oh, man. How did this mishap transpire?



Daily Mail (2012)

A flag falls at the London Olympics Ladies' Tennis Singles Medal Ceremony.

## Feature: Springbok sweetheart

Zola Budd-Pieterse deserves to be honored and remembered as one of the grittiest and most gracious athletes in Olympics history and sports history at-large. Zola came to the attention of the global masses in the lead up to the Los Angeles Summer Olympics. This is a little odd. She had never won an Olympic medal. Her 3,000-meter track event is hardly a crowd favorite.

Zola was South Africa's highest rated athlete at the LA Olympics. She had the best chance of securing Gold for her nation. Aged just 18, Zola was crowned pin-up poster scapegoat for the global anti-apartheid movement that had matured in potency. During the LA Olympics, Zola was routinely vilified by the mainstream media who knew little about her person and track record.



Decades after her infamous 1984 barefoot debacle, Zola informed media reporters that she never supported South Africa's white supremacist apartheid system or government. Moreover, she has always had colored friends and never cared for race. She never felt the need to justify these facts to the fickle fake news media. It appears that no one important cared to ask her back in the day.

# Trivia



Thynkfeed (2019)

## Pufferfish in a puny Pacific pond

Australia's defeat over American Samoa in a World Cup preliminary play off on April 11, 2001 is the biggest defeat margin in an official FIFA match. The score was 31-0.



Recurring dream. Or should I say, recurring nightmare?

Butler (2019)

After winning the Oceania playoffs in 2001, by 66 goals to zero, Australia withdrew from the Oceania FIFA grouping in 2006 and joined the stronger Asian Football Confederation. Australia was knocked out of the World Cup playoffs after winning the Oceania round in 2001. It lost to Uruguay in the two-part series 1-3. Uruguay was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the South American Zone.

## Black Power

This still from the Mexico City Summer Olympics is one of the most iconic images in Olympics and elite sports history. The medalists from the 200-meter sprint are: Tommie Smith (Center, Gold), Peter Norman (Silver, left) and John Carlos (Bronze, right).



This black pride, black power statement was a product of its time. The 1960s decade was the birth of the global civil rights movement. Tommy and John intended to wear gloves on both hands. Carlos forgot to bring his gloves to the ceremony. Peter suggested that his colleagues wear a single glove. Peter wore an Olympic Human Rights Badge in support of their statement.

## Life begins at 60

Retired referees Dickie Bird and Steve Bucknor are among the oldest cricket umpires to officiate a first-class cricket match: Age 62. Both referees are cricket legends. These gents had razor sharp hawk-eyes. They correctly called runouts by mere millimeters in the heat of super-fast, frenzied action. David Shepherd, right, holds the upper record for officiating a first-class match – age 65.



Cricket's hippest ref.



Steve and David give the finger.



The now famous 'third umpire' debuted in first class cricket in 1992 in a match between India and South Africa. A third referee in a booth may replay a recording and override or uphold the field umpires' call. Similar concepts exist in other sports, such as the 'Hawkeye camera' in tennis.



Melbourne Cricket Ground:  
Third Umpire technology.

## Summer Olympics, 1984

President Ronald Reagan opens the LA Games in a bullet proof booth. Recall New York, 1981.



SI (1984)

## Retired kids

Shane Gould won three Gold Medals, a Silver and a Bronze in swimming events at the Munich Summer Olympics in 1972 aged 15 years. She retired from her sport aged 17.



## Persistence pays

Canadian Equestrian athlete Ian Millar holds the record for attending the most Olympics. He attended 10 Summer games between Munich 1972 and London 2012. Canada boycotted the Moscow Games. Were this not the case, veteran Ian may have attended 11 consecutive games.



Ian won a team event Silver Medal at the London Olympics at his 9<sup>th</sup> Games. Most Olympians never reach the final round and most Olympians never win a Medal. Ian is among the select few. A Silver Medal is a phenomenal accomplishment. Persistence paid sterling dividends.

## Olympic trivia: Equestrian

Is Equestrian the only Olympic sport where women compete against men in the same event?



Aussies 1996, Atlanta Golden Girls ... And Boys.

The Equestrian events for the 1956 'Melbourne' Summer Games were held in Stockholm, Sweden. Australia's strict animal quarantine laws did not allow horses to compete in Australia.



