The idea behind 30 for 30 was to commemorate ESPN's 30th anniversary by producing 30 films from some of today's finest directors. Each filmmaker brought their passion and personal point of view to each film, detailing the issues, trends, athletes, teams, rivalries, games and events that transformed the sports landscape from 1979 to 2009.

From Barry Levinson & Peter Berg to Steve James, Brett Morgen and Ice Cube, each filmmaker brings his or her unique perspective to an extraordinary sports story. Multiple films have received official selections from the Sundance, Toronto, Tribeca and South by Southwest film festivals, making this collection of remarkable films a must-have for any film fan.

ESPN Films is proud to present its Emmy-nominated documentary series “30 for 30”. This is an unprecedented series featuring today’s finest storytellers from inside and outside of the sports world. What started as a celebration of ESPN’s 30th anniversary has come to life as an eclectic and fascinating collection of passionate films about sports and culture. Individually, each of the films in this series tells an intimate, compelling story that stands on its own and brings to life the filmmaker’s vision. Collectively, these creatively different films weave together a diverse tapestry of what sports has meant to culture.

Programming:
29 films available

Available:
Now

Delivery:
Available in HD

Please note all titles are subject to various rights & clearance restrictions.
The 16th Man, 60 mins (Rugby)
Following the fall of apartheid, Nelson Mandela saw an opportunity to achieve national unity through sport. When the South African national team won the 1995 Rugby World Championship in front of their countrymen, Mandela shattered barriers by shaking hands with the captain of the South African team. Oscar-winner Morgan Freeman and director Clifford Bestall tell the inspirational story of the emotional moment when two nations became one.

Four Days in October, 60 mins (Baseball)
When the night of October 16, 2004 came to a merciful end, the Curse of the Bambino was alive and well as the New York Yankees extended their ALCS lead to three games to none over the Boston Red Sox. But the cold October winds of change began to blow.

Fernando Nation, 60 mins (Baseball)
20-year-old Fernando Valenzuela was one of the most captivating pitching phenomenons baseball has ever seen. Virtually overnight, he became a hero to millions. In late March of 1984, a moving company secretly packed up the Baltimore Colts' belongings and snuck off in the darkness of early morning, leaving a city of deeply devoted fans in shock and disbelief.  Academy Award-winning filmmaker Barry Levinson (Rain Man, The Natural) tells the story of the city's loss through the eyes of the Baltimore Colts' Marching Band.

The Band That Wouldn't Die, 60 mins (American Football)
In 1981, Marcus Dupree was the most sought-after high school senior in the country, but his short-lived college football career was littered with oversized expectations, controversy, injury and conflict. Eight-time Emmy Award winner Jonathan Hock follows the poignant and compelling story of "The Best That Never Was."

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The Birth of Big Air, 60 mins (Extreme Sports)
Mat Hoffman is a BMX legend...10-time World Champion and X Games icon, he has a medical hit list that includes dozens of broken bones, concussions, and multiple comas. Some assume Hoffman has a death wish. But actually, it's a life wish: to find out what's possible on a BMX bike.

The House of Steinbrenner, 60 mins (Baseball)
Two-time Oscar winning filmmaker Barbara Kopple documents this historic moment of transition for the team, the family and its fans. From the final day at the old Yankee Stadium, to the opening of the new stadium, and from passage of the George Steinbrenner era to the Hal Steinbrenner era, all of which was magnificently capped off with the Yankees' 27th World Championship.

Little Big Men, 60 mins (Baseball)
When Kirkland, Washington's Little League team shut out Taiwan in the 1982 championship game before an estimated crowd of 40,000, ABC's Jim McKay called it "the biggest upset in the history of Little League." Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Al Szymanski and Peter Franchella explore what became of a group of childhood teammates when the high point in their athletic lives occurred before their lives had really begun.

June 17th 1994, 60 mins (Various)
Do you remember where you were on June 17, 1994? Oscar-nominee Brett Morgen takes a mesmerizing look at a day in history no sports fan could ever forget.

Kings Ransom, 60 mins (Hockey)
On August 9, 1988, the NHL was forever changed with the single stroke of a pen, when the Edmonton Oilers sent Wayne Gretzky to the Los Angeles Kings. Acclaimed director Peter Berg (Friday Night Lights, The Kingdom) presents the captivating story of the trade that knocked the wind out of an entire country and placed a star-studded city at the feet of a 27-year-old kid, known simply as "The Great One."

Marion Jones: Press Pause, 60 mins (Athletics)
Marion Jones captivated the world at the 2000 Summer Olympics, collecting three gold medals and two bronze. But her remarkable performance was soon tarnished. Oscar-nominated director John Singleton follows the evolution of Marion Jones as she reflects on the past & attempts to find a new direction forward.

Jordan Rides The Bus, 60 mins (Baseball/Basketball)
After leading the Dream Team to Olympic Gold and taking the Chicago Bulls to their third consecutive NBA championship, Michael Jordan walked away from the game of basketball. Ron Shelton (Bull Durham, Tin Cup) shares this surprisingly touching story about the motivations that drove the world's most famous athlete to play a new sport in the relative obscurity of Birmingham, Alabama.

The Legend of Jimmy The Greek, 60 mins (American Football)
Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Fritz Mitchell takes a uniquely personal look at Jimmy's life, from his rise to respectability, to his tragic demise. With interviews from family, friends and co-workers, the film provides a humanizing glimpse into the life and downfall of an American sports icon.

Guru of Go, 60 mins (Basketball)
In the 1989-90 season, rising college basketball star Hank Gathers collapsed during a game and was diagnosed with an abnormal heartbeat. Determined to play, he returned three games later, but in less than three months, he tragically died on the court. Oscar-winning director Bill Couturie tells a fast-paced and emotionally moving story of triumph and tragedy.

Into The Wind, 60 mins (Extreme Sports)
In 1980, Terry Fox continued to fight bone cancer and deep despair in pursuit of a singular, motivating vision: to run across Canada. Three years after having his right leg amputated six inches above the knee, Fox set out to cover more than a marathon's distance each day until he reached the shores of Victoria, British Columbia, spreading awareness and raising funds for cancer research. Fox steadily captured the heart of a nation with his marathon of hope. After 143 days and two-thirds of the way across Canada, with the eyes of a country watching, Fox's journey came to an abrupt end when newly discovered tumors took over his body.

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No Crossover: The Trial of Allen Iverson, 90 mins (Basketball)

On Valentine’s Day 1993, 17-year old Allen Iverson was bowling in Hampton, Virginia, when an argument erupted into a brawl, pitting Iverson’s African-American friends against a group of white patrons. The fallout from the fight and subsequent trial sharply divided the city along racial lines. Oscar nominee Steve James (Hoop Dreams) returns to his hometown of Hampton, to take a personal look at this still-disputed incident.

Once Brothers, 90 mins (Basketball)

Close friends and teammates, Drazen Petrovic and Vlade Divac grew up sharing the common bond of basketball. But when war broke out between Petrovic’s Croatia and Divac’s Serbia, long buried ethnic tensions surfaced. Narrated by Vlade Divac, Once Brothers tells their gripping tale and how circumstances beyond their control tore their friendship apart.

Pony Excess, 120 mins (American Football)

In 1983, the upstart United States Football League (USFL) signed three straight Heisman Trophy winners for $2 million apiece. With 60,000-plus crowds a week, they averaged 25,000 fans. But it was also a business venture that was controlled by the owners, including a real estate mogul whose vision was at odds with the league’s founders. How will the USFL survive?

Run Ricky Run, 60 mins (American Football)

Take an intimate look at Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams, one of football’s most fascinating athletes and misunderstood people. In 2004, following his early retirement from the game, Williams took a five-year hiatus from the game and a soul-searching journey which ultimately led to redemption as a father, husband and teammate.

Silly Little Game, 60 mins (Baseball)

In 1980, a group of writers and academics met at La Rotisserie Francaise in New York City and formed a baseball league of their own: The Rotisserie League. The game quickly grew in popularity, and today, fantasy sports is a multi-billion dollar industry with over 30 million participants. Take a look at the game’s inception and its “founding fathers,” who never foresaw how their creation would take off and ultimately leave them behind.

Small Potatoes: Who Killed The USFL, 60 mins (American Football)

In 1983, the upstart United States Football League (USFL) signed three straight Heisman Trophy winners and future NFL stars Steve Young, Reggie White and Doug Flutie. Winning over fans with its aura of fun & flamboyance, the new league averaged crowds of 25,000. But with success came expansion and new owners, including a high profile real estate baron whose vision was at odds with the league’s founders. Academy-Award-nominated director Mike Tollin attempts to answer the question, “Who Killed The USFL?”

Straight Outta LA, 60 mins (American Football)

During the 13 short seasons the Raiders played in Los Angeles, the team’s colors, aura and superstar players became a cultural phenomenon. As a member of legendary rap group N.W.A., director Ice Cube found himself at the crossroads between the birthplace of hip-hop in Los Angeles and the bone-crunching intensity of the L.A. Raiders. Straight Outta L.A. takes a look at the unlikely marriage between the NFL’s rebel franchise and America’s glamour capital.

The Two Escobars, 120 mins (Soccer)

At a time when drug money fueled the sport known in the underworld as “Narco-soccer”, the fates of Andres Escobar, the inspirational captain of Nacional, and Pablo Escobar, the notorious leader of the Medellin cartel, were permanently linked. When Andres was murdered 10 days after scoring an own goal against the US in the first round of the 1994 World Cup, it cost the country more than a shot at the title.

The U, 120 mins (American Football)

Long before the hip hop culture filled our airwaves and shopping malls, the Miami Hurricanes brought street values and hood bravado into America’s living room. Filmmaker Billy Corben (Cocaine Cowboys) tells the story of how these “Bad Boys” of football changed the attitude & ultimately the rules of the game, and how this serene campus was transformed into “The U.”

Tim Richmond: To The Limit, 60 mins (NASCAR)

Tim Richmond lived too fast, partied too hard and died too young. One of NASCAR’s 50 Greatest Drivers of all time, his unexpected withdrawal from racing kindled rumors about health and potential drug use when in reality, Richmond had been diagnosed with AIDS. Director Rory Karpf presents a glimpse inside the little known story of one of NASCAR’s shooting stars.

Unmatched, 60 mins (Tennis)

No individual sports rivalry can boast the intensity and impact of the one between Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova. But even more remarkable is what happened off the court, as they formed a strong and lasting friendship, bonding them to this day. Filmmakers Lisa Lax and Nancy Stern Winters, along with producer Hannah Storm, provide a personal look into one of sports’ greatest rivalries.

Winning Time: Reggie Miller Vs The New York Knicks, 90 mins (Basketball)

In the 1995 Eastern Conference Semifinals, Reggie Miller solidified his status as Public Enemy #1 in New York City. With moments to go in Game 1, Miller scored eight points in 8.9 seconds to give the Indiana Pacers an astonishing victory. Peabody Award-winning director Dan Klores captures the intensity of a rivalry between two cities that critics called “a must see.” (Los Angeles Times)

Without Bias, 60 mins (Basketball)

When rising superstar Len Bias dropped dead two days after being selected as the second overall pick in the 1986 NBA Draft, he forever altered our perception of casual drug use. In the most ambitious and uncompromising account of Bias’ life and death, director Kirk Fraser interviews Bias’ closest teammates, friends and family in an effort to determine exactly what happened on that fateful night.