

College Sports,
College Life

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Going To Cali



IN SEARCH OF THE PERFECT SPORTS VIBE



SPOTLIGHT

The Player

When he entered the movie business, it wasn't Mark Ciardi's goal to produce sports films. But because of his baseball résumé—he was 1-1 with a 9.37 ERA in one season pitching for the Brewers, in 1987—those types of scripts inevitably crossed his desk. And so he followed his first movie, the 2002 teen comedy *The New Guy*, with the underdog baseball drama *The Rookie* (2002); *Miracle* ('04), about the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team; *Invincible* ('06), the story of Philadelphia Eagles walk-on Vince Papale; two Dwayne Johnson sports comedies; and, this fall, *Secretariat*, about the 1973 Triple Crown-winning racehorse.

With over \$520 million in box office receipts from those six sports movies alone, Ciardi, 49, has shown a keen eye for feel-good epics. For *Secretariat*, he says, he needed to humanize the script. "We talked with our screenwriter and finally found a way into the story through [breeder] Penny Cheney, and her underdog story—not so much the horse's. Once we unlocked that, we had a great potential movie."

Ciardi's future projects include *Million Dollar Arm*, about two cricketers plucked from India to pitch in the majors, and two track-and-field-based stories. No surprise: They're all underdog tales.

—R.S.



OFTEN OVERLOOKED in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are the struggles of the 1.4 million Arab Israelis who live in Israel, their ties to state and heritage in seeming conflict. *After the Cup* focuses on Israeli Premier League soccer team Bnei Sakhnin F.C.—made up of nine Arab Israelis, seven Jewish Israelis and five non-Israelis—and shows how sport gave the Arab players identities beyond politics. The filmmakers spent two years with the club, starting in 2004, after Sakhnin became the first team from an Arab town to win the Israeli Cup, then spent three years securing distribution. The result is a stirring record of 21 men tackling success amid underfunding, hostility and impossible expectations.



HIGH Brow Beat LOW

LOST AMONG the buddy-film clichés of *Hot Tub Time Machine* was one clever—and, for some, painful—sports reference: A screwup named Lou, one of three friends who revisit their glory days using time-travel, bets on the unlikely end of the 1987 AFC title game between the Browns and the Broncos. But in a Doc Brown-ish nod to the dangers of time tampering, what should have been John Elway's 98-yard tying Drive is thwarted by a squirrel, and Lou loses. "That the line 'Cleveland's going to the Super Bowl!' is uttered in this movie is such a big moment for [Browns fans]," says screenwriter Josh Head. "Who knows if [that will] happen again." —R.S.



SI 2010 MOVIE INDEX

ALREADY FORGOTTEN ←

IMPACT

→ MEMORABLE

CLASSY ↑ STYLE ↓ CRASS



THE WRENCHING LIES TOLD BY U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE TILLMAN STORY



OSCAR GOLD TO SANDRA BULLOCK? FOR THE BLIND SIDE? REALLY?



BASEBALL-PLAYER-ON-SOFTBALL-PLAYER ROMANCE IN JAMES L. BROOKS'S HOW DO YOU KNOW



DIANE LANE AS PENNY CHENEY IN SECRETARIAT...



NO NARRATION, JUST OBSERVATION IN FREDERICK WISEMAN'S POETIC DOC BOXING GYM



UPPITY, OLYMPIC-HOPEFUL ROWERS THE WINKLEVOSS TWINS, PORTRAYED BY ONE ACTOR IN THE SOCIAL NETWORK



THE ENDLESS SUMMER ON BLU-RAY, WHERE IT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS



THE FIRST INTERVIEW WITH SANDY KOUFAX IN A DECADE, IN JEWS AND BASEBALL



WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE OLD KARATE KID?



ADAM SANDLER'S INSISTENCE ON DRAGGING SPORTS INTO HIS MOVIES, E.G., GROWN UPS



THE ROCK AS DISNEY-SPORTS-MOVIE LEADING MAN, THIS YEAR IN TOOTH FAIRY



ERIC CANTONA, THE FEISTY EX-MAN U PLAYER, AS UNLIKELY GUARDIAN ANGEL IN LOOKING FOR ERIC



... JOHN MALKOVICH AS THE SCENE-STEALING TRAINER IN THE SAME MOVIE



BEST LINE FROM THE OTHERWISE AWFUL OTHER GUYS (AFTER A COP WINGS DEREK JETER): "YOU SHOULD'A SHOT A-RODI!"

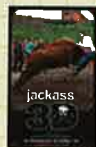


JAMES FRANCO'S MAD MONOLOGUE, GIVING INSIGHT INTO THE SPIRIT OF AN OUTDOORSMAN, IN 127 HOURS



THE TOWN AS AN EXCUSE FOR BEN AFFLECK TO WEAR BOSTON SPORTS TEAMS' GEAR

CASTING FOR THE UPCOMING MONEYBALL MOVIE, INCLUDING JONAH HILL CHANNELING THE A'S PAUL DEPOESTA



JARED ALLEN'S AND JOSH BROWN'S CAMEOS IN JACKASS 3D