Lennon (2016)

Do you like Australia's quarantine laws? Yay or neigh?

## You can trust us – We're government officials

Olympic sports federations impose minimum age requirements. These guidelines vary from as low as 14 for Diving to mid-upper teens in other sports. Women's gymnastics sets age 16.

### Flashback Friday: Age Controversy Follows Chinese Gymnasts

BY JOANNE C. GERSTNER JUNE 8, 2012 8:00 AM



Chang W. Lee/The New York Times Many questioned the ages of the Chinese gymnasts in 2008.

Female gymnasts aged under 16 may have an unfair advantage over older athletes. Their bones are softer, more flexible and lighter as they are still growing. What system does the Olympics use to confirm an athlete's age? The *trust* system. They rely primarily on the athlete's official birth certificate, which is virtually always produced by a government agency. Olympic and sports federations have vague investigative powers. However, if a government entity is determined to fake a birth certificate, it can be very difficult to contest their authority. There are ethical issues surrounding child athletes. Some are enslaved by their government to bring glory to their nation.

## Grey

The issue of transgender and intersex biology has been problematized by sports officials and fans for decades. Nowadays, virtually all sports federations have a policy on this topic. It is beyond the scope of this book to outline complexities of these debates. Those with an inquiring mind may refer to these famed cases as a lead to ascertain facts and form their own free-willed opinions.



Renée Richards, Professional Tennis: 1970s.



Andreas Krieger, Shot Put: 1980s



Caster Semenya, Distance Running: Past decade.

## Non-contact sports

The PGA, the Professional Golfers' Association, could be regarded as a gender-neutral federation. This proper noun does not refer to men or women. As at July 19, 2019, six women competed in PGA events. This accounts for less than 1% of players who have engaged in PGA events.



Babe Zaharias is the only female golfer to make a PGA draw cut. She did so in 1945 at the Los Angeles Open and at the Phoenix Open (PGA, 2019).

## Pointless?

Is Test Cricket the only sport where teams can compete for five days and no winner is declared?



## Grand Slam Mixed Doubles Tennis

Paltry prize money. No points awarded to players' doubles rankings. Playing for the sheer love?



## Harlem Globetrotters

The Harlem Globetrotters are one of the most famous basketball teams of all-time. They do not compete in the premier league, the National Basketball Association, because many of their entertaining antics violate major league rules. This legendary collective was founded in 1926.



## Bigger than Nike – You likey?



Li Na was the first tennis athlete sponsored by Nike who was given special permission to sport another sponsor's logo on her apparel. With Nike, it's a 'my-way or the highway' contract.

## Sumo wrestling 相撲

Sumo Wrestling is an ancient Japanese sport. It is part of high culture in this nation. Sumo is one of the oldest sports. Historical records record Sumo Wrestling tournaments in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century CE.



NPR (2010)

Sumo wrestlers above display their aesthetic elegance and athleticism at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo Arena in May 2010. Various women's leagues exist in Japan and abroad.

## Feature: Rising tiger

China's political, economic and cultural rise has been rapid over the past three decades. As at mid- 2019, China has won 224 Gold Medals at the Summer Olympics – ranked 7<sup>th</sup> of all nations.



Chinese Olympic Committee (2019)

China's high success at the Summer Olympics has not been replicated at the Winter Olympics. China has won just 13 Winter Olympic Gold Medals. China did not win a Gold Medal at the Winter Olympics in the past century. Speed skater Yang Yang won China's first Gold in the women's 500 Meter Sprint Skate event and another in the 1000 Meter Sprint at the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics in 2002. These were the only Gold Medals won by China at those Games.

# Tales



Boris V (2019)

**Sarajevo Winter Olympics, 1984: Main Stadium**

Successful European Olympic Games.



NBC (2014)

**Modern ruins: Athens Olympic Pool, 2014**

## Billions of buckaroos

The eight stadiums at the slowly rotting Sydney Olympic Park are in original condition. Their combined capacity is around 220,000. Tourists may visit the Olympic Park and view these arenas from the outside. On any random day, most or all venues are unused. These cobwebbed stadiums offer an eerie backdrop to the handful of lonely sweepers that air blast leaves away from paths.



DP.ph (2015)

## Beijing: Empty nest

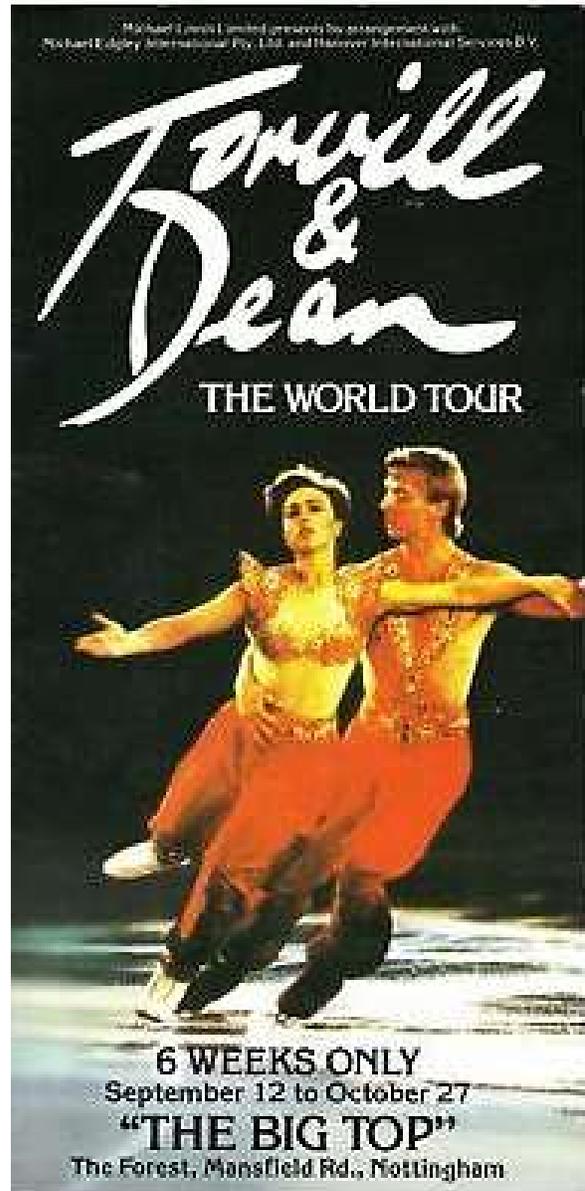
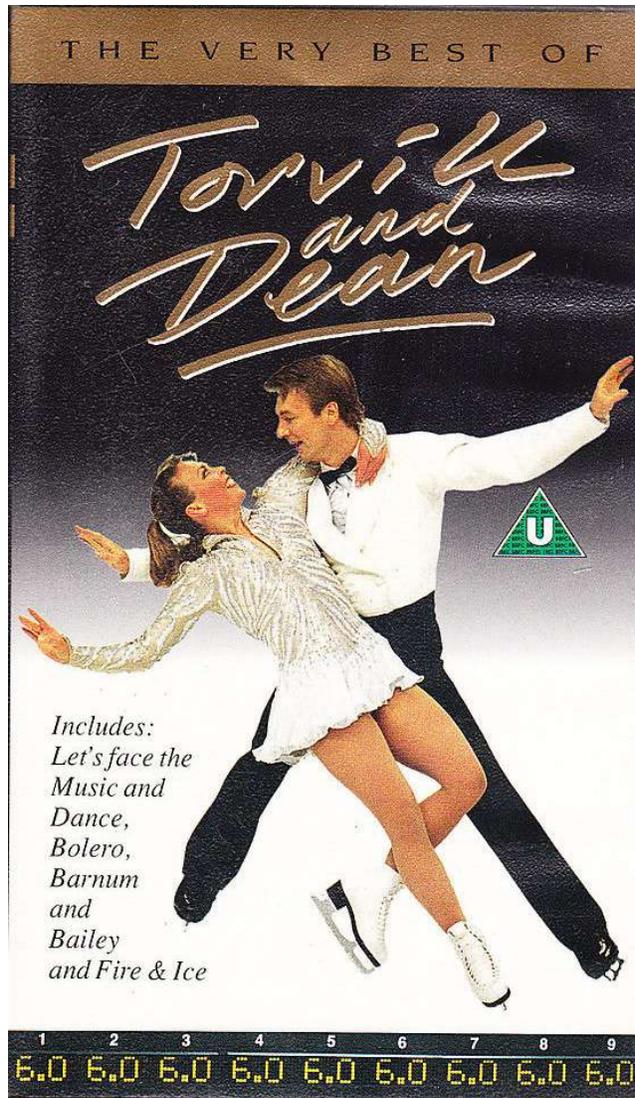


Denton (2015)

Meanwhile, worldwide economic depression looms in 2019. Is national pride a global problem?

## Nice on ice

Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean are possibly the most famous Winter Olympians of all-time.



During the 1980s, they sold millions of units of merchandise to global audiences. Most fans previously had no interest in figure skating or Winter Olympics. Olympic Gold, Sarajevo 1984.

## Inspiration or intimidation?

New Zealand's legendary Rugby team, the All Blacks, perform the famed Haka war dance before their competitors, minutes prior to the game's kickoff. This dance is part of traditional Māori culture. Other nations don't perform an equivalent as it is not part of their traditional culture.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/rugby/haka-tradition-must-be-abused-or-at-least-ignored-1.2848417>

# Haka: Tradition must be abused, or at least ignored

'Why should a side coming to Ireland get the first applause by doing a dance'

Irish Times Journalist Gavin Cummiskey (2016)

"possessed by immortal spirits" ritual serves a advantageous purpose. It gives the All Blacks of adrenaline pumping warmup not offered to



argues that this more subtle a few minutes the other team.



Singh (2015)

The awesome All Blacks usually lick their opponents by a few tries or more.

## Hail hitters!

Kabaddi was a demonstration sport at the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics.



CC (2016)

Per the rules, 7 attack 1. Just like high school.



Olympic Org (2019)

Military Patrol was a demonstration sport at the Winter Olympics in 1928, 1936 and 1948.

## King size shamelessness

Coaches and managers are a core part of elite sports. Some supporters steal the limelight from the athletes they support. It may be due to their status as a sports veteran or their star quality.



Don King is surely the most famous boxing promoter of all-time. His massive stature in the world of boxing and celebrity society at-large is multifaceted. Some commentators spent more time talking about his hair than his comic antics. His gravity defying King-size afro is as big as his mouth and persona. Don's ability to hype an event is unparalleled. Back in the 1980s, one would be forgiven for thinking that a Tyson match was more important than ending nuclear proliferation.

Kings' legendary ability to attract mass media coverage is surely a factor that splurged match purse sizes that he promoted, in addition to his own fat-cat kitty. Good luck to him.

Feature: Sachin Tendulkar सचिन तेन्दुलकर

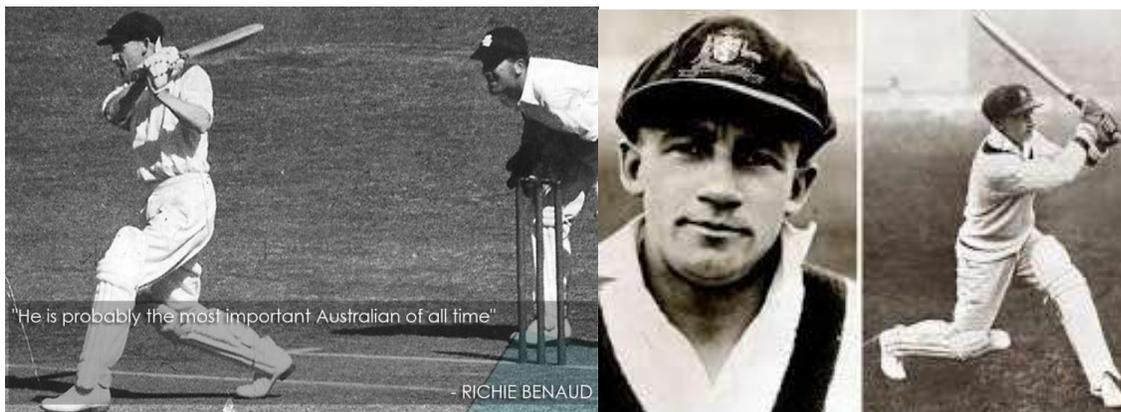
Any serious debate about the greatest cricketer of all-time makes prominent two of the biggest legends of the game: Donald Bradman and Sachin Tendulkar. Curiously, both retired players were batsmen. Bowlers and wicketkeepers rarely feature as highly in greatest of all-time debates.

Test cricket is the pinnacle of the game. Sachin's test cricket batting average is 53.78 runs. Donald



Bradman's test batting average is 99.99 runs. Sachin played 200 tests. Donald played 52 tests. It is difficult to sustain an average of 99.99

over 200 tests. Difficult does not mean unattainable. It is virtually impossible to compare the best player from different generations in most sports, as rules and technologies change over time.



Don

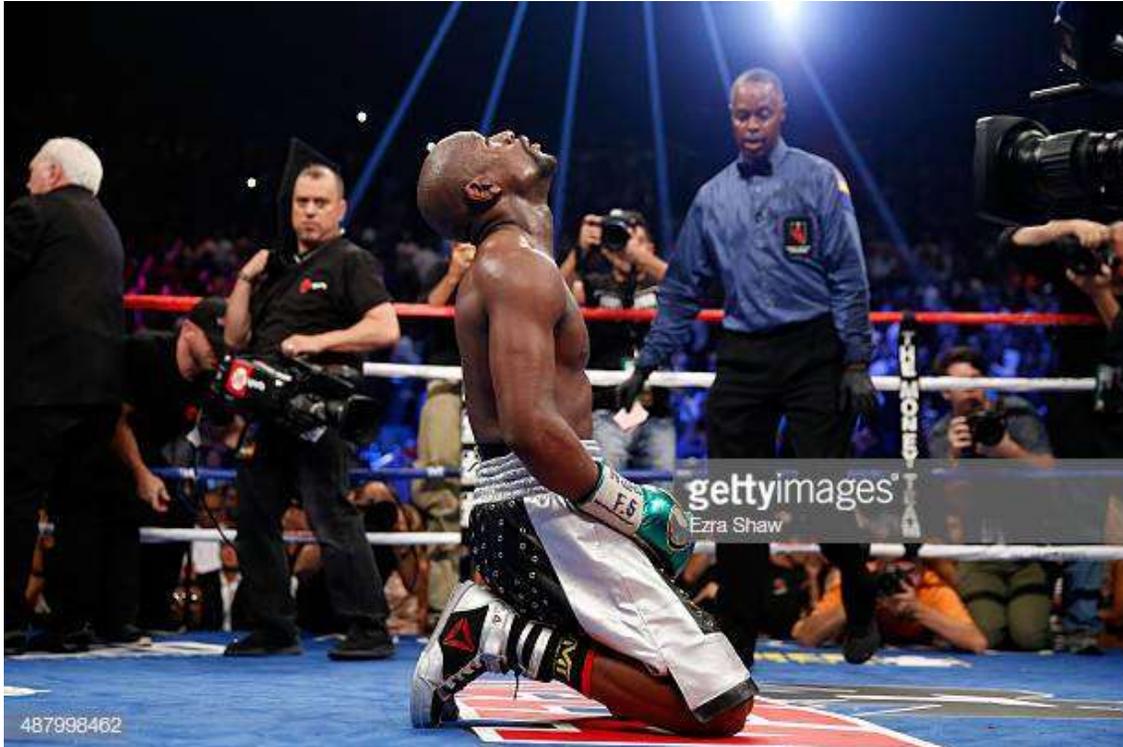
# Titans



Anna has featured on the cover of prestigious magazines more than 100 times.

## Floyd Mayweather

Boxing record: 50 fights, 50 wins. 27 Knockouts.



CBS

## Jesse Owens

Defied toxic sabotage attempts to win 4 Athletics Gold Medals at Berlin, 1936.

## Animals: Secretariat

Animals, of the non-human variety, compete in sports such as equestrian, racing and polo. These sweet little things don't always receive due credit for matching the talents of their rough riders.



The Top Tens (2019)

This American thoroughbred was the first Triple Crown winner in 25 years. He held other records.

## Rafael Nadal wins his 12<sup>th</sup> Roland Garros Men's Singles Crown, 2019



KTLA



Zimbio

## Nicol Ann David

Nicole's dominance in the women's Professional Squash Association tour is without precedent.

Beginning in August 2006, Nicol was ranked number 1 for a record 108 consecutive months.



David holds 81 premier titles and 8 World Championship titles.

Both are records on the women's tour.

## Khan Dynasties

The Khan Squash family dynasties dominated the men's game during the 1950s to 1990s.

Below: Hashim (left), Jahangir Khan (center), Jansher (right).



Hashim: British Open Championship Gold: 1951, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58

Brother, Azam Khan, British Open Championship Gold: 1959, 60, 61, 62

Nephew, Mohibullah Khan, British Open Championship Gold: 1963

Son, Jahangir World Open Champion: 1981, 82, 83, 84, 85, 88

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Roshan Khan British Open Championship Gold: 1957

Son, Jansher World Open Champion: 1987, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96

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*The British Open was the de facto World Championship Event pre 1970s.*

## Loud crowd

Crowd participation and attendance records are often overlooked by sports magic books. Many elite sportspersons say that their arch goal aims to entertain the masses.



### Bristol Motor Speedway Record 'Crowd Wave'

MarkStickel • 15K views • 10 years ago

160000 fans participated in a record-breaking 'Crowd Wave' prior to the August 23 NASCAR Sharpie 500 race.



This 2008 wave may be a largest crowd record. Such feats are unofficial and difficult to measure.

## Battle axe: Woodchopping



CS (2019)

David Foster held the World Championship title for 21 consecutive years. He won over 2,000 heats. Sports editors write too much in their first drafts. The usual sports always face the chop.

## East Greets West



Bartley (2017)

Beyond the realm of team sports, there has been no rivalry as entertaining or sustaining as the Navrátilová–Evert match-up. From 1973 to 1988, the Grand Dames of women’s tennis squared off a record 80-times in nine nations. Martina edged Chrissie 43 match wins to 37.

The contrasting personas of these prodigies reads like a richly plotted bestseller. The all-American prom queen sweetheart versus the mighty muscled Czech defector. The tortoise and hare archetypes offer a colorful technical comparison. The patient, steady baseliner squaring off with the impetuous net dasher.

An enduring myth of the Navrátilová–Evert rivalry is that it was a switch of one-sided preeminence – Chris dominating the 1970s and Martina spearheading the 1980s. A scrutiny of the history books reveals a more intriguing account. Ranked number 2, Chrissie won three consecutive Grand Slam singles titles during the 1982-83 season. Evert won five of her last ten

matches against Martina. This see-saw finale climax lays testament to Chris's commitment to perpetually offer her best to her mighty sport.

Martina Navrátilová, Chris Evert and Billie Jean King are sporting pioneers who laid the foundations of the all-powerful Women's Tennis Association. Martina's phenomenal contribution to her craft stems from her disciplined work-ethic and physical fitness. Her cross-sports training and weightlifting regimen forged the benchmark for future sports stars of both sexes to emulate. Navrátilová's athleticism transformed the women's game from an elegant sideshow into a profession on par with the professional men's circuit.

The narrative of these clash-of-giants extends far beyond Martina's virile volleys and Chris's pinpoint passing shots. Their legacy symbolizes the golden era when women's tennis reached its zenith. Both players' stroke-making artistry, consistency and tactical genius were products of the first- and second-generation racket technologies that blessed their sport during the last century.

Ultimately, the Evert–Navrátilová fairytale is a story of friendship and sportsmanship. They remind us that arch-rivals don't need to be bitter enemies. Saying 'great shot' to your opponent takes guts. It is the hallmark of a generous-spirited champion. Both players publicly acknowledge that they would not have reached the pinnacle of their prowess if their chief competitor had never picked up a tennis racket.

The seemingly effortless magnificence displayed by Chris and Martina on court never comes from talent alone. Their performances provide a mere snapshot of the behind-the-scenes torture that elite athletes inflict on their bodies. In our celebrity society, these mammoth sacrifices are often taken-for-granted by sports fans and public commentators alike.

Martina's and Chris's fan-bases continues to grow among the online generation. A cohort born a decade after Chris retired her racket first in 1989.

👍 👍 Ladies # Legends

**Evert and Navrátilová, Wimbledon 1985**



Caulki (2018)

Guilty! Grand Slam monopoly cartel, 1978-1986.

## Feature: Steve Redgrave

Steve Redgrave is the most successful Gold Medalist in Olympics history in terms of consecutive Games longevity perched on the highest podium. Steve won a Gold Medal at the Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona, Atlanta and Sydney Games in Team Rowing events.



Steve's glorious legacy highlights the difficulties of ranking athletes who rarely compete as individuals. Steve never won individual Olympic Gold. This challenge of ranking bests translates to other sports. It is hard to prove that Michael Jordan was a better or lesser basketballer than *e.g.* Magic Johnson as they hold different records. The same could be said of comparing Babe Ruth to Willie Mays and evaluating Pele and Maradona who played in vastly different eras.

# Tomorrows



This book aimed to produce a near-impossible feat. It strived to collate a collection of 101 of the most memorable moments in modern sports history. The lion's share of these events occurred at Olympic events, especially the Summer Olympics. It seems that the Summer Olympics attracts more media coverage and spectators than their Winter counterpart. Of course, many people have a preference to watch the Winter Olympics or Paralympics. This is the beauty of world sport. Choice abounds. There is no shortage of talent and excellence to quench every sports fans' thirst.

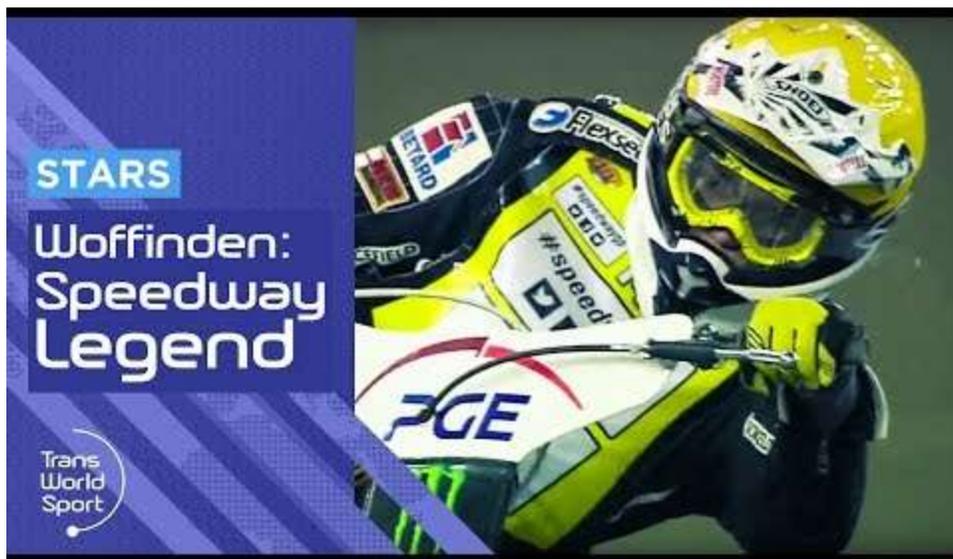


NBC

I invite readers to reflect on the reasons why certain sports moments are iconic images that transcend geographies and generations. The interpretations put forward in this book are merely suggestions. I warmly welcome feedback on this first effort from the global community. May the second version of this book eclipse this first attempt. Excellence is a lifelong project. Yay or Nay?

## Feature: Trans World Sports

Trans World Sport is a global-centric TV program. It lives up to its name. Trans has aired since 1987. Trans features the biggest names in sports, such as these cutting-edge juniors down below.



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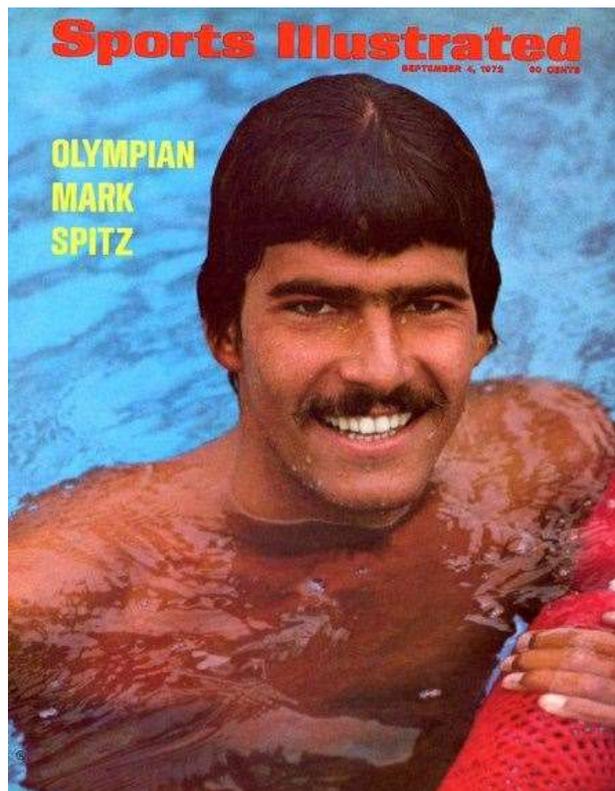
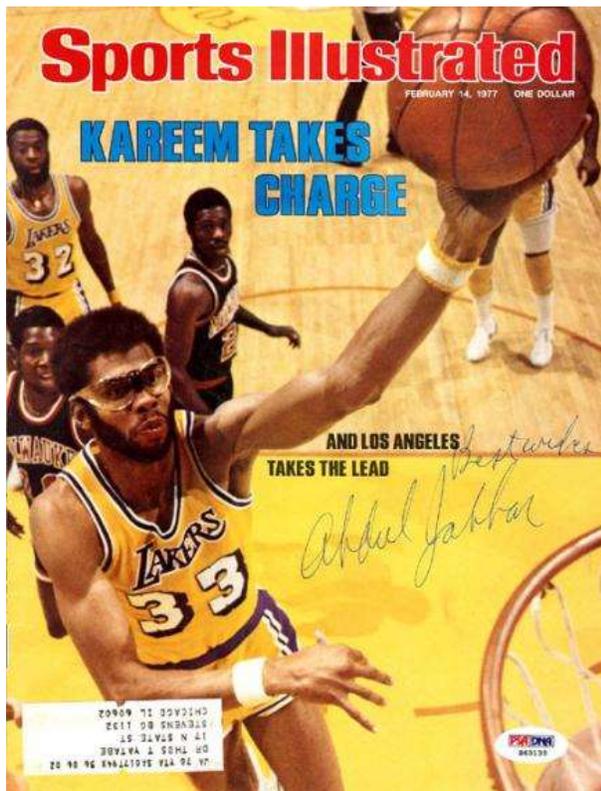
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The list of legends goes on ...

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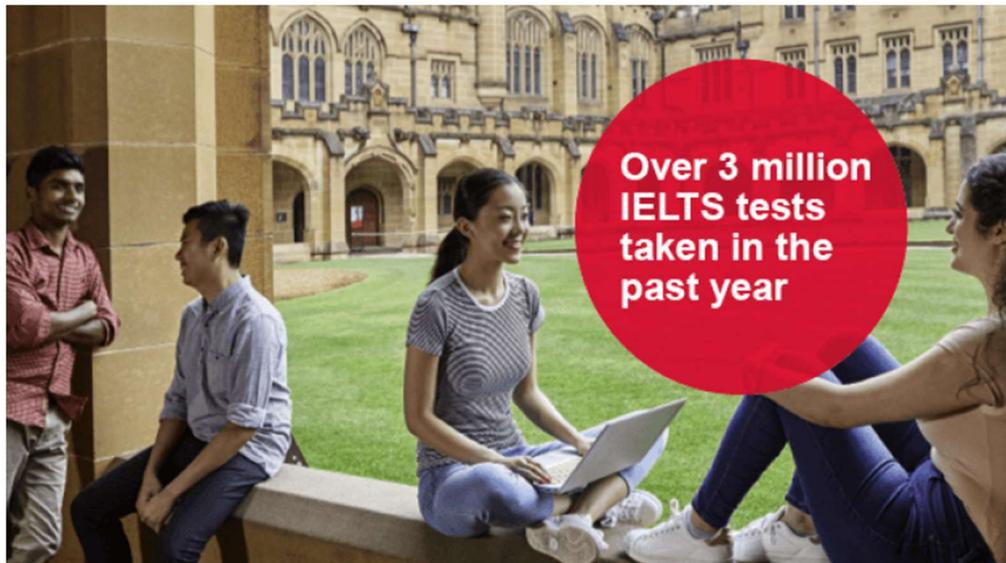
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