

VIDEO SCRIPT

TITLE: Playing Games

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FADE IN:

Open

Nat Sound Up and Under

Exterior Dakota Dome shot, then fans filling the Dome for the 2004 football playoffs.

Narrator: These fans are filling Vermillion's Dakota Dome for one of South Dakota's favorite sports events.

Kickoff.

The state high school football championships, held here every November.

Game action.

Does it really matter who wins? It's only a game, after all.

Fans responding to a big play.

Only a game, yet it grips these spectators—and thousands of others watching on TV—like little else can.

Headlines reporting game.

Big headlines will announce the winner in tomorrow's newspapers.

Any high school victory parade or pep rally.

There will be a welcome home celebration for the winner, and probably for the loser, too.

Sign at any South Dakota town proclaiming a local championship.

Sometime soon a road sign will go up proclaiming the championship.

Close-ups of players on football playoff sidelines.

It's likely both winning and losing players will answer questions about these 48 minutes of play for years.

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Fans.

And while it's only a game, it's also South Dakota history, because it will be remembered.

Vintage sports photos.

Ask residents in some of South Dakota's smallest towns about the biggest thing to ever happen there, and often they'll mention a remarkable sports team.

Winter shot, fans packed into a tiny high school gym, for basketball.

Sports can bring towns together. Sometimes really together, like on cold winter nights, when most of a small community crams into a school gym.

A USD-SDSU sport, or Black Hills-Tech.

Sports rank as some of South Dakota's greatly anticipated happenings, like big game rivalries between our university teams...

Tournament game action.

high school basketball tournaments every March...

Roundup.

and competitions that have been on South Dakota's calendar most of its history, like the July Fourth Black Hills Roundup Rodeo at Belle Fourche.

Lakota Invitational player introductions, and then its Pow Wow.

Some sports events go beyond games. The Lakota Nation Invitational Basketball Tournament celebrates an entire culture.

Old baseball team photo.

Sports and athletes are history not just because they're vividly recalled, but because these games were ways our first settlers felt American.

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Any old sports photos.

A child whose family arrived in South Dakota in the late 1800s from Norway, or Germany, or Czechoslovakia, could feel like he or she fit into the new homeland by mastering American games like baseball...

Old-time football.

football...

Old-time basketball.

and basketball.

Contemporary high school or college golf.

Sports are part of the American tradition. People sometimes talk as if traditions always remain the same.

Girls' volleyball.

But sports changed dramatically over the 20th century...

Competition at a skateboard park.

and they continue to develop in new ways today. Who knows? Sports that seem new now may seem like they've been around forever by the middle of the 21st century.

Photos of 1970s era girls and women's basketball teams.

The biggest change in the 20th century had to do with who could play. Before the 1970s most South Dakota schools and communities had a few sports activities for girls...

1970s era football photo.

but they definitely took a back seat to sports for boys.

Volleyball.

That changed in the 1970s thanks to a national

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Becky Hammon playing WNBA basketball, or any contemporary stills, such as her "Women's Basketball" magazine cover.

law called Title Nine, which said schools had to provide sports opportunities for girls equal to those for boys.

In Colorado State uniform.

Becky Hammon was born in 1977, two years after Title Nine became law. By the time she played high school basketball in the 1990s, at Rapid City Stevens, girls' teams were well established, well coached, and offered her solid competition.

From Rapid City, Becky went to Colorado State University...

New York Liberty team photo.

and from there to play professionally in the WNBA, for the New York Liberty. She became an All-Star.

Becky Hammon.

BECKY HAMMON INTERVIEW. HOW NO ONE, REGARDLESS OF TALENT, GOES ON TO A PROFESSIONAL SPORTS CAREER WITHOUT LEARNING THEIR SPORT FROM COACHES AND OTHER TEACHERS AT HOME. HOW SOUTH DAKOTA MADE THINGS POSSIBLE FOR HER.

Various action and still shots of SuAnne Big Crow.

Narrator: As a girl in South Dakota, Becky watched another basketball player who was a few years older than she, and who also became a famous name: SuAnne Big Crow of the Pine Ridge High School Lady Thorpes, named an All-America player by the USA TODAY newspaper.

SuAnne Big Crow Club at Pine Ridge.

These children are playing in the SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club at Pine Ridge. While a high school player, SuAnne dreamed of going to

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Exterior shot of the Club.

college and then returning to Pine Ridge to make life better for children.

After her death in a 1992 car accident, the people of Pine Ridge honored the memory of her inspirational basketball play—and her dream—by building this club.

Soccer.

Of course, most of South Dakota young athletes won't ever play professionally...

More soccer.

earn athletic scholarship money...

Another SuAnne Big Crow Club shot.

or inspire great community projects.

Soccer practice where kids are obviously exhausted.

They play for fun, although it's easy to forget that during grueling practices.

Gymnastics.

They play for fun and they hope to win although, of course, that can't always happen.

Headline about current Sturgis football losing streak (60+ games).

Some good athletes, in fact, seldom win.

High school or college volleyball.

But win or lose, there are lessons that can be learned.

Volleyball set-up.

About being a reliable teammate.

Volleyball opponents congratulating

About being a good sport.

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each other after a match.

Several seconds of wrestling, soccer, girls' track or cross country, more gymnastics, and rodeo.

Excited fans, any sport.

Adam Vinatieri Super Bowl field goal.

Visual effect where photos of athletes will pop up as if on a sports card, listing name, hometown, and sport. Athletes might include: Ordell Braase, Mitchell, NFL Football; Dennis Koslowski, Doland, Olympic Wrestling; Neil Graff, Sioux Falls, NFL Football; Kris Tschetter, Pro Golf; Mike Miller, Mitchell, NBA Basketball; Doug Miller, Sturgis, NFL Football; Marlene Hagge, Aberdeen, Pro Golf; Eric Piatkowski, Rapid City, NBA Basketball; Paul Tierney, Rapid City, Professional Rodeo; Carrol Hardy, Sturgis, NFL Football and Big League Baseball; Curt and Tom Byrum, Oneida, Pro Golf; John Dutton, Rapid City, NFL Football; Dave Collins, Rapid City, Big League Baseball.

Stills representing the 1903 World Series.

Natural sound.

Narrator: The word fan is short for fanatic, and sometimes South Dakotans become exactly that.

And when fellow South Dakotans make a splash in sports nationally, fans here are proud. Every part of the state can claim athletes who made the big time.

CONTEMPORARY, ROUSING "STADIUM MUSIC"

Narrator: When it comes to the nation's biggest sports events, South Dakotans have come to play, beginning with the very first World Series

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Dick Green with the Oakland Athletics.

baseball game. The winning pitcher in that 1903 game was Pittsburgh Pirate Deacon Phillippe, who grew up and learned baseball near Ashton.

Sparky Anderson in a Cincinnati Reds cap, then a Detroit Tigers cap.

Another South Dakota World Series star was Mitchell's Dick Green, a second baseman who won three Series championships with the Oakland Athletics, and who took home the Babe Ruth Award as outstanding player of the 1974 Series.

Pop-up Fact: American Legion Baseball, played by high school boys across the United States, got its start in Milbank.

The World Series is played each October between a National League and American League champion. Only one manager won World Series with teams from both leagues—Hall of Famer Sparky Anderson, of Bridgewater.

National Finals Rodeo, Las Vegas. Then stills of Casey Tibbs.

Most years, though, there are no South Dakotans in the World Series. But there are always athletes from our state each December in the National Finals Rodeo. That's one reason the state legislature named rodeo South Dakota's official sport. The greatest rodeo cowboy ever? Most folks agree it was Fort Pierre's Casey Tibbs, who collected a record six world championships—and suffered forty-four broken bones.

Shot of Sande, and the Churchill Downs stands on race day.

Another South Dakota athlete who knew a thing or two about horses was Groton's Earl Sande. He rode three Kentucky Derby winners in the 1920s.

Olympic ceremony images, and shots of the athletes described.

The state's first Olympian was Madison's Gene Vidal, who competed in the track and field in the 1920 and 1924 Games. Wrestler Randy Lewis

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Stills of Cindy Greiner.

won a gold medal in the 1984 Olympics, and in 1988 Mobridge sent two of its own to the Olympics—twin brothers Bill and Jim Scherr, both wrestlers.

Wilmot's Cindy Greiner is the only South Dakotan who's competed in three Olympics, in track and field events in the 1980s and '90s.

Any Leahy and Notre Dame football shots.

In football, Winner's Frank Leahy is remembered as a legendary college coach, whose Notre Dame teams won five national championships.

Vinatieri Super Bowl shots.

It would seem that winning the Super Bowl with a last minute field goal kick would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. But Rapid City's Adam Vinatieri did it twice for the New England Patriots, in 2002 and again in 2004.

Billy Mills as a young athlete.

Probably the biggest sports accomplishment by a South Dakotan, though, belongs to Pine Ridge's Billy Mills. He trained by running a hundred miles a week and in 1964 did something no American had before: he won the Olympics' 10,000 meter run.

Film or stills of the race.

AUDIO OF BUD PALMER'S BROADCAST
DESCRIPTION OF MILLS' VICTORY.

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MUSIC UP AND UNDER

NARRATOR:

EVER SINCE THAT HISTORIC DAY, BILLY MILLS HAS TRAVELED THE COUNTRY, TALKING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE VALUES HE HAS LEARNED FROM RUNNING.

Billy Mills 1984 Interview

BILLY MILLS INTERVIEW

Cover shots of Olympic run.

NARRATOR:

PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THEY LOVE THE EXCITEMENT THAT SPORTS OFFER. BUT AS IS TRUE OF OTHER AREAS OF HISTORY, SOMETIMES THE VALUABLE LESSONS STAND OUT MOST CLEARLY AS THE YEARS PASS, AND SOME OF THE EXCITEMENT FADES.

Close GRAPHIC

CREDITS ROLL

FADE TO BLACK

MUSIC OUT
