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## **NFL FILMS “FOOTBALL AMERICA: OUR STORIES” TO AIR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY ON FOX AT 1 PM ET**

One-Hour Special Features **Tom Brady, Bill Clinton, Rob Lowe, Howie Long, Joe Montana, Joe Namath, Dr. Oz, Condoleezza Rice, Robin Roberts, DeMarcus Ware** and Five Winners of **Together We Make Football** Contest

**NFL FILMS** one-hour Super Bowl special **FOOTBALL AMERICA: OUR STORIES** will air on FOX on Sunday, February 2 at 1:00 PM ET leading into the FOX SUPER BOWL SUNDAY pregame show. **Football America: Our Stories** is the culmination of a season-long search for the answer to one simple question: **Why do we love football?** NFL Films received thousands of answers from people in every walk of life, including some very familiar faces. This film explores those answers and celebrates the five winners of a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Super Bowl XLVIII.

**Football America: Our Stories** can be viewed here:

**[http://www.nflfilmstv.com/newmedia/postings/FootballAmerica\\_Screening\\_Master\\_20140128175328-16x9.mp4](http://www.nflfilmstv.com/newmedia/postings/FootballAmerica_Screening_Master_20140128175328-16x9.mp4)**

**Football America: Our Stories** follows the journey of the five winners of the **Together We Make Football – Your Story** contest from their original submissions through Super Bowl XLVIII. The film also features familiar faces including **TOM BRADY, BILL CLINTON, MARK HARMON, HOWIE LONG, ROB LOWE, JOE MONTANA, JOE NAMATH, DR. OZ, CONDOLEEZZA RICE, ROBIN ROBERTS, DE MARCUS WARE.**

“America is engaged in an important conversation about football, about its place in our culture and about its future. We thought maybe we could add something to the conversation, a reminder of why we love the game in the first place,” said NFL Films coordinating producer **KEITH COSSROW.**

The five winners of the **Together We Make Football – Your Story** campaign were unveiled on national television during the playoffs:

- **NATE CARTER**
- **GARY DEGEN**
- **HEIDI GILBERT**
- **LEE KROST**
- **TYLER SAMPSON**

The five winning stories were chosen from 10 finalists based on fans' votes on [TogetherWeMakeFootball.com](http://TogetherWeMakeFootball.com).

Earlier this year, the NFL launched **TOGETHER WE MAKE FOOTBALL – YOUR STORY**, an invitation to anyone who has been touched by the game of football – whether as a player at any level or as a fan – to share a story of why they love the game. Thousands of fans told their stories at [TogetherWeMakeFootball.com](http://TogetherWeMakeFootball.com).

Football is America's favorite sport by a wide margin. There are more than three million kids who play youth football, more than one million high school football players, more than 600 college football teams with more than 67,000 players, as well as all their parents and siblings. There are 163 million college football fans and 185 million NFL fans, according to the 2012 ESPN Sports Poll. For more than four decades, according to The Harris Poll, the NFL has been the most popular sport in America and football (professional and college) is the favorite sport of nearly half of America's sports fans (46 percent). **Together We Make Football – Your Story** highlighted stories that show why the millions who play and watch at all levels love the game, from the backyard to the Super Bowl, from Friday Night Lights to Thanksgiving Turkey Bowls, and everything in between.

For more information and to follow the five winners' Super Bowl journeys, visit [TogetherWeMakeFootball.com](http://TogetherWeMakeFootball.com).

Below is more information on the five winners as well as links to their submissions and stories as told by NFL Films:

<p><b>NATE CARTER</b> Hope, AR</p> <p>View Nate's story: <a href="http://on.nfl.com/NATE">http://on.nfl.com/NATE</a></p>	<p><i><b>"My disease may be a rarity but my story is not. Many kids fight for what they want to do every day. I have learned to set my goals and never get down. I am so happy to have reached my goal of playing football again when they all said I wouldn't be able to."</b></i></p> <p><b>Summary:</b> At the age of 12, <b>Nate Carter</b> was diagnosed with a life-threatening blood disease that was so rare that he was the only person in the state of Arkansas under the age of 18 with that diagnosis. A year later, Nate is the starting QB of his 8<sup>th</sup> grade team. Nate wrote his submission by himself, and according to his mother, it's the first time he has spoken publicly about the ordeal. He just wanted to be normal again and football has played a big part in accomplishing that.</p>
<p><b>GARY DEGEN</b> Louisville, KY</p> <p>View Gary's Story: <a href="http://on.nfl.com/GARY">http://on.nfl.com/GARY</a></p>	<p><i><b>"I love football because it's given me the ability as a dad to watch my boys develop into men."</b></i></p> <p><b>Summary:</b> <b>Gary Degen's</b> two sons attend Trinity High School in Louisville, KY, and Gary began filming their games for the coaches a few years ago. In January 2013, he was diagnosed with cancer and was told he has 14 months to live. While he refuses to give in to the diagnosis, he wants to cherish every moment with his boys and he wants them to go to the Super Bowl, with or without him.</p>
<p><b>HEIDI GILBERT</b> Los Angeles, CA</p> <p>View Heidi's story: <a href="http://on.nfl.com/HEIDI">http://on.nfl.com/HEIDI</a></p>	<p><i><b>"[Tom] Brady didn't say that the scouts were wrong in their criticism of him. He didn't refute that he lacks mobility. He just kinda said that they didn't know how much fight he had in him."</b></i></p> <p><b>Summary:</b> <b>Heidi Gilbert</b> was working towards her dream job as part of the training program at Disney. However, when her term was up she did not land a full time opportunity and her performance review spelled out her weaknesses. She turned to football as a distraction and became a New England Patriots fan. She followed closely their unbeaten 2007 regular season and also saw a TV</p>

	<p>story on <b>Tom Brady</b> that read his Michigan scouting reports: “Too Short.” “Weak Arm.” Realizing that her feedback at Disney had a similar tone, she picked up her pencil again and got back to work. She created a story reel that went viral and was featured on Entertainment Weekly’s website, helping her land her dream job as an animator at DreamWorks.</p>
<p><b>LEE KROST</b> Norwalk, CT</p> <p><b>View Lee’s story:</b> <a href="http://on.nfl.com/LEE">http://on.nfl.com/LEE</a></p>	<p><b><i>“You win a tennis match. Feels great. You win a golf match. Feels great. Winning a football game – best feeling in the world. It’s dynamite.”</i></b></p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Lee Krost played football at the high school, college and semipro levels and then tried out for the Baltimore Colts. He wanted to play quarterback, but there was a skinny kid in camp named <b>Johnny Unitas</b> who won the job. Decades later, his kids encouraged him to pick up the ball again, saying, “Hey dad, you can still sling it.” 75 years old, he quarterbacks his flag football team and dominates the game. Football has also given Lee a way to connect with his sons and grandson.</p>
<p><b>TYLER SAMPSON</b> Frisco, TX</p> <p><b>View Tyler’s story:</b> <a href="http://on.nfl.com/TYLER">http://on.nfl.com/TYLER</a></p>	<p><b><i>“I don’t want to be known for being good for missing an arm. I just want to be known for being good.”</i></b></p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Tyler Sampson has a congenital defect—his right arm ends at the elbow. He had some struggles as a young boy but when he was four years old he met Dallas Cowboys DE <b>DeMarcus Ware</b> at a supermarket autograph signing. Tyler asked Ware, “Do you think I would ever be able to play football?” and DeMarcus answered, “If you put your mind to it, you can do anything you want.” Today Tyler is a typical 7<sup>th</sup> grade kid who plays both ways on his middle school team at guard and linebacker and is one of their vocal leaders.</p>

